



CONTACT

January 1977

Delightful Duo
(see page 2)



Our "Girl from MANWEB—1977" receives congratulations from the judges, from left to right: Mr. Ben Hastings (Deputy Chairman), Mrs. Betty Hassall (Principal of the Hammond School of Dancing, Chester), Miss Peggy Woodcock (Women's Page Editor, 'Chester Chronicle') and Mr. Matt Cowan (Chief Commercial Officer).

The "Girl from MANWEB-1977"

The five finalists, from left to right: Carole Anne Jones, Margaret Williams, Jacquelyn Pemberton, Mary Burdis and Stephanie Wickham.

OUR COVER PICTURE shows Elizabeth Frame, left, our '1976 Girl' handing over the sash to her successor, Jacquelyn Pemberton.



A 22-year-old bonus clerk at our Dee Valley District Office, Mrs. Jacquelyn Pemberton is our new 'Girl from MANWEB.'

Jackie left Grove Park Grammar School to spend a year at the Aston College reading Business Studies before joining MANWEB in 1972. She is a staff representative on the District Local Advisory Committee. Outside interests include playing squash, reading, driving and catering.

She has been married for two years and husband John is a meter reader based at Rhostyllen. They live at Little Acton.

Her father is a Captain in the Royal Welch Fusiliers and her mother manages a gown shop in Wrexham. She also has a brother and a sister.

Runner-up in the competition was 27-year-old Mrs. Carole Anne Jones, a v.h.f. radio operator, also at Dee Valley District Office. She left Llandrillo Technical College to work as a typist with the North Wales Police. Later she was a clerk with the North Wales Probation Service and then joined MANWEB three years ago.

Carole and husband Clifford—a policeman, live at Coedpoeth.

Other finalists in the 1977 competition were, Miss Stephanie Wickham, who took third place, a saleswoman at our Birkenhead shop, Miss Mary Burdis, a saleswoman at Mold shop and Miss Margaret Williams, an index directory clerk at Caernarfon. Miss Janice Parry, a clerk in Consumers' Accounts, also at Caernarfon, was the sixth finalist, but unfortunately was unable to attend the judging because of illness.

This was the tenth year of the competition with previous winners coming from Chester, Liverpool, Llangefni, Bromborough Upton, Southport and Rhyl—three times!



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LOOKING FORWARD

THE ELECTRICITY industry, despite its essential role in the economy, has not been immune from the deep-rooted problems which have beset Britain in recent years.

Rising fuel costs, falling living standards and industrial depression have had a marked effect on the demand for fuel. Our industry, for so long geared to a growth climate which we had almost come to regard as automatic, has found itself in a no-growth situation—and even worse—in some areas of activity.

Despite these trends, however, our central position does mean that we have a less bumpy ride along rocky sections of the economic road than that which has to be endured by other sections of industry.

1977, it is reasonable to hope, will be the year when the unwelcome trouble clouds of the recent past will begin to dissolve. The later months of 1976 saw encouraging signs that industrial demand is on the up-turn, and it remains to be seen whether the coldest winter weather for some years will lift domestic use from the trough into which it slipped last year.

In many ways we act as caretakers for our country's future well-being. When economic and industrial expansion is resumed—as resumed it must be—our capacity to meet increased demand will be of vital importance. At the same time we can look forward to our own industry resuming its historical path.

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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.

HONOUR FOR CHAIRMAN . .

The Chairman of the Board, Mr. Denis Dodds, was awarded the C.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List. On behalf of all MANWEB employees 'Contact' extends congratulations to our Chairman, who has led us through some of the most difficult years in the history of the electricity industry.



Mr. D. G. Dodds

In addition to his stewardship of MANWEB, Mr. Dodds has an active role in industrial and commercial affairs in Wales and the North West. His interests include membership of the North West Economic Planning Council, directorship of the Development Corporation for Wales, and membership of the Council for Wales of the Confederation of British Industry. He is the current Chairman of the Merseyside Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In the context of the electricity supply negotiating machinery he is Chairman of the Boards' side of the NJMC and vice-Chairman of the Boards' side of the NJIC. Acknowledging the award, Mr. Dodds said:

"I am proud and pleased to have been awarded this distinction, but I am conscious that it is very much a reflection of the loyal support which I have always received from every branch of the MANWEB community."

. . . and Board Member

The C.B.E. was awarded also to Mr. J. G. Parkes, a part-time Member of the Board, who, like

the Chairman, has a variety of interests.

Mr. Parkes is Chairman of the Unilever Merseyside Committee, Chairman of the North West Industrial Development Board, a member of the Economic Planning Council and a director of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.

He is the immediate past Chairman of the Merseyside Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Mr. J. C. Parkes

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PRIZEWINNERS

Mr. John Stevenson, Commercial, Head Office.

Miss Vivienne Pitcher, Financial, Liverpool.

Mr. H. C. Trent, Stores Accts., Head Office.

Solutions

Across—1 On Christmas Day in the morning. 15 Realgar (anag). 16 Bishop's pawn. 17 Wrath. 18 Eclat (EC-L-at). 19 Opuient (anag). 20 Inane. 21 Moe (b). 22 Ali (Mohd). 23 Turquoise (anag). 24 Coats. 25 Enhance. 26 Ant. 27 Izaak Walton. 30 Digital(is). 32 Anaemia. 35 Teddy bear. 37 Reginal (anag). 38 Watershed (anag). 40 Air hostesses.

42 Arid (hidden). 44 Mendacity (mend-a-city). 45 Pry. 46 Alleluias (Handel's *Messiah*). 48 Seam. 49 Metropolitan (anag). 52 Kelly's eye. 54 Uxurial (AI-Luxor (anag)) 55 Angel fish. 57 De-cid-ed. 59 Lacteal (anag less I). 60 Non-stop show. 62 Out. 64 Inchpin (anag). 65 Prams (P=400). 66 Please Sir (anag). 67 Mya (hidden) 68 Tom. 69 Obudu. 70 Dwellin' (Barbara Allen). 72 Aitch. 74 Roger. 75 Red minerals. 76 Torques. 77 Terminological inexactitude (anag).

Down—1 Oliver Twist has asked for more! (anag). 2 Carol. 3 Roast Turkey (anag). 4 Signor (in a). 5 Marquee. 6 Sabre (anag).

7 Alsatian dogs. 8 Ironies. 9 Testamental (anag). 10 Evade the law. 11 Oenomania. 12 Newgate. 13 Niaga-RA. 14 Christmas Day in the workhouse. 24 Congreets (anag). 28 Adder. 29 Thrusts (anag + s). 31 Gentry. 33 Air mail (hidden). 34 Mahdi (anag). 36 Entwine. 39 Tent-peg. 41 Owl-eyed (anag). 42 Arm (hidden). 43 Dwellin + G + (string)s. 44 M(Ur)(R)ain. 45 Parole. 47 Lilac. 50 Thigh. 51 Billiard ball. 53 Ellipsoidal. 54 Unconsuming. 56 Lapis lazuli (anag). 58 Decameron. 61 Theandric (anag). 63 Twangle (anag). 64 (In)terim (anag). 65 Poule-N C. 66 Poll tax. 71 Essen (hidden). 73 Tissu (hidden).

Among the many farewell presentations held to mark the retirement of Mr. M. M. Parker from his post as the Board's Secretary and Solicitor was the one pictured here when our Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, on behalf of the Board, presented MMP with a silver salver. Our picture shows, from left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Parker, Mr. Dodds and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hastings.



M. M. P. RETIRES . . .

Mr. Massie M. Parker, MANWEB's Secretary and Solicitor since 1953, and a Member of the Board for the past seven years, retired on December 31st.

