

Electric Supply Department at Pumpfields as an electrician's mate in 1930 after two years in the library service.

As a schoolboy he played football and cricket as a representative of the City of Liverpool. Later, for 16 seasons, he played for the Electric Supply cricket team.

Vincent also took an active part in the social activities of the Thingwall Road Club and was Social Secretary from 1969 to 1976.

#### Mr. J. R. WILLIAMS

Ill health was the cause of the premature retirement of Mr. John R. Williams, a jointer at our Runcorn depot in the Mid-Mersey District.

John, who had completed 21 years with the Board, was presented with a wrist watch as a retirement gift from his friends and colleagues.

#### Mr. N. W. LEWIS

Having completed over 23 years' service in the electricity supply industry, Mr. Noel W. Lewis retired last December. He had worked in our Oswestry District's street lighting section for the majority of this time.

To mark the occasion, "Uncle Noel's Christmas Party" was held at a hotel in Oswestry. Mr. Reg Edwards (*installation engineer*) presented Noel with a watch as a parting gift from colleagues and friends. Mrs. Edwards handed a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Lewis.

The party took the form of a musical evening with the Oswestry MANWEB Choir, organised by Mr. Henry Blackwell and accompanied by seven members of the Porthwaen Silver Band under their conductor Mr. John Pugh, singing and leading the carols.

Holding the radio—his farewell gift from colleagues at Bridle Road—is Mr. Thomas Tague, surrounded by just a few of his many friends in the workshops. On the left is Mr. Ken Crabtree who made the presentation.



Handing over retirement gifts to Mr. and Mrs. Noel Lewis, *centre*, is Mr. Reg Edwards. On the left is Mr. Lyn Price (*D.C.E.*)

#### Mr. T. TAGUE

Two separate periods with the industry sums up the career of Mr. Thomas Tague who retired a short time ago from his job as a painter in our North Mersey District.

He first came to us in 1947 working from the Pumpfields depot in Liverpool when he spent quite a lot of his time painting Clarence Dock power station.

Leaving us in 1952 he rejoined five years later, again at Pumpfields before being transferred to the North Mersey District.

During the war years he saw service with the RAF in Scotland and Germany.

At his farewell party held at the Bridle Road Sports and Social Club, Mr. Ken Crabtree (*Production Engineer*) presented Tom with a radio from his friends and colleagues.



# Contact

January 1978

Geraldine  
(see pages 14/15)



# Our Chairman Retires

MR. DENIS DODDS, Chairman of MANWEB since 1962, retired on December 31st, after a 30-year career with the electricity supply industry.

Mr. Dodds, a native of Tyneside, served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve during the second world war, after which he became Deputy Town Clerk of Cardiff. He joined the electricity industry in 1948 as Secretary of the South Wales Electricity Board, later becoming Head of Industrial Relations for the industry in London. He came to MANWEB in 1960 as Deputy Chairman, succeeding Mr. D. H. Kendon as Chairman two years later. He was awarded the CBE in January, 1977. He is married with two sons and three daughters, and lives at Crosby, near Liverpool.

At national level, prior to his retirement, Mr Dodds was chairman of the Joint Committee for Managerial Staff and vice-chairman (Boards' side) of the Joint Industrial Council for Manual Employees. He was also Chairman of the Association of Members of State Industry Boards.

*Mr. Dodds was also very active in the wider fields of industry and commerce, being Chairman of the Merseyside Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a member of the North West Economic Planning Council and of the Confederation of British Industry Council for Wales, and also a Director of the Development Corporation for Wales.*

During the course of Mr. Dodds' period as Chairman far-reaching changes in the MANWEB organisation were carried out. A major re-organisation effected some years ago saw the Board's former structure of a Head Office, four Area and



With a photograph of our Head Office block in the background, our former Chairman and our new Chairman are seen here with their wives. On the right, Mr. and Mrs. Denis Dodds and on the left, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hastings.

eighteen District offices streamlined to a Head Office and ten Districts, with a computer centre with direct lines of communication to the Districts. During this time the consumption of electricity by our customers has almost doubled, networks have been widely extended, and the number of employees has fallen from about 9,000 to less than 6,000.

The period immediately prior to Mr. Dodds' retirement was marked by a number of functions, when tributes were paid by a wide cross-section of those with whom he had worked over the years. These included the Members of the Board, staff and trade union representatives, and the Electrical Association for Women.

## MR. HASTINGS TAKES OVER

DEPUTY Chairman of MANWEB since 1974, Mr. Ben Hastings has been appointed as Chairman of the Board from 1st January by the Secretary of State for Energy, Mr. Tony Benn.

*Mr. Hastings' appointment, at the age of 47, makes him the youngest Electricity Board Chairman in the country.*

Brought up in Scotland, Mr. Hastings completed his education at Glasgow University where he gained an Honours Degree in Physics.

During National Service with

the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, he served in Germany and attained the rank of Acting Captain.

Twelve years with the Mullard Radio Valve Company in Croydon and Mitcham followed, culminating in the post of Head of the Technical Efficiency and Or-

ganisation Department.

Mr. Hastings joined the Electricity Supply Industry in 1967 when he returned to Scotland as Management Services Controller with the South of Scotland Electricity Board—a post he held until moving to MANWEB.

A keen all-round sportsman, Mr. Hastings has played football, cricket, badminton and table tennis at competitive level. He is also an enthusiastic golfer.

He is married with one son and one daughter.

# Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE  
OF THE  
MERSEYSIDE AND  
NORTH WALES  
ELECTRICITY BOARD

Vol. 30 No. 1

January 1978

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## CHANGE AT THE TOP

AS WE say "Farewell" to one Chairman and "Welcome" to another, we can pause for a moment to look at the responsibilities and pressures which weigh on the men who lead the Boards of nationalised industries.

By any standards an Electricity Board is big business. Last year MANWEB's turnover was £279 million, making the Board a sizeable force in the world of commerce. Additionally, our affairs are carried on under the spotlight of public scrutiny and we are publicly accountable at every level of our operations.

All MANWEB employees must play a part in protecting the Board's reputation and must accept their share of responsibility. When all is said and done, however, the ultimate responsibility for everything that MANWEB does, or fails to do, rests upon the Chairman and his colleagues on the Board.

No bed of roses, this. Mr. Dodds' years of office included some very stormy periods. The future will doubtless confront Mr. Hastings with equally testing situations.

Every MANWEB employee will wish our outgoing Chairman a happy retirement and will assure his successor of the loyalty, support and team-spirit upon which our industry's traditions rest.

*Mr. Dodds' retirement, and Mr. Hastings' appointment are reported on the opposite page. In next month's magazine we hope to introduce Mr. Hastings to you more fully, and to ask for his views on some of the more important aspects of the work and future of our industry.*

### Editorial Staff

Keith Baldwin Phone H.O. 2164  
John F. Perry 2167  
Sam Doughty 2166

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.

