



**ANNE-ANN—**  
the chic-chic girls  
(See page 5)

# Half Year Report

## All-round increases

### Sales of Electricity

The gradual improvement in sales of electricity noted in the report on the Board's work in 1967/68 has been continued into the first six months of 1968/69, and during this period sales amounted to 5,014 million units. This was an increase of 7.4 per cent over the first half of 1967/68.

There has been a substantial increase in industrial sales, which were almost 10 per cent higher than in the first half of 1967/68 and indicate that industrial expansion in the Board's Area has improved during the last few months.

Sales to domestic and farm customers are still slow to improve and, at 1,346 million units for the six months, show only a moderate increase of 2.5% over the same period of last year. The fine summer in this Area has probably restricted the use of electricity by domestic customers.

The remaining sales (for commercial and other purposes) amounted to approximately 587 million units—an increase of 6 per cent, similar to the rate of growth in the first half of 1967/68.

### The Distribution Network

The total capital expenditure of nearly £3.8 millions in the half year included £3.25 millions spent on the distribution network. Approximately £1.35 million was spent on reinforcement and improvements and £1.9 million on providing for new and increased supplies.

Nearly 154 miles of mains were laid, 132 miles of overhead lines were erected and 17,200 new services were installed.

The half year's net increases in the numbers of h.v./m.v. ground mounted substations and pole mounted transformers were approximately 150 and 290 respectively and the transformer capacity of the h.v./m.v. network was increased by 80,000 kVA.

### Sales of Appliances

Last year's sales of appliances showed the biggest increase (20%) ever achieved by MANWEB. Vigorous selling and advertising increased sales by 6% in April/September 1967 compared with 1966, but much of the expansion in the second half of the financial year was attributable to particular circumstances—including devaluation, fears of quickening inflation

and price increases, and the expectation of a severe budget and credit restrictions.

The Board's appliance sales in March 1968 rose to a peak of 64% more than in March 1967. After falling back in April and May—when sales were respectively 19% and 5% less than in 1967—a resumption of expansion was achieved from June onwards and the value of the half year's sales was 4% more than in April/September 1967.

Over 20% more washing machines and nearly 20% more refrigerators and vacuum cleaners were sold but cooker and water heater sales were lower than last year.

### Off-Peak Appliances

Over 5,600 storage radiators were sold—over 50% more than in April/September 1967. These sales represented 14,500 kW of off-peak load.

Electricaire sales showed an even more striking rate of increase. More than 500 units, with a loading of 3,400 kW were installed—compared with 21 units with a loading of 200 kW, in the first half of 1967/68. A substantial and growing number of orders and enquiries are in hand.

### Customers

The number of customers increased by approximately 7,000 (net)—from 1,056,000 to 1,063,000—compared with an increase of 5,500 in the first half of 1967/68.

There are nearly 379,000 customers in Area 1, more than 364,000 in Area 2/3 and nearly 320,000 in Area 4.

#### DIRECT MAIL

In this issue of "Contact" we have enclosed a leaflet, copies of which are being sent out to our customers during the next three months.

One side of the leaflet emphasises the many advantages of our customers buying a radio from MANWEB. This is the most vigorous push we have yet given to radios.

The reverse side of the leaflet puts over the "Big Store" aspect of our Shops. In effect, this says that every MANWEB Shop has the big store advantage of stock, price and choice.





THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE MERSEYSIDE  
AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

# CONTACT

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Keith Baldwin  
John F. Perry  
Sam Doughty

## EDITORIAL

### What's Cooking?

"*YOU can't make an omelette without breaking eggs*" is a trite truism which has been used by all kinds of people, under all kinds of circumstances, to explain or justify all kinds of actions—usually most unpopular actions with the "eggs" concerned in it.

The "omelette" referred to is, as a rule, some kind of upheaval in the affairs of men. It may be a violent revolution, a *coup d'état*, or that modern civilised equivalent, a "take-over bid". It has often been used to excuse, explain or justify the fact that in the course of these upheavals people who may have given many years of honest endeavour to this or that particular cause or organisation may be driven to the social wall or thrown on to the scrap heap of history.

Over recent months employees' meetings have been held in all parts of the MANWEB area, organised by the respective Local Advisory Committees. These are comprehensively reported in this number of *Contact*, and it is apparent that a fair number of people are concerned, in one way or another, with the "omelette" which is made up of the current and impending MANWEB re-organisation, due to be served up at Chester later this year.

The manner in which this particular 'omelette' is being cooked is designed to give the lie to the old law of the jungle. True, the world is not planned for the convenience of any particular individual, and we must all be prepared to adapt ourselves to changing conditions and circumstances. Accepting this fact, everyone who is concerned in this major re-organisation will discover that, given enlightened management and the service of society as guide-lines, the changes dictated by social necessity and economic progress can be carried out hand-in-hand with the humanitarian consideration of the problems of everyone involved.

# —Engineering Trainees—

MANWEB engineering trainees gathered together for their annual Conference which was held in Liverpool on December 23rd.

After welcoming everyone, Mr. J. L. W. Ladner (Education and Training Officer) introduced the first guest speaker, Dr. G. W. Roderick, a Lecturer in Science at the University of Liverpool.

Following his extremely informative talk, the

Conference broke for luncheon after which Mr. F. J. Brown (Chief Engineer) said a few words before presenting Awards, Indentures and Certificates to the young men.

Later the group heard an interesting talk from Mr. Don Whillans, a leading British mountaineer.

The arrangements for the Conference were in the capable hands of Mr. L. T. Broughton (senior assistant, Education and Training).