Tributes to his long and distinguished service to the industry were paid at gatherings held at Head Office. At the December meeting of the Board he was presented with an inscribed salver by Board Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds, while members of the staff of the Head Office secretarial section gathered to express their appreciation of a man who has kept a kindly and fatherly eye on their work and welfare for so many years.

On their behalf Mr. Tom Dutton—himself on the point of retirement—laid particular emphasis on the way in which Mr. Parker, and Mrs. Parker

also, had interested themselves in the welfare of members of his staff, particularly in times of illness or difficulty.

A "*Deed of Happy Retirement*"—humorously couched in legalistic jargon by Mr. Dave Brayshaw, of the legal section, was presented with solemn formality, while other secretarial employees added their notes of appreciation to Mr. Parker.

Before coming to MANWEB in 1948 as Deputy Secretary, Mr. Parker's career was in local government, at Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton and Preston. During the war he served in the Army, rising from the ranks to be demobilised with the rank of substantive Major, and serving in France and Africa.

He is married, with three sons and two grandsons (the latest arriving only a day or so before his retirement). A keen gardener, he lives at Christleton.



. . . and P. B. H. TAKES OVER

Mr. Peter B. Henderson, Deputy Secretary since 1969, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Parker.

Mr. Henderson, who was educated at King's College, University of Durham, holds the degrees of Master of Arts, Bachelor of Commerce, and a post graduate diploma in Public Administration. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries, and a graduate of the Administrative Staff College.

He had had wide experience

in the electricity supply industry, having held senior appointments with the North Eastern Electric Supply Company and the Central Electricity Authority, before joining MANWEB in 1958. Since then he has held successive appointments as Area Secretary, Personnel Officer, and Deputy Secretary.

During the war he served in the RAF as a Flight Lieutenant, and was Mentioned in Despatches. For almost four years he was a prisoner of war of the Japanese.



Pictured at the Liverpool Conference





Far left: Messrs. Matt Cowan (Chief Commercial Officer) and Bob Jowett (District Commercial Engineer) chatting together. Left: Mr. Dodds with Dr. Turner.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES' MEETING

Doctor's Tonic for Liverpool District

DOVEDALE Towers in Liverpool's Penny Lane was the venue for the Liverpool District Employees Meeting for 1976. The 241 staff, which included some retired employees, and guests enjoyed an excellent meal before the business of the evening.

Chairing the meeting was Group Manager Mr. Sid Fairclough and he welcomed the Board Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds, and representatives from all the Head Office Departments.

The organiser of the meeting and secretary to the LAC, Mr. Norman Mitchell, presented the report of the committee's activities for the past year. The LAC and its sub-committees had met 21 times during the year and a wide range of subjects had received their attention.

Top table chat. From left to right: Messrs. Sid Fairclough (Group Manager), Geoff Barnes (Asst. Chief Accountant—Head Office), Tom Hamilton (Asst. Secretary—Head Office), Jack Bradley (Secretary, North Wirral LAC), and Peter Falcon (District Administrative Officer).



During his report Mr. Mitchell appealed for employees nearing retirement age to attend a course which was being organised aimed at preparing for retirement. At present the numbers were just under those required to get the course under way.

Following Mr. Mitchell the Board Chairman then addressed the meeting briefly. Mr. Dodds welcomed the opportunity to attend gatherings where he could meet as many members of the staff as possible. It was a pleasure for him to leave behind the routine at Head Office, and the problems of the industry emanating from external sources.

Mr. Dodds said that Government price-pegging policies had led to big losses by our industry. Suddenly the industry had to pay its way again, and prices had been increased rapidly.

Many people, even in the industry, did not realise that half the cost of every unit is for coal. MANWEB's coal bill was over £100 million. Nevertheless compared with other commodities electricity represented excellent value for money.

The guest speaker for the evening was the Board's medical adviser Dr. K. L. Turner, who confessed to an attack of nerves at the prospect of addressing the meeting. When asked to speak some six months ago he had readily agreed, and only as the months rolled by did he realise what he had let himself in for.

The doctor had called his talk 'The Doctor's lot is not a happy one,' reflecting his trepidation at the experience of addressing the meeting. At present he was a General Practitioner in Chester and worked one day a week for the Board.

He and his colleagues were aware of the public's apprehension at the disappearance from the medical scene of the old style doctor, with that excellent bedside manner, epitomised on television by Dr. Cameron and Dr. Finlay.



Looking over the model of Liverpool's new District Office. From left to right: Messrs. Harry Foreman (Asst. Chief Engineer, Head Office), Norman Mitchell (Secretary, Liverpool LAC) and Charles Donovan (District Engineer).

The profession had undergone a revolution. The A. J. Cronin type doctors had been a cottage industry with few tools, no drugs and techniques of treatment. They had to rely on that bedside manner.

The rapid growth of drugs and treatment, which was carried out mainly in hospitals, had meant many G.P.'s. had not been kept up to date with information. It had become the easy option for graduates to go into general practice, compared with

PAST AND PRESENT—get together at the Liverpool District Employees' Meeting. Below left; from left to right: Messrs. Alf Kinrade (retired), Jimmy Birrell (retired) and Norman Owens (Debt Recovery section). Below right, from left to right: Messrs. Sid Green (Material Control section) and Alec Cannon (retired).



the hospital doctor who had to work his way up to consultant level.

Dr. Turner saw a very bright future for the patient as the profession were in the process of putting their own house in order. Training schemes had been organised and G.P.'s. were undergoing retraining to update their knowledge of modern drugs and treatments.

Turning to his position with MANWEB, the doctor said his job was not to treat patients for the Board but to use his knowledge gained from his practice to advise how things may happen so that the Board could take this into account in its policy decisions.

The training of staff in first aid was one example of how he advised on medical matters. The use of the influenza vaccine, how the Board is affected in dealing with toxic substances and what measures should be taken, were just some of the aspects of this advice.

He also examined new entrants coming into the Board, and those who had suffered a serious illness or accident which might prevent the employee from continuing with his normal work. Dr. Turner liaised with the man's (or woman's) own doctor and the patient, to find out his needs. He said the Board were very co-operative and attempted to find light work when needed.

On behalf of the meeting Mr. Ken Rigby, a committee member, said that he had diagnosed interest in the Doctor's talk and prescribed the treatment as a vote of thanks, which was duly given.

The main interest in the Open Forum was centred on the proposed new building which would house the Lister Drive staff in the near future. It would replace the temporary and make-do accommodation in which the District had suffered for many years. Outlining the plans with the aid of a model, District Engineer Mr. Charlie Donovan, demolished the existing buildings and erected the new.

Closing the meeting, Mr. Fairclough invited staff to take a closer look at the plans on display.





Cheshire County Councillors and Officers with senior MANWEB management staff. From left to right: Messrs. Geoffrey Hamlyn (County Architect), Trevor Fletcher (County Treasurer), Ben Hastings (Deputy Chairman), Matt Cowan (Chief Commercial Officer), Kenwyn Brown (County Valuer), Frank Brown (Chief Engineer) and John K. Boynton (Chief Executive), Councillor George Ford (Chairman, Cheshire County Council), Messrs. John Collins (County Planner), Massie Parker (Secretary and Solicitor), Denis Dodds (Chairman) and Councillor Tom Holman (Deputy Chairman, Cheshire County Council).

COUNCIL VISITORS

Civic dignitaries and officials from Cheshire County and the Liverpool and Chester City Councils visited our Head Office recently as guests of the Board at working luncheons.

They met our senior management staff to discuss matters of mutual interest. Our pictures on this page were taken after these meetings.



The Mayor and Mayoress of Chester, Councillor and Mrs. J. Arrow-smith, third and fifth from right, with their hosts at Head Office, from left to right, Mr. Massie Parker (Secretary and Solicitor), Mr. Denis Dodds (Chairman), Mrs. and Mr. Ben Hastings (Deputy Chairman).

