

# Contact

January 1980

New Year's Eve  
(see page 6)





Mr. Ben Hastings

## District Joint Advisory Council ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*“We are  
fortunate”*

— Sir Francis Tombs



Sir Francis Tombs

**E**MPLOYEES of the electricity supply industry are fortunate to belong to an industry which is essential to the well-being of the nation. Through our 100-year history there has been built up a tremendous sense of duty—demonstrated by our response to breakdowns and our capacity to produce electricity for 365 days in the year.”

With these words, Sir Francis Tombs, Chairman of the Electricity Council, concluded his guest address to the annual conference of the Merseyside and North Wales District Joint Advisory Council for the industry, held at the Electricity Council's Research Centre at Capenhurst.

Delegates from Local Advisory Committees in MANWEB, the North Western Region of the CEGB and the Research Centre, heard Sir Francis outline some of the problems and challenges confronting the electricity industry today.

These included trying to forecast future developments in the fields of electricity demand, the national economy in general and the future availability and prices of fuels of all kinds.

*The speed with which we would develop our nuclear*

*generating capacity would be mainly determined by public acceptability, said Sir Francis. The prospects were that nuclear electricity would prove to be cheaper than energy produced from fossil fuels, despite the uncertainties clouding the price and availability of the latter. Heavy emphasis would be put on the wise use of energy, and on insulation.*

Sir Francis said that it was strange that the rising price of fuel alone did not seem to be enough to persuade people to insulate—there were still six million homes without loft insulation and 3.5 million hot water tanks which remained unlagged.

Industry too, he said, seemed to be as slow as the domestic customer to recognise potential savings.

“Perhaps people don't believe the promises over how quickly they get their money back with insulation,” he commented.

Turning to the electricity industry's public image, Sir Francis said that we had considerable difficulties with sections of the press, and especially with TV. We were often misrepresented in the national press and a lot of damage resulted. (continued on page 4)



One of the MANWEB syndicates in session at the Conference.

# Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE  
OF THE  
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NORTH WALES  
ELECTRICITY BOARD

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## DEAF EARS

IN THE days before the world realised that our traditional energy sources were being depleted at an alarming rate, the job of our industry was simply to provide a reliable supply of electricity as economically as possible—without bothering our heads too much about what our customers did with our product.

Ours not to reason why what they did with the output of our power stations. Ours not to worry too much if some of them wasted it—provided that they paid for it! Ours just to make sure that it was there when it was wanted.

Times have changed. From every direction the energy-user is urged to conserve it, to insulate, to make the best possible use of it. Our own industry has accepted its share of the responsibility to educate the public in these matters, and a good deal of effort is now directed to this end.

The observations of Sir Francis Tombs, Chairman of the Electricity Council (reported elsewhere in this number of *Contact*) on the subject of the apathetic attitude to energy conservation by consumers of all classes, are interesting. Clearly a significant proportion are still not convinced that insulation, conservation and the search for efficiency in the use of energy are really worthwhile.

Which leaves a lot of work still remaining to be done!

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.



**"WE ARE FORTUNATE" . . . . (continued)**

"Doom and despondency are headlines. Success and performance are not," he commented. "We have to live with it and put up with it. We do our best to get fair reporting, but our best is often ineffective."

In the discussion period which followed, Sir Francis dealt with questions involving nuclear power—"before we build a PWR in this country we must make sure it is acceptably safe", the organisation of the electricity industry, the purchase of coal from overseas, and our public image.

"The real public relations people are the employees, at your work and in your private lives. You can all be ambassadors for the industry," he commented.

The Conference programme continued with progress reports by Messrs. Ben Hastings (*Chairman, MANWEB*), J. R. Craig (*Director-General, CEBG North-Western Region*) and Dr. A. T. Churchman (*Director at Capenhurst*).

Reporting on MANWEB's progress, Mr. Hastings said that the first six months of the current financial year had seen us move from 'bottom of the league' to to second place as far as increasing electricity sales were concerned.

Pictured on this page are two more MANWEB syndicates under the chairmanship of Group Managers.

"Fear of oil and gas shortages and price increases are resulting in a modest amount of load growth, as people switch to electricity. We are getting a lot of enquiries from people who want to switch from other fuels," commented the Chairman.

Other topics touched on by Mr. Hastings included the pursuit of a humane approach over disconnections, our efforts to reduce electricity theft, and the Board's policy of trying to combine the quest for efficiency with efforts to create viable job opportunities in view of the high unemployment levels in Merseyside and North Wales.

The afternoon session of the Conference was devoted to syndicate discussion, after introductions by Mr. L. J. Scudamore (*Secretary, MANWEB*) and Mr. Craig, with lively question-and-answer sessions following.



# Chester Christmas Celebrations

Staff and Children's party pictures at Sealand Road



Our  
"GIRL  
FROM  
MANWEB  
— 1980"

The 20 attractive entrants in our "Girl from MANWEB—1980" competition presented some problems for the judges—first in selecting the seven finalists, and then in choosing the winner. The prize and the sash eventually went to the elegant 21-year-old Eve Townley, a clerk in the customer records section at North Wirral District office.

Eve and her husband, Graham, live at Upton, Birkenhead. She is sister-in-law to Dave Melling, an assistant supervisor at St. John's shop in Liverpool, whose wife, Barbara, recently worked at North Wirral District office.

We are keeping our fingers crossed that this will be a lucky year for Eve—our 13th "Girl from MANWEB"!

#### THE FINALISTS

The seven young ladies who gave the judges the hard task of selecting a winner. They are, from left to right: Joyce Morris (clerk, Gwynedd District), Brenda Robinson (photographic assistant, Head Office), Margaret Boyle (demonstrator, North Mersey District) in third place, Evelynne Townley (our 'Girl from MANWEB — 1980') Jane Ferguson (clerical assistant, Legal Head Office) runner-up, Gillian Joy Reeve (clerk, Clwyd District) and Hazel Rogers (typist Oswestry District).





One of the last assignments for Lynne Joyce in her 1979 year of office as "Our Girl" was to put the new sash on her successor Eve Townley. Completing our picture are the judges, from left to right: Peggy Woodcock (*Women's Page Editor, Chester Chronicle*), Bill Shires (*Chief Commercial Officer*), Richard Gales (*Deputy Chairman*) and Betty Hassall (*Principal of The Hammond School, Chester*).