## Senior Study Prize Awards



Mr. T. H. Williams, left, and Mr. J. L. Milne.



Mr. C. A. Hawkins, left, and Mr. L. W. Rue.

## — Senior —

Messrs. C. A. Hawkins, J. L. Milne and L. W. Rue—Higher National Diploma and College Associateship at Liverpool College of Technology.

Mr. T. H. Williams—2nd Class Honours Degree at Salford University.

## Junior Study Prize Awards



From left to right: Messrs. B. B. Coyne, P. Ramsey, T. M. Keenan and B. J. Harrison.

## — Junior —

Messrs. B. B. Coyne, B. J. Harrison, T. M. Keenan and P. Ramsey — Ordinary National Diploma at Birkenhead Technical College.

Messrs. W. J. Bradshaw—M.Sc. (Manchester); R. A. Brett—3rd Class Honours Degree (Salford); R. Burrows—I.E.E. Part 3 (Denbighshire); G. Cross—H.N.C. (St. Helens); R. E. Dawson—H.N.D. (Denbighshire); J. Dickinson—2nd Class Honours Degree (Oxford); A. Ellinson—1st Class Honours Degree (Liverpool); D. Fisher—I.E.E. Part 3 (Denbighshire); W. F. Garman—2nd Class Honours Degree (Salford); J. P. Heath—2nd Class Honours Degree (Oxford); J. M. Kelly—I.E.E. Part 3 (Denbighshire); R. Pendleton—I.E.E. Part 3 (Denbighshire); P. E. V. Phillips—I.E.E. Part 3 (Denbighshire) and J. Rigby—I.E.E. Part 3 (Denbighshire).

## Certificates of Completion of Training



From left to right: Messrs. R. A. Brett, W. F. Garman, R. Burrows, J. P. Heath and A. Ellinson.



From left to right: Messrs. J. M. Kelly, P. E. V. Phillips and J. Rigby.



From left to right: Messrs. W. J. Bradshaw, R. Pendleton and R. E. Dawson.

Also present to receive his Certificate was Mr. D. Fisher, but Messrs. G. Cross and J. Dickinson were unable to get to the Conference.





Take your pick! MANWEB beauties on parade after the final judging. On the left is Miss Anne Hall from Area 2/3 Office, "The Girl from MANWEB—1968" who helped settle the nerves of the seven finalists for this year's competition, who were, from left to right, Mrs. Marian Roe (Derby House), Mrs. Patricia Baker (Sandiway House), Miss Susan Carr (Rhostyllen), Miss Ann Semple (Whitechapel), Miss Hilary Panting (Head Office), Mrs. Jennifer Roberts (Area 2/3) and Mrs. Dorothy Wilson (Crewe).

OUR COVER PICTURE shows Miss Anne Hall, left, the retiring "Girl from MANWEB" with her successor, Miss Ann Semple—"The Girl from MANWEB—1969".

The  
Girl  
from

**Manweb**

1969



◀ **Runner-up**

**Miss Hilary Panting**

the 19-year-old, blue eyed beauty, who enjoys motor rallying, works with the Work Study unit at Birkenhead.



**In third place ▶**

**Miss Susan Carr**

18 years of age—petite with flowing dark brown hair, Sue is a member of the Dramatic Society and sings with the Glee Club.





**SEVEN BEAUTIFUL**, gifted—and very nervous—young ladies, employed in various jobs within MANWEB's organisation, assembled at the Board's Headquarters in Liverpool just before Christmas.

They were the seven finalists from 85 entrants for the title of "The Girl from MANWEB, 1969".

The panel of judges awarded points for deportment, beauty of face and figure, personality, dress sense and speech, and when all the points had been totted up, the winner—by a very narrow margin—was declared to be Miss Elizabeth Ann Semple, a senior demonstrator based in Liverpool.

Ann, a tall, ash-blond 25-year-old, with 36-24-36 statistics, won a cash prize, a Sash of Honour, and a free charm course at a leading Liverpool model agency. She will represent MANWEB at all kinds of public occasions during 1969.

Ann Semple is a very attractive girl, but she is also much more than a pretty face. Thousands of Liverpool people have seen her demonstrating all kinds of domestic electrical appliances with expert efficiency at the MANWEB shop in Whitechapel, Liverpool and other Board shops and Exhibitions. Not only does she know her job inside out, she knows how to explain things to others with fluent confidence, and last year she brought honour to MANWEB by winning the Women's Shield in the Electricity Industry's national Public Speaking Competition.

She lives at Woolton in Liverpool and her father is a member of Liverpool City Council.

The Sash of Honour was handed over by 24-year-old Miss Anne Hall, the glamorous typing pool supervisor at our Area 2/3 Offices, the retiring "Girl from MANWEB".

Place second in the contest was Miss Hilary Elizabeth Panting, a 19-year-old clerical assistant in the MANWEB Work Study Section at Birkenhead. She lives at Bromborough in Cheshire.

Third place went to the youngest finalist, Miss Susan Carr, aged just 19, of Rhostyllen, Wrexham. Susan is a clerk in the Board's financial department at Area 4 Office, Rhostyllen.

Hilary and Susan also received cash prizes.

The four runners-up were Mrs. Patricia Baker, aged 23 of Hartford, Cheshire; Mrs. Marian Roe, aged 24 of Heswall; Mrs. Jennifer Roberts, aged 23 of Ewloe, Flintshire and Mrs. Dorothy Wilson, aged 25 of Crewe.

## THE ENTRANTS

**Head Office:** Miss Joan Burnett, Miss Christine Cooke, Miss Kathryn Elliott, Miss Jennifer James, Miss Carol Ann Kay, Mrs. Miranda Mulvey, Miss Pauline Norcross, Miss Hilary Panting, Miss Joan Watling and Mrs. Beryl Williams.