# Time for Decision on Nuclear Power is Now!

ON a stormy night, lashed with driving rain and high winds, Group Manager Mr. Jim Barraclough commented on the excellent staff turnout at the Dee Valley District Annual Conference held at the Memorial Hall, Wrexham. He said that he was grateful to see so many attending and offered a special welcome to the 26 retired members of the District staff who were present.

LAC Secretary, Mr. Keith Griffiths, in presenting his report on the activities of the Committee during the past year, put special emphasis on the safety at work aspect.

Then Mr. Barraclough had a few words to say on the progress made by the industry in general and our Board in particular. He said that many members of the staff were concerned about press comment and criticism of our industry in that, if we made a profit then we were accused of charging exorbitant rates

for electricity and if we made a loss—however slight—then we must be totally inefficient. The Group Manager said that this form of criticism was inevitable when a nationalised industry was concerned.

He went on to speak of the six lean years we had just experienced commenting that he believed we had reached the turning point when our industry could again look forward to making reasonable profits each year.

“However”, he continued, “we are still concerned about our sales on the domestic side with the average home using less electricity today than it did five years ago.” Recent trends hopefully showed a slight pick up in the domestic field.

Sales to industry last year increased quite considerably. “I look on this as a fairly accurate barometer of industrial production generally and if it continues to rise, it will be good for MANWEB, good for the industry and good for the country”, he added.

Mr Barraclough then spoke on the long term outlook and the world controversy over the future of nuclear power.

**The time for decision is now, he insisted, “for in a couple of years time it could be too late!”**

He pointed out that we should all be aware of the facts as to what the country’s fuel situation will be in 25 years time. “There are dangers in nuclear generation,” he went on, “but the real danger of being without an adequate source of power on the next quarter century is far more serious.

**“I feel that nuclear power must come. I don’t think there is any alternative. This will ensure the future—a great future—for the electricity industry and the country itself.”**

Guest speaker John Morris, left, enjoying a ‘pinta’ with some of his colleagues, from left to right: Cyril Jones, Ceri Roberts, Paul Forreth, Tom King, David Lloyd and Doug Burke.



At one of her final engagements as “The Girl from MANWEB—1977” Jackie Pemberton gave an excellent talk to her District colleagues. Jackie is seen here with her husband John.



Chatting with guest speaker John Jones, right, are from left to right: Tom Hamilton, Tony Shell, Keith Griffiths and John Peaker.

After these inspiring words, instead of the usual ‘guest speaker’ addressing the Conference, the staff were well and truly entertained by three of their own colleagues who gave bright and interesting talks on what could be assumed to be a dull subject—‘My Job’.

First of all the attractive and ever-popular ‘Girl from MANWEB for 1977’—Jackie Pemberton, after an unnerving few minutes while the microphones were adjusted, talked not so much on the job as a bonus clerk in the District, but on her duties as “The Girl from MANWEB”, a task she has carried out so well. She certainly surprised many of her colleagues—including her husband John—by her elquence, her calmness and her well-timed humour.



Above: Roy Stewart, left, chats with retired staff Nan Jones and her husband Harold. Below: Group Manager Jim Barraclough, left, hands over a cheque and congratulates John Lloyd on his award. Looking on is John’s foreman, Eric Ellis.

### Comedy Duo

She was followed—as the next speaker—by Messrs John Morris, a chargehand electrician from Corwen depot and John Jones, a chargehand meter reader from the Chester depot. We soon discovered that they both had most interesting jobs with MANWEB as they recounted many entertaining and humorous anecdotes, rivalling each other as expert storytellers.

An ‘Open Forum’ session followed with many of the questions submitted phrased as suggestions.

During the evening, a special presentation of a Suggestion Scheme cheque for £50 was made by Mr. Barraclough to one of our electrical fitters from Legacy depot, Mr. John Lloyd. This was a further award—he had already received a £10 cheque—for his idea for a safer and more effective use of tarpaulin sheets in 33kV compounds. The suggestion has now gone forward for consideration at national level.

This was a very happy Conference, with many lighthearted moments as well as the serious business side. It was certainly a night on which many will remember the wind conditions outside and the warmth of the occasion inside.



## NEW DEPUTY CHIEF ENGINEER

Mr. Gerald Haughan, MANWEB's Assistant Chief Engineer (*Plant and Construction*), has been appointed Deputy Chief Engineer. He succeeds Mr Jim Fisher, whose promotion to Chief Engineer was reported last month.

Mr. Haughan began his career with Carlisle Corporation Electricity Department as a technical



Mr. Gerald Haughan

apprentice in 1946. After National Service with the Royal Engineers he held successive engineering posts with the North Western, Yorkshire, Midlands, Southern, and North Eastern Electricity Boards, before joining MANWEB in Liverpool as District Engineer.

In 1973 he moved to Head Office at Chester as Assistant Chief Engineer (*System Management*), moving over to the Plant and Construction side in 1976.

Mr. Haughan, who is 46, is married with two children and lives in Widnes. His hobbies include sailing and walking.

## CROSSWORD PRIZEWINNERS . . .

Of the fifty competitors who entered for our bumper crossword competition we had only one all-correct solution. Everyone else made simple spelling mistakes or did not take enough care in checking anagram letters. The sole winner was Yvonne Coleby from Revenue at Head Office (*who has now left the service of the Board!*).

Congratulations Yvonne, your 'fiver' is on the way.

## . . . AND SOLUTION

### Across

1 As plain as the nose on one's face. 15 Op-ti-mum. 16 Gordian knot (*anag*). 17 Youth. 18 Drear (*concealed*). 19 Rilev-o. 20 A-mass. 21 Ewe. 22 Nag. 23 Succumbed (*anag*). 24 Mum-ps. 25 C-ai-tiff. 26 Dam. 27 Strip-teaser (*anag*). 30 Nocturn. 32 Timpani (*anag*). 35 Assuredly (*anag*). 37 Inexact (*anag*). 38 Egression (*anag*). 40 Lie detectors. 42 Pear (*nursery rhyme*). 44 Rep-resent. 45 Pal. 46 Successor. 48 Sten (*nets*). 49 Banderilero (*anag*). 52 Mouse-trap (*anag*). 54 Withers. 55 Abs-orb-ent. 57 Nepotic (*anag*). 59 Tangent. 60 Mythologist. 62 (H)arm. 64 Marconi (*anag*). 65 Fools. 66 Trilobate (*anag*). 67 Inn. 68 Li-N. 69 Magic. 70 Saffron. 72 Alph-a. 74 Night. 75 Connoisseur. 76 A-rach-is. 77 A stately pleasure dome decree.