Our senior staff with guests from Liverpool City Council. From left to right: Messrs. Jim Fisher (Deputy Chief Engineer), A. J. Stocks (Chief Executive), Matt Cowan (Chief Commercial Officer), Ben Hastings (Deputy Chairman), Peter Henderson (Deputy Secretary), Councillor R. F. Craine (Lord Mayor of Liverpool), Kenneth Leach (Deputy Chief Accountant), Denis Dodds (Chairman), J. A. Hall (Director of Housing) and E. S. P. Evans (City Planning Officer).



Preparation Now for a Happy Retirement

Cash—tax free—and pension for those in the 'Scheme'

"SUPERANNUATION"—a topic of ultimate interest to all MANWEB employees, was the subject of a very informative talk given by guest speaker Mr. Peter Briggs at this year's North Mersey District Employees' Meeting held a short time ago at the Mons Hotel in Bootle.

A near-record number of staff—232—turned out to contribute to the great success of this annual get-together. The buzz of conversation during dinner was in anticipation of what the guest speaker was going to say.

Their curiosity was soon satisfied as Mr. Briggs began by explaining the meaning of the word 'Superannuation.' **"It is a scheme whereby an employer and employee contribute together for the benefit of the staff on retirement,"** he said.

With the help of detailed charts, he briefly explained the two schemes—Staff and Industrial—in operation in our Board. "Throughout the country," he stated, "there are around 90,000 members of the Staff Scheme with one in five receiving a pension. The Industrial Scheme has some 70,000 members with one in three receiving a pension."

He expressed his disappointment in the membership of the Industrial Scheme which had only 67 per cent of eligible staff as members. "For the past twenty years—up to April last year—membership of the Industrial Scheme has been on a voluntary basis," he commented. "As a result, every eligible member of the Board's industrial staff is not yet a member of the Scheme. If you are not a member I seriously urge you to join now!"

Mr. Briggs then staggered his listeners by quoting some astronomical figures when dealing with the financial side of the Schemes. He said that during the year ended 31st March 1975 there was an excess of income over expenditure of nearly £62 million. *"It's nice to know that at least some of my money is well invested. I wish I could say the same about my income tax!"* he added.

He then came to the point which interested his audience most . . . what they would get out of the Schemes. He explained, in general terms, what a



Mr. Peter Briggs

member could expect on normal retirement.

"Divide your number of years of contributory service by 80 then multiply the answer by your pensionable salary," he advised. **"The final figure will be your annual pension. In addition you will receive a lump sum amounting to three times that figure—tax free!"**

He mentioned that contributions paid by an employee now were also tax free. In effect, this meant that for every £1 paid out, there is a tax saving to the individual of 35 pence in tax.

Members of the Schemes now nearing retirement were reassured that, at present, their pensions were index linked which meant that pensions were reviewed annually to keep pace with inflation.

"You can't lose," he stated. *"It is the best buy you could ever have. I am not aware of a single insurance policy on the market today that compares with the benefits provided by the Electricity Council Superannuation Schemes."*

In sharp contrast, Mr. Briggs outlined the new State Pension Scheme, due to commence in April 1978. In this, the employee pays seven per cent of his income for 40 years to get a twenty year pension value.

"If you are not a member of our Industry's Scheme you will have to join the State Scheme," he warned.

In closing, he gave some brief details of the proposals to reduce the retirement age for men to 60 years—in the interests of equality. "This would cost the country £1.7 billion—equal to an increase of three-and-a-half per cent on National Insurance Contributions—plus a further £300 million to finance the additional Social Services that would be required," he said.

"Conversely—again in the interests of equality—one could lift the retirement age for women to 65 years—but would a Government be prepared to antagonise the women and lose votes with such a policy?" he quipped.

Mr. Briggs said that his solution was to have a flexible retirement age at 60 years for everyone. "If you want to retire you can," he suggested. "Or, you carry on working with the incentive of a higher pension when you do eventually retire. But I am afraid that this idea won't bear fruit for a very long time . . . but remember . . . when it does . . . I was one who said it first!"

The quality of Mr. Briggs' talk and the deep interest shown by his audience was evidenced by the many questions fired at him during the rest of the evening. Some of these questions were prompted by his remarks while others had obviously been well prepared beforehand.

Earlier, Mr. Sid Fairclough (*Group Manager*) had welcomed everyone to the Meeting including special guests from Head Office and representatives from other Districts. He also said how pleased he was to see so many pensioners present, headed by former Group Manager, Mr. Harry Telfer, and to grace the 'top table' he welcomed our 'Girl from MANWEB—1976,' Miss Elizabeth Frame.

After commending the work carried out during the year by members of the Local Advisory Committee, he invited Mr. Denis Dodds (*Chairman*) to address the assembly.

In a short and well appreciated speech our Chairman expressed his pleasure at being with the staff at their Meeting and being able to detach himself from decisions and travel if only for a short time. He inspired his listeners by drawing a verbal picture of our industry and its future. "We can now see our way ahead," he assured them.

Bringing the informative and interesting Meeting to a lively close was an 'Open Forum' session with questions on a variety of subjects answered in full, or partially, by senior staff from Head Office and the District.



Pictured at the



North Mersey District



Employees' Meeting



Party
Time
for
the
Youngsters
at
Oswestry...
...North
Wirral...



Sixty children and Mums were entertained at Oswestry Sports and Social Club's annual Christmas Party, held in the canteen at District office on December 22nd. Highlight of the event was the arrival of Father Christmas (Ken Heppinstall), who saw to it that none of the youngsters went home empty-handed. The party was organised by Mrs. J. R. Griffith and her helpers, including Mrs. P. Mortimer and Miss J. Hall.

The nine to 12-year-olds visited the panto 'Sleeping Beauty' at Wrexham.

A Magic Show presented by Doug Gregg, of Head Office Commercial department, kept the 99 youngsters who attended North Wirral's Christmas Party enthralled. The party, for children of our District staff and CEGB, Prenton, was held at Charing Cross Methodist Church Hall.

Eric Coley (*Engineering foreman*) turned up in white whiskers and red cloak for the 16th time (*will he get a special Long Service Award?*), and a much-appreciated tea was provided by the ladies of the canteen staff.





*Clwyd...
and
Head Office*

A scrumptious tea, a puppet and film show, and the statutory visit from "Santa" all added up to a marvellous party for 60 happy boys and girls at Clwyd District's Cefndy Road office in December. Older children, who did not attend the party, received gift vouchers. Thanks are due to Bill Edwards, Albert Searle, and the organising committee, to all who sold draw tickets and to those who helped out on the big day.

* * * *

Father Christmas (in the friendly form of Mr. Hughie Hughes of the Revenue section) really had to work overtime at the Head Office children's party at Sealand Road—he had around 350 young clients to cater for! Games, jellies, cakes and pop were the order of the day for a couple of riotous hours, and thanks are due to the committee of the Head Office Sports and Social Club who coped so well with such a mammoth job of organisation and the maintenance of law and order.



'Happy Ticklemas Missus'

Top comedian, Ken Dodd, was the star attraction at the MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club Christmas party. For an hour-and-a-half the Knotty Ash master of mirth gave a rib-tickling performance which had his audience chock full of chuckles.

Before the tattifilarious Doddy, there had been a highly successful race meeting, in which horses 'owned' by staff competed in races like the 'Electric Hot Plate,' and the 'Restaurant Steaks.' The races were actually shown on a screen having been genuine races previously filmed in America. Party-goers placed their 10p bets with the 'tote.' Winning bets were paid out immediately after the race results were known,

thanks to the lightning calculations of Eifion Jenkins and Hugh Farrow. Winning owners won a bottle of champagne and a fiver.

Joint commentators for the races were club secretary Gren Roberts, who was mainly responsible for planning the evenings entertainment, and Tom Dutton, making his final appearance before his retirement at the end of 1976. To mark his retirement, club chairman, Harry Foreman, presented Tom with a silver tankard as a token of appreciation for his services to the club.