**Area 1:** Mrs. Wendy Baker, Miss Veronica Carlisle, Miss Vivian Dent, Miss Alma Fleming, Miss Susan Goldsmith, Miss Josephine Gordon, Miss Katie Hunt, Miss Gwenda W. Jones, Miss Mary Kelly, Miss Sheila Kelly, Miss Jacqueline Lambert, Miss Susan Lunt, Miss Barbara J. Lyons, Miss Dorothy McDonald, Miss Georgina Moon, Miss Vera Owen, Mrs. Sandra Patterson, Mrs. Marian Roe, Miss Linda Ann Roberts, Miss E. Ann Semple and Miss Sheila Thompson.

**Area 2/3:** Mrs. Pat Baker, Miss Diana June Booth, Mrs. Sheila Bowers, Mrs. Elizabeth Bullock, Miss Stella Burgum, Miss Pauline Curbishley, Miss Pat Dando, Miss Pauline Davies, Miss Sheila Davies, Miss Ann Dodd, Miss Joyce Garner, Miss Carole George, Miss Sylvia Griffiths, Miss Vanessa Hare, Miss Suzanne Hodgson, Miss Marion C. Hughes, Miss Pauline Ilsley, Mrs. Eldryth Kennerley, Miss Carol Matthews, Miss Fiona MacDonald, Mrs. Julia Milne, Miss Kathleen Morrisroe, Miss Maureen Nicholls, Mrs. Paula M. Perry, Miss Lesley Pierce, Miss Joyce Price, Mrs. Jennifer Roberts, Miss Gaynor Roberts, Miss Ann Senior, Mrs. Pamela Sullivan, Miss Susan Swinnerton and Miss Valerie Windsor.

**Area 4:** Miss Ronwen Allcock, Miss Arlene V. Bullock, Miss Susan Carr, Mrs. Jennifer Castell, Miss Marilyn Day, Miss Rita Davies, Miss Annette Edwards, Miss Sandra Evans, Miss Janet Higgins, Miss Joyce Hughes, Miss Mary Jarvis, Miss Ann E. Jones, Miss Doris Jones, Miss Janet Ann Jones, Miss Olwen Jones, Miss Sheila Ann Morris, Miss Eirlys Roberts, Miss Christine Smith, Miss Anna Stubbs, Miss Jacqueline Williams, Mrs. Dorothy Wilson and Miss Pamela Yates.

### THE LAST WORD FROM ANNE

*In my year of office, which has been most enjoyable, I have had the opportunity to travel and meet many interesting people. I am very grateful for the help and encouragement given to me by everyone concerned with the various functions which I attended.*

*I have benefited from the experience and now wish my successor, Ann Semple—the "Girl from MANWEB—1969"—an enjoyable and happy year in office.*



Four of our girls from MANWEB who were in the title race. From left to right, Mrs. Marian Roe, a keen tennis player who works in Area 1 Accounts Department, Mrs. Patricia Baker, who likes sketching and dressmaking, is a shorthand typist at Sandiway House, Mrs. Jennifer Roberts from our Area 2/3 Offices, who lists folk singing among her likes, and finally, Mrs. Dorothy Wilson, who is keen on experimental cooking and works as a clerk in our Crewe District.



The judges for the final round of "The Girl from MANWEB—1969", from left to right: Mr. D. G. Gwyn, the Board's Deputy Chairman, Miss Diana Pulson, a well-known Merseyside journalist, Mrs. Doreen Tysall, the principal of the Patricia Platt Model Agency in Liverpool and Mr. M. R. Cowan, our Chief Commercial Officer.





# Talking Notes

## HERO HONOURED

A FEW weeks ago, a member of our staff played a very prominent part in the rescue of three young children who were trapped by fire in the bedroom of their home in Huyton, Liverpool. Our hero was **Mr. Christopher Anthony Foster**, a 21-year-old electrician working in the Liverpool South District.

Tony told us that he was just getting ready to go to bed when he heard a child screaming in the street outside. He hurried to the door and saw 11-year-old Stephen Guest banging on a neighbours door and shouting that the house was on fire and his brothers and sisters were trapped in the bedroom. Tony ran across to the house and tried the front door, but found that it was locked. He nipped round to the back door, which was also locked, and managed to force it open, but he was beaten back by the smoke and flames.

He decided to try the front again and by this time the windows were

beginning to crack with the intense heat. Tony quickly shinned-up the drainpipe to get on to a veranda over the bay window and from here he managed to reach the bedroom window and the three frightened children. He was able to pass them down to his wife **Pamela** who waited anxiously below, and she took the youngsters to a neighbours house before taking the two smaller children to Broadgreen Hospital to be treated for shock. They were allowed home a little later.

Although at the time Tony said that he didn't give a thought to the possible dangers, reaction set in afterwards which resulted in a splitting headache for the next couple of days.

Area Manager, **Mr. H. Telfer**, second from right, presents Tony with a silver cigarette box in recognition of his bravery. Also in the picture is Pamela, Tony's wife and **Mr. H. S. Dunning** (District Commercial Engineer) left, and **Mr. H. Sergison**, right.

A colleague at Lister Drive, **Mr. Hector Sergison** (fitter mechanic), heard of Tony's exploits and brought it to the notice of the Local Advisory Committee, and in recognition of his brave deed and as a token of their respect for his courage, it was decided that a presentation should be made to Tony and a silver cigarette box was duly handed over by **Mr. H. Telfer** (Manager, Area 1), at a private ceremony at Hatton Garden just before Christmas.