### Down

1 Anti-disestablishmentarians. 2 Prose. 3 After supper. 4 Numerable (*anag*). 5 Sampled. 6 H-ague. 7 Narrow-minded. 8 SP-irals (*anag*). 9 On no account. 10 Omniscience. 11 Extremist. 12 Flyleaf. 13 CH-urned (*anag*). 14 The game is not worth the candle. 24 Mardi gras (*anag*). 28 Rasse (*concealed*). 29 Shyster. 31 Chap-el. 33 Misdeal. 34 Aside (*anag*). 36 Dresser. 39 Re-p-orts. 41 Element. 42 Pan. 43 Reassumes (*anag*). 44 Re-Dr-aft (*anag*). 45 Pestle. 47 Chump. 50 El-EMI. 51 Her trousseau (*anag-e*). 53 Pots of money. 54 Winning goal (*anag*). 56 Rhododaphne (*anag*). 58 Chronicle(s). 61 Orientate. 63 Manages (*verbs*). 64 Militia. 65 Fuchsia (*anag*). 66 Tornado (*anag*). 71 Faroe. 73 Poser.

## Obituary

We deeply regret to report the deaths of the following colleagues and pensioners

**Mr. T. M. Davies**, a retired labourer from Legacy depot.

**Mr. James Dolan**, (68), a labourer at St. Helens depot prior to retirement on health grounds in 1970.

**Mr. William J. Forster**, former Liverpool Area Commercial Officer prior to his retirement in 1962. He had served the industry for over 40 years in electricity undertakings at Hackney, Stoke Newington, Rawtenstall, Heston, Isleworth and Walthamstow.

**Mr. Billy May**, (66), a labourer with North Mersey District prior to his retirement in 1970.

**Mr. Steve Murphy**, a draughts-

man at Head Office, at the early age of 41. Steve, a popular personality at Chester, previously worked for the Board at Birkenhead.

**Mr. Edward Ness**, an electrical fitter in the Meter Test section at Lister Drive, prior to his retirement in 1967.

**Mr. Edward Parry**, (65), a labourer at Legacy depot prior to his premature retirement in 1970.

**Mr. Alan Winstanley**, a clerk in the Work Control section at Lister Drive, who died suddenly during the Christmas break. Alan, a popular figure, will be missed by his colleagues.

*We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of these colleagues who have passed on.*



## MAN FROM MANWEB AWARDED B.E.M.

IN THE recently published New Year's Honours List, a general foreman in our North Mersey District, **Mr. William James Owen**, was awarded the British Empire Medal. Our congratulations to him.

Mr. Owen joined the industry in 1946, after war service with the Royal Artillery, when he reached the rank of Battery Sergeant-Major. Starting as a labourer he was promoted successively to jointer, foreman jointer and general foreman, and in the words of the citation for the award "*his resourcefulness, conscientiousness and his readiness to subordinate his personal arrangements in the interests of maintaining the public supply of electricity have long been recognised.*"

Mr. Owen was a co-founder in Kirkby of "Centre 63," one of the largest youth centres in Britain, and has devoted many years' effort to the interests of young people at the Centre. He is interested in church

work, and for some years was secretary of his Parochial Church Council. His home is at Southport.

### Double Hobby-man

The Board's recent Christmas card featured an excellent picture of the entrance to the Choir at Chester Cathedral. Our staff member who submitted the colour transparency for 'Contact's' annual photographic competition was **John Mutton**, a linesman based at our Northwich depot in the Mid-Cheshire District.

John, who originates from Plymouth, joined the Board in 1964 after National Service with the R.A.F.

He is an accomplished man with a camera having recently

walked off with the top three prizes in the Vale Royal Jubilee competition. His first, second and third prizes were individual pieces of Wedgewood which made up a complete Jubilee set for him.

Another interest occupying John's time is music, especially organ music and more especially when it is played by the German genius of the consol, Klaus Wunderlicht.

In a very short time, Klaus has produced 63 L.P.'s and one single. John, as secretary of the *Klaus Wunderlicht Appreciation Society* in this country, has every one of these records.

### On the Spot

It was a pleasant day's scrambling up the craggy North ridge of Tryfan, overlooking the Ogwen valley in North Wales, for Dee Valley District Engineer **Stan Roberts** and his friend **John Burrows**—until they found an injured man, lying

Some of his North Mersey colleagues gather round to endorse the congratulations being offered to Mr. Owen, centre left, by Mr. Bert Eyres (*District Engineer*) on his award of the British Empire Medal.



alone after a fall, at a height of about 2,700 feet.

They learned that the casualty who came from Woking, had been climbing the mountain with his wife, who had carried on towards the summit, unaware of his plight.

While Stan went on to find her at the top, a few hundred feet higher, John left the injured man in the care of other climbers and set off down the mountain to alert the mountain rescue services.

Back at the scene Stan made the casualty as comfortable as possible in a polythene "exposure bag" from his rucksack, and was relieved to discover that his injuries did not seem to be too serious, being limited to concussion and minor damage.

Quite soon it became apparent that John's mission had been successful when the beat of helicopter blades announced the arrival of the RAF's Air-Sea Rescue Service from their base at Valley, Anglesey.

With the rotors whirring only a matter of feet from the mountain wall the winchman descended. The casualty was strapped into a stretcher and hauled aboard for the journey to hospital at Bangor.

"It was marvellous to see the skill with which the RAF lads carried out the operation" commented Stan.

Stan Roberts has been a keen mountaineer, in Britain and the Alps, for many years. He and his friend John (a regular climbing companion who lectures at Chester College) are both members of the Chester Mountaineering Club.

### BADMINTON

Annual Tournament Venue  
Grange Road West  
Sports Centre, Birkenhead  
Sunday, 5th February  
from 1.00 to 5.00 p.m.

### A Fair Cop!

A shoplifter was prevented from taking an electric can-opener from our shop in St. John's Precinct, Liverpool thanks to the eagle eye of saleswoman **Doris Walker** and the 'Starsky and Hutch' act of Supervisor **Jim Browne** and salesman **Dave Mellor**.

After 'casing' the top floor of the shop, the would-be thief snatched the can-opener and made off down the stairs. Doris was quick to notice the empty space on the display shelf and raised the alarm. Dave met the fugitive on the stairs, turned and tumbled down after him.

At the bottom of the stairs, Jim barred the way and, with Dave, persuaded the culprit to step into his office. While waiting for the police to arrive, our shoplifter tried out several sob stories on Jim. As this invoked very little sympathy he decided to try and punch his way out, aiming a couple of blows at Jim's midriff.

Had our shoplifter known that he was tangling with a Judo expert—a *black belt no less*—he would have carried on with his tales of woe.

However, not wishing to disturb the paperwork in his office, Jim expertly applied gentle pressure to the man's shoulders and soon had him sitting quietly on the floor as they waited for the police to take the man away.

### Mother Designate

A popular member of our Dee Valley District Consumer Accounts Department **Gwyneth Davies** said farewell to her colleagues just before Christmas to take up the full-time duties of housewife and mother designate.