A disco and the Carl Blackwell Sound provided the music until the wee small hours, bringing to an end another successful and enjoyable party.



Above: Ken Dodd in command

Below: Here he is with some of our girls, from left to right: Cath Speed, Linda Harris, Jean Lavender and Georgina Keen.



Above: Man of Mirth Ken Dodd centre, with Men from MANWEB, Eifion Jenkins left, & Gren Roberts, complete with tickling stick.

Below: Winning 'owner' Frank Threadgold, right, receives his prize from Mr. M. M. Parker. In the centre is Mr. Tommy Dutton.



*Pictures by —
Mr. Frank Astbury
(Head Office)*





Talking Notes

BRING AND BUY

STAFF IN OUR Head Office typing pool were again successful with their annual "Bring and Buy" sale for the Mayor of Chester's Christmas Appeal Fund for the old-age pensioners in the area.

Our ladies, through some very hard work and persistent effort, collected nearly £190 from the sales of cakes and goods and from the novel guessing competitions.

For those who 'had-a-go' in these, the mystery Santa was **Mr. Ray Morgan**, from Printing section; the cake weighed 4lbs 12ozs; the doll's name was 'Jasmine' and the cash in the bottle amounted to £9.65.

All the goods were made or donated by the ladies themselves with a little bit of help from their friends at Head Office.

In a letter to **Mr. Denis Dodds** (Chairman), the Mayor of Chester, Mr. John Arrow-smith writes . . .

"I would be greatly obliged if you would convey to the staff of the Typing Pool my most sincere thanks for their wonderful support for the Parcels Appeal.

"An amount of just under £190 from the MANWEB offices is a truly magnificent achievement, and by far the largest single donation I received from any quarter.

"To promote such an event must have taken a great deal of out-of-hours time on the part of the organisers, and the support of the rest of the staff must have been completely wholehearted."

Congratulations ladies. Many Chester O.A.P's. will have enjoyed a happier Christmas.

The ladies of our Head Office typing pool—and Santa—who helped raise the cash for the Chester charity. They are, from left to right, back row, Maureen Jones, Janet Roberts, Rosemary Morrish, Lynda Roberts, Lorraine Pickering, Pat Cross, Edna Jones and Dorcen Perris. Front row, Barbara Owens, Doris Holland, Barbara Hughes, Santa (Ray Morgan), Denise Hewitt and Eve Partridge.



LIVERPOOL PENSIONERS' A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of the Liverpool Retired Employees' Group will be held at Thingwall Road Club on Wednesday February 9th, at 3 p.m.

Anyone for Cricket?

The fixture secretary of the North Wirral Cricket Club, **Mr. R. G. Bell**, who is an electrical fitter on the District Staff, would like to hear from any teams interested in taking part in a revival of the Harold Strange Memorial Trophy knock-out competition.

Mr. Bell asks anyone interested to get in touch with him before February 18th.

Golden Day

Our congratulations go to **Mr. and Mrs. E. J. (Ted) Grosse** who celebrated their Golden Wedding day on December 22nd.

Ted retired from Clwyd District in 1970 after 38 years' service in the industry, 20 of these being spent as a consumers' engineer at Ruthin.

Still very active, Ted is the Treasurer of the Clwyd Retired Staff Association.

Turkish Technicians

Before embarking on a huge rural electrification scheme, senior officials of the Turkish Electricity Authority decided



Our Turkish visitors who are now experts on rural development, from left to right: Messrs. Nadir Bas, Hayrettin Ozbek, Serdar Kaya, Berin Aydogan and Tekin Ozalp.

to visit MANWEB to see how we had tackled our own massive rural development programme in North Wales a few years ago.

Their Regional Director and four Chief Engineers were given details of the engineering problems presented and solved on the work connected with our programme.

In return we learned of one or two Turkish ideas which might be worthy of consideration.

Apparently, as the electricity authority move in to the rural villages, the consumers themselves not only provide the land and positions for the poles to carry the overhead lines (*no wayleave problems here!*) but they also dig the holes to take the poles!

Another aspect of Turkish rural electricity supply would no doubt meet with the appro-

val of our own Chief Accountant. It appears that there is only one meter installed to register the supply for the whole village. Subsequently, only one bill is rendered! The 'Head' man in each village then collects the money from his villagers for the electricity used.

We wonder—do they have to have a Code of Practice?

Million-Yard Man!

A former MANWEB man who has one answer to the secret of keeping fit and active in retirement is **Mr. Frank Higginbottom**, a MANWEB foreman before his retirement after 43 years' service.

At the age of 71 he has just completed a marathon million-yard swim at Warrington Baths to qualify for the supreme award of the Amateur Swimming Association. Made up of 100 lengths of the bath every weekday since 1973 Mr. Higginbottom's astounding feat is equivalent to a total of 568 miles—or 26 Channel crossings! In the words of the local paper—"not bad for a septuagenarian!"

Mr. Higginbottom, an all-round sportsman all his life, played water polo for Warrington and Lancashire, cricket for Grappenhall, and won trophies for snooker and billiards.

60 Years Wed

Long serving MANWEB em-

ployees in North Wirral will no doubt recall **Mr. Thomas Lewis**, a former jointer with Birkenhead Corporation and the Board, who retired 18 years ago.

Our congratulations to Mr. Lewis and his wife, who have just celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary.

In his early days Mr. Lewis worked at Cammell Laird's shipyard and served in the Royal Navy during the first world war, being in action at Jutland on *HMS Royal Oak*. His service with the RNVR continued between the wars, and in world war two he was in corvettes off the East coast.

Another Twenty . . .

We owe a word of apology to **Mrs. Nora May Holder**, formerly a cleaner at Widnes shop, whose retirement was reported recently. Mrs. Holder worked for us for 24 years—not for four years as reported—and the mistake was entirely ours!

Washer Winner

Lucky winner of a Hoover auto-washer prize in a recent MANWEB—Hoover promotion was **Mrs. Dorothy Wilson**, of our Warrington shop.

The promotion involved

BADMINTON

Invitation Event

at the

DRILL HALL, CHESTER

on Sunday, 6th February

commencing at 11 a.m.

Open to all players

- beginners or established-

Those wishing to take part

please get in touch with:

Mr. John Foster,

North Wirral (241) or

Mr. Tony Thakray

Head Office (2549) or

The 'Contact' Office

Head Office 2164, 2166 or

2167

MANWEB (Chester)
Sports and Social Club
present

THE BRASS ENSEMBLE

of the

Royal Liverpool
Philharmonic Orchestra

IN CONCERT

at Head Office Restaurant

on Wednesday,

2nd February at 8 p.m.

Tickets: Adults 75p

Children 50p

Available from

The Welfare Section

Head Office (Tel. 2142)



Mrs. Wilson with her prize.

training on Hoover products. After training was successfully completed each sale of a Hoover product entitled the seller to an entry in the competition for the prize.

The presentation was made by **Mr. Vernon Collard**, District Sales Supervisor. Also present were Messrs. **D. Wilcox** (shop supervisor) and **R. Parry**, Hoover Area Manager.

Sincere Thanks

A few weeks ago, our colleagues at Queensferry Stores were disturbed when one of their group, **Mr. G. Mildon Wyatt**, a clerical assistant, collapsed following a heart attack.

He survived the shock and now asks us to convey his sincere thanks to all his friends for their concern and kindness.

In reply, they—and we—wish Mildon a complete recovery from his illness and wait for his return to "The Stores."

Annual Dinner

The Clwyd Retired Staff Association held their annual dinner at the Royal Lido, Prestatyn a short time ago.

A seasonal meal was enjoyed by 86 members who, later, were entertained by 'Mistique,' a comedy magic act.

The Treasurer of the Association has asked us to remind members that subscriptions for 1977 are now due. You know where to send them!

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.

FOR SALE

Matured post-war 3 bedroomed house within easy distance of Head Office. Large secluded gardens, not overlooked.

Bargain price at £12,000 including all carpets.

Telephone: Mrs. E. Burke, Chester 23119.

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.

Good Lighting Worthwhile

It is a "false economy" for local Councils, looking for ways to save money, to reduce their street lighting standards.

This was generally agreed by the delegates from local authorities and industry who attended a one day symposium on the subject of *Road Lighting*, organised recently by MANWEB and the Illuminating Engineering Society.

Mr. Gerry Worthington, MANWEB's lighting specialist, told the delegates that there was overwhelming evidence that good lighting reduced road accidents, with cuts of up to 30% in urban areas and as high as 40% on fast rural roads and motorways after lighting had been installed or up-graded.

He added that some misguided local authorities which had tried to save money by cutting down on lighting had found to their cost that accidents had increased and crime had prospered.

Other speakers included representatives of the Lancashire, Merseyside and Cheshire County Councils, and several firms prominent in the provision of lighting equipment and controls.

Secretary of the Merseyside Region of the IES is **Mr. Sid Fairclough**, one of our Group Managers.

At the Road Lighting symposium. From left to right: Messrs. **A. Varney** (Merseyside Metropolitan Council), **C. R. Balch** (Royce Thompson Electric Ltd.), **Sid Fairclough**, **Dennis Noad** (DCE, North Mersey), **Gerry Worthington** and **L. Riley** (Cheshire County Council).





Presiding over his last annual meeting for Head Office employees, Mr. M. M. Parker, *centre*, is seen here with, from left to right: Messrs. Ken Wynn (*Vice Chairman, No. 11 LAC*), Ben Hastings (*Deputy Chairman*), Denis Dodds (*Chairman*) and David Buchanan (*Secretary, No. 11 LAC*).

HEAD OFFICE EMPLOYEES' ANNUAL MEETING

Prospects for Electricity Bright

—Deputy shines a light on the future

The Secretary of the Board, Mr. M. M. Parker, officiating at his last L.A.C. Employees' Meeting before his retirement, welcomed delegates to the conference in the Sealand Road Restaurant.

Mr. Parker, as chairman, outlined the work of the L.A.C. at Head Office over the last 12 months. Safety sampling, the problem of traffic at the rear of the building caused by delivery lorries obscuring visibility near the entrance to the car park—the police had removed the hazard on several occasions but it seemed an endless battle.

Office hours had been discussed by the committee, and an experiment of finishing business early on Friday for some members of the staff had been tried.

Present and Past. Mr. Peter Henderson (*Secretary*), *left*, chats with Mr. Ken Helliwell (*former Group Manager*).



Mr. Parker reminded delegates that there were opportunities for some of them to attend the summer schools, with courses being held at Oxford, Cambridge, Loughborough and Staines.

Finally Mr. Parker introduced the Chairman of the Board Mr. Denis Dodds, who re-iterated Mr. Parker's welcome to delegates and had a special word for the retired members of the staff who had attended. He thanked the Committee for the work done for the staff over the year.

Turning to the MANWEB business over the year, Mr. Dodds told his audience that the industrial demand for electricity had increased, but on the domestic scene people were buying less coal and less electricity.

The main speaker for the evening was Mr. Dodds' Deputy Mr. Ben Hastings, who began by telling the meeting he did not propose to entertain them as had been the practice in previous years. Instead Mr. Hastings treated his audience to some straight talking about the industry and its immediate and long term future.

The last few years had seen a decline in the electricity industry's progress and it would be several years yet before things began to pick up. In the meantime there may need to be a reduction in the number of staff and the Deputy Chairman hoped this would be met by natural wastage.

Over the past year jobs had been created. Over

£1½ million was being stolen each year by meter fiddlers, and the Board had set up special teams in Districts to detect these illegal practices. The new application for supply procedure and the security deposit scheme, and removal of meters from empty property were just some of the ways in which jobs had been created and were showing a return in cash saving for the Board.

Turning from the present gloom which the economic state of the nation cast over the electricity industry, Mr. Hastings saw beyond this and forecast a very bright future for the industry and its employees.

Nuclear power was the key which opened the door to his bright future. There was a limit to which the peaks of demand for oil and gas could reach, and Mr. Hastings saw the fast breeder reactor supplying a growing proportion of the nation's energy needs as we moved out of the present decade. Already 12% of the nation's electricity was supplied by nuclear power, and that figure was 15% in Scotland.

Nuclear waste was an emotive issue but there had been several steps forward in keeping it safe. Solidifying was the latest advance. Safety standards in the Nuclear Industry were far higher than in any other industry, and with improving technology the problem of disposal of waste would be met. The constant criticism of safety standards would ensure they were kept to the highest possible level.

The supply side of the electricity industry had to develop the system to ensure the take over of nuclear power from other forms of energy, so the future for the employees looked optimistic.

Replying to Mr. Hastings the vice-chairman of the Head Office L.A.C. Mr. Ken Wynne, thanked him for his assurances and for his encouragement for the future. He then expressed his thanks to Mr Parker for all his co-operation with the committee over his many years service, and asked delegates to show their appreciation, which they did.

A variety of questions were answered by Head Office management. The newly-appointed Assistant Secretary—Administration, Mr. Tom Hamilton, had a busy time. He confirmed that sand had been made available for icy mornings on the car park, that there could not practically be no-smoking areas in the restaurant and that any complaints about food should be brought to the attention of Mr. Peter Taylor the Canteen Manager.

Dr. Turner the Board's medical adviser, considered a comprehensive check up for older employees, on balance would prove of no real value, as most of the items on the list of one well-known scheme costing £40-£45 were all available from him as a general practitioner, or otherwise catered for by the National Health Service.



Christmas get-together for Our Pensioners at Dee Valley...

The canteen at Rhostyllen was packed with pensioners—and their guests—on the occasion of the Dee Valley District Retired Staff Association's Annual Dinner a few weeks ago. Following an excellent meal, expertly cooked and served, the Association's Chairman, Mr. John Owen Evans presented his Report on the year's activities. The very successful evening concluded with some tuneful entertainment from 'The Maletones,' directed by our own Mr. Emyr James.



We present . . .

THE COMMITTEE

who have organised so many successful ventures for their pensioner colleagues.

From left to right, front row: Mr. Howell Price, Mrs. Vi Parrott, Mr. John Owen Evans (Chairman), Mrs. Jessie Faulkner and Mr. William Jones (Vice Chairman). Back row: Messrs. Howell Williams, John Jones, Harry Thomson, Ellis Griffiths (Secretary), George Parry (Treasurer) and Harold Abel (Social Secretary).



After preparing and cooking the meal, they also served—and then did the washing up!

From left to right: Myfanwy Davies, Amy Truby, Mary Potts, Brenda Jones, Enid Onslow, Doris Williams, Alice Mairs (chief cook), Lil Bennett, Mary Jones, Ann Jones, Mary Roberts, Jessie Williams and Margaret Roberts.

Just a few of the Dee Valley District retired staff—and their spouses—having dined well, prepare for further enjoyment listening to 'The Maletones.'



..Liverpool..

The firmly established Liverpool Retired Group held their annual Christmas lunch at the Thingwall Road Clubhouse. Some 116 members, and their wives, attended, plus special guests from our North Mersey and Liverpool Districts. After the meal, an excellent variety bill provided the entertainment which brought to an end another successful get-together. The main organiser was the Group's very able Secretary, Mr. Harry Robertson.

Group Chairman, Mr. John Robertson, *right*, hands over the free draw prize.



Above: Tucking-in to a very tasty Christmas dinner. Go easy with the salt Harry!
Below: Another happy group of Liverpool pensioners pose for our photographer.



and North Wirral

Our retired staff in the North Wirral District were well looked after recently with two pre-Christmas parties. The first was organised by the District's Sports and Social Club and held in the Seaview Road Clubrooms. A buffet, drinks and entertainment by Mrs. Albert Hardman was laid on. The second party was in the form of a Christmas lunch at the Riverhill Hotel in Oxtou. Arrangements here were in the capable hands of Messrs. Frank Jeffries and Ces Male.

Some of our North Wirral retired staff at their Christmas luncheon at the Riverhill Hotel.



Less Dependence on Big Three Needed



THE NEED for diversification of local industry was stressed by Mr. R. Glasgow, Information Officer for the Crewe and Nantwich District Council, who was guest speaker at our Mid-Cheshire District's employees' annual conference, held at a Crewe Hotel. Mr. Glasgow "stood in" at the last minute as substitute for the chief executive of the Congleton Borough Council, who was unable to attend due to illness.



The area was over-dependent on three major employers—British Rail, Rolls Royce and British Rail Engineering, said Mr. Glasgow, and the disappearance of any of these would have a devastating effect on the District. He added that £2 million had been invested in the Crewe Gates Farm industrial site, which the District Council hoped would provide 2,000 more jobs and help to reduce the reliance on the three major existing employers.

It was estimated that the population of the District would rise by about 3,000 by 1981, and although house-building was sluggish at present there was land available for expansion when the financial climate improved.

The conference delegates were welcomed by Mr. J. A. Winchester (*Group Manager*), who thanked Mr. Glasgow for his talk and introduced the District senior officers to give their reports.



Mr. Graham Zeiher (*District Engineer*) had a special word of thanks for staff in all sections who helped their engineering colleagues deal with the chaos caused by storm damage early in the year.

D.C.E. Mr. Norman Walsh reported that this year appliance sales and contracting were "in the black," while the shower campaign had been a great success.

Newly-appointed D.A.O. Mr. John Roberts said that debts had been kept down while close liaison with the D.H.S.S. had resulted in help for some of the small minority who had difficulty in meeting their bills.

Mr. H. Allman, L.A.C. Secretary, reported on the year's working, which included successes in the fields of First Aid and Safe Driving, together with the formation of a thriving retired employees' group,

An *Open Forum* session, and a draw in aid of the pensioners' group, brought the evening to a close.



Pictures, from the top: Messrs. N. Walsh and R. Glasgow. Messrs. J. Winchester and H. Allman. Messrs. P. Falcon (*former D.A.O.*) and J. Roberts. Messrs. G. Zeiher and J. Fisher (*Deputy Chief Engineer*).



**Some of the delegates
—past and present—
who attended the Mid-
Cheshire Employees'
Annual Meeting**





Study Prize Award winners, from left to right, Messrs. Michael Dixon, Colin Blundell and Geoff Abel with Mr. Ben Hastings.



Mr. Joe Winchester (Group Manager), left, presents Mr. Hywel Evans with his award.

AWARDS FOR MANWEB STUDENTS

Mr. Lionel Ladner (Education and Training Officer), third from right, with some of the men who received their Completion Certificates. They are, from left to right: Messrs. Stephen Wood, Brian Middleton, Ifor Jones, David Winter and Geoff Wood.



Mr. Oscar Lloyd (Admin. Asst., E. and T.), left, chats with more recipients of Completion Certificates, from left to right: Messrs. Paul Harrison, Stephen Griffin, Chris Jones, Alan Fox and Tony Hassall.



FOLLOWING a pre-Christmas luncheon at Head Office, Mr. Ben Hastings (Deputy Chairman) presented ten Completion Certificates to young men from MANWEB who had recently concluded their engineering training.

Before gaining their academic qualifications Messrs. Alan Fox, Stephen Griffin, Paul Harrison, Ifor Jones, David Winter and Stephen Wood were craft apprentices with the Board. Messrs. Chris Jones and Geoff Wood were 'O' level entrants and Mr. Brian Middleton was an 'A' level entrant to our industry. The remaining Certificate went to Mr. Tony Hassall, an electricity supply industry scholar.

At the same ceremony, presentations were also made to three of our Study Prize winners. Senior awards went to Messrs. Geoff Abel, senior engineer with our Management Services Unit, and Colin Blundell, a 3rd engineer in our Gwynedd District.

A Junior award was presented to Mr. Michael Dixon, a student engineer currently taking a Degree Course at the University of Salford.

On another occasion, a Senior Study Prize award was presented to Mr. Hywel Evans, an electrician in our Oswestry District, by Mr. Joe Winchester (Group Manager).

Junior Study Prizes have also been awarded to Mr. Peter McVeigh, an electrician in North Mersey District, Mr. James Healey, an electrical fitter from Liverpool District and Messrs. Peter Davies and Carl Price, both electricians in our Dee Valley District.

Annual Five-a-side Football Tournament

The Third Annual 'Five-a-Side' Football Competition sponsored by MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club was held at Queensferry Leisure Centre a short time ago.

Some 24 teams, with strange sounding names, competed in the 67 matches played. At times, play became rather rough in some of the matches and the three officials had to take firm action.

In a most exciting and nail-biting final, the favourites and past champions 'Brewers Droop' (Financial HO), at full strength, were matched against 'Live Wire United' (Legacy Transport), who were down to only four players.

With the score at one-all at the final whistle, the match was decided on penalties with 'Live Wire United' winning.

The organisers are to be congratulated yet again on the timing of a very difficult competition and on the decisions they made.

Past Champions, but this year's defeated finalists are joined here by the competition organiser Mr. Gren Roberts (principal assistant—Welfare) Managing to raise a smile are, from left to right: Messrs. Geoff Green, Mike Artell, Barry Hart-Davies, Mike Townsend, Gren, Phil Roberts and Nigel Crossley.



Above: Mr. Jack Pilkington (Welfare Officer), presents the Trophy to the winners, l to r: Messrs. Warren Davies, Malcolm Fowles, John Bollingbroke, Dennis Vaughan (Capt) and Robert MacKenzie.



Right: Semi-finalists, from left to right: Messrs. Martin Harris, John Gorman, George Hogarth, Mark Buchanan and Ian Basford.

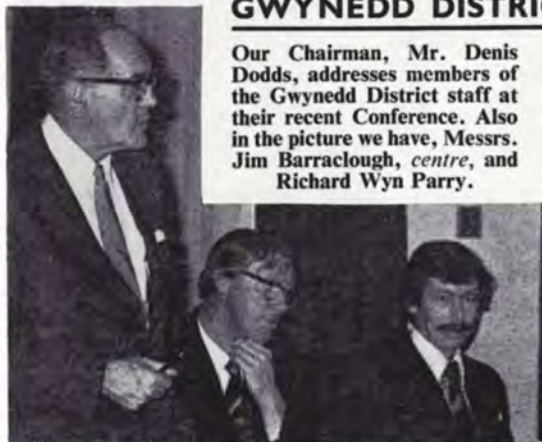


Another semi-final team, l to r: Messrs. Bob Funnell, Tony Timmins, Vince Dean, Dave Watts and Des Lloyd.



GWYNEDD DISTRICT EMPLOYEES' MEETING

Our Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, addresses members of the Gwynedd District staff at their recent Conference. Also in the picture we have, Messrs. Jim Barraclough, centre, and Richard Wyn Parry.



The Electric County

In the forefront of the nuclear age

THE VITAL role of the electricity supply industry in the development of North Wales, and of Gwynedd in particular, was emphasised by our Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, at the Gwynedd District's employees' annual conference, held at a Caernarfon hotel recently.

"Gwynedd is a very distinctive part of our area, and you have a tremendous tradition" said the Chairman. "Not only have you got MANWEB, but you also have two major nuclear power stations, some small hydro-electric installations, and now the Dinorwic pumped storage scheme, which is probably the most advanced hydro project in the world.

"Electricity is the biggest single employer, in the cumulative sense, in the whole of North Wales. Gwynedd is in the forefront of the nuclear age, and in the coming year nuclear generation will probably rise to meet 15% of our electricity requirements—more than will be met by oil-burning stations" added Mr. Dodds.

After referring to the effects of industrial depression on the country in general, leading to a downturn in production and also in the use of electricity, the Chairman said that industrial demand had increased recently (though employment had not), and we might be in the process of "turning the corner."

It had been necessary for MANWEB to carry out some streamlining—in the most painless way possible—but our industry's long-term future was secure.

Chairman for the evening was Mr. Jim Barraclough (*Group Manager*), who welcomed the 120-strong turnout, including a sprinkling of pensioners. Mr. R. W. Parry, Secretary of No. 8 LAC, presented the Committee's report on the year's work.

A lively Open Forum session followed, and the evening came to a close in the traditional Gwynedd way, proving the point that Wales is still the "*Land of Song!*"



The picture here, left, and those on the opposite page show members of our Gwynedd District staff—past and present—together with their guests, enjoying their annual conference at Caernarfon.



FOUR NEW PUBLICATIONS

Everyone is now aware of the need to use energy wisely, yet in many commercial buildings energy is wasted through inefficient design and installation, lack of proper commissioning and unskilled operation.

Four new Electricity Council publications show how energy management in commercial buildings can provide maximum benefit to the people who use the building for the minimum energy consumption and cost.

"Energy Management in Commercial Buildings" examines the use of energy in relation to four distinct stages in a building's life. These are the concept or building design stage, construction, commissioning and the control of the completed building.

"Comfort—What it is and How it Affects Your Work" is based largely on the considerable amount of research on this subject carried out by the Electricity Council Research Centre at Capenhurst.

"Buildings are for People" tells architects that, provided the right decisions are taken at the initial planning stage of commercial buildings, integrated environmental design can combine efficient energy usage with excellent working conditions that remain comfortable at all times of the year.

"Heat Recovery" has been written for building services designers. It explains one of the techniques that can be used to reduce the loss of energy in the operation of air conditioning or heating and ventilating systems.

* * *

All four publications are available free of charge from Electricity Boards or from the Electricity Council, Marketing Department, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD.



Smiles all round at North Mersey District on the occasion of the retirement presentation to Mr. Sid Jones, centre left, by Mr. Hawley.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. S. B. JONES

After 47 years' service to the industry Mr. S. B. ("Sid") Jones, engineering draughtsman with North Mersey District, has retired.

Sid's career began way back in 1929 as a pupil engineer with Barnsley Corporation Electricity Department. He worked in various sections of that undertaking until 1936, when he moved to Radcliffe, near Manchester, as an installation engineer.

From 1944 to 1947 he served in the REME, mainly in the Middle East, reaching the rank of Sergeant Major.

Further experience followed at Scunthorpe, and in 1948 he came to MANWEB's Southport District

to take charge of the Drawing Office, moving to North Mersey District on re-organisation.

Sid's hobbies include, fishing, geology, natural history, and especially classical music. He intends to keep himself occupied in retirement by enlarging his collection of classical records and undertaking serious work with his tape recorder in the natural history field.

On behalf of his many friends he was presented with a cheque by Mr. A. W. Hawley (*District Engineer*).

Mr. W. GRUNDY

Mr. William ("Billy") Grundy, a driver with Mid-Mersey District, retired recently after 36 years in our industry.

Billy started work as a labourer with the Mains

Our offices at Runcorn was the venue for friends to gather to say their farewells to Mr. Billy Grundy, centre right, seen here with Mr. Bill Evans.





Drawing Office and engineering staff at Head Office surround Mr. Wilf Northall, *centre right*, as he receives their farewell gift and a parting handshake from Mr. Gerry Haughan (*Asst. Chief Engineer—Plant and Construction*).

Department at Runcorn in 1940, later becoming a driver. For a considerable number of years he served on No. 2 Works Committee and also on the LAC.

Darts is one of his big interests—he is a life member of the Darts Association of Great Britain and has given a good deal of time to organising national darts championships on behalf of the *News of the World* and the *Sunday People*. (We understand he can manage to sink a 'Yard of Ale' without any trouble!)

On behalf of his friends he was presented with an electric blanket, steam iron and hair dryer by Mr. Bill Evans (*Production Engineer*), who also presented Mrs. Grundy with a bouquet of flowers.

Mr. W. NORTHALL

Mr. Wilf Northall, 2nd engineer in the Technical Drawing Office at Chester, retired recently.

Before joining our industry—at Clarence Dock Power Station, Liverpool, before the war—Mr. Northall worked as an electrician in shops and on ships. He served in the RAF during the war, returning to civilian life as a maintenance electrician, and moving to London in 1951 as a clerk of electrical works and inspector.

Our picture was taken at the double retirement presentation ceremony at Queensferry and shows, Mr. Arthur Hark (*in dark spectacles*) and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cotgreave (*third and fourth from left, front row*).



In 1956 he returned to Liverpool as an electrician with MANWEB, joining the Head Office Drawing Office a year later and moving to Chester in 1969.

Wilf has a wide variety of interests. He is keen on railways, likes visiting historic old buildings, and has a comprehensive collection of slides.

Mr. A. HARK & Mr. H. COTGREAVE

A dual presentation was made at our Queensferry depot to two of our storekeepers who retired recently—Mr. Arthur Hark and Mr. Harry Cotgreave.

After a 20-year spell in the coal industry in Lancashire Mr. Hark became a driver with B.R.S., joining MANWEB as a driver at Queensferry about ten years ago. When the depot was reorganised six years ago Mr. Hark became a storekeeper in the Engineering Stores, and his conscientious work and loyalty were praised by Mr. R. F. Threadgold (principal assistant), who presented him with a cheque on behalf of his colleagues.

Mr. Cotgreave, who was accompanied by his wife, heard Mr. Threadgold outline his 45-year working life, beginning first as a porter and later as

a guard with the Great Western Railway.

Sixteen years ago he joined the electricity industry at Capenhurst, testing cable joints, and later became an assistant storekeeper at Queensferry, being appointed storekeeper on re-organisation.

Presenting him with a cheque—and a bouquet for Mrs. Cotgreave—Mr. Threadgold made special reference to his high level of skill as a First Aider, thanking him in particular for the timely help he had rendered in various accidents, and for the knowledge he had passed on to younger colleagues.

Both our retiring colleagues expressed their thanks—Mr. Hark saying he intended spending the money on items for his home, and Mr. Cotgreave said he would be buying classical records which would give great pleasure to his wife and himself.

In retirement Mr. Cotgreave will continue another hobby—as trainer to Christleton Football Club, yet another retiring colleague who intends to stay young by staying fit!

Mr. H. WILLIAMS

When a young electrician named Harold Williams went looking for work to Wrexham Corporation way back in 1934 he was told that he could have a temporary job for about eight weeks.

As it turned out the job lasted a bit longer than that, and just before Christmas he retired, after 42 years' service, from his work as an installation inspector with MANWEB's Dee Valley District.

It was the disaster at Gresford Colliery, where Harold worked as an electrician, which brought him into our industry, and he stayed on with us after the ill-fated colliery re-opened.

Friends and colleagues gathered in the canteen at Legacy depot to see Mr. Ron Williams (*District Commercial Engineer*), present Harold with a cheque, and to express their best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Williams for a long and happy retirement. Tributes to his efficiency and helpful nature were paid by several speakers, including Mr. Joe Forrester (*Installation engineer*) and Mr. Keith Griffiths, on behalf of the administrative staff.

Replying, Harold recalled the days when he pushed ladder and tools around on a bike or a handcart,

Mr. Harold Williams, right, in uniform coat, with his wife, centre, at his retirement presentation at Legacy depot. Making the trio of Williams, is Ron, in striped tie, who made the presentation.



and said he had "really enjoyed" his work with his friends at Wrexham. Now he will find time to devote himself to his main interest—music.

Mr. T. ROWLANDS

After 45 years' service in the industry Mr. Trevor Rowlands, a 2nd engineer in the Head Office Technical Drawing Office retired recently.

He joined the industry in 1932 when he became a junior draughtsman with the North Wales



Gerry Haughan (*Asst. Chief Engineer*), left, has a parting handshake for Mr. Trevor Rowlands.

Power Company. During the second world war he served in the RAF, for some time in the Air-Sea Rescue Service. Returning to civilian life he went back to the North Wales Power Company at Rhos-tyllen, and moved to Chester with the re-organisation of the Board in 1970.

During his service with the Board he has been keenly interested in the welfare of his colleagues and was the technical representative for them with the Electrical Power Engineers Association for over 25 years.

The son of a Presbyterian minister, Trevor is himself a keen churchman, being an elder of his local Presbyterian Church and he was a member of the MANWEB Christian Fellowship Group at Head Office.

Mr. J. C. SPILSBURY

After 22 years' service to the industry Mr. John Charles Spilsbury, meter-reader/collector (debt control) with Mid-Mersey District, retired recently. Mr. Spilsbury began as a meter fixer and worked as a substation attendant prior to 1972.

On behalf of his many friends Mr. Spilsbury, who was leader of the Mid-Mersey District First Aiders for many years, was presented with parting gifts.

A VERY FOND FAREWELL

Two great characters from Head Office gave well over 250 people a day to remember on the occasion of their joint retirement presentation ceremony held recently. The dynamic duo were, Messrs. Thomas H. Dutton (*principal assistant—Welfare*)—with 40 years service—and William J. (Bill) Nealey, (*administrative assistant*), with 28 years' service.

Friends from as far afield as Southport and Anglesey—past and present members of our staff—joined colleagues from Head Office to pay tribute to the friendship and service given by 'Tom and Bill.'

Before making the presentations—and handing over the superannuation cheques—Mr. M. M. Parker (*Secretary and Solicitor*) gave a 'run-down' on their careers.

Tom joined Southport Corporation staff in 1936 leaving a few years later to serve in the RAOC. After the war he returned to Southport to become the District Senior Clerk on nationalisation. Later he joined the Head Office staff in the Establishments section—denting his boss's car on the first day!

A talented sportsman at football, rugby and his own favourite, cricket, he was also a fine Thespian as proved by his many appearances at Pantomime.

Bill, less flamboyant than his colleague, but like Tom, well loved by everyone. As the 'Housekeeper' at Head Office, he was always willing to 'go the extra mile.' A Liverpoolian, Bill first worked with his father in the shipping business. Then he served in the RAF as an air gunner and flew on 39 raids over enemy territory. He was once "wounded" when an axe in his turret came out of its housing!

Leaving the Forces, he worked for the Civil Service and the Eastern Electricity Board before joining us in 1950.

Unfortunately, Bill became ill some months ago and now we join with his many friends in wishing for his full recovery.

They must both now know how welcome they will be should they decide to visit us from time to time.



Above: Mr. Bill Nealey listens to Mr. Parker pay tribute to his service with the Board and show the audience the 'retirement' card, cleverly drawn by Mr. Geoff Baker (*Display*).

Below: True to form, Mr. Tom Dutton holds his audience in the palm of his hand as he thanks everyone for helping make it a day to remember for Bill and himself. Another of Geoff's 'specials' depicts Tom the sportsman.



Our picture shows a happy audience enjoying Tom's reply to their tributes.

Obituary

Mr. C. E. BLACKWELL

We deeply regret to report the death of Mr. C. E. ("Eddie") Blackwell, of Oswestry District's Material Control section.

Mr. Blackwell joined the industry in 1947 as assistant storekeeper at Oswestry, becoming storekeeper in 1949 and storekeeper-clerk two years later.

A notable musician, Mr. Blackwell was well-known locally, and played his drums at many social functions held in the District. He will be sadly missed by his many MANWEB friends.

Miss F. D. BLIZARD

We regret to report that after a short illness Miss F. Dorothy Blizard died in hospital shortly before Christmas.

Dorothy joined the industry with the former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department. She worked at Clarke Gardens and Hatton Garden offices before moving over to our top shop in Whitechapel, Liverpool, as a saleswoman. Here she made many friends among our staff and with our customers.

A former 'Contact' correspondent, Dorothy retired in August 1967 after more than 25 years in the industry.

Mr. J. W. GROOM

Instead of reporting on the retirement of Mr. Jack Groom, an Estates and Wayleave Officer at Head Office, it is with deep regret that we have to record his death at the age of 56.

Jack took an early retirement from the Board on the last day of 1976 but nine days later, as he was recovering from an operation, he died.

Starting his working life as a joiner with the former Chester City Council Electricity Department in 1935, Jack later served, during the last war, with the RAF Regiment in Africa.

He returned to Chester in 1946 and two years later transferred to MANWEB. In 1958 he became a sales representative and in 1962 transferred to Estates and Wayleaves.

He was a Freeman of the City of Chester.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Dorothy and to his many friends.

Mr. H. G. JONES

Older colleagues throughout the Board, and in North Wales in particular, were saddened to hear of the death of Mr. H. G. ("Buckley") Jones, a well-known personality on the No. 4 Sub-Area engineering staff until his retirement in 1964.

Mr. Jones joined the former North Wales Power Company in 1933 following the decline of the coal-mining industry at Buckley, Flintshire, where he had been a chief colliery engineer. Inevitably he was at once labelled "Buckley" Jones, and the tag stuck throughout his service with the electricity industry—even quotations for the supply of engineering equipment arrived marked "for the attention of Mr. Buckley Jones."

A First World War veteran, he was a great champion of disabled ex-servicemen, and will be remembered for much sound guidance and advice given freely to younger engineers and students. A one-time president of the North Wales Society of Engineers, per-

haps his greatest achievement was the design, construction and operation of a three-phase fault flow board depicting the whole of the EHV system of Area 4. A rare and humorous character, who made an indelible mark on MANWEB's progress.

Mr. J. W. KELLETT

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Mr. J. W. Kellett, who retired in 1965 as Manager of the former MANWEB Area 3 after 48 years' service to the industry.

Mr. Kellett, affectionately known as "Joe", began his career with Liverpool Corporation Electricity Supply Department, rising to the post of chief commercial assistant and playing an important part in the integration of the City's electricity department into MANWEB following nationalisation.

He later served with the Board as Deputy Chief Commercial Officer, and ultimately as Area Manager.

During the first world war he served with the R.F.C. and the Middlesex Regiment.

On behalf of many old friends who remember Mr. Kellett well we extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Kellett and family.

ST. HELENS COLLEAGUES

We deeply regret to announce the deaths of two retired St. Helens colleagues, Mr. J. P. Potter, of Balfour Street, (70), and Mr. W. Fitzpatrick, of Gibbons Avenue, Eccleston (68).

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY (INDUSTRIAL STAFF) SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

Election of Members' Committee-men: Spring 1977

The three-year term of office of five members' committee-men shortly expires and an election is to be held for the appointment of their successors. Retiring committee-men are eligible for re-election and all members of the Scheme, other than 'special members,' are entitled to stand for election or nominate candidates.

Nomination forms, which are to be signed by ten members of the Scheme and must bear the consent of the candidates, will be available from 8th March 1977 and may be obtained from the Assistant Secretary (Personnel), MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester, CH1 4LR. Completed forms must be returned for certification not later than Friday, 1st April 1977.