Tony has been married for the past two years and his wife Pamela was formerly a nurse.

## Stork Visit

A daughter, **Helen Margaret**, was born to **Mrs. Margaret Jones** and her husband **Bill** on December 15th at St. David's, Bangor. Margaret once worked as a clerk at our Conway Valley District Office, her maiden name being Trevitt.

## Christmas Spirit

Twelve needy families in the Chester area received a welcome parcel of Christmas fare thanks to the girls in our typing section at Sealand Road. The girls, under the





direction of their supervisor, **Miss Anne Hall**, last year's "Girl from MANWEB", collected £24 from raffles, jumble sales, an auction and the sale of plant cuttings.

The girls packed the parcels which were distributed to the addresses supplied by the Chester Corporation Welfare Department.

### Governor

Just about 40 years after leaving Grove Park Grammar School, Wrexham, **Mr. Gwilym Edwards** has now been appointed as a Governor of the school.

Mr. Edwards, who works on metering as a 2nd assistant engineer, Technical at our Area 4 Office, is already a Parish Councillor and a member of Wrexham Rural District Council. He is also a church warden of the Parish.

### Committee Men

The ten members, committee-men on the Committee of the Electricity Supply (Staff) Superannuation Scheme were recently elected to office for the next three years.

The MANWEB representative who was again re-elected, is **Mr. R. G. Patterson** (Executive Officer, Superannuation, Head Office). It is interesting to note that two of the newly-elected members are pensioners, namely, **Mr. J. B. Ashworth**, a former Area Commercial Officer with NORWEB and **Mr. W. Richardson**, a retired clerk from the North Eastern Electricity Board.

### Tea Time

A rather fragile old lady called at our Chester Shop recently with a query regarding her electricity bill. She was invited to sit down while our assistant telephoned the Accounts Section. It was time for tea break and the aged customer

asked if she too might have a cup. Our ever-helpful staff obliged the lady who then opened a parcel of sandwiches and sat happily munching away!

### Appointment

The new assistant lay secretary for the governing body of the Church of Wales is **Mr. Glyn Ellis** who gives up his job with MANWEB where he has worked for the past 18 years.

Mr. Ellis, who was a principal assistant with our Area 4 Accounts Department will be leaving the area to live in Cardiff.

### Scholarship

Joining the Board's staff as a fitter in the Chester District, **Mr. John A. Walker** became an Industrial Staff Trainee about 15 months ago.

He has now been awarded an Electricity Supply Scholarship which will take him to University for a three-year full-time course on Electrical Engineering.

John, at the moment back working in the Chester District, gained his Higher National Certificate at the Birkenhead Technical College.

### Take a letter Miss Jones

We are pleased to reproduce the text of a letter from the Chairman of the Cheshire Productivity Association.

*Dear Mr. Trimble,*

*It was my privilege at the Royal Institution yesterday to listen to the Address on "How the Private Secretary can best meet the needs of her Chief" given by your Miss J. L. Jones, in place of Mrs. Gwen Weightman. Her Address was the best I have heard dealing with this subject and I felt very honoured to be working with her.*

*Sincerely,*

*Delwyn Davies.*

## SOME HONEYMOON!

Towards the end of December, Miss Joyce Davies, a secretary in the engineering department at Head Office, married Mr. Norman Russell Taylor, a ship's engineer. After the reception in the appropriately-named Lighthouse Restaurant at Formby, they left for a three-month honeymoon trip to Australia.

Our picture shows Joyce, centre in light dress, with some of her friends at Head Office.



### Long Service Awards at Head Office



45 Years — **Mr. W. E. Steer**  
(section leader, Drawing Office)



**Mr. P. B. Henderson**  
(Assistant Secretary, Personnel)



**Mr. R. Huyton**  
(Executive Officer, Budgets and Accounts)

35 Years



and 25 Years

**Mr. S. G. Griffiths**  
(Senior Assistant Commercial Engineer, Sales Development)

### CHRISTMAS COMPETITIONS

The names of the prize-winners and solutions to the Crossword and Aliterations Competitions will be published in next month's 'Contact'.



Mr. D. G. Gwyn, fourth from left, congratulates Mr. H. Turner after presenting him with his 45-year Long Service Award. The eight other employees from Area 1 who had achieved the milestone of 45 years' service, complete the picture.

## 1800 Years of Service

THE ANNUAL ceremony held for the presentation of Long Service Awards to employees in our Area 1, took place a few weeks ago in the Bluecoat Chambers in Liverpool.

Mr. H. Telfer (*Manager, Area 1*) welcomed everyone before introducing Mr. D. G. Gwyn, the Board's Deputy Chairman who was to say a few words prior to presenting the awards. He began by remarking that some 50 people receiving their awards had a combined length of service amounting to more than 1,800 years, adding that insofar as a person is so motivated to stay with one employer or industry for such a long time, then they must have found satisfaction.

He mentioned that in Japan, a country which he visited a short time ago, nobody seemed to leave one firm to join another. This would be a mark of disrespect if the employer made it necessary for a man to leave his job. Even though the retirement age was 55, this did not stop a man from working and it was quite possible for the head of a department to retire and then resume work in the same department in a junior capacity.

*These remarks left room for some speculation among the audience.*

He went on to say that in this country we all had a choice of leaving our firm or industry without question. In view of this it was important to note that so many men from MANWEB were present at the ceremony to receive awards for completing varying terms of service from 45 years to 25 years.

He thanked them all on behalf of the Board for their continuous and dedicated service.