More entrants for our "Girl from MANWEB—1980" competition. Above: From the Districts and all clerical staff, from left to right: Susan Blears and Carmel Treanor (*Mid-Mersey*), Lesley Miller (*Aberystwyth*), Susan Edwards (*North Wirral*), Morfudd Roberts (*Gwynedd*), Jackie Lewis (*Aberystwyth*) and Linda Charlton (*North Wirral*). Another entrant, Ann Pugh (*Oswestry*), missed the picture.

New 'Girl' Eve presents a bouquet of flowers to the retiring 'Girl from MANWEB', Lynne Joyce, on completion of a very active year of office.

Below: From Head Office, from left to right: Elaine Brown (*clerical assistant*), Joanne Evans (*receptionist*), Lesley Davies (*marketing clerk*), Michele Barwick (*secretary*) and Sharon McCrohon (*clerk*).





#### MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION GROUP

From left to right: Betty Stone and Carol Emmett (clerical assistants), Frank McGuinness (1st engineer), John Johnson (2nd engineer), Brian Wearden and Peter Hartley (senior engineers) Les, Caffrey (admin. assistant), Beryl Meachin and Edna Jones (clerical assistants).

# TAKING OVER AT 132 kV

by Brian Mather

The new MANWEB Transmission Section—which will take responsibility for most of the 132,000-volt network within the Board's area—was recently set up at Prenton, Birkenhead. In this article, our recently appointed Transmission Engineer, who joined us from the CEGB, explains the take-over of the 132kV system from the Generating Board by MANWEB.

**T**HE ESTABLISHMENT of the new MANWEB transmission section at Prenton, Birkenhead—the site of a former CEGB District headquarters—marks another phase of the transfer of electricity distribution at 132,000 volts from the CEGB to MANWEB.

This is the logical result of the stepping-up of the

national grid voltage from 132kV, first to 275kV and then to 400kV. These developments have significantly changed the role of the 132kV system to that of a distribution network, providing the main link for bulk power distribution from the main tapping points on the "Supergrid" to MANWEB's 33,000-volt system.

#### LIVERPOOL AND SUBSTATIONS GROUP

From left to right: Brian Ostle (substation foreman), Des Corcoran and Jack Duffy (fitter's mates), Ian Harris (electrical fitter), Ken Humphreys (1st engineer), Brian Davies (2nd engineer), Bob Atkinson (electrical fitter), Dennis Davies and Geoff Gregory (2nd engineers), Ted Lawler (fitter's mate), Ted Watson (electrical fitter) and Derek Oldham (linesman)





## WARRINGTON GROUP

From left to right: Alec Buckley (1st engineer), Peter Ratcliffe (2nd engineer), Cyril Vernon (cable warden), John Stockton (line foreman), Ernie Chambers and Ray Clarke (electrical fitters).



## PRENTON GROUP

From left to right: Peter Jones (1st engineer), Steve Chantler and Bob Cochrane (2nd engineers), Roy Whitehead (painter), Jim Schofield (depot foreman), George Kenwright (painter), Billy Edwards (mechanical fitter), Robbie Hampson (storekeeper) and Eileen Higgins (cleaner).



It is interesting to look back on the development of the country's arrangements for transmitting electricity—developments which have led to this latest transfer of responsibility from the Generating Board to the Area Boards.

Back in the 1930s, the 132kV network was developed to interconnect our larger power stations, and to transmit bulk power to the main load centres. During the years which followed the second world war it became apparent that a higher capacity system would be needed for interconnecting purposes. Those

were the days of "load shedding"—which many older members of the staff will remember—when we did not have enough electricity available at the right places and at the right time to meet the demand.

A greater degree of interconnection at that time could have prevented or at least reduced load-shedding in certain parts of Britain. Between the northern and southern halves of the country (with maximum demands of around 5,000 megawatts each) there were only two 132kV links, but at least five such links would have been needed to provide a reasonable

## .... AND NOT FORGETTING ....

from left to right: John Stockton (foreman), Matt McDonnell (chargehand linesman), Frank Fishwick (linesman) Bill Geary (linesman's mate), Tommy Reddington (linesman), John Gaunt (linesman's mate), Les Heeson (linesman), Phil Hanson (linesman's mate), Alan Harris, Harvey Trepas and Alun Jones (linesman), Freddy Deakin (chargehand linesman), John Johnson (line engineer) and Steve Gorton (linesman's mate).





Making a brief return from retirement to receive her 30-year long service certificates is Miss Josie Grice, seen here being congratulated by Mr. Norman Maden (*Group Manager*). Also in the picture are other long service staff and Mid-Mersey District senior officers.

## Mid-Mersey District Long Service Staff

### AWARD RECIPIENTS

**30 Years** Messrs. Stan Baldwin (*2nd engineer—Commercial Supply*), George Caulton (*electrical fitter*), Norman Cragg (*clerical 3 assistant*), Miss Josie Grice (*clerical assistant—retired*) and Mrs. Doreen Prophet (*sales assistant*).

**20 Years** Messrs. Bill Blake (*driver*), Beresford Hope (*meter reader/collector*), John Brassington (*foreman—Contracting*), Joe Cartwright (*jointer*), Dave Cousins (*1st engineer—Installation and Service*), Leonard Dennett (*labourer*), Thomas Foy

(*coach painter*), Thomas Hoxworth (*jointer*), Derek Jones (*electrical fitter's mate*), Harry Jones (*charge-hand storekeeper*), Edward Keogh (*jointer*) and William Mills (*mains foreman*).

Enjoying an afternoon tea are, from left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mills and Mrs. and Mr. Joe Cartwright.



### TAKING OVER AT 132 kV (*continued*)

degree of interconnection, plus even more circuits to permit transfer of power from cheap coal areas to dear coal areas.

A 132kV system on such a scale would have presented considerable problems in clearing fault currents, and also in securing wayleaves. The result was that in 1950 it was decided to go ahead with a 275kV supergrid system, and the overhead lines were designed for future conversion to 400kV. A typical 275kV line is equivalent to six 132kV lines.

In 1964, the first 400kV circuits were introduced, and by 1970, the change to 400kV transmission was substantially complete. The voltage of 275kV is still retained for high power transmission and distribution around large load centres such as London, Manchester and Liverpool.

The first step in the transfer was carried out in 1969, when financial responsibility for the greater part of the 132kV system was moved from the CEGB

to the Area Boards.

During the years since 1969 MANWEB has taken over the planning, design and construction of the 132kV network, and now, with the formation of the Transmission Section, we have assumed responsibility for its operation and maintenance. Control of the system will continue from Grid Control at Bramhall, Cheshire.