To mark the occasion **Tony Shell** (District Administrative Officer), on behalf of Gwyneth's colleagues presented her with

a number of gifts which indicated her popularity and the esteem in which she is held.

In addition to these gifts a gentleman who supervises a large block of flats sent Gwyneth a beautiful bouquet of flowers as a token of his appreciation of Gwyneth's assistance and guidance in ensuring that his nomadic tenants were charged for the electricity that they used. Gwyneth, who was the supervisor of the Amendments Section, also received a letter from the senior partner of a local firm wishing her well and praising the efficient way in which she had dealt with the properties that they managed.

### R.G.P. Re-elected

Retired executive officer in the Salaries and Superannuation section at Head Office, **Mr. Ron Patterson**, has been re-elected a Members' Committee-Man on the Committee of the *Electricity Supply (Staff) Superannuation Scheme*.

### Quick Thinking

Emergencies of one kind or another are always possibilities in the lives of people whose jobs carry them out and about among the public. Just such a situation faced North Wirral District meter reader **Eddie Morgan** recently when he called to read the meter at a house in Croft Drive, Moreton.

Sensing that something was amiss, Eddie looked through the letter box to see the lady of the house lying unconscious in the hall—the result, it transpired, of a trip and a fall downstairs.

Hurrying to a neighbour's house Eddie phoned for an ambulance, and after the injured lady had been taken to hospital carried on with his job. After her discharge from hospital the lady phoned **Bob Vernon**, principal assistant at District office, to express her

gratitude for Eddie's quick thinking, which, she said, had almost certainly saved her life.

Eddie has been a meter-reader/collector with the District for the past 15 years.

### Hole in One

A shot that every golfer dreams about, a hole in one, was achieved recently by a member of the MANWEB Golf Society, **John Hammond** of Plant & Construction section at Head Office.

This super start to the New Year occurred as John played the 4th hole on Wrexham golf course. He used a number six iron to cover the 155 yards—exactly!

### Word of Thanks

Liverpool District's 'Contact' correspondent, **Vicki Roberts**, expresses thanks for the support given by the District staff for the Alder Hey Children's Kidney Fund, and asks everyone to keep up the good work during 1978.

### Honour for Loyalty

At a memorable and impressive ceremony held at Liverpool Town Hall a short time ago, Brigadier Sir Douglas Crawford,

T.A. Volunteer Reservist, Warrant Officer John Beardwood, left, receives award from Brigadier Sir Douglas Crawford.



### LIVERPOOL RETIRED EMPLOYEES GROUP

Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday, 8th February  
at 3.00 p.m.  
Thingwall Road  
Clubhouse  
Everyone welcome

Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside presented a hand-engraved certificate in recognition of 'outstanding service' in the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve to a man from MANWEB, **John W. Beardwood** from our North Mersey District

This high honour, one of just nine awarded throughout the whole of Lancashire last year, is conferred upon people who in addition to their devotion to duty over many years have also given personal service of the highest order.

John, who joined MANWEB 23 years ago as a labourer at Marsh Lane, soon became a jointer's mate then H.T. jointer.

In uniform, he is a Warrant Officer 2, and has served the Army for 28 years. He began with the 60th Heavy A.A. stationed at the Palace Barracks in Belfast. Later he transferred

to the 626 Liverpool Irish before joining his present regiment, the 103 Light Air Defence.

Joining his MANWEB friends taking pride in his achievements are his wife Irene, their two daughters and grandson.

### Golden Weddings

Christmas-time marked golden milestones in the lives of two Mid-Cheshire couples—**Mr. and Mrs. Reg Milburn**, and **Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coppack**—both of whom celebrated their Golden Weddings.

Mr. Milburn, formerly of Stockton-on-Tees, came to the Sandbach area while working with British Insulated and Helsby Cables—at that time only Crewe town enjoyed the benefits of electricity, and the North Wales Power Company used contractors to build lines to carry power to the surrounding districts.

Reg joined the staff of the Power Company in 1927, and after becoming an engineer with MANWEB, retired in 1971.

He and Mrs. Milburn were married at Wheelock Church on Christmas Day, 1927, and the 50-year anniversary was marked by a celebratory gathering of family and friends at the local British Legion club.

Mr. and Mrs. Coppack both come from sea-faring families at Connah's Quay, where they were married at St. Mark's church on December 31st, 1927. After working with the North Wales Power Company at Blaenau Ffestiniog, Ben transferred to the newly-developing network in South Cheshire, setting up home at Elworth, near Sandbach, where he has lived ever since.

Excitement was added to the family celebrations by a visit from his son Roland, who brought his wife and two daughters over from their home in America for the occasion.



At the MANWEB/MMB demonstration for the Soroptomists at West Kirby. From left to right: Geraldine Leake, Lynda Knott (Milk Marketing Board) and Mary Rutter (Soroptomist President).

### Dem. Girl

"Entertaining with Electricity" was the theme of the joint MANWEB and Milk Marketing Board demonstration held at West Kirby in the new Community Leisure Centre at the Concourse.

Organised by the local Soroptomist Society, the 250-strong

audience saw **Geraldine Leake** our North Wirral District energy sales demonstrator, show how entertaining at home is made easy with the aid of electricity.

She demonstrated the latest electric kitchen equipment with emphasis on deep freeze and the micro-wave oven coupled

with the easy-clean ceramic cooker hob.

Shortly after this presentation, Geraldine was successful in taking "The Girl from MANWEB—1978" title.

### FOR SALE

PUCH, maxi super sports moped. 50 c.c. (unwanted prize) Not yet registered. £200.

'Phone Pontybodkin 568.

ALFA ROMEO 1300 GT 'K' registered. Low mileage. Dark blue. Radio. MOT (August), Taxed (end of March). £820 o.n.o. 'Phone Warrington 64095 (after 6.00 p.m.)

### S-o-r-r-y!

Our apologies to the irate cut-off men in Liverpool and North Mersey Districts for our 'alternative caption' on the picture of "Cuddles" the Gorilla which won a prize in the 'Contact' photographic competition (December).

The 'Contact' editorial staff have reconsidered the matter, and feel that the original alternative caption should be replaced by the following:

"The Editor of 'Contact' after being obliged to eat humble pie!"

## NOT OUT — YET!

**The Place**—the *Contact* Editorial office, some time in November.

**A Voice** "We need cartoons for the Christmas number."

**Second Voice** "What about asking Ernie Silcock from Runcorn—he used to do cartoons for us."

**Third Voice** (never since identified): "He's retired now."

From that point onwards the story becomes a little hazy, but from the smokescreen emerged a batch of Ernie's cartoons, duly published in the Christmas number, bearing the legend "Cartoons by Ernest Silcock, painter, now retired from our Runcorn depot."

Well, some people get upset when the month's "Deliberate Mistake" appears, but naturally

enough a cartoonist has to have a sense of humour! We will therefore let Ernie's letter, and the accompanying drawing, speak for themselves:

"To the Editorial staff,

Surprised to hear about my retirement—didn't know that 47 years was the new age for leaving. It keeps the family guessing though—they want to know where I'm going to in the daytime!

"Have to end now, otherwise I could be in the obituary column in the January 'Contact'."

Yours,

Ernie Silcock ("Retired!??")

Sorry about that Ernie—it must have been a rumour started by someone at Runcorn!



"I'm not really 65! It's just that 'Contact' has put years on me!!"

Ernie by Ernie



The Dave Stevenson Singers who entertained Head Office Staff at their annual party.

## PARTY TIME AT HEAD OFFICE

The ingredients for the annual party for Head Office staff were music, mirth and a modicum of moneymaking. The melodies came from the Dave Stevenson Singers and the Mike James Sound, the comedy from the cabaret act "The Nobodies" and the profit—for some—from the gambling casino (House Limit 2p!). Some food, a little liquid refreshment and lots of dancing contributed to the success of the evening.

A few days earlier, the younger generation had their own party when 300 youngsters had a great time with games, eats, dancing, singing and the inevitable visit from Santa.

Some of the 300 children who enjoyed their party at Head Office, with Uncle Gren Roberts in the background.



# Liverpool District Annual Social



Above: Keeping things moving was Ted Potter—D.J.

Below: A happy group at one of the tables, from left to right: George and Vicki Roberts, Dave Crangle, Valli and Roy Hughes.



Organisers of the 'Social,' Vicki Roberts, left, and Mary Seibert.

Engineers Charlie Donovan and Bert Eyres with their wives, Marion and Anne.



A very successful social evening was enjoyed by the many members of our Liverpool District staff and guests—who attended the pre-Christmas Annual Social at the Thingwall Road Clubhouse.

An excellent 'Hot-Pot' supper, a host of prizes to be won and music-maker Ted Potter, all contributed to a thoroughly enjoyable evening.



Some of the recipients of Long Service Certificates with Mid-Mersey District Officers and Group Manager Mr. Joe Winchester, centre in striped shirt.

## MID-MERSEY LONG SERVICE AWARDS

ONE important reason why so many employees of the electricity supply industry qualified for Long Service Awards was the job satisfaction gained from work circumstances which allowed them to use their own initiative, said Group Manager Mr. Joe Winchester, presenting awards to Mid-Mersey District colleagues at Warrington recently.

"Most of you are in contact with the customers. The service MANWEB can give to the customer depends very much on our staff as individuals, and we are trying hard to spread it around that this is the way we want the staff to feel" added Mr. Winchester.

"We all know of the labour problems which beset some of our industries today, particularly among workers on production lines. One can understand

the reasons for discontent in that kind of situation." Mr. Winchester went on to say that long service was much appreciated by the Board. It proved the loyalty of employees to the industry, and long-serving, experienced personnel were essential for the training of new recruits to the staff.

Award recipients were:

**40 Years** Mr. George Williams (*shift electrician, Runcorn*).

**30 Years** Messrs. Jack Wells (*transport driver, Warrington*), Ernie Watkins (*shift electrician, St. Helens*), John Caine (*labourer, St. Helens*), Edgar Moore (*courier*), Bert Roughley (*painter, St. Helens*), Albert Stout (*joiner, Warrington*), and Norman Stubbs (*joiner, Runcorn*).

**20 Years** Messrs. Arthur Blears (*painter, Warrington*), Roy Powell, (*clerical assistant, District Office*), Ken Appleton (*energy sales engineer, District Office*), Jack Jones (*electrician, Runcorn*),

Three colleagues from St. Helens, not able to be present at the ceremony, also received Awards as follows: **30 years:** Mr. J. B. Edwards (*shift electrician*)

**20 years:** Messrs. J. M. Glover (*storekeeper*) and H. Walsh (*joiner*).

### Informal visit

At an informal luncheon at Head Office recently, MANWEB Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds and his senior Officers were hosts to the Mayoress and Chief Executive of Chester City. Our picture shows, from left to right: Messrs. A. P. Whyte (*Chief Accountant*) and John Garston (*Mayor's consort*), Mrs. Sheila Garston (*Mayor of Chester*), Messrs. Jim Barraclough (*Group Manager*), Denis Dodds (*Chairman*) and Matt. Cowan (*Chief Commercial Officer*), Mrs. Dodds, Mr. Ben Hastings (*Deputy Chairman*), Mrs. Hastings and Mr. Malcolm Kermod (*Chief Executive, Chester City Council*).



The final line-up, from left to right: Joan McNulty, Lynne Joyce and Janet Roberts (entrants), Betty Hassall, Peggy Woodcock and Matt Cowan (judges), Geraldine Leake ("The Girl from MANWEB—1978"), Mary Elizabeth Owen (runner-up), Carol Howard (third place), Jackie Pemberton ("The Girl from MANWEB—1977") and Roy Stewart (judge).



Shortly after this event, Roy, while walking, was hit by a car and thrown into the path of yet another car which fortunately stopped in time. He sustained head injuries and bruising and is now convalescing. We send him our sincere wishes for an early and complete recovery.



"The Girl from MANWEB 1978"

Jackie hands over the title to Geraldine who presents Jackie with a bouquet of flowers. Looking on are the girls who took second and third place in this year's final, Mary Elizabeth Owen and Carol Howard

OUR COVER PICTURE shows the eleventh 'Girl from MANWEB' Miss Geraldine Leake, an energy sales demonstrator working in our North Wirral District.

Geraldine, who is 21 years of age, lives with her parents in Frodsham. She left Helsby Grammar School with nine 'O' levels and four 'A' levels then took a three-year course for the N.C.H.E.E. Diploma in Home Economics at the Salford College of Technology—gaining a Distinction.

During her time at College, one of her 'Industrial Training' periods was spent in our Mid-Mersey District. This probably prompted her to apply for—and gain—the North Wirral post last July.

She is interested in needlework, dressmaking and cookery. Her pastimes include swimming, badminton and ballroom dancing.

Before being chosen as 'The Girl from MANWEB—1978', Geraldine and five other finalists were interviewed by a panel of judges namely, Betty Hassall (Principal of The Hammond School, Chester), Peggy Woodcock (Women's Page Feature Editor, 'Chester Chronicle'), Matt Cowan (Chief Commercial Officer) and Roy Stewart (Energy Sales Manager).

So, as we say a sincere "Thank You" to Jackie Pemberton, 'Our Girl for 1977', we welcome our new 'Girl for 1978'-Geraldine.



This attractive trio who also competed in the final round are, from left to right: Joan McNulty (North Mersey), Lynne Joyce (Dee Valley) and Janet Roberts (Liverpool).

Gillian Cooke (Liverpool)



Ceri Wyn Jones (Gwynedd)



Susan Mary Jones (Gwynedd)



Jean Kelly (North Wirral)



Katherine Parry (Dee Valley)



Christine Rodgers (North Mersey)



Claire Wynn (Dee Valley)



These attractive-and courageous young ladies were in the preliminary rounds of the competition. All are highly commended for entering. In addition to their obvious attraction, they all have great personalities. Unfortunately—there can be only one "Girl from MANWEB"





"Fancy Dress" prizewinners, Paul Evans, left, and Glenda Jones.

## Fancy Dress Party

A successful fancy dress party, organised by the Sports and Social Club and held at an Aberystwyth restaurant, brought out imaginative efforts from a considerable number of people, while a bitterly cold night did nothing to cool the enthusiasm of the gathering.

An independent judge had a hard time of it deciding the winners. Eventually the honours went to Mrs. Glenda Jones, of the consumer accounting unit, who appeared as an electricity plug carrying the slogan "Socket to Me," and to Mr. Paul Evans, guest of Miss Dawn Higgins of consumer accounts, who appeared as Punch.

Music by the Kaos Disco catered for all tastes from Punk Rock to Charlie Chaplin, and thanks are due to Mrs. Jackie Lewis, secretary of the social sub-committee, for all her efforts in organising such a successful occasion.

## Golf Club Captain

New Captain of Aberystwyth Golf Club is Mr. Billy Owen, an electrician at Aberystwyth. Bill has been playing golf since he joined the Club 25 years ago, and became vice-captain last year.

Playing off a handicap of five, Billy plays two or three times a week during the Summer months, and rather less during Winter. He won the Aberystwyth 700 Centenary golf competition last Summer.

Mrs. Owen has recently started to play, and to complete the trio son Michael, who is 11, played off a handicap of 20 when he was ten!

Some of our Aberystwyth District Office staff who gathered together a few weeks ago to say their farewells to Jennifer Galbraith, *centre*, and present her with gifts in preparation for 'the happy event'. We are now pleased to report that Jennifer and husband Alan, who works in Consumer Accounts, have now become the proud Mum and Dad of a son, Paul Michael.



## Children at Aberystwyth . . .

About 50 children of all ages had a marvellous time at the annual Christmas party, held at the Hospital Clubhouse. After a sumptuous tea, prepared and laid out by the ladies of the Club, the children joined in games and carol singing. Soon it was time for the arrival of Father Christmas (who somehow knew what each child wanted).

Numbers attending the party stay fairly steady through the years, and this occasion ended like the others—in a happy welter of wrapping paper and a shower of balloons.



Youngsters at Caernarfon enjoying their party.

## . . . Oswestry . . .

Returning to our Maesbury Road Offices just before Christmas, in an appropriate disguise, was Ken Heppinstall. However, he soon became known as Santa to the 70 children who attended the seasonal party which was organised by the Oswestry District Sports and Social Club. Fortunately his sack was large enough to hold a present for each of the youngsters.

Refreshments were also served to about 20 'Mums' who had gone along to help in one way or another.

The very successful party was organised by Joan Griffiths—with a little help from her friends!



Santa with some of his young friends at Oswestry.

## . . . and Caernarfon

Colleagues at St. Helens Road played Father Christmas to 47 children at the Pendalar Special School, Caernarfon, when they organised a party at the school.

Principal organiser of the event was Mrs. Margaret Bevan (*consumers accounts*), aided by Pauline Jones (*work control*), Janice Howel, Gwyneth Green, and Edwina Jones (*consumers' accounts*), John Howard Hughes (*commercial work control*), and Anwen Jones, a former colleague who left the Board a short time ago.

Letters of appreciation, some in Welsh and some in English, were received from Mrs. Catherine Jones, the Schools' headmistress, and several of the children.

The party for children of members of the Caernarfon staff was held at the St. Beuno hotel, Clynnogfawr, with 50 youngsters enjoying good things

to eat, fun and games, and carol singing. A visit from Sion Corn (*Santa Claus*) rounded off a perfect occasion.

Some photographs were taken at both of these events but the quality, unfortunately, was too poor for us to reproduce in 'Contact'. The best one—at Clynnogfawr—is shown below.





In thoughtful mood during the Mid-Mersey District Staff Conference are, from left to right, Messrs. Dennis Hodgetts (District Administrative Officer), Denis Dodds (Chairman) and Albert Cooper (District Engineer)

## No. 3 LAC EMPLOYEES MEETING

# Frank Talk-in at Warrington

A REFRESHING departure from the normal format of Employees Annual Meetings gave the floor to the views of three sections of the Mid-Mersey District staff. Criticism, much of it constructive, was aimed at improving the lot of the employee and the consumer.

The meeting in the Wilderspool Leisure Centre was opened by the Group Manager, Mr. Joe Winchester. He welcomed delegates, visitors and pensioners, to the meeting and introduced the LAC secretary Mr. John Sherwen.

Mr. Sherwen presented the report of the Committee in which he congratulated his audience on providing the biggest response to the Suggestions Scheme for any district in the Board. He then urged more of them to apply for places on the summer schools, and called upon younger members of the staff to become involved in LAC activities.

Mr. Winchester welcomed MANWEB Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds who had managed to attend the meeting, and had offered to address delegates, an offer the Group Manager was pleased to accept.

The meeting took place in the midst of the work-to-rule by the power station workers, and the Chairman took the opportunity of thanking the

staff in the District for the extra effort the additional work had caused them.

Mr. Dodds told the delegates of the formation of the National Joint Co-ordinating Council (Great Britain) which was replacing the former more cumbersome National Joint Advisory Council.

The new body, of which he was a member, had produced a consultative document seeking grassroots opinion on how a new and more effective district and area consultation machinery should be set up. The object was to bring staff and management closer together making a more efficient electricity industry.

Speaking about the rough passage the country, the industry and MANWEB had undergone over the last few years, the Chairman commented that 1977 had been the turning point, the nation's economy was improving, the industry and in particular MANWEB, were back in the black. The future, based on nuclear energy, looked bright.

Mr. Winchester then introduced one of three speakers who were giving their view of MANWEB. First to speak was Mr. Gordon Bevan with the opinions of the Industrial Employees.

Management were reluctant to consult, were too



The click of the camera catches the attention of some of the Mid-Mersey District staff at their annual Conference.



District delegates at the Mid-Mersey Conference.

centralised and had lost touch with the community and the Board had lost the confidence of the consumer. General conditions of employment should be better, welfare should be improved and pensioners rights properly explained. Less premature retirement and more re-training for lighter jobs was needed.

More appliance service training should be given and there was concern over the reduced apprentice intake. It had been wrong to change the name of service centres to shops, and to restore public confidence they had to become places to gain service and advice once more.

Mr. David Tinsley, speaking on behalf of his engineering colleagues, criticised the recent move-around in the offices. Better offices, lighting, heating and ventilation were what the Board preached, and were welcomed, but they had doubts about the need for the recent move.

Standby engineers wanted better back-up from industrial staff in out-of-hours supply failures. Whilst MANWEB engineers were well versed in safety procedures they thought that the Board ought to do more and spread the word outside.

Finally, sports and social activities should be used to engender better morale in the District.

The clerical staff were represented by Mr. Ian

Disco-jockey John Drewe



McKendrick, who urged both sides of the LAC to consider the meaning of consultation, which the dictionary defined as 'to seek advice or information' and not confrontation. More publicity should be given to the Board's education facilities, and safety should be promoted. The efficient operation of the industry and the district affected the shop staff, and many minor niggles needed sorting out.

The clerical staff thought the welfare facilities were bad—there should be full-time staff, not overworked volunteers. Finally the common denominator for all the complaints appeared to be communications. Better communication would result in less misunderstanding and achieve a greater co-operation from the staff.

Mr. Winchester thanked the three speakers. He welcomed and valued constructive criticism, but commented that staff and their LAC representatives were still reluctant to table the sort of problems raised by the speakers, or their suggested solutions. He found that most items were placed on the agenda by management representatives. However, every point raised by the speakers would be discussed by the Mid-Mersey LAC in the coming months.

There then followed the open forum, a meal, and dancing to a disco to the 'wee small hours.'

In between the disco dances we see this happy party.





On the MANWEB stand, TV personality Johnny Briggs gives his autograph to Jackie Pemberton, our "Girl from MANWEB—1977," right, as a patient Jane Fairclough, energy sales demonstrator, Mid-Mersey District, awaits her turn.

## Good Business at Warrington



Anne Reney-Smith, right, extolls the many advantages of cooking by electricity to an interested group on the Board's stand at the "Food and Wine" exhibition.

An attractive stand, alert staff with a determination to do well netted our Mid-Mersey District over £4,500 in sales plus a possible £3,000-worth of follow-ups. This outstanding success was achieved recently at the 'Warrington Guardian' sponsored "Food and Wine" exhibition.

"It was one of the best exhibition results we have had in our District," said a delighted Ken Appleton, energy sales engineer.

"Even though the exhibition itself was rather poorly attended, we were all particularly pleased with the brisk business taking place on the MANWEB stand. In fact, during the four day run of the show, many of the visitors said that our stand was the brightest spot in the exhibition."

Busily engaged on cookery demonstrations was the District's energy sales demonstrator, Jane Fairclough, often ably assisted by Anne Reney-Smith (Head Office) and the "Girl from MANWEB-1977" Jackie Pemberton. Visitors were kept interested in the demonstrations which were always followed by tasty samples. We also had a comprehensive display of cookers, fridges, freezers and a host of small appliances.

Our staff took every opportunity to put across the 'Heating Plus' message aided by a section of the stand devoted to all forms of electric home heating and money-saving insulation schemes.

The two most popular sales items however were the shower package deal which netted nearly £1,700 and storage radiators—despite their adverse publicity—which brought in nearly £1,300.



Above: Mid-Mersey District energy sales engineer Ken Appleton gets all the attention from Jane, left, and Jackie.



Right: Anne Reney-Smith, energy sales demonstrator based at Head Office, right, offers tasty samples of her microwave cooking to visitors on our stand.

She's not just a pretty face for here we see our Jackie "Girl from MANWEB—1977" 'selling' the shower package deal to a group of potential customers. ▷



Opening the "Food and Wine" exhibition was Johnny Briggs, who plays the part of Mike Baldwin in TV's 'Coronation Street'. One of our blockmakers suggested that if Mike had stayed on at the exhibition, Ernie Bishop would not have been shot!

Here again we see Jackie and Jane hard at work on our stand. This time they make sure that guest of honour Johnny Briggs gets a taste of the goodies. ▷



Right and below—some of our Mid-Cheshire District staff at their annual Conference.



## “EFFICIENCY” A Group Manager’s Viewpoint

A PENETRATING look at the topic of “efficiency” was taken by Group Manager Mr. J. A. Winchester when he presided over Mid-Cheshire District’s annual staff conference, held at a hotel near Nantwich.

Efficiency, said Mr. Winchester, was too often associated with the idea of cutting costs and staff. As a result the subject tended to be treated with suspicion. But raising efficiency in the electricity industry rarely had anything to do with reducing staff. The higher our efficiency in marketing, contracting, and consumer service for example, the better we could compete with private enterprise and the more staff we were likely to employ.

“The electricity supply industry is, overall the most efficient of the nationalised industries, and immensely

more efficient than many massive private enterprises” he said. “Our staff can be confident that they are working in an organisation which is the envy of the world.

“I think we have probably reached the limit of major cost cutting which can be introduced by top management measures, but I contend that we could find ways to enable us to afford to treat our consumers and ourselves that wee bit better without increasing our tariffs and charges he continued.

“Now the major re-organisation of the Board has been completed the Districts can take a deep breath and start looking round in minute detail at their day-to-day work. I am talking about efficiency as a means of doing things better and enabling us to improve our methods of work and our working conditions without increasing costs—which could only be passed on to our consumers.

“As we do all major things so well the time is ripe to look at the way we do minor things—those that we do thousands of times a year. These are things which the staff know far more about than top management, and which will probably never be done in an improved, simpler, way until someone

(continued opposite)



Six young men, who through hard study, have gained University Degrees. They are, from left to right: Messrs. Bill Bates, John Burton Alex Battisti, David Shimmin, Roger Bracey and George Range.



## Awards for Study Success

Sixteen young men were invited to lunch with our Board Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, during Christmas week, when fifteen of them received their Completion Certificates and one a Senior Study Prize.

With his retirement only one week or so away Mr. Dodds told the young men who were at the beginning of their careers in the industry that they had a bright future. They would play a vital part in the life of the community and although they would never grow rich in monetary terms they would enjoy a reasonable standard of living and a very satisfying working life.

Six of the students present have gained Degrees and are now employed in the Board. The other students have all gained H.N.D.s or H.N.C.s.



Mr. Derek Percival (MSU Head Office), left, is congratulated by Chairman Denis Dodds on his Senior Study Prize award. In the centre is Mr. Lionel Ladner.

Other recipients of Completion of Training Certificates seen here with Mr. Denis Dodds and Mr. Lionel Ladner. From left to right: Messrs. Derek Roberts, Arthur Rowlands, Nigel Harrison, Robin Bradshaw, Stephen Chantler, Denis Dodds (Chairman) Lionel Ladner (Education and Training Officer) Trevor Coates, Geoff Ryan, Nick Gill and Andrew Stubbs.



## MID-CHESHIRE CONFERENCE—(cont.)

who is directly associated with the sort of work I have in mind comes up with an idea and asks his LAC representative to take it up with the LAC committee” he explained.

Guest speaker for the evening was Mr. David Preston, publicity officer for Rolls Royce Motors Ltd. With the aid of slides Mr. Preston gave his listeners a fascinating insight into the history of Rolls Royce, from the earliest days of the partnership of Messrs. Rolls and Royce to the present day.

His talk, and the film which followed, traced the development of the motor car side of the business, from the legendary Silver Ghost to the current Silver Shadow, and outlined the firm’s pioneering

role in other spheres, notably the development of aero engines which have played such an important part in our history both during peace and war.

The name of Rolls-Royce, he said, was “probably the most valuable commercial image the world has ever known”—a name which was synonymous with quality, attention to detail, and reliability.

He took the opportunity to emphasise the Crewe factory’s dependence on electricity, and to pay tribute to the friendly and trusting relationship which had always existed between his firm and MANWEB’s District staff. Especially he expressed the “grateful thanks of Rolls Royce for the efforts of the staff in ensuring continuity of supply to the factory during the recent difficult period.”



Above: Disco dancers Marlene Taylor, left, and Carol Davies.

Left: Maria Howes seems to be enjoying this dance with her two partners, Davy Roberts, left, and Ron Wilson!

## Clwyd District Buffet Dance



A happy quartette, from left to right: Denis Atkinson, Brian Griffiths, Doreen Griffiths and Mavis Davies,

Smiles for the cameraman, from left to right: Eddie Edwards, Errol Griffiths, Phil Williams, Mairwen Edwards, Dierdrie Williams and Audrey Griffiths.

Over 150 people, members of the Clwyd District Sports and Social Club and their guests, enjoyed an excellent pre-Christmas Buffet Dance at a hotel in Old Colwyn. Thanks go to the organisers of this very successful 'do'—every member of the Sports and Social Club Committee.



## OUR CHIEF ENGINEER MR. FRANK BROWN

Mr. Frank Brown, Chief Engineer of MANWEB since 1964, retired at the end of December after completing forty years' service in the Electricity Supply Industry.

He started his career as an Engineering Apprentice with B.T.H. at Rugby, obtained a London University Degree in Engineering, and held various appointments in the industry before becoming Mains Engineer with the former Warrington Corporation Electricity Department.

Joining MANWEB in 1948, he held posts as Assistant Chief Engineer in Construction and Planning Departments before becoming Chief Engineer.

Mr. Brown, a well-known figure in Warrington, lives at Appleton. He is a past Captain of Warrington Golf Club.



Mr. Frank Brown

## RETIREMENTS

### Mr. J. G. MINSHULL

After 45 years in the electricity industry Mr. John G. Minshull retired from MANWEB at the end of 1977. He started his career with the Corporation at Congleton in 1932 and in the first year of the second world war joined the Royal Signals.

He was taken prisoner by the Germans at Tobruk and spent three years in prison camps in Italy and Poland.

John returned to the electricity industry in 1947 at East Grinstead, to become part of the South Eastern Electricity Board on nationalisation. Two years later he was appointed as assistant section engineer at Ellesmere Port in the newly formed MANWEB. Since then he has held various posts within the Board and terminates his career as senior engineer at Head Office in the Construction Section.

A very popular colleague at Head Office, Mr. John Minshull (with beard), on the occasion of his recent retirement receives a parting handshake from Mr. Gerry Haughan (Deputy Chief Engineer).



John and his wife Connie have two grown up sons and in his spare time he has many interests. He is an accomplished pianist and organist, has a keen interest in gardening, hi-fi and more recently wine-making. It certainly looks as though he will enjoy a very active retirement.

### JOHN WOODS

Another popular Head Office personality to retire after 40 years' service at the end of the year was Mr. John Woods, principal assistant in the Superannuation section

John started with the Liverpool Corporation City Treasurer's department in January, 1938, and served with the Royal Corps of Signals during the war. After nationalisation he joined the MANWEB area cost office staff at Derby House, Liverpool, and in

Long service man Mr. John Woods, centre backed by friends from Head Office, says his goodbyes to his chief, Mr. A. P. Whyte.



1956 moved to Head Office at Love Lane. Eight years later he transferred to the Superannuation section, moving to Chester on re-organisation. Presenting John with parting gifts and best wishes on behalf of his colleagues Chief Accountant Mr. A. P. Whyte referred to his great gifts as a singer, and raised a few laughs with reminiscences of the roles John had played in the Head Office Christmas pantomimes in Liverpool.

**Mr. T. F. GULLIVER**

After 21 years with the Board Mr. Thomas Frank Gulliver, meter-reader/collector at Chester, retired recently.

Mr. Gulliver served in the Army from 1931 until the end of the second world war, and was overseas

for more than six years. He worked for a time with polo ponies, racehorses and hunters, finishing his service with the rank of W.O. II.

After leaving the forces Mr. Gulliver worked for a short spell with British Rail, and then for ten years with a Chester firm of jewellers, joining MANWEB as a meter-reader in 1956. Nine years later he was appointed a collector.

His many friends wish him a long and happy retirement, with plenty of opportunity for his hobbies of golf and gardening.

**Mr. GORDON LEVER**

After 43 years service to the industry Mr. Gordon Lever, (*executive officer, Policy Administration*) at Head Office, retired on December 31st.

Gordon began his career with Bolton Corporation



Our picture shows the host of friends and colleagues from Head Office who gathered to say their farewells to Mr. Gordon Lever, seen here, *centre right*, with Mr. E. V. Owen

Electricity Department in 1934, served in the Royal Army Service Corps during the war, reaching the rank of Staff Sergeant, and returned to Bolton afterwards.

Following nationalisation he joined the staff of Norweb, working at Bolton District and then for ten years at Board Head Office in the personnel section. He came to MANWEB in 1960 as District Senior Clerk at Warrington, moving to Head Office in Liverpool five years later as principal assistant (*Admin*). On re-organisation he moved to Chester as executive officer (*Policy Admin*).

Tribute to Gordon's quiet, conscientious approach to life, and to his universal popularity, were paid by

Mr. E. V. Owen (*Assistant Secretary, Policy Admin*) when presenting him with a gift of china tableware on behalf of his friends and colleagues.

His many friends wish Gordon and his wife many years of health and happiness—and we send him a special “thank you” from the Public Relations section for the willing help he always gave to us when the temperature was at its hottest!

**Mr. V. DANKS**

After 47 years' service in the industry, Mr. Vincent Danks recently retired from his job as an installation inspector at Lister Drive, Liverpool.

He joined the former Liverpool Corporation

Friends and colleagues—past and present—gather at the Thingwall Road Clubhouse to wish a happy retirement to Mr. Vincent Danks, *standing, sixth from left*.



At our Chester depot, Mr. Thomas Gulliver was joined by his wife at his retirement ceremony when Mr. Tony Shell, *right (former District Administrative Officer)* presented them with farewell gifts.