A vote of thanks was then proposed by Mr. E. Bell (*District Senior Clerk, Liverpool North*), who remarked that everyone had been pleased to see and hear from Mr. Gwyn, and went on to say that it had been a pleasure to see Mr. Telfer among the recipients. He also mentioned Mr. H. Turner (*Welfare Officer, Area 1*) who had been responsible for the organising of these functions for many years, now receiving his own 45 year award. Finally, Mr. Bell said that there was no doubt that these occasions benefited by becoming more social rather than formal.

A group of 35-year award recipients, some with their wives. Area Manager, Mr. H. Telfer is in the centre seat of the back row.







More members of the Area 1 staff who received their 35-year Long Service Awards.

## —The Awards—

### 45 YEARS

**Area Office:** Messrs. R. Andrews (*principal assistant, Cash*), W. J. Cormell (*chargehand, Meter Department*), D. G. Crellin (*assistant, Revenue*) and H. Turner (*senior assistant, Welfare*).

**Central District:** Mr. W. A. Perkins (*chargehand installation inspector*).

**North District:** Messrs. E. Bell (*District Senior Clerk*), J. Cushing (*foreman, Mains*) and H. Wright (*substation attendant*).

**South District:** Mr. W. H. Smallwood (*senior assistant, Commercial clerical*).

### 35 YEARS

**Area Office:** Messrs. W. J. Cooper (*4th assistant, Commercial Engineer*), S. Fleming (*chargehand assembler*), J. Griffiths (*assistant, Cash*), G. A. McLoughlin (*assembler*), A. Mussell (*3rd assistant engineer, Planning*), W. G. Parker (*telephone operator*), T. Rimmer (*chargehand plumber*), H. A. Robertson (*chargehand electrician*), W. Steging (*fitter's mate*), G. O. Taylor (*storekeeper*), H. Telfer (*Area Manager*), D. Thomson (*senior assistant, Establishments*), C. Upton (*records draughtsman*), H. Watkinson (*fitter's mate*) and H. Williams (*flagger*).

**Central District:** Messrs. B. Beckett (*chargehand labourer*), B. McHugh (*chargehand labourer*), F. Y. Molyneux (*District Senior Clerk*), J. Molyneux (*jointer, e.h.t.*) and C. S. B. Taylor (*jointer, e.h.t.*).

**North District:** Messrs. T. Burt (*shop supervisor*), W. R. Coffey (*senior assistant, Commercial clerical*), N. V. Hughes (*assistant consumers' engineer*), J. I. Johnson (*assistant consumers' engineer*), W. Kay (*installation inspector*), E.

Keight (*jointer*), T. McGinn (*substation attendant, Static*), F. McHugh (*shift electrician*), D. Patrick (*assistant, Admin. and Eng. clerical*) and A. Wright (*meter reader*).

**South District:** Messrs. S. Bateman (*assistant, Commercial clerical*), L. Blackburn (*chargehand fitter, electrical*), A. Elcock (*plumber*), A. J. Hankin (*jointer*), P. Rivers (*foreman electrician*), A. W. E. Smallwood (*electrician*) and J. Tattersall (*assistant consumers' engineer*).

**Southport District:** Mr. A. Proctor (*meter reader/collector*).

### 25 YEARS

**Area Office:** Mr. E. Tarpey (*3rd assistant engineer, Protection*).

**Central District:** Mr. G. Lawrie (*assistant, Commercial clerical*).

**Southport District:** Mr. W. A. Aindow (*assistant consumers' engineer*).

With 25 years' service, from left to right: Messrs. G. Lawrie, E. Tarpey and W. A. Aindow.



# Course for Engineering Staff

at  
the  
Flintshire  
College  
of  
Technology



Members of the Open Forum panel, from left to right: Messrs. J. Ekbery (Assistant Chief Engineer, Operation), F. J. Brown (Chief Engineer), D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman), B. R. Campbell-Kelly (Assistant Chief Commercial Officer, Statistics and Tariffs) and J. Fisher (Assistant Chief Engineer, Planning).



Here we have some of the section engineers and assistant section engineers who attended the Course. They came from Northwich, Chester and each of the Districts in Area 4.

## GENERAL MANAGEMENT APPRAISAL COURSE for all shop supervisors in Area 1

The Millbank College of Commerce in Liverpool was the venue for all the shop supervisors in Area 1 to meet together for three information packed days when as two groups they went on a general management appraisal course.

Lectures were given by members of the College staff, a personnel manager of a supermarket chain store and the assistant general manager of a large department store in the City.

The course was arranged by Mr. W. Wallwork (Commercial Officer, Area 1) and Mr. E. Richardson (senior assistant, Sales Training, Head Office), and run by Mr. S. Airey (Principal Assistant, Marketing, Area 1).

Our picture shows some of the course members, from left to right, standing: Messrs. K. Holland (Walton Vale), M. Jones (Prescot), E. McDonnell (Old Swan), E. Galvani (Maghull), S. Airey and K.

Baker, the Course Tutor from the Liverpool College of Commerce. Seated: Messrs. R. Schollick (Sales Supervisor, Liverpool South), T. Burt (Southdene, Kirkby), S. Douglas (Formby), D. Murray (Garston) and Mrs. I. Butterfield (Allerton).





**A** SPECIAL series of two-day courses specialising in the appliance display aspect in our shops, was held a short time ago at Wallasey.

Mr. T. Dean (*Assistant Chief Commercial Officer—Marketing*) opened the meetings and he was followed by Mr. L. Smith (*Principal Assistant (Marketing) Area 2/3*) who spoke on the Board's marketing policy and discussed ways to promote sales and to increase profitability.