The new transmission section will be mainly concerned with maintenance and commissioning work at 132kV throughout most of the MANWEB area, although the CEGB will continue to maintain, on an "agency" basis, some jointly-owned sites and also the Gwynedd area, which can be more efficiently serviced from their Bangor depot than from Prenton.

The transmission section will be concerned with some 80 grid sites, 450 route miles of overhead line, 2,000 towers and 110 miles of underground cable.

The staff of the section will total 57, including engineers, linesmen, fitters, painters and administrative staff.

# Talking Notes

## CLUB CAPTAIN

Acting first engineer in the Clwyd District Installation section, **Mr. Pat Quinn** has been elected captain of the Padeswood and Buckley Golf Club.

A native of Liverpool, Pat, who is 43, started playing golf about ten years ago at the Hoylake Municipal Links. When he and his wife, Maureen, and their five children, moved to Mynydd Isa, near Buckley in 1972, he joined the Padeswood and Buckley club, where he has managed to get his handicap down to 12.

Last year much to his surprise he was appointed vice-captain and in December 1979 was elected captain for 1980. The function of the captain is that

the Management Services Controller at Head Office.

One major event in the club's calendar is 'Captains Day' when the club skipper pushes the boat out, by donating the prizes for the days competition and treats the 300 or so competitors to a meal and a drink!

### B.E.M.

We heartily congratulate **James William Foster**, an engineering foreman in our Mid-Cheshire District, who was awarded the British Empire Medal in the recently published Honours List.

### New Arrival

Congratulations and best wishes go to **Mrs. Jackie Pemberton**, bonussupervisor at Dee Valley District (and a former distinguished 'Girl from MANWEB') and husband **John**, a meter reader on the District staff, on the arrival of a son, David, on December 16th.

### Money Raisers

The ever-active ladies of the Head Office typing pool were again hard at work for the Mayor of Chester's seasonal appeal fund for local O.A.P.'s.

The ladies organised a 'Christmas Fayre', raffles, many other 'competitions' and raised £241.

This sum, presented to Councillor Hugh Jones (Mayor of Chester) represented—yet again—the largest single donation to the Fund.

### The Two Kathies!

Two administrative assistants at North Wirral District—both named Kath—retired recently due to ill-health.

After 30 years with the industry **Miss Kath Davies** was presented with a wrist-watch and many other gifts on behalf of her many friends. She began at Derby House, Liverpool, later moving to Head Office and eventually to North Wirral.

**Mrs. Kath Doran**, who joined MANWEB in 1959 as a sales assistant at Birkenhead shop, moved to Craven Street five years later and in 1967 joined the consumer accounts' section. She also was presented with a watch from her friends.

### Tombs Talks . . .

Some points made by the Electricity Council's chairman, **Sir Francis Tombs**, during recent weeks:—

"The electricity supply industry recognises the importance of operating appliance retailing outlets. They form an essential part of its duty to assist and advise customers in obtaining maximum benefit from their use of electricity. This commitment, together with the efficient operation of appliance servicing and installation contracting, represents a vital part of our overall responsibility to



Golf Captain Pat Quinn

of chairman at all but the annual general meeting.

There are nearly 600 members of this Welsh Club, several of whom are MANWEB staff like club treasurer **Colin Leonard**,



#### COUNCIL VISIT

When members of the St. Helens Metropolitan Borough Council visited the Electricity Council's Research Centre at Capenhurst recently, they heard an explanation of the work being carried out at the Centre into low-energy housing development, and toured the experimental houses situated nearby. Our picture shows, from left to right: Mr. Glyn Norbury (Mid-Mersey D.C.E.), Councillors G. Baxter (Leader of the Council) and J. Morris (Chairman of the Housing Committee), Mr. H. Pye (Director of Housing and Building), Councillor H. Littler (His Worship The Mayor), Councillor F. Mernagh (Deputy Chairman of the Housing Committee) and Mr. Ken Appleton (energy sales engineer).

provide a comprehensive electricity service to our customers."—a policy statement on the industry's marketing approach.

"Nuclear energy is a subject which excites fierce opposition in some quarters as, we may recall, did the steam engine, the motor car and the railways. Of course nuclear energy carries risks, as does any other human activity. But, because of the detailed safety engineering which

goes into nuclear installations, those risks can be shown to be small in comparison with other everyday risks of life and with other energy sources."—speaking to members of the Cardiff Business Club.

"How do we approach the problem of vocal opposition to large scale technology—of which nuclear power is a particular and pressing example? In my view two things are necessary.

"The first is that technologists of all disciplines should familiarise themselves with the facts and be prepared to argue them in public. Competence in one's own chosen field is simply not sufficient for a technologist who is also a member of a wider society. We owe it to our non-technical fellows to offer committed and convincing arguments.

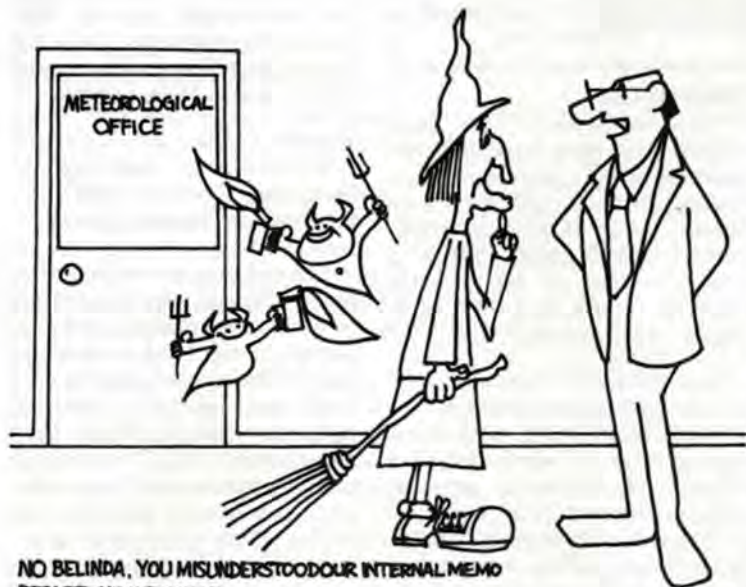
"The second need arises from the fact that many objectors reject numerate arguments and scientific method. For them we need to demonstrate the effects of technology on life-span, infant-mortality, and the standard of living in the Western world, and to extend those arguments to the pressing needs of the Third World. We need to demonstrate the practical problems surrounding idealised solutions and to relate these to world needs. We need to have the courage of our convictions and to demonstrate the contributions which technology can and must make to our country and to the emerging nations."—speaking after receiving the honorary degree of D. Tech at Loughborough University of Technology.

"The electricity supply industry is firmly committed to the concept of the Minimum Resources Home which is based on maintaining or improving the standards of home comfort while minimising the resources, particularly energy, needed to achieve them."—speaking to a conference held in Cheltenham.

#### Dog Dodge

A summer-time visit to relatives in sunny California prompted Mr. J. F. Brownlee, who retired 11 years ago from the meter collecting department at Southport, to write to us.

Detailing the delights of a visit to Disneyland and the many



NO BELINDA, YOU MISUNDERSTOOD OUR INTERNAL MEMO REQUESTING HOT SPELLS....



Mr. and Mrs. Brownlee in the U.S.A.

pleasures of living in such a kind climate, Mr. Brownlee goes on to say that the local meter readers are issued with binoculars.

"Meters are on outside walls" he explains, "and when reading the meter at one house they can read the next door meter at the same time, also saving problems with dogs. Main roads are much better lit at night than ours, but side roads are not lit by the authority—each house supplies its own lighting in the front garden, and very effective it looks."

Mr. Brownlee, who lives at 15, Liverpool Avenue, Ainsdale, asks to be remembered to his old colleagues.

### Degree of Success

Eleven young men from MAN WEB completed their student training with the Board to become electrical engineers, six gaining science degrees, two HND's and three HNC's.

At a lunch given by the Board Chairman **Mr. Ben Hastings**, he congratulated them on reaching the end of their training and presented the students with their Completion Certificates.

He told the young men that they were embarking on a very worthwhile career which would enable them to maintain a good standard of living for themselves and their families, but the

major reward would be in the high degree of job satisfaction they would gain by their responsible contribution to the industry and society.

### Squash—Nation-wide?

Efforts are being made to organise a national squash competition within the electricity supply industry. The move follows the success of a regional competition for staff of the North West Region of the CEBG organised by Wylfa power station resources engineer **Keith Board**, who is also the main-spring behind the suggestion of a national event.

The proposed event would consist of regional competitions to be held in March and April, with the winners going on to the national contest later in the year.

Mr. Board, who is willing to undertake the organisation of the national competition, sug-

gests that the regional team competition should consist of a Football World Cup type competition, where small leagues are formed from the participating teams with the league winners and runners-up going into a knockout final phase. This method guarantees that each player will play three or four games, thus justifying the travelling, etc., required to take part. The regional singles would consist of a straight knockout, as the players would be part of the team competition. The national competition would consist of a World Cup type competition for both the team and the singles.

*Squash enthusiasts interested in arranging competitions should contact Mr. Board at Wylfa.*

### Commercial Catering

Our 'go-ahead' energy sales team in North Mersey District had a packed house when over 70 members of the Southport



*Above: Our Chairman, Ben Hastings, centre, congratulates first-class honours degree graduate Jeff Scott. Also pictured are, from left to right: Mike Hall (graduate), Dennis Kernan (E. & T. Officer), Graham Smith, Alan Laird and Don McRae (graduates). Missing from our picture is graduate Mike Dixon, who was 'one degree under' on the day!*

*Below: Student engineers pictured after lunching with senior management. From left to right: Colin Ward (HNC), Douglas Houlbrook (HND), Colin Reid (HNC), Dave Hanson (HNC), Richard Gales (Deputy Chairman), Bill Shires (Chief Commercial Officer), Aidrian Whyte (HND) and Oscar Lloyd (Admin. asst. E. & T.).*



Hotel and Guest House Association packed into the Berkley Hotel for the Board's catering evening presentation a short time ago.

The event, organised by **Mr. Ron Harper** (2nd engineer—Development) and **Miss Margaret Boyle** (demonstrator) was a terrific success.

**Mr. John A. Walker** (energy sales engineer) welcomed everyone and then introduced the star of the evening, Mr. Ted Roberts, a confectionary expert. He held the attention of his audience as he demonstrated his skills in sugar blowing, sweet making and decoration.

Later, Mr. Tom Shaw (UK sales manager for Findus Frozen Foods) described the range of products available for today's caterer.

The guests were reminded that the Board now had a permanent commercial catering display unit at the Southport

shop in Lord Street where supervisor **Mr. Terry Clarke** was on hand to help with advice and information.

Continuing the advance in the commercial catering field, Margaret went along to 'The Follies' nightclub where, in a show organised by the Southport Chamber of Commerce and in conjunction with the Danish Agricultural Board, she gave an interested audience expert demonstrations of micro wave cookery.

#### Nothing New!

MANWEB engineers engaged in erecting aluminium-conducted overhead lines may be interested in the following observations, printed in a journal recently unearthed by Legacy depot jointer **John Parry** when he was disconnecting the underground service from premises at Rhos, which were due to be demolished:

"The sag of aluminium con-

ductors is somewhat greater than that of copper in hot weather. It is not so much greater as might be expected, however, because the lower modules of elasticity of aluminium causes it to contract more as the strain is relieved from it, and because the weight of aluminium, for equal areas, is only three-tenths that of copper. This causes aluminium to start with a smaller minimum sag than copper. One curious result of this is that whereas aluminium will have a maximum sag of 3 in. or 4 in. more than copper in a 100 ft. span, it will have actually a smaller maximum sag in a 1,000 ft. span, for while the span moves farther or deflects more rapidly than copper for a given temperature change, it starts with so much smaller sag at low temperature that it never has a greater sag than copper when long spans are used."

They may be even more interested to know that these notes appeared in an issue of a journal entitled "Work—The Illustrated Weekly Journal of Handicrafts"—dated August 27, 1904!

#### Dynamic Demo

Mid-Cheshire District energy sales demonstrator **Judith McIntyre** is making quite a name for herself at the moment. Judith, who has been with us for six years and formerly worked in Liverpool, was the subject of a feature article in the *Northwich World*, a local advertising newspaper, and offered readers her own special recipe for a seasonal Christmas pudding—including Guinness!

Judith is also preparing items for the "Talking Newspaper for the Blind", which serves the interests of blind people in the Crewe and Northwich areas. She lives at Shavington, and her husband Gordon is a technical artist with Rolls Royce.



Left: North Mersey District demonstrator Margaret Boyle, a most willing and able assistant for Ted Roberts during his confectionery demonstration.

Below: Caught by the camera at the Southport catering evening. From left to right: John Walker, Leo Bostock (Display Refrigeration Ltd.), Ron Harper, Dennis Bostock and Terry Clarke.



## Emlyn Scores Four...

... says the headline in a recent story in the Caernarfon and Denbigh Herald, recording the fact that **Emlyn Roberts**, a clerk in the personnel section at Gwynedd District, netted four goals for Caernarfon United Juniors in a recent match against Holyhead United.

## New Member

The Secretary of State for Energy has appointed **Dr. Robert H. Cummings** of Llandudno as a part-time member of our Board, for a period of three years from 7th January 1980.

Dr. Cummings is chairman and senior managing director of Robertson Research International Ltd. He is the present chairman of the CBI North Wales Committee and was recently appointed as vice-chairman of the CBI Regional Council for Wales.

## Also Ran!

A North Wirral customer sent a note to the District office on the back of our letter warning him that he was in danger of being disconnected for non-payment. He'd also used the same piece of paper for his Christmas shopping list—£20 for drinks, £6 for the turkey—



His Grace The Duke of Westminster, right, pictured with Mr. David Mellor (Clwyd District Commercial Engineer), centre, and Mr. Jeffrey Haigh.

the rentman, the car the gasman the insurance man and the milkman all had something allowed ... but nothing for the electricity bill!

No doubt turkey and whisky taste just as good in the dark!

## Duke at Cefndy Road

A call to local industrialists to strengthen commercial ties between Chester and North Wales came from the Duke of Westminster recently, when he addressed a packed meeting of businessmen, held at MANWEB's Clwyd District office at Rhyl.

The rapidly-expanding Chester and North Wales Chamber of Commerce, who organised the meeting, are hoping to

boost their membership in Wales, thus forging new links between the two business communities.

The Chamber has achieved phenomenal growth recently, building up from nothing to a membership of over 180 of which 53—nearly one-third—are based in North Wales.

But the Chamber's Chairman, Mr. Jeffrey Haigh, has set a membership target of at least 200 and he told the meeting of his determination to improve the organisation's strength in North Wales. Over 200 people, representing around 70 North Wales businesses, attended.

The Duke of Westminster, who is the Chamber's president

## FROM MANWEB TO MANOD!

A popular member of our Gwynedd District staff, Mr. Michael Williams left his job as supervisor in Debt Control at the St. Helens Road offices some time ago to become 'Mine Host' of the Manod Hotel in Blaenau Ffestiniog, where no doubt many of his MANWEB friends will still keep in touch with him! Our picture shows Michael, centre right, being presented with farewell gifts from colleagues by Mr. Keith Jones (District Administrative Officer).





#### MANWEB CHAIRMAN ENTERTAINS WREXHAM MAELOR MAYOR

A special luncheon in honour of Councillor and Mrs. John J. Myers (Mayor and Mayoress of Wrexham Maelor Borough Council) was given by Mr. Ben Hastings (Chairman) a short time ago. As Mr. Myers, John is a principal assistant in the Revenue section at Head Office. In the picture we see, from left to right: Mr. Geoff Barnes (Chief Accountant), Councillor Myers, Mr. Hastings, Messrs. Arthur Ellinson (Dee Valley District Admin Officer), John Parry (Dee Valley District Engineer) and Glyn Dodd (Group Manager), Mrs. Mary Hastings, Mrs. Glenys Myers and Mr. Ron Williams (Dee Valley District Commercial Engineer).

and has played a forceful role in encouraging its growth, said he had been delighted by the Chamber's success and especially by the rapid increase in membership in recent months.

#### MANWEB Means . . .

A prize competition, run by Oswestry District in connection with the "Oswestry at Work" exhibition, asked entrants to complete the sentence "MANWEB means to me . . ." in not more than 15 words.

The winning competitors submitted the following entries:—

1. "Heat, light and power to meet my need,  
With service, safety, style and speed."
2. "Many Approved Names With Electra Best."
3. "The power, the light—without it, it's a hard day's night."

The prizes consisted of a double electric blanket, an automatic kettle and an electric iron.

#### Retired Staff Dinner

The inaugural dinner dance for members of the Chester and Head Office Retired Staff Association was held last month in the Head Office restaurant.

Friends and guests joined the members to bring the attendance up to 120 people. After

an excellent meal, Mr. Ben Dawson (Association Chairman) welcomed the guests and went on to give a glowing report of the first year's activities enjoyed by members of the Association. He then outlined some of the events to be held in 1980.

On behalf of the guests, Mr. John Scudamore (MANWEB Secretary) replied wishing the Association continued success.

#### Mid-Mersey Pensioners

Retired meter reader from Runcorn, Mr. A. Parr, writes to express the thanks of the members to Mr. George Wheeler, the Association's secretary, for his "untiring effort, dedication and commitment."

Mr. Parr says: "The Association has brought joy and happiness to all its members"—largely due to George's efforts.

#### Mid-Cheshire Pensioners

All trips organised by the group during 1979 were oversubscribed, and some members were disappointed. If more members are forthcoming, two coaches per trip might be feasible in the future—the group's secretary is Mr. T. V. Walley, Clyde Cottage, Swanley Lane, near Nantwich, Cheshire.

The group held a successful social evening at the ASLEF

Club, Crewe, with music provided by Mr. Norman Walsh and a tasty and satisfying meal laid on by a local restaurant.

#### TO LET

A six-berth luxury caravan with own toilet and shower. Sited among cork oak trees on gently sloping picturesque park a few minutes from St. Tropez, Cote d'Azur. Facilities include large swimming pool, bar, restaurant and mini-market. From £60 per week inclusive of fuel. Reduced cost channel crossing fly/drive and holiday insurance available. Phone Culcheth 3820.

\* \* \*

Llandudno. Three bedrooms, (sleep five). Lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom. Nice quiet position facing park (tennis and bowls). Near beach, shops, theatres, swimming pool and Snowdonia. Phone: Llandudno 49239.

Special terms for electricity industry employees.

\* \* \*

Llandyrnog, Denbigh. Comfortable bed and breakfast, evening meal optional. Peaceful countryside. Ideal touring—walking centre. Mountains, sea.

Adults only. For details send stamped addressed envelope to Mrs. A. Massey, The Spinney, Llandyrnog, Denbigh, Clwyd.



## Party Time

*At Christmastime, staff at District offices and depots throughout the Board put in lots of hard work and effort in organising seasonal parties for the children.*

*On this page we feature just two such parties as representative of the many.*

At Rhostyllen, youngsters from five to eight years of age enjoyed a 'party-tea' before being mystified by 'man of magic' Doug. Gregg—taking time off from his job as senior engineer—Commercial, at Head Office.

For over an hour, Doug held the attention of his young audience. Then Father Christmas (Noel Morris) handed out presents.

The older children were later taken to see a local pantomime.

*Right: Enjoying their party 'goodies' are, from left to right: Mathew Condcliffe, Christopher and Andrew Milne, Susanne and Tracey Condcliffe. Below: An excited audience for 'man of magic', Doug Gregg.*



*at Dee Valley . . .*



## *. . . and at Gwynedd*

This time 64 youngsters—the largest number ever—attended the annual party organised by our Gwynedd District staff.

Some of the Dads who brought their offsprings along got together and gave an impromptu concert.

Father Christmas distributed

his presents and the children left for home after an exhausting and noisy afternoon.

Special thanks for their work go to Pauline E. Jones, Peter Griffiths, Silyn Parry, Ernie Jones and Martin Bell.

Members gratefully acknow-

ledge the gift of money from Mrs. Colin Davies in memory of her husband, Gwil, who, prior to his death, was an active member of the Gwynedd District Sports and Social Club. The cash was used to buy sweets for the children.

**A wave for the cameraman from these offsprings of some of our Gwynedd District staff.**



## Zanussi Dishwasher

A fairly recent addition to the range of appliances sold by MANWEB shops is the Zanussi SL611 dishwasher. Leaving the argument for dishwashers to the Electricity Council's Gwen Conacher, below, we examine this particular model.

The SL611 will cope with the equivalent of 12 place settings,

all in one loading, from the 10½" dinner plates to the knives and forks. For economy, the days dishes can be left in the machine and all done together.

The smaller motor on this machine costs less to run and is quieter than other models, and it uses less water.

It is made from the finest stainless steel to prevent rust and corrosion. There is a built-in water softener, it has three pro-

grammes and operates from the cold water supply via a simple plumbing job.

It has several safety features, an antimeddle programme selector, which just revolves once the programme is set, it must be pushed in firmly to the 'off' position before the setting can be altered.

To open the door in midcycle



### GWEN CONACHER LOOKS AT Dish-washers

**Why are more and more housewives buying dishwashers - and just how useful are these machines?**

#### Hand or machine?

A dishwasher automatically washes, rinses and dries everything from cutlery to casserole dishes - and is far more efficient than washing by hand.

The temperature of the wash-water jet or sprays is higher than hand-hot water, so that grease, dirt and bacteria are removed more thoroughly. The water temperature is automatically adjusted for washing or rinsing, and many machines have a choice of programmes to deal with varying degrees of soiling.

Hand-washing is done at least three times a day; a dishwasher will generally cope with a whole day's dishes in one go - saving time, hot water and effort!

#### What kind?

Dishwashers vary in size from four to twelve place settings, so there is one to meet your particular needs. The smallest machine gives you the facility for washing dishes after each meal or you can choose the larger models

which can deal with the whole day's dishes in one go.



The size of your kitchen determines whether your machine is fitted under a work-top, or stands on the draining board. But ideally a machine, whether hot-and cold fill, or simply cold-water fill, should be plumbed in so your sink is always free of hoses.

#### A final hint

Always use detergents and rinse-aids recommended by the manufacturer, to keep your dishes and pans sparkling clean and free from surface scratches.



Zanussi SL611.

it has to be unlocked first, and this simultaneously switches off the machine, thus preventing flooded floors - and you don't get scalded. A special steam condensing system inside the machine saves the kitchen becoming steamed up, and a mains light lets you know that the machine is switched on.

The Zanussi has a laminated work top fitted but it is only 33½ inches high and will slot under the standard kitchen work surface for fitted kitchens.

The MANWEB selling price is £199.95.

Staff terms are available for MANWEB pensioners and employees. Ask at your local MANWEB shop.

# Auto Cooker Menu

Most cookers sold today have an automatic timer, but just how many of these are used to their best advantage?. If you are the cook of the house and go out to work or even for a day's shopping, there is nothing like a good hot meal to welcome you home on these cold winter days.

Our thanks to working wife and MANWEB senior demonstrator, Ann Reney-Smith, for the following menu:-

**Pork Chops in cider sauce**  
**Duchess potatoes**  
**Braised celery**  
**Fruit crumble**

Place a large pork chop for each person in an oven proof dish, sprinkle with brown sugar and a tablespoon of sultanas, Cover the base of the dish with about half-a-pint of dry cider, season and cover with foil and place in the oven.

Mash cooked potatoes (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb per person) adding an ounce of butter and a little top of the milk. Season well and pipe into rosettes on a greased baking tray and brush with egg or milk before placing in the oven.

Cut the celery into 2 inch pieces and place into an oven proof dish. Add a little chopped onion, a knob

of butter, seasoning and cover with chicken stock. Place foil over the dish and seal before adding this to the oven contents.

The final ingredient of the menu is the sweet, in this case a fruit crumble which you can make fresh or if you are a freezer owner this is one of the stock of things you will have ready for cooking from the summer or autumn.

With the oven contents complete set the oven to auto cook for 1 hour at 375°F (190°C).

When you arrive home all you have to do is thicken the juices, the chops have cooked in with a little flour or cornflour and open a carton of cream, tin of evaporated milk, or make custard, for the fruit crumble.



## A COOK'S TOUR — INDIA

Our travelling cook leaves the continent of Europe and visits Asia, bringing back a dish from India. The old British Raj has probably given the British palate a taste for a nice hot curry—although this one can be as hot as you like it:—

### Curried Lamb (Indian Style).

Ingredients for four portions

**1½ lb stewing lamb or mutton**  
**2 small onions**  
**2oz. butter**  
**3 fl. oz. yoghurt**  
**1 oz. curry powder (or to taste)**  
**1 oz. tomato puree**  
**1 bay leaf, 1 clove garlic**  
**¼ in. cinnamon stick, 2-3 cloves,**  
**2-3 cardamom seeds, salt, cayenne pepper**

### Method

Finely slice the onions, cook in butter until brown. Add crushed garlic, curry powder, salt and pepper, and cook for a couple of minutes.

Add the tomato puree and cook until thoroughly absorbed then add the yoghurt.

Trim the meat, dice and seal in the frying pan before adding to the sauce.

Place the cinnamon stick, cloves, bayleaf, and cardamom seeds in a muslin bag, tie and add to the sauce. Cover the pan and simmer until the meat is tender.

Remove the muslin bag and serve the curried lamb on a bed of plain boiled rice. If you make it hot keep a supply of iced lager standing by, or have a nice medium dry white wine, chilled, such as a Hock or a Moselle.

Recipe from Dave Ollier, Taylor Plan Catering.

### Daffynitions . . . .



...LEANING TOWER OF PIZZA!!



...PAR-BOILED!!



#### Mr. R. BURNS

Pictured at a special retirement presentation ceremony we see Mr. Robert Burns after being presented with a clock radio from his colleagues at Lister Dr. by Mr. Dennis Hughes (*Liverpool District Administrative Officer*). Bob was an electrician in the RAF before joining MANWEB in 1954. He has worked at a variety of jobs in the District Contracting section including workshops, deliveries and with the illegal abstraction team.

## RETIREMENTS

#### Mrs. A. JONES

The way to a man's heart is through his stomach—the saying goes. The same may well be true of the ladies, also, judging by the turnout to wish a happy retirement to Mrs. Ann Jones, after 23 years looking after the nutritional needs of her colleagues in the staff canteen at Rhostyllen.

Leading the tributes paid to Ann's care and efficiency over the years was Mr. Arthur Ellinson (*District Administrative Officer*), who presented her with a

*Surrounded by just a few of her many friends in Dee Valley District is the very popular Mrs. Ann Jones (holding a bouquet of flowers).*



handsome collection of gifts subscribed to by appreciative colleagues in all departments.

With them went sincere good wishes for a long and happy retirement—when she will no doubt find herself with more time to spare for her interests, including Welsh choral music.

#### MR. G. R. COTTERELL

Rather belately we record the early retirement a few months ago of Mr. George Rowland Cotterell, a former chargehand electrician at the Chester depot in Dee Valley District. George started his working life with Chester Corporation in 1930. During the last war he served with the RAF mainly in Egypt.



**At our Runcorn depot, Mr. Tom Brown, centre left, receives a farewell handshake from Mr. Derek Tomlinson (2nd engineer—Production). In the centre is Tom's wife Mildred.**

### MR. T. BROWN

A 'do-it-yourself' enthusiast with a wide range of interests including gardening, ballroom dancing, playing whist and supporting Manchester United football club, Mr. Thomas Brown has now retired from his job as our depot clerk at Runcorn. He came into the electricity industry in 1946 and has been with us ever since.

Tom worked for Turner's Asbestos Company before joining the RAF for six years during the last war.

In retirement he intends taking up yet another hobby—crown green bowling. He is also a keen traveller and, with his wife Mildred, they are planning yet another holiday abroad, this time to Bulgaria.

No doubt he will be packing the binoculars he bought with the cheque presented to him as a retirement gift from his colleagues at Runcorn and Warrington.

### MR. R. MELVIN

After a lifetime of hard work and an assortment of exciting adventures around the world, Mr. Robert Melvin, a labourer in the garage at our Pumpfields depot in Liverpool, has now retired.

Bob was a docker for over 20 years, interrupting this career with a spell in the Royal Engineers during the last war. He served in India, China, Malasia and South Africa and was demobilised as a warrant officer. He joined MANWEB nearly 20 years ago and up to his retirement he did a tough and necessary job on the car wash.

In making the presentation of a carriage clock as a parting gift from his workmates, Mr. Ron McShane (2nd engineer-Transport) commented, "Bob was a good workman and did his job well in all weathers. He will be most difficult to replace."

A very keen member of Liverpool F.C. Supporters Club since 1929, Bob is now looking forward to cheering them on to even more success.

**Garage staff at our Pumpfields depot gather to give a great retirement farewell to their popular colleague Mr. Bob Melvin (centre right) seen here being presented with their retirement gift by Mr. Ron McShane.**





Winners of the Five-a-Side Football Competition receive the 'Cup' and their trophies from Harry Foreman (Chairman MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club, second left). The team, from left to right: Santo Nardo, Rob Jones, Dave Spencer (captain), Hugh Farrow, Nigel Crossley and Steve Addison.

## Annual Five-a-Side Tournament

A total of 20 teams in the men's section and six in the ladies' section took part in the 1979 annual five-a-side football tournament arranged by the MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club. The games were played at the Queensferry Sports Centre and ably refereed by four qualified league officials.

Thanks to the excellent planning and timing of the multiple match fixtures by Gren Roberts (Secretary), the competition was again a huge success. It was unfortunate that the high-class and hard-fought final game had to be decided on penalties. Maybe there should have been two trophies!

Nigel Crossley (Chairman of the Football Section) congratulates the winning team in the Ladies' Competition. They are, from left to right: Angela Ashton, Judy Bailey, Lizette Walker, Jayne Pearson and, inset, Jenny Tomann.



Runners-up in the Ladies' Section, from left to right: Wendy Noblett, Michelle Hughes, Beverley Hunt, Beverley Evans and Debby Jones.



Secretary of the MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club, Gren Roberts, left, congratulates the runners-up in the competition on their play in a well-fought final. The team, from left to right: Phil Roberts, Colin Lawson (captain), Paul Williams, Nigel Hale, Paul Morrison and Ian Jones.

## UK ENERGY AND NUCLEAR POWER

WE are accustomed to seeing the case for nuclear power put forward by representatives of the electricity industry, but now an increasing number of trade unions and their leaders are lending their weight to a balanced and sensible approach to the question.

The opinions expressed in this article—reprinted from the journal of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, are those of **John Foster**, the union's National Organiser, who is also Vice-Chairman of the Electricity Supply Training Committee.

Modern life depends on energy—every man, woman and child in Britain uses the equivalent of six tons of coal a year. Only about 40% of our energy comes from coal; nuclear power provides 5%; oil and natural gas supply 55%—over half. Approaching the year 2000, oil and gas wells in the North Sea and all over the world will begin to fail. By then the UK may be needing  $\frac{3}{4}$  more energy than now, equivalent to an extra 220 million tons of coal. The energy debate is about how we are to replace oil and gas we now use, AND to satisfy the extra energy needed.

Forecasts allow for a 20% saving; unless we develop an enthusiasm for conservation.

The CEBG will burn all the coal available, but the Coal Board agrees coal by itself cannot fill the gap—it is simply not possible to develop enough new mines in time, and there are the problems of recruiting enough miners, of protecting the countryside, and of pollution.

What about renewable resources—the sun, wind, waves, tides and heat from the earth? None are yet proven, hence the demand for large development funds. There are immense problems in scaling up present small models to full size commercial plants and in connecting these into the supply system. Sadly, as each proposal is investigated, engineers usually conclude they cannot produce enough energy at acceptable cost even if all technical

problems were solved. Every little helps, however, and we may expect a modest contribution of 2% or so to our energy need in 2000 AD, mostly from solar energy to heat swimming pools and domestic hot water. Windmills may be used—but one with blades 25ft. across is necessary to power a single house; a village of 1,000 or so people would need a huge complex machine reaching up 200 feet or more.

\* \* \*

Over the last 20 years nuclear power has proved to be safe, reliable, and economic—it provided about 1 in 8 of all units of electricity we use today. In winter, it has kept factories running when road and railways are cut and coal stocks frozen. By any accounting, nuclear power has the additional advantage that the cost of electricity from a nuclear station is much cheaper than from coal or oil-fired stations and will continue so. Nuclear power will thus help to keep prices down and exports competitive—vital to maintaining employment and prosperity in Britain.

There have been problems during commissioning and running, but this is universal with all large engineering installations and have been largely overcome and, because of low operating costs, nuclear stations operate round the clock to provide the base supply of the national grid—worth over £500 million in 1978.

Health and Safety of employees are well looked after—everyone

who works on the reactor and its fuel is medically examined regularly. At every station, roughly 1 in 20 of workers is engaged continuously on checking the workplace and monitoring the environment to safeguard staff and to detect any contamination. In addition, the CEBG has a special Health and Safety Department whose responsibility is to ensure safety of the staff at the Board's power stations and to check and recheck all operations. The Board also operates a large research unit—Berkeley Nuclear Laboratories—with 700 staff. The 300 highly qualified scientists and engineers advise on all nuclear matters. BNL has very special facilities for examining irradiated nuclear fuel, for conducting health physics research, for calibrating and checking radiation instruments, and even its own research reactor for simulating large reactors at power stations.

Overseeing all this, are Ministries and the Health and Safety Executive, of which the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate is part. Their inspectors and experts ensure the safe design, construction, and operation of British nuclear power stations.

Let's look at some social and employment aspects of nuclear power: A modern power station might cost several hundred million pounds—possibly 50% more than a coal-fired station—most of this difference represents extra employment and wages. If the same amount of electricity were produced by coal, then each year it would have cost the lives of 2 miners and incapacitated more.

\* \* \*

Each nuclear station employs some 500 staff, a total of 5,000 at the CEBG's present 11 stations. Although many of the professional staff are necessarily brought from other parts, there are a useful number of permanent jobs available for local workers. Many of

*(Continued overleaf)*

## U.K. ENERGY—continued.

these staff receive additional training and learn new skills at the training establishments run by the Board. Despite the vast amount of published information, however, the case for nuclear power is often not understood by the public.

The view of unbiased experts, who have looked into Britain's energy future, is only nuclear power will be able to supply the energy safely and economically. One day's generation by a nuclear station can save up to £100,000 compared with supplying the same from an oil or coal-fired station. Nuclear stations are reliable, too—Sizewell Power Station was once run continuously for 635 days!

No other industry has devoted such a large effort to assuring safety and protection of its workers and the public. Despite publicity given to incidents inevitable in this, as in all large scale technology, nuclear power has a very much better safety record than almost any other industry.

Because of the multiple safeguards, no member of the public has ever been harmed by radiation from civil nuclear energy operations. This remains true even after Harrisburg. A nuclear power station cannot explode like an atom bomb, yet critics demand more and more safety from the already very safe nuclear power, whilst accepting the 10,000 times higher risk of dying in a traffic accident!

## Thank You Very Much

After dealing with a customer enquiring about a new supply, our receptionist/telephone operators at Dee Valley District were surprised to receive a letter from their visitor thanking them for their help, stating: "It was nice to find someone with real feelings in them."

The letter was addressed to "The lady with the grey hair," whom we know as Edna Jones—who was also asked to thank the "blonde lady," whom we know as Joyce Robinson.

Thank you both very much for your customer care.

From a Holmes Chapel farmer to Mary Schofield a clerical assistant in Consumer Liaison, Mid-Cheshire District:

"I am grateful to you for the information you gave to my wife yesterday. I understand that you will be making an adjustment in present account for electricity, which I will pay the moment I receive details of the new account.

"I would, in particular, like to thank you for the efficient and

courteous manner in which you have dealt with my query. I hope this letter will be seen by your seniors, if not I suggest you leave it lying around in a convenient place."

One of her 'seniors' found it and passed it to us.

## A Very Happy Christmas

A job done by one of our installation inspectors based at the New Crane Street depot in Chester, Basil Jones, brought the following letter from a very happy customer.

"My wife and I would like to take this opportunity to thank your engineering staff for installing a meter at our home on Christmas Eve. This was done at short notice and I applaud you on your service.

"We had a very happy Christmas as a result of you installing the meter and I thank you again.

"Hoping you all had a Merry Christmas and wishing you a Happy New Year."

### HELD OVER

Due to pressure on space, we have held over the story on the new lighting scheme for Menai Bridge, also the prize-winners and solution for our crossword competition.

## Obituary

*It is with deep regret that we record the following deaths of our former colleagues:*

**Mr. Percy Bregazzi**, aged 82, our former Area Manager for the Liverpool District prior to his retirement in 1963 after more than 40 years in electricity supply.

**Mr. J. J. Caine**, a labourer at the St. Helens office, who died suddenly after a long illness. He was 57 and had served the industry for 32 years.

**Mr. Will Davies**, an engineering clerk at Gwynedd District Office for the past four years.

**Mr. John Solomon Jones**, aged 59, an installation inspector based

at Pwllheli. He had served in the industry for the past 43 years.

**Mr. A. K. Owen**, a senior clerical assistant at Runcorn office prior to his retirement in 1971, after 35 years' service in the industry.

**Mr. Thomas Ceri Williams**, 59, who was a chargehand electrician in our Dee Valley District. He joined the Board in 1953.

**Mr. Jimmy Wynne**, a linesman based at Caernarfon, who retired in 1974 due to ill health after 25 years' service with the Board.

*We extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of these former colleagues.*