

# CONTACT

January 1976



Three in a row for  
Clwyd District  
(see overleaf)



Mr. Ben Hastings (*Deputy Chairman*) congratulates Miss Elizabeth Frame on her success. Completing the picture, the other three judges, Mr. Matt Cowan (*Chief Commercial Officer*), Diana Pulson (*Women's Page Editor, Liverpool Daily Post*), centre, and Doreen Tysall (*Principal, Patricia Platt Model Agency, Liverpool*).

Did you manage to pick out the eventual winner of this year's "Girl from MANWEB" competition from the fourteen young ladies pictured in the December issue of 'Contact'?

Whatever your choice, you will now know that our personality girl for 1976 is Miss Elizabeth Frame who has worked in our Clwyd District as a clerical assistant for the past 18 months.

Elizabeth was born in Scotland, where her parents still live, and she went to school at the Larkhill Academy before working for the Youth Employment Careers Office and the Scottish Opera Company.

She enjoys music and has won a couple of singing competitions. Her other interests include walking, netball and rounders.



## The "Girl from MANWEB '76"

OUR COVER PICTURE shows the charming Miss Elizabeth Frame, the young lady with lots of personality and a touch of the highland heather in her speech who became our ninth "Girl from MANWEB" on January 1st.

Liz made it three in a row for Clwyd District when she succeeded the 1974 and 1975 winners, Lesley Taylor and Lynette Kemp. However, this year our Commercial colleagues have lost the honours which have been taken over by Accounts as Liz is a clerical assistant in the consumer liaison section.

Here we see the retiring "Girl from MANWEB," Lynette Kemp, left, congratulating and handing over to Elizabeth.

The finalists, from left to right: Shemin Sundeji (*Head Office*) who was placed second, Veronica Maher (*North Mersey*), Rosemary Ann Griffiths (*Oswestry*), Elizabeth Frame (*Clwyd*), Edna Jacobs (*North Wirral*), Stephanie Wickham (*North Wirral*) and Margaret Williams (*Gwynedd*), in third place.





# CONTACT

Vol. 28 No. 1

January 1976

## Editorial

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## *Proof of the Pudding?*

RECENT months have seen a fair amount of grumbling—some, no doubt, sincere and some, almost certainly, from headline-seeking axe-grinders—about the rising price of electricity.

**In doing our best to deal with these complaints we who have the task of protecting our industry's reputation have always emphasised that despite the price rises electricity remains first-class value for money.**

The validity of this argument was proved, if proof was needed, during the recent big storm, when more than a million electricity consumers in Britain lost their supplies—more than 90,000 in the MANWEB area alone.

In the best traditions of the industry our linesmen and engineers set about the task of restoring supplies at the earliest possible moment. Many hundreds worked in exacting conditions, sometimes in personal danger and often with irregular meals and very little chance to rest. And every switchboard was jammed with pleas for help from the thousands who found themselves living in dark, cold homes.

During the course of this vast effort, and in the aftermath of the storm, there were many expressions of thanks and gratitude to those who put public service before considerations of self. And we have not yet heard of a single case of a storm victim deciding that he could manage without his electricity supply because it wasn't worth the money.

A point that may well bear emphasis and repetition during the months to come!

### Editorial Staff

*Phone H.O.*

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

# Overhead Networks Battered

## *Our worst-ever storm*

**T**HE SAVAGE storm which lashed most of Britain during the night of Friday, 2nd January, caused the most widespread damage ever experienced to the overhead distribution networks of many Area Electricity Boards—including MANWEB.



MANWEB linesmen at work on the spur line through Delamere Forest after trees crashed down on the conductors.

As wind-speeds gusted up to nearly 100 m.p.h. the trail of havoc spread right across the MANWEB area, and all rural areas took a tremendous battering. At some time or other more than 90,000 customers—about one in eleven of our domestic users—were off supply, and the mammoth task of dealing with the damage and restoring supplies meant several days and nights of desperately hard graft for hundreds of our colleagues. Most of the damage was caused by falling trees, which in many cases brought down lines and smashed poles.

### Soaked and Frozen

As the fury of the gale rose on the Friday night MANWEB personnel in several Districts began reporting for duty, often without waiting to be called out, and linesmen and engineers battled throughout the night to try to minimise the effects of the storm. More personnel were called out on the Saturday morning, and District office telephones were fully manned as distress calls poured in by the thousand. Weather conditions were appalling, and those who were out in the storm on the Friday night sometimes took their lives in their hands in pitch blackness and flying debris. Despite waterproofs many of our men were soaked to the skin on more than one occasion during the weekend, and working on poles meant frozen hands, soaking bodies and empty stomachs.

Although all Districts except the built-up areas of Merseyside suffered heavily, the effects of the storm were most prolonged in Dee Valley and Mid-Cheshire. But despite the extent of the damage, and the bad conditions which prevailed during the weekend, only 7,000 consumers throughout the whole MANWEB area were still off supply on a Monday morning—a great tribute to the self-sacrificing efforts made by our colleagues. By Tuesday morning only

### STORM STATISTICS—

#### Consumers off supply

|              |   |        |
|--------------|---|--------|
| Mid-Mersey   | — | 4,600  |
| Dee Valley   | — | 30,000 |
| Mid-Cheshire | — | 10,000 |
| Clwyd        | — | 25,000 |
| Gwynedd      | — | 12,000 |
| Oswestry     | — | 8,000  |
| Aberystwyth  | — | 1,000  |

Plus a few hundred in North Mersey, Liverpool, and North Wirral

1,000 remained to be re-connected, and nearly all supplies were, in fact, restored during the course of that day.

Although a few customers were without electricity for up to four days, there is no doubt that the great majority fully appreciated the efforts which were made to restore supplies, and many messages of thanks were received by Districts. Tributes were paid, too, by a number of local newspapers. One—the *Wrexham Evening Leader*—sent reporter Adrian Waddilove out to find out something about a linesman's life, and he wrote as follows:

*"I was given some indication of the danger and hardship of power rescue work when I used a bouncing ladder to go 34 feet up one of the poles . . . it was with relief that I buckled the safety harness to the pole. Within five minutes my hands were numb with cold. Had it been dark, pouring with rain, and in the middle of Friday night's gale, I would not have been anywhere near it, let alone carrying out repairs to wires 40 feet up!"*

The problems of Clwyd District, with some 25,000 consumers affected, were aggravated by the flooding of some coastal areas when sea defences were breached. This situation caused hazards due to the presence of live cables in homes which were under water, and many calls for help were received from police and fire services. Deep floods in the Conwy valley also made it very difficult for staff to get to the main 11kV feeders.

**A total of 187 poles and 26 transformers had to be replaced throughout the MANWEB area, but the only electrical casualty reported was one cow, which met an untimely end from a line brought down by a tree at Worleston, near Crewe.**

Probably the worst-hit line of all was a spur through Delamere Forest, which had to be virtually rebuilt after dozens of fir trees crashed down on it. Fortunately only two consumers were affected.

The emergency, although bringing fear and

## Appreciation

*Our Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, paid tribute to the way in which MANWEB staff had met and dealt with the crisis.*

*"The maintenance of electricity supplies, and their restoration in times of difficulty, has always been our first priority," said Mr. Dodds.*

*"Britain has the most reliable electricity supply in the world, and the devotion to duty which our people always show plays no small part in that record.*

*"On this occasion, as so often in the past, our customers have every reason to be grateful to our operational engineers and those of our staff who laboured in appalling conditions in the interests of the community. On behalf of the Board I would like to express appreciation of the magnificent effort which was made."*

danger to many, also had its funny side—in retrospect!

A Dee Valley District engineer had stopped for petrol at a garage on the Wrexham—Chester road. The garage was still on supply, but a house on the other side of the road was 'off.' To our man's considerable surprise there emerged from the house a man pushing a wheelbarrow—on which was balanced a deep-freezer. Quickly recovering his composure our engineer halted the traffic while the unusual load was trundled across the road—to be plugged into a socket at the garage!

*And perhaps the oddest story of all came from Gwynedd, where members of the District staff went to check on a pole-mounted transformer near Amlwch. The transformer had gone with the wind, but the gods of the storm had thoughtfully replaced it—with somebody's garden shed!*



## Vital Links

In all badly-hit Districts staff turned out to man the telephones to chart the pattern of damage, and to reassure the worried thousands.

These pictures show Mid-Cheshire District office staff assisting the switchboard attendants at Crewe Grid—a situation typical of many.



# Electricity - Pure Energy

A modern power station operating at a conversion efficiency of about 35% was more than four times as efficient as the old steam locomotive railway system and twice as efficient as present motor transport taken as a whole, said Mr. Charles George, Marketing Adviser to the Electricity Council, when addressing the Electrical Association for Women's National Advisory Council recently.

Most solutions for beating natural laws, he said, depended upon using energy to do more than one job at a time—using it twice over.

"Have any of you tried to replace an electric lamp which has failed in use—and burned your fingers?" he asked. "You must have noticed the warmth arising from the back of your television set or your refrigerator. Not to mention your cooker and cooking utensils, your washing machine or bath water—and so on. In fact, for most of the year, all the electricity you use (firstly for providing lighting, cooking, television, water-heating, freezing, etc., etc.) also provides a substantial contribution towards your requirements for heating.

"As a generalisation, I can say that it is only designers of electric heating systems who take this matter fully into account; and by so doing they

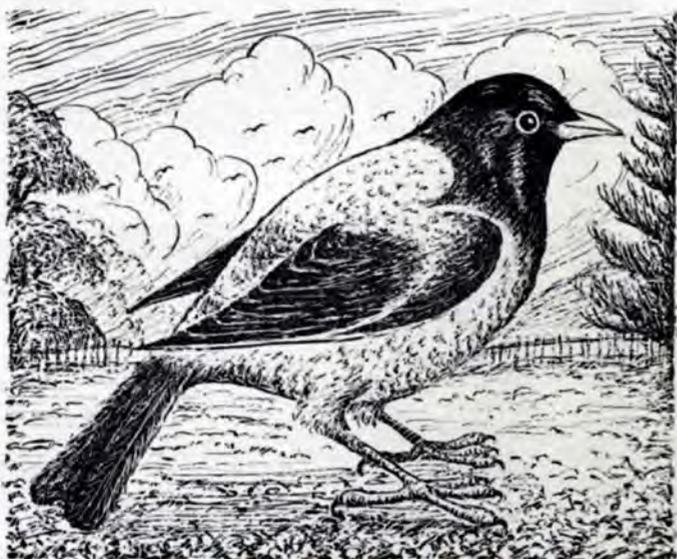
improve the 'conversion factor' for electricity. By ignoring it, designers of other systems more often than not overstate the heating requirements, over-size the boiler and reduce the conversion factor for raw fuels."

Treatment of these incidental heat gains, Mr. George added, should always be looked for when a report on home heating was published—such as the recent discussion document issued by the Building Research Establishment and a recent issue of "Which?" They both overstated the heat requirements upon which they based conclusions which could, therefore, be highly misleading.

"Look also, when such reports are published, to see what allowances have been made for differences in capital costs, annual maintenance, repairs, etc. If those too are ignored then the report becomes virtually useless as a guide for the people it is intended to help," he stated.

Mr. George also reminded his audience that a great deal of the coal, and the oil used for conversion to pure, electrical energy was the residue from winning high grade coal and oil products. If the electricity supply industry did not use some of the coal with high dirt content it would probably stay in the ground and never be used. Similarly, the oil-refining process would have to be changed drastically.

"It is about time that this aspect of the matter was taken more into account by those who are so ready to lay down the law about what the rest of us should or should not do" he concluded.



## A BIRD OF A DIFFERENT FEATHER

This drawing from Mr. Stan Jones, an assistant storekeeper at our Legacy depot shows a bird which has aroused a lot of interest locally with its striking black and white image similar to a magpie but with the characteristic orange beak and shorter tail feathers of a blackbird.

## POWER PLUG

by

Miss Elizabeth Hoxworth,  
Marketing Representative,  
Mid-Cheshire District.

Turns the wheels of industry  
Making things for you and me  
What a great discovery  
Electricity.

Changes darkness into light<sup>1</sup>  
Warms the room and makes it bright  
Unobtrusive, out of sight  
Electricity.

Heats the water, cools the air  
Washes clothes and dries your hair  
As if it isn't really there  
Electricity.

Cleans the carpets very well  
Cooks the food and rings the bell  
This is the magic we have to sell  
Electricity.



## "I'LL GET MY MAN"

The New Electron Players were again successful with their second production "*I'll Get My Man*," a hilarious farce by Philip King, which was staged at the Neptune Theatre in Liverpool for two nights last month.

The acting talent of our colleagues in Liverpool was brought to the fore by Sid Costin who produced and acted in the show.

Mr. Ben Hastings (*Deputy Chairman*), saw the play with his wife and daughter and was most enthusiastic about the show.



### Pictures:

*Top left:* Sid Costin caught by Muriel Barnes and Eva Kirkwood.

*Top right:* Tom Saladine and Danny McGill with Mary Johnston.

*Centre left:* Pat Flanagan gets a candid camera shot of Danny McGill and Eva Kirkwood, *centre right.*

*Bottom left:* Danny McGill and Eileen Smallwood seem to be enjoying whatever it is they are doing!

*Bottom right:* Eva Kirkwood Tom Saladine, Muriel Barnes, Cathy Norton and Sid Costin.

Their next production "*A Letter from the General*"—a drama set in the Far East—will be staged at the Neptune on April 9th and 10th.



# PARTY TIME ROUND THE BOARD

## ***For the young— and not so young***

### **Head Office**

Members of the Head Office (Chester) Sports and Social Club held their annual party for 350 children of members early in December.

The youngsters, aged between four and ten years, had a party tea followed by games and a visit from the man from the North Pole, Father Christmas who had gifts for all.

The staff party is pictured on page 14 of this issue of 'Contact'.

### **Liverpool District**

Nearly 250 youngsters packed Thingwall Road Clubhouse where Harry Kaye kept them entertained with a film show with Jim Gonzales' movie of last year's party the hit of the show. Many parents joined their offsprings to watch this one.

Jim was again busy with his camera taking shots of the children enjoying the party.

The District's Sports and Social Club also ran a staff party which is featured on page 17 of this issue.

### **North Mersey District**

A special committee from the District's Sports and Social Club organised a party for their colleagues at the Blundellsands Hotel just before Christmas. Some 150 people attended and enjoyed a turkey supper. Dancing was to the music provided by a live

quartette interposed by disco sessions from Ron and John.

For the members' children, over 140 were taken by coach to see the panto 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at Southport. On their return to Bridle Road, each child was presented with a Christmas gift.

### **Mid-Mersey District**

The Sports and Social Club ran a party for the children a short time ago at Wilderspool Causeway. Roy Osborne and Kevin Thomas took charge of the entertainment while Tony Standing, assisted by Joyce Cleaton, Sue Holden and Denise Booth looked after the food.

It was noticed that Father Christmas—the real one that is—known throughout the rest of the year as Frank Kelly, did not use as many 'padding' cushions as he normally does!

For 150 staff members an enjoyable night was had at their annual dance held at the Masonic Hall in Warrington.

On to the retired members of the District. Just over 40 went along to the Vicarage Hotel in Stretton to enjoy their Christmas lunch.

### **Dee Valley District**

Committee members of the Sports and Social Club were kept very busy last month. In addition to the annual party and outing for the youngsters (pictures elsewhere in 'Contact') they also

organised a dinner dance for their members at the Head Office restaurant.

A full house of over 400 people had a great night dancing to the music of 'The Shades' and 'Disco Unit Four'.

Some 150 pensioners in the District enjoyed their own special Christmas dinner at the Rhos-tyllen canteen, prepared and served by the Dee Valley canteen staff and volunteers from the clerical staff under the direction and guidance of Alice Mairs.

The committee of the Retired Members' Association expressed their sincere gratitude to one and all, including members of a section of the Rhos Orpheus Choir who entertained them after the meal.

### **North Wirral District**

'Planet of the Apes' and 'Tom and Jerry' were feature films in a show put on for over 100 children of members of the North Wirral District Sports and Social Club.

Held at the Charing Cross Community Centre, the party was organised by Elwyn Jones and Ken Hardcastle who were aided and abetted by many helpers.

After being mystified by a conjuror, the youngsters then tucked in to party-fare before Santa arrived to hand out apples, oranges, balloons and 'pressies'.

At the other end of the age scale, the District's pensioners held their annual party in the Wallasey Clubroom. Some 60 members went along to enjoy some good food, good drinks and a good natter.

Entertainment was provided by the singing of Mrs. Hardman who was accompanied by Evelyn Godwin on the organ.

### **Mid-Cheshire District**

Nearly a hundred youngsters were entertained by members of

the District's Sports and Social Club just before Christmas. With **Arthur Elson** in charge, they all enjoyed a tea party and a disco session run by **John Bostock**.

Party games were organised by **Sheila Allcock** from our Crewe shop.

The S & S Club also organised a Christmas Dance for about a hundred of their members at the Welcome Inn at Crewe.

## Clwyd District

See pictures of parties for children, staff and pensioners on page 19.

## Gwynedd District

When arrangements to hold the children's party at a Llanberis hotel broke down, the CEGB stepped into the breach by offering to loan their canteen at Llanberis for the occasion.

The 59 youngsters who attended had a whale of a time, with Santa, naturally, as the principal guest.

Nearly 120 people attended the District's Dinner Dance held at the Royal Victoria Hotel, Llanberis on December 22nd. The evening was a most enjoyable one, with entertainment by the 'Candi Group' from Holyhead and by **Wyn Roberts**, a member of the Group.

Both seasonal functions were organised by the Caernarfon Sports and Social Club.

## Oswestry District

Members of the Sports and Social Club organised the party for children just before Christmas (see pictures on page 20) but decided to hold over the staff get-together until January 30th.

Already this promises to be a success as about 300 tickets have already gone. Former members of the staff have also been invited to this function which will be held at the Victoria Rooms in Oswestry.

# SANTA COMES TO ABERYSTWYTH

by **MALDWYN EVANS**

Father Christmas arrived promptly at 6.30 p.m. at Aberystwyth on the Friday before Christmas. This was by any reckoning much too early for someone who should have been sliding down central heating flues in the early hours of Christmas Day. But, no matter, the young occupants of the North Road Hospital Club Room were in no mood to criticise, only to cry "Hooray", for all those who had been to previous parties knew that the rotund figure (sorry Jack!) in red would have a load of goodies to hand out to each and all, and those who hadn't been before were quickly put in the picture by the rest.

Thus it was and with a pleasant word to each child the parcels in the big boxes were distributed and the air was filled with cries of "Thank you, just what I wanted".

My apologies for dwelling on

this little scene, but perhaps it is the best way of thanking the good ladies of the Sports and Social Club for their hard work in finding out (from parents, etc.) what each child's choice of present would be.

The party had commenced with 55 children tucking in to a splendid tea with all the trimmings of bangers-on-sticks, cakes, jellies, trifles, etc., provided by the members of the Sports and Social Club or by kindly-disposed tradespeople of the town. Carol singing, games and finally a deluge of balloons followed the tea and ensured the right atmosphere for the arrival of Father Christmas. (Isn't this where we came in?)

Thanks to all the organisers and to the willing band of helpers. You did a good job. It is worth it every year just to see the children's faces. But, please, this time will someone make a careful note of where we've put the tablecloths!

## Coming Events

**FRIDAY, February 6th**

**"BRAINS OF BRIDLE ROAD"**

Quiz Competition Finals at 7.30 p.m. in the Bridle Road Restaurant. *Everybody Welcome.*

**SATURDAY, February 14th**

Clwyd District Sports and Social Club

**"ST. VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY"**

at 8.00 p.m. in the Cefndy Road Restaurant.

*Members and friends are cordially invited.*

Liverpool Electric Supply S & S Club (Football Section)

**"VALENTINE'S DANCE"**

at 8.00 p.m. in the Thingwall Road Clubhouse.

*Tickets available from the Club Stewards.*

**TUESDAY, February 17th**

Head Office (Chester) Sports and Social Club

**"THE JAMES SHEPHERD VERSATILE BRASS"**

In Concert at 8.00 p.m. in the Head Office Restaurant.

*Tickets 50p each from Mr. J. G. Roberts (Welfare)*

**WEDNESDAY, February 25th**

Clwyd District Mountain Walking Club present a Lecture on

**"THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF SNOWDONIA"**

at 7.30 p.m. in the Cefndy Road Restaurant.

*Everybody Welcome.*

# Commercial Notes

**D**ESPITE the recent electricity price increases, and the 'Save It' campaign, our commercial colleagues throughout MANWEB continue to come up with examples proving that in a wide variety of circumstances electricity has the answer to problems demanding the wise use of energy.

The owner of a small well-insulated factory on the Kirkby Trading Estate, near Liverpool, was faced with a walk-out of workers who were complaining about cold working conditions. The answer came from **John Rigby**, of North Mersey District's energy sales department—an off-peak heating system consisting of five controlled-output storage heaters, complete with timeswitch control for pre-heating.

## Saving the Spud

Another interesting quote accepted recently (this time the work of **Mid-Cheshire's** energy sales engineer **Len Young** and our agricultural specialist at Head Office, **Ron Andrews**), was for the installation of three 10-kilowatt industrial fan heaters at a Lower Peover farm. Object of the exercise—to protect large quantities of the once-humble, but now pricey spud, from frost damage.

Councils and builders still recognise that electricity has a valuable part to play in the home

heating field, as the price of all fuel goes up. Among recent successes are an order for 66 Electricaire installations at a Sefton Council development at Marshside, Southport; similar installations at 20 old people's dwellings for Wrexham Maelor Council (**Dee Valley District**); and a **North Wirral** order for ceiling heating in 27 flats being built by a Housing Association at New Ferry. All these developments will, of course, include electric water heating.

Electricaire is also going into small groups of dwellings at Litherland and at Pentre, Deeside, while 31 flats at Mostyn Broadway, Llandudno, are also to go all-electric with four storage radiators and a 3-kW fire each, plus, of course, electric water heating. This last success follows consultations between the architects and **Brian Griffiths**, of Clwyd District's energy sales team.

Other recent successes include several specialised installations for industrial purposes.

## CROSSWORD WINNERS

Our bumper crossword puzzle in last month's 'Contact' attracted a respectable number of entries but when we came to draw for the winners we found that a number of competitors had carelessly missed filling in the odd square through not checking their entry before sending it in.

There were, we are afraid, a couple of minor misprints in the clues but these obviously did not affect the solutions as everyone got the answers correct.

It was only after picking out

twelve entries that we finally managed to come up with the three winners who were:

**Mr. W. A. Morris**, Design Engineer, Commercial Dept., Head Office.

**Mrs. H. Shimmin**, mother of **Mr. C. S. Shimmin**, Systems Engineer, North Mersey (*and this was one crossword puzzle that he didn't set!*).

**Miss Yvonne M. Coleby**, Stores Accounts, Head Office, *who was also a winner last year.*

Congratulations to the winners who each receive £5, and condolences to those who had near misses.

## — Ad. Service —

Don't forget 'Contact's' **Exchange and Mart** service. Advertisement space is free to all members of the Board's staff, past and present. You can buy, sell or exchange almost anything by putting a free ad. in our columns.

We shall also be running our '**Holiday Accommodation**' column once again. So, if you have a holiday home, chalet or caravan or can offer bed and breakfast accommodation, we shall be pleased to publish this information.

Just jot down the details on a piece of paper, use block letters and please keep it brief, add your own name and office address, plus your home address and/or telephone number then send it to *The Editor*, 'Contact', MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

## For Sale

Saw attachment D 984 for Black and Decker drill (recently purchased and unused). £3.00 Pair  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch chrome-plated bath taps (mitre tops) £4.50. 'Phone 051-625 6889.

Hi-Fi equipment. Arena 2600 tuner amplifier 15 watts per channel. Five preset tuned vhf station and manual tuner. Long wave band, medium wave band, and short wave marine band. £55.00. Like new. 'Phone Wrexham 54225.

## Holiday Accommodation

SANDY BAY, EXMOUTH—Six berth caravans to let on well equipped Holiday Park in glorious Devon. Facilities include: Supermarket, shops, post office, laundrette, swimming pool, entertainments hall, beautiful beach and safe bathing. Write: **Mrs. P. Jones**, 3 Honeybourne Crescent, Wombourne, Wolverhampton W.V.5. O.E.P. or Telephone: 090-77 4529.

# Talking Notes

## CROWD-PULLER

**M**ORE than 350 people turned up for a demonstration on the theme *Cooking with Wine*, organised by Winsford Ladies' Circle and presented by our Mid-Cheshire District demonstrator **Mrs. Margaret Corlett** at Winsford Civic Hall recently. Margaret was assisted by **Miss Jane Fairclough**, trainee demonstrator on loan from Mid-Mersey District.

The evening was divided into three parts—first the preparation of dishes, followed by the showing of the film *Frozen Summer*, and ending with Margaret 'on-stage' with the completed dishes ready for serving. There was a small supporting exhibition of cookers, refrigerators and deep-freezers.



Margaret and Jane—cooking with wine.

**David Fisher** and **Robin Sharvin**, of the District's energy sales team, handled preparations and operated cine and slide projectors.

### Badminton Tourney

Sunday, March 7th, will see the staging of the MANWEB Badminton Tournament at the Grange Road West sports centre, Birkenhead. Teams will represent the three Group Managers' groups of Districts, and Head Office, as follows:

The "Fairclough" team from: North Mersey, Liverpool, and North Wirral. The "Barraclough" team from: Mid Mersey, Mid Cheshire and Oswestry. The "Helliwell" team from: Dee Valley, Clwyd, Gwynedd, and Aberystwyth.

Players (ladies and gents) wishing to take part should get in touch with their representatives listed below not later than February 7th:

North Mersey—**Mr. J. W. Thomas** (tel: 107); Liverpool—**Mr. P. H. Wilkinson** (tel: 721); Mid-Mersey—**Mr. D. Critchley** (tel: 370); Dee Valley—**R. Parry** (tel: 389); North Wirral—**J. E. Foster** (tel: 241); Mid Cheshire—**H. Allman** (tel: 111); Clwyd—**G. Owen** (tel: 655); Gwynedd—**P. Jones** (tel: 12); Oswestry—**G. Purslow** (tel

319); Aberystwyth—**D. A. Galbraith** (tel: 40); Head Office—**A. Thackray** (tel: 2549).

### Timely Rescue!

While working at a house in Forshaw Street, Warrington, one day last month, MANWEB

Electrician **Bill Berry**, our courageous rescuer from Mid-Mersey District.



electrician **Bill Berry** heard a loud explosion from the house next door.

Rushing outside he saw that fire had broken out, and heard people inside calling for help.

Quickly Bill climbed a rear gate and broke down the back door of the house, to find a distressed couple, both in their eighties. He soon had them out of the house and away from danger. Cause of the trouble is understood to have been an escape of another kind of domestic fuel!

Congratulations for quick thinking and resolute action to Bill—who has been with us for eight years, having served his apprenticeship at Hoylake.

Unfortunately, there is a sad end to this story as the old couple died in hospital within hours of each other, a few weeks after their ordeal.

### Historic Relic

MANWEB recently bought a piece of land at Claremont Road, Seaforth, near Liverpool,

for use as a 33kV substation site.

While checking all the title deeds, which were handed to

us for completion, **Mr. George Harrison** (*principal assistant, Legal*), discovered two original deeds (*circa 1880*) signed and sealed by none other than William Ewart Gladstone, the former Liverpool M.P. and Whig Prime Minister who then lived in Harley Street, London.

Mr. Gladstone is described in the deeds as "the Right Honourable." One wonders what his arch-rival Mr. Disraeli would have thought of such description—and whether or not Queen Victoria would have been amused!

### Birth

Congratulations to **Mike Whitenburgh** (admin. assistant, Head Office), and his wife **Maurine**, on the birth of a boy (Andrew Michael), who weighed in at 8 lb 3 oz just before Christmas.

Mike and Maurine met and married when both were working at North Wirral District, and Maurine later worked as a clerk at Head Office Revenue section.

### Nice Notes

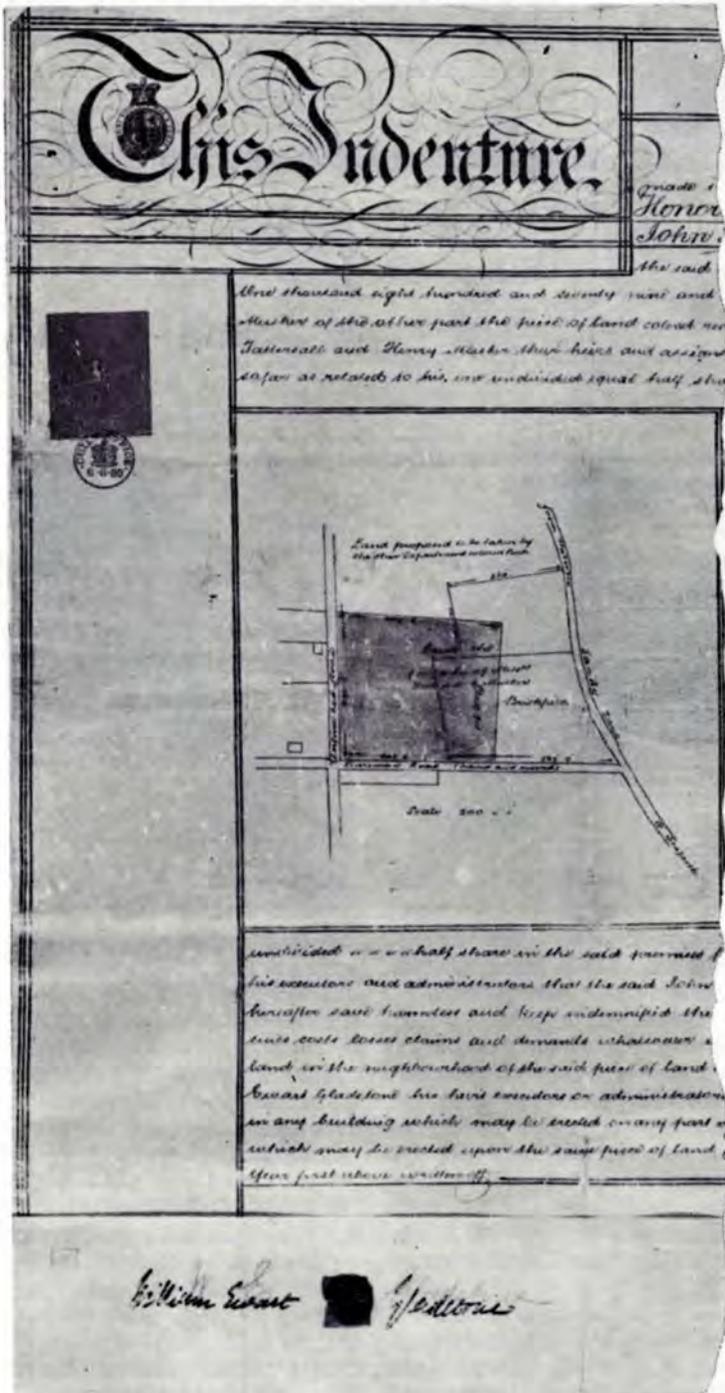
To **Liverpool District** office from a customer living at Brodie Avenue:

"... when we arrived home we found no response from our ground floor lights. We telephoned Lister Drive—a friendly voice promised help as soon as possible, hopefully that night.

"Blow me down, before we had time to say John H. Stracey there was a knock on the door... a bright young man from MANWEB quickly found the fault. In these days of 'I'm all right Jack' it is pleasant to commend these gentlemen to you, and to thank them most sincerely for their help."

To **North Mersey District** office, from a Litherland gent:

"In forwarding my cheque for £226.26 for re-wiring the house I should like to express my thanks to the two electricians who did



A section of the original deed signed by William Ewart Gladstone

the work, for the excellent manner in which it was done. They carried out the work with the minimum of disruption, and I should like you to thank them for the clean and tidy manner in which they left the house.

Those responsible for MANWEB's good name on this occasion were electrician and apprentice **Ken Rymer** and **Peter McVeigh**.

### First-Aiders

At a Meeting of the No. 11 (Head Office) Local Advisory Committee held just before the turn of the year, **Mr. M. M. Parker** (Secretary and Solicitor) as Chairman of the Committee, emphasised the importance of having properly trained first-aiders on the Board's staff.

He then presented Certificates to the following members of the Head Office Staff: **Mrs. M. Evans, Mrs. L. Fisher, Mrs. B. Jones, Mrs. S. Jones, Mrs. G. J. Owen, Mrs. D. Perris, Mrs. P. A. Piercy, Miss J. E. Whittle, Mr. H. Wilson** and **Mr. K. H. Wynn**.

### New Heating Publications

Two new publications on electric heating have been produced by the Electricity Council.

The *Direct Electric Heating Design Manual* is written for architects, builders, heating installers and electrical contractors as a reference for the efficient designing of electric heating systems including ceiling heating, radiant and convector panels and skirting heating. The 75-page book, which contains worked examples and typical domestic situations, explains the basic principles and gives recommended methods of installation with adequate insulation against heat loss so as to achieve economic use of energy.

Electricity tariffs available for domestic use are explained

together with suggestions on the advice which should be given to the customer. This should enable him to operate electric heating equipment efficiently, making wise use of the energy supplied and minimising the need for maintenance.

The *Outline Guide to Space and Water Heating* is a 12-page illustrated guide using data sheet format for easy reference by specifiers and installers.

Storage methods of heating including Electricaire and floor warming are described together with direct acting systems. Basic information is given on electric water heating, including 'point-of-use', instantaneous heaters and showers. Also there is a page on the principles of insulation.

### Board Appointments

Another newly appointed part-time member of the MANWEB Board is **Mr. John G. Parkes**, of Wood Lane, Parkgate, Wirral. Mr. Parkes is Chairman of the Unilever Merseyside Committee which co-ordinates matters of mutual interest to the many Unilever companies on Merseyside.

Mr. Parkes joined Unilever as a trainee in 1938 and held various posts at Port Sunlight before moving to the Avonmouth Mill of British Oil & Cake Mills Ltd., where he worked on the technical side of the business and became area technical director. He returned to the Port Sunlight factory in 1959 as technical director of Lever Brothers, Port Sunlight Ltd., and the following year was appointed chairman of that company. On the formation of Lever Brothers & Associates Ltd. (now known as Lever Brothers Ltd.) in 1954, he became executive technical director responsible for the three factories at Port Sunlight, Warrington and Newcastle. In 1970 he became



New part-time member, Mr. J. G. Parkes.

chairman of the Unilever Merseyside Committee.

Mr. Parkes is a member and past chairman of the C.B.I. Regional Council and is a member of the national Council of the C.B.I. At present he is also chairman of the Merseyside Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Among many other part-time interests Mr. Parkes is chairman of the Regional Industrial Development Board for the North West, chairman of Appointments Board of the University of Liverpool, President of LADSIRLAC, member of the North West Economic Planning Council, member of the Merseyside Action Committee of the Manpower Services Commission's Job Creation Programme and member of the Merseyside Development Committee.

His wife Ann is a magistrate at Ellesmere Port, and they have two children. His hobby is sailing.

### DISTRICT ANNUAL FIRST-AID COMPETITION

on Saturday, Feb. 14th  
at 2.0 p.m. in the  
Head Office Restaurant  
Sealand Road, Chester



**FUN AND  
GAMES AT  
HEAD OFFICE  
STAFF PARTY**



# Study Prize Award Winners



Vouchers valued at £40 each were awarded to Senior Study Prize-winners, Messrs. Denis Hughes, *left*, and Alan Reid, *right*. Also in our picture we have, Mr. Ben Hastings (*Deputy Chairman*), *centre left*, and Mr. Oscar Lloyd (*Admin. Asst. Education and Training*).

Mr. M. M Parker (*Secretary and Solicitor*), *third from right*, with the Junior Study Prize Award winners, *from left to right*: Messrs. Bill Peet, Phillip Watson, Robert Connor, Peter Brownhill, Michael Parr, Keith Murray and Phil Curry.



## ... and Completion Certificates

Students who have completed their engineering training were presented with their Completion Certificates at a special ceremony at Head Office recently. Our picture, *below*, taken on that occasion, shows, *from left to right*: Messrs. Phil Jones, Arwel Lloyd, Colin Blundell, Denis Dodds (*Chairman*), Peter Thomas, Lionel Ladner (*Education and Training Officer*) and David Jones.



## Essentials of a Sound Energy Policy

THE "best" form of energy for any given purpose depended on the weight given by the individual customer to such factors as running cost, capital cost, reliability and convenience in use, said Mr. Lawrence Robson, a Member of the Electricity Council, in Sheffield earlier this month.

He told the University of Sheffield Building Services Engineering Course that the Electricity Council believed the individual householder or manufacturer should be in a better position than central decision-takers to evaluate the apparently higher cost of electricity against its versatility, convenience and efficiency at the point of use—provided prices reflected the costs involved both for electricity and for any alternative form of energy which might be available.

Mr. Robson summed up the essentials of a sound energy policy as being economic pricing, and flexibility on the part of planners, freedom of choice for users, and increased attention to efficient utilisation, including research into new and better ways of applying energy, the review of existing techniques in a changing economic situation, and more information and advice for non-expert users.

He recognised that economic pricing was criticised in some quarters as rationing by price and therefore unfair. However, he pointed out that in the last resort the alternative to reliance on the price mechanism would be rationing by administrative action, which presented even more problems.

"It is commonly pointed out that, because fuel and power take a higher proportion of family budgets in poorer households, increased energy prices may tend to redistribute income away from these house-

holds. Energy is not of course unique in this respect", Mr. Robson continued.

"However, the electricity industry is not in a position to identify which households need assistance, and believe that Governments could alleviate this redistributive effect more cheaply and more efficiently by increasing pensions and social benefits than by subsidising energy prices." He welcomed the fact that recent statements by the present Government had accepted this.

Turning to the reduced demand for electricity being experienced at the present time, Mr. Robson said there appeared to be three reasons for the lack of growth. The first was clearly the absence of national economic growth, the second the recent electricity price increases, and the third the general climate of energy conservation.

"It is difficult, however, to disentangle the effects of these three influences," he stated. "Although the expert staff of the Electricity Council and the Boards have studied for years the various relationships between electricity sales and economic growth and prices, there really are no precedents for the situation in which we now find ourselves, both generally and in the energy sector in particular.

"All the signs are, however, that efficiency in the utilisation of electricity and of energy generally has been increasing and will continue to increase, so that when economic growth does return we shall see a recovery in electricity growth—but not to the growth rates which used to be traditional."

### DIARY DATES

#### Catering Exhibitions

The Winter Gardens, Llandudno.

February 3rd to 6th (MANWEB Stand)

The Queen Hotel, Chester.

February 17th to 19th (Board sponsored)

The Sea Cadet Corps H.Q., Aberystwyth.

February 25th and 26th (Board sponsored)

John Edward's Trade Fair, Bangor.

March 23rd to 25th (MANWEB Stand)

## CHARITY BRING-AND-BUY



The Head Office Typing Pool raised £116 from a Bring and Buy sale, which they held to aid the Mayor of Chester's Christmas Appeal Fund for old age pensioners.

The girls, under the supervision of Mrs. Doris Holland, their boss, collected all sorts of items from members of staff and friends, baked cakes and bought some items for raffling.



***Around the  
Tables at  
Liverpool  
District's  
Annual  
Social***



# Staff Panto

## Cash raised for the Disabled

Members of our Oswestry District staff had great fun in putting on a pantomime at the Gobowen Village Hall just before Christmas. Entitled 'Dick Cattington and his Wit,' the show was written, produced and starred Henry Blackwell (*Idle Jack*), a commercial foreman at Maesbury Road.

His colleagues making up the rest of the conglomeration of characters from various panto and TV shows were: Eddie Ambrose (*the vicar*), Terry Bawden (*ugly sister*), Geraint Bellis (*a naturalist and a fire officer*), Bill Dixon (*The Prince*), Glenda Dixon (*Aladdin*), Hywel Evans (*Dick Cattington*), Mal Jones (*Dick Cattington's Wit*), Russell Jones (*an internal auditor*), Linda Morris (*Cinderella*), Dick Owen (*a heckler*), Ern Preston (*Giant Kommandant and Mustapha*), Chris Pritchard (*ugly sister*), David Rogers (*Widow Twanky*), Enid Thomas (*Puss in Boots*), Glyn Thomas (*Sergeant George Dixon*), John Walker (*D.A.O. and Percy Blower*) and John Williams (*Queen's fairy and Red Riding Hood*).

The backstage team comprised of Ray Appleton (*stage manager*), Jim Brierley (*lighting and scenery*)

and Ray Owen (*props and scenery*). Outside help came from Dot Blackwell (*prompter*), Bill Cobb (*sound*), Phyllis Evans (*make-up*) and Albert Hartley (*music*) assisted by another man from MANWEB, Eddie Blackwell on percussion.

From their first performance, played to a capacity audience, the receipts of £70 were donated to the Derwen Training College for the Disabled at Gobowen. A repeat show was given a few days later for the patients at the local Orthopaedic Hospital.

### Letter of Thanks . . .

. . . from the Medical Director of the Derwen Training College for the Disabled.

Dear Mr. Williams,

Will you please convey to everyone concerned my most grateful thanks for the wonderful cheque for £70.00. You may know that we are about to start building a new residence to allow us to admit an additional twelve handicapped adolescents for further education and training. Your gift has been placed towards this building and I hope you will all like to think that in this way you have helped many, many students in future years.

Our four residents who came to the show on Friday evening have asked me to express their thanks for the marvellous time; they all enjoyed themselves immensely and are full of praise for your production. I only hope you all enjoyed it as much as they did.

Yours sincerely (signed).

The "All Star" cast from our Oswestry District who presented the panto by Henry Blackwell  
"Dick Cattington and his Wit."





*At the childrens' annual party*

## CLWYD CATER FOR ALL

Three festive occasions—  
for the youngsters,  
the staff and  
the retired



*Some members of the Clwyd District S & S  
Club Committee enjoy a festive drink*

*Retired members await their Christmas fare*



# PARTIES FOR CHILDREN at Rhostyllen . . .

Over 60 under-nines enjoyed their Christmas party in the Dee Valley District canteen. The whole show was organised by Mefanwy Davies and Rosemary Deary assisted by members of the Sports and Social Club.



**Tucking in — and sing-a-long with Emyr**



## . . . and at Oswestry

Members of the District's Sports and Social Club led by Joan Griffiths and Jean Hall, ran a Christmas party for children under nine years of age. Santa managed to call in at the Maesbury Road offices before the youngsters left for home.



At both Rhostyllen and Oswestry the 'over-nines' have been taken on trips to see pantos.



A toast to one and all from members of the Liverpool Retired Employees' Group, joined here with some of their invited guests to the annual Christmas Dinner.

## Liverpool Pensioners' Party

### *... and a trip to Birmingham*

Thingwall Road Clubhouse in Liverpool was packed to capacity when members of the Retired Employees Group were joined by their guests as 116 sat down to enjoy a traditional Christmas Dinner recently. Liquid refreshment was maintained during the meal and later, entertainment was provided by a Concert Party, followed by dancing and a sing-song.

All who were fortunate enough to be there agreed that it was 'a grand affair.'

Then on 16th December, 53 members of the Group went on a trip to see their friends, the M.E.B. retired group in Birmingham and all had a wonderful time. The friendship which has developed between these two groups of former workers is now well and truly cemented.

Mr. Harry Robertson, the Liverpool Group's most active Secretary informs us that they will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 11th February 1976 at 3.00 p.m. in the Thingwall Road Clubhouse. All retired members of the electricity supply industry living in or around Liverpool are cordially invited to attend.

Some of the 116 people who enjoyed a traditional Christmas Dinner in the Thingwall Road Clubhouse a short time ago





Flanked by friends from Head Office, Mr. Harrop, centre left, says his goodbyes to Mr. Kidd. Mrs. Harrop is seen between them.

## RETIREMENTS

### Mr. B. HARROP

Way back in 1929, a young man started work in the City Treasurer's Department of the then Chester Corporation. One of his duties was to take a weekly trip along a narrow country lane—now known as Sealand Road—to pay wages to staff at an isolation hospital.

Now, some 46 years later, Mr. Bernard Harrop (*principal assistant—Personnel*) could look out of the window of his office and see the same building—now an Old Folks Home—and watch traffic zooming along the wide modern road where the country lane used to be.

These memories were revived at a special retirement ceremony just before Christmas when Mr. Alan Kidd (*Assistant Secretary—Personnel*), paid tribute to Bernard's long career in the electricity supply industry. He spoke of his qualities of loyalty, integrity, modesty and courtesy. He said that it had been a pleasure to work with him and that many people were grateful for the help he had given them.

Further tributes were paid by Mr. Reg Thomas (*Assistant Secretary—Admin.*) who had worked with Bernard for 18 years in the days of the former Area 2/3.

Then, on behalf of colleagues throughout the Board, Mr. Kidd presented Bernard with a parting gift of an electric teasmade. Mrs. Harrop was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

In reply, Bernard mentioned that he had been married for 37 years and during that time he had made the early morning tea. Now, in retirement, and with his carefully selected gift, he felt that he would now be able to turn over in the mornings and let the tea make itself!

He thanked everyone for their kind wishes for his

happy retirement and had a special word of praise for his wife who, he said, had always been there to help him, especially after 'those bad days at the office.'

### Mr. W. A. JONES

A large number of his colleagues gathered to say farewell to Mr. Arthur Jones, when he retired from the Board recently.

Arthur, a wayleave officer at Head Office, formerly worked in the old Areas 2/3 and 4.

He was well known throughout MANWEB as a keen golfer and was, until shortly before his retirement, secretary to the MANWEB Chester Golf Society, and is the captain of the Club for the 1976 season.

He joined the Board in 1963 after a distinguished career in the R.A.F., where he attained the rank of Wing Commander. In his Area 2/3 days he was Chairman of the Area Sports and Social Club. Married, he and his wife Mary have three adult sons, two of whom are married.

Mr. Jones, left, receives a farewell handshake from Mr. M. M. Parker (*Secretary and Solicitor*) who presented Arthur with an antique table from his MANWEB friends.



### Mr. F. CASEY

A very popular man, Mr. Frank Casey, will be missed by all his colleagues who met him daily in his job as timekeeper at our Wallasey depot.

Frank retired a few weeks ago after completing 25 years' service with MANWEB. Prior to joining us he worked for the former L.M.S. railway at Birkenhead.

In his younger days, Frank was a great gymnast and achieved fame when he toured the Continent with the British team captained at that time by Bob Lord.

At his own request, Frank's farewell was a very quiet affair when his friends presented him with some parting gifts.

### Mr. F. ROSE

A very popular North Mersey District figure, in the person of Mr. Fred Rose of the work control (Admin.) section, retired from MANWEB last month.

Fred was a keen cyclist—his 'bike' was something of an institution—and he was a familiar sight, cycling in all weathers from his home in Crosby to Marsh Lane, and later to Bridle Road. During his service he never missed a day's work apart from his holidays.

Before joining the Board he taught shorthand and other subjects at a Liverpool commercial college, and continued this interest at evening classes organised by Liverpool Corporation after coming to MANWEB.

A large gathering of friends gave Fred a good send-off, and saw Mr. George Shoesmith (*District Administrative Officer*) present him with a suitcase and writing set on their behalf, together with their best



Off to a life of retirement goes Mr. Rose, third from right, with the good wishes of his friends at Bridle Road.

wishes for a long and happy retirement for Fred and his wife. He also received several gifts from other members of the staff.

### Mr. J. KENNEY

After 26 years' service to the industry Mr. John Kenney, administrative assistant (Stores Accounts) at Head Office, has retired.

Mr. Kenney came to MANWEB in 1949, after serving as an officer in the Indian Army (artillery) during the war, in India and East Africa. On the amalgamation of Sub-Areas 2 and 3 he was appointed to a supervisory post in the stores accounts section, becoming admin. assistant on re-organisation in 1971. Over the last 18 months of his career he played an important role in the development of the stores accounts computer system.

On behalf of his friends and colleagues he was presented with a silver cigarette case by Mr. C. W. Leonard (*Assistant Chief Accountant*). Good wishes for a long and happy retirement were expressed by Mr. K. S. Leach (*Deputy Chief Accountant*).

Mr. Kenney, whose main interests are English literature, British wildlife and gardening, will live in retirement at Frodsham.

Mr. Leonard, left, presents Mr. Kenny with a parting gift from colleagues.



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## Obituary

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### Master SIMON CARR\*

The sincere sympathy of everyone in the Aberystwyth District is extended to Mr. Alan Carr, assistant energy sales engineer, and Mrs. Carr, in the recent tragic death of their 13-year-old son, Simon, in a road accident close to their home at Llanilar, Aberystwyth. His headmaster's tribute to a popular boy who enjoyed life was printed in the local paper.

### Mr. F. EVANS

The sudden death of Mr. Frank Evans earlier this month came as a shock to the many friends he had made in his job as a courier in our Mid-Mersey District.

Frank, who was 61, was based at St. Helens and had worked with the Board for the past 24 years.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

### Mr. P. C. GERRARD

We regret to report the death of Mr. Peter Gerrard, aged 55, a clerk in the Transport Section in the Head Office Engineering Department. Peter, a bachelor, was killed in a road accident on Boxing Day. We extend our deepest sympathy to his friends and relatives.

### Mr. D. HAMBLIN

A short time ago MANWEB lost one of its most popular personalities with the death of Mr. David Hamblin, District Engineer at Aberystwyth. After a working lifetime in the electricity industry, David died only four months before he planned to retire.

Born in Church Village, Glam-

organ, he began his career with the South Wales Electricity Supply Company, served in the R.A.F. during the second world war, and returned to the South Wales Company in 1945 as assistant mains engineer.

On the nationalisation of the industry in 1948 he became District Engineer for MANWEB at Aberystwyth, and was promoted District Manager in 1961, returning to the post of District Engineer in 1970 on the re-organisation of the Board and the ending of the 'single-headed' District structure. If ever an engineer knew his network it was Mr. Hamblin, having seen it grow from modest beginnings, through the enormous expansion of the Rural Electrification programme, to a comprehensive supply system taking power to the most remote villages and farms. Despite a serious period of illness some little time ago, Mr. Hamblin's cheerful and friendly personality remained undaunted and there are many throughout MANWEB and in his District in particular who have cause to remember the help and kindness he was always ready to offer.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Hamblin, and her many friends in the District hope they will continue to enjoy her presence and support in the District's social life.

### Mr. JACK LIGHTFOOT

We deeply regret to record the death, on January 20th, of Mr. Jack Lightfoot, 3rd engineer (Technical) at Head Office, after a working lifetime in the electricity industry. He was 59.

Mr. Lightfoot began with Chester Corporation in 1932, served

during the war with the Royal Corps of Signals, and returned to Chester in 1946.

Nine years later he left the MANWEB area to work with the North Eastern Electricity Board engaged on engineering construction work, but came back to Chester in 1960 as an engineering draughtsman.

In 1963 he joined the engineering technical staff, and in latter years became a well-known figure in all parts of the MANWEB area in his role as a member of the team working with the fault location van.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow and two married daughters.

### Mr. GWYN MORGAN

Another link with the earliest days of the electricity in the Aberystwyth area was lost with the death of Mr. Gwyn Morgan, mains foreman in the District until his retirement in 1969.

After serving an apprenticeship with a local electrical firm he joined the Chiswick Supply Company, which was later taken over by the Aberystwyth Corporation Electricity Department. Gwyn continued as a cable jointer with the Corporation until nationalisation, being promoted foreman around that time.

During his long service his many interests included a great deal of trade union work, and he was for many years secretary of the Sports and Social Club. The sympathy of his many friends is extended to Mrs. Sophie Morgan and their son, Brian, and also to Gwyn's brother Arthur, an assistant mains engineer at Aberystwyth.