Then Mr. G. Lewer (*Principal Assistant, Display Leader, Head Office*), took over to explain the use of display frames before organising a practical session when members of the staff on the course were able to prepare and experiment with displays.

Instruction was also given on how to make the best use of the shop floor with display units controlling customer flow through the shop.

At the end of each course, an Open Forum group was held and many interesting points were raised and discussed.



Some members of our staff who attended at the Display Course. From left to right, standing: Mr. A. Horrocks (Runcorn), Miss P. Y. Lloyd (Johnstown), Mrs. R. Davies (Flint), Mrs. V. Ford (West Kirby) and Mr. J. Sutton (Chester). Seated: Miss D. Booth (Warrington), Miss E. A. Roberts (Clwyd), Mrs. A. Griffiths (Colwyn Bay) and Mrs. E. Jackson (Southport).

## DISPLAY COURSE

Visits were made to one of our large shops, and this picture shows some of the course members at Birkenhead.

Others went along to New Ferry to one of the smaller shops.

Staff commented on and discussed the displays and were able to see what constituted good display and poor display.



Following up on our feature "Old Moore's Tealeaves for 1969" which appeared in the Christmas issue of "Contact" our tame cartoonist

## JEFF BAKER

sent in his ideas of what the future holds for us all.



"Peanuts as usual Fred . . .



. . . but I see Albert's got *his* bonus!"



"We've heard of extra productivity but this is ridiculous!"







Conversation at the dinner table prior to the Chester staff Conference.

## STAFF CONFERENCES . . .

### . . . . at Chester . . . . .

**A**BOUT 150 people, members of the staff of Area 2/3 Office and Chester District, attended an employee's meeting organised by No. 11 L.A.C. at a Chester hotel recently.

After an enjoyable meal, a report on the work of the L.A.C. was given by Mr. G. H. O. Speaight (*District Commercial Engineer*), and on the Board's progress in the Area by Mr. J. W. Trimble (*Manager, Area 2/3*).

Guest speaker for the evening was Dr. H. H. Crann, of the Dee and Clwyd River Authority, who related the use of electricity to the Authority's responsibilities for control of water in the area.

At the Forum session, when questions centred mainly round Board re-organisation and contracting work, the panel members were Mr. Speaight, Mr. R. H. Comyn *1st assistant (D.C.E.)*, Mr. Trimble, Mr. K. Edwards (*section engineer*) and Mr. C. D. Houlbrook (*assistant, Commercial*).

More members of the staff at the Chester Conference.





## Southport

◀ District Manager, Mr. L. J. Scudamore opening the Southport Conference.

**T**HE RECORD attendance of 118 people who went along to the Southport District Employees' Annual Meeting, held in the Floral Hall a few weeks ago, enjoyed one of the most successful get-togethers ever held.

As Chairman of the Meeting, Mr. L. J. Scudamore (*District Manager*) opened the proceedings by welcoming everyone out and then followed two brief and interesting talks from members of the Local Advisory Committee. First Mr. W. J. Osbaldeston spoke on the work of the Efficiency and Safety Panels, and then Mr. S. J. Holt said a few words on the contributions made in the fields of Education, Training and Welfare.

Next on the agenda was a "home movie" which showed members of the District staff at work on their many and varied tasks. This was enthusiastically received and sincere congratulations should go to Mr. Scudamore and Mr. J. Heaton (*District Engineer*) who were responsible for initiating,

filming and compiling. Later in the evening, the audience insisted on seeing the film again!

**We recommend this as an excellent idea which other L.A.C.'s may follow up.**

The guest speaker Mr. R. Stewart (*Commercial Officer, Area 4*) was then introduced and he proceeded to entertain his audience with an informative, instructional and often, light-hearted talk on the Board's relationship with its customers.

In his summing-up, Mr. Scudamore expressed the wish that the interest shown in the Southport District in L.A.C. work and in staff and customer relations in general should be kept at a high standard.

He thanked the organising committee, headed by Mr. J. G. Glover (*District Senior Clerk*) for the excellent arrangements for the Meeting.

The delegates and guests then adjourned—not for the usual "hot-pot supper"—but to take their pick at a running buffet . . . another innovation at Southport which proved most popular.



Relaxing a little . . .



and in deep concentration at the Southport District Employees' Annual Meeting



## .....Caernarvon.....

**F**ROM ALL over the Caernarvon District, the men and women from MANWEB came together a few weeks ago to meet at the Royal Hotel in the town for their Annual Conference.

Before the assembly settled down to enjoy a turkey dinner, Mr. N. Maden (*District Manager*) welcomed everyone with a special mention for the chief guests, Counc. R. Harlech Jones (*Deputy Mayor of Caernarvon*), Mr. D. G. Gwyn (*Deputy Chairman*) and Mr. K. Helliwell (*Manager Area 4*).

Following the meal, Mr. E. Griffiths, in his capacity as Secretary of the No. 18 Local

### SAFE DRIVERS

**15-Year Brooch:** Mr. J. Williams.

**Bar to 10-Year Medal:** Messrs. J. E. Butterworth, W. J. Hunt, D. G. Jones, J. S. Jones, E. Morris, R. I. Morris, W. H. Morris, G. W. Roberts, A. M. Tyler, I. Williams and J. C. Williams.

**10-Year Medal:** Mr. R. E. Owen.

**Bar to 5-Year Medal:** Messrs. O. Griffiths, W. K. Hall, A. L. Hughes, E. Jones, R. D. Jones, T. L. Jones, E. Phillips, A. K. Richardson, J. G. Roberts, C. G. Williams and R. Williams.

**5-Year Medal:** Messrs. C. Hughes, E. Jones and J. D. Williams.

**Diploma:** Messrs. O. Edwards, G. Evans, G. O. Evans, W. L. Hughes, A. C. Humphreys, A. Jones, Glyn Jones, Gwyn Jones, L. Jones, T. W. Jones, R. D. Jones, W. B. Lloyd, H. S. Roberts, H. W. Roberts, R. G. Roberts, H. I. Williams, O. C. Williams and R. J. Williams.

Advisory Committee, took the floor to give a most comprehensive report of the work carried out by the Committee during the year. From what he said it was obvious that the members of the Committee had been most active and had done a great deal in many spheres.

Then Mr. Helliwell addressed the audience and commented on the Board's Annual Report, making a difficult subject more interesting by referring to some simple charts as visual aids in clarifying certain points contained in the Report.

Mr. Maden then introduced the guest speaker saying that the organising committee had been unanimous in their agreement that this year the invitation should be sent to Mr. Gwyn, and he was most pleased that the invitation had been accepted.

After a stimulating and interesting talk which dealt with the past, the present and the future of



A salesman in Caernarvon District, Mr. J. H. Hughes, *left*, being presented with his Eda Diploma by Mr. Gwyn.

the electricity supply industry the audience applause made it known that the choice of speaker had been fully justified.

As the delegates again settled down, Councillor Harlech Jones was called upon to present Safe Driving Awards to members of the District staff who had qualified. The opportunity was then taken to make another presentation, this time by Mr. Gwyn who presented Mr. John Howard Hughes, a salesman, with his Eda Salesmanship Diploma.

Bringing the formal part of the Conference to a close, Alderman R. H. Owen (*Vice-Chairman of the L.A.C.*), on behalf of all the members present, thanked Mr. Gwyn for his interesting talk, and Councillor Harlech Jones and Area Officers and the many guests and members for attending and helping to make this a most successful and informative Conference.

Mr. Gwyn Jones, *left*, an electrician at Blaenau receives his Safe Driving Award from Councillor Harlech Jones.







## St. Helens

Area Manager, Mr. J. W. Trimble addressing the staff at the St. Helens District Meeting.

**A**FTER enjoying an excellent dinner at a local hotel some few weeks ago, members of our St. Helens District staff settled down to listen to a number of speakers at the Employees' Annual Meeting.

Mr. H. C. Barr (*District Commercial Engineer*), welcomed the many visitors and guests before proceeding to give a brief summary of the work carried out by the Local Advisory Committee during the past year.

Then Mr. J. W. Trimble (*Manager Area 2/3*) rose to say a few words about the Board's progress in general and St. Helens District in particular. He took a look into the future and gave his opinion that the changes in the Board's organisation would take quite a long time to be fully effective. He hoped that

all the changes would be brought about with the feeling of good will and co-operation all round.

The delegates then had their opportunity to ask questions in an Open Forum session and quite naturally the emphasis was on the proposed mergers within our Districts.

With time pressing, the guest speaker for the evening, Mr. James Ball, was introduced to his audience. Mr. Ball, the ex-Deputy Chief Constable of St. Helens, recounted some of his experiences during his career in the force. Taking the trend of the meeting, he devoted much of his talk to explaining the amalgamations which had taken place within the police force organisation. He drew a number of parallels to give the MANWEB staff some re-assurance on their

own jobs. He said that the changes brought about by the police amalgamations had been to everyone's advantage and had brought about far better working conditions. He emphasised the fact that members of the electricity board, like the police force, had a duty in serving the public.

*In a way, it was a great pity that Mr. Ball did not speak before the Open Forum session as we are sure that much precious time would have been saved.*

### SAFE DRIVERS

**Bar to 20-Year Brooch:** Mr. T. Coulshed.

**Bar to 10-Year Medal:** Messrs. T. C. P. Baines, F. Evans, N. Gabbott, J. E. Moore and H. Tunstall.

**Bar to 5-Year Medal:** Messrs. T. B. Almond, J. Arstall, L. Case, P. B. Cookson, J. B. Edwards, J. Glover, R. Hunter, A. D. Kenwright, W. J. S. Leyland, C. McEwen, A. A. MacLeod, A. Sutton and A. Woods.

**5-Year Medal:** Messrs. J. Fishwick, L. R. McNelly and J. S. Millett.

**Diploma:** Messrs. W. J. Clarey, A. Filby, J. Huyton, W. Lomax, A. R. Lovelady, F. A. Robinson, P. E. Slater, A. Smith and G. W. Wands.

Safe drivers at St. Helens. Some members of the District staff who received their awards recently from Mr. J. Ball, seated centre. District Engineer Mr. H. C. Barr is seated right and District Commercial Engineer, Mr. H. R. Johnson is seated second from the right.





## Wrexham

The 'Open Forum' panel, from left to right: Messrs. K. Helliwell, D. G. Dodds, D. G. Gwyn and E. T. Peters. ►



**S**TAFF from the Board's Area 4 Office and from the Wrexham District got together recently to enjoy an excellent meal at the Wynnstay Hotel prior to their Annual Conference.

Mr. E. T. Peters (*District Manager*) as Chairman of the No. 12 Local Advisory Committee said how pleased he was to be able to welcome both Mr. D. G. Dodds (*Chairman*) and Mr. D. G. Gwyn (*Deputy Chairman*) to the meeting. He also welcomed Mr. J. W. Anderson, the District Industrial Relations Officer and Secretary of the No. 9 District Joint Advisory Council.

After reminding the audience of the functions of an L.A.C., Mr. Peters introduced Mr. K. Helliwell (*Manager, Area 4*) who proceeded to give an interesting talk in which he reviewed the year's workings, and with the aid of some charts, brought home a number of good points.

He concluded by referring to the Pay and Productivity Agreements saying that it was essential that emphasis be placed on increased productivity.

Then Mr. Dodds, as the guest speaker, began his address by clearly explaining the national picture as far as the fuel industry was concerned. He said that although we in the electricity industry had to achieve a regular rate of growth, many things tended to hold us back. He gave

as examples, three points which have been imposed upon us by the Government. 1—Financial Targets. 2—Fuel Tax. 3—The artificial support given to the coal industry.

Mr. Dodds went on to say that the leaders of the electricity industry were fighting for equality in these situations and we wanted the same "ground rules" as our competitors.

Referring to MANWEB in particular, Mr. Dodds said that a two-year survey had been carried out and much room for improvement of our resources had been found. This had led to a re-organisation programme,

but he added, "Nothing is *fait accompli*, but will be done by joint consultation".

He assured his listeners that there would be no large scale evacuations or sudden movements. "Any announcement made regarding the re-organisation is for the future, not for tomorrow!" he said.

At this point, Mr. Dodds brought his comments to a close to allow time for questions from the staff, which were answered by a panel comprising of Mr. Dodds, Mr. Gwyn, Mr. Helliwell and Mr. Peters, with one or two answers coming from senior officers from Area 4.



Some of the Board's staff who attended this year's Wrexham District Conference. ►



Staff at our Runcorn District held their Annual Conference a few weeks ago in the British Legion Club at Weston.

After an appetising dinner, Mr. E. Mills (*District Engineer*) called on Councillor J. Looker of the Runcorn Urban District Council who presented some Safe Driving Awards.

Then followed reports on the work of the L.A.C. (by Mr. Mills), and on MANWEB activities (by Mr. J. W. Trimble, *Manager, Area 2/3*). The guest speaker was Mr. B. Morris, the Public Relations Officer for the Ford Motor Company.

The Conference concluded with an Open Forum Session.

... *Runcorn* ...



Mr. Mills addressing the Conference.

#### SAFE DRIVERS

**Bar to 10-Year Medal:**  
Messrs. E. A. Bold, J. Clare, C. F. Oultram, R. Southern and A. M. Turner.

**10-Year Medal:** Mr. W. Appleton.

**Bar to 5-Year Medal:**  
Messrs. F. W. Bignall, J. Dutton, F. R. Fryer, G. K. Hazlehurst, A. James, F. Nuttall and H. H. Turner.

**5-Year Medal:** Messrs. H. Blythe, C. J. Osborne, R. Vickerstaffe and G. Whitney.

**Diploma:** Messrs. J. R. Antrobus, G. L. Bevan, J. B. Brassington, J. Briers, L. E. Carter, D. Curtis, W. S. Grundy, A. E. Houghton, A. Hughes, W. T. Jones, A. C. Kefford, D. K. Mason, T. C. Mulheirn, R. Mullin, N. Ormson, L. Percival and G. Whitlow.



▲ District Staff and Guests at the Conference ▼



Some of the Board's Safe Drivers in the Runcorn District who received their awards from Councillor J. Looker, seated centre, at the annual staff meeting. Mr. R. G. Monk (*District Commercial Engineer*) is seated on the left, and Mr. E. Mills (*District Engineer*) is seated on the right.





## . . . . Anglesey . . . .

**M**EMBERS of our Anglesey District staff covered by the No. 16 Local Advisory Committee, held their Annual Conference at the Bull Hotel, Llangefni a short time ago.

Over 60 people attended and

enjoyed an excellent meal and listened to an interesting address from the guest speaker Mr. J. W. Anderson, the District Industrial Relations Officer for the Electricity Council.

Later, several questions were submitted in an Open Forum session, and these were answered by a panel who included Mr.

Anderson, Mr. K. Helliwell (*Manager, Area 4*), Mr. H. W. Hegarty (*Accountant, Area 4*), Mr. A. Kidd (*Secretary, Area 4*), Mr. A. Perry (*Engineer, Area 4*) and Mr. A. R. Shaw, (*District Manager, Anglesey*).



Area Manager, Mr. K. Helliwell presenting his review of the year's work.



District Manager Mr. A. R. Shaw opens the proceedings. Mr. W. J. Anderson is on the right.



District Senior Clerk, Mr. L. C. Jones delivering the L.A.C. progress report.

### Members of the No. 16 Local Advisory Committee.

*From left to right, back row:* Messrs. A. M. Thomas, A. Kidd, J. Etchells, L. C. Jones, C. Roberts, B. Smith and H. M. Williams.

*Seated:* Mr. A. Rowlands, Miss Dilys Hughes, Mrs. M. Winterburn and Mr. A. R. Shaw.



## ..... Crewe .....

A few weeks ago, some 70 people, including a strong contingent from the ranks of the retired, gathered at our Crewe District Office for the Employees' Annual Conference.

After a warm welcome from Mr. J. A. Winchester (*District Manager*), the delegates listened to an interesting and often amusing talk given by Mr. Roy Stewart (*Commercial Officer, Area 4*).

Following a "film interval", Mr. K. Helliwell (*Manager, Area 4*), spoke of the Board's steady progress and the Conference was brought to a



▲  
**District Manager, Mr. J. A. Winchester, left with guest speaker Mr. W. E. Marrion.**



**From left to right: Messrs. A. Cutler (electrician), A. Edwards (retired) and H. Booker (retired).**

successful conclusion with guest speaker Mr. W. E. Marrion of British Rail talking about his experiences with railway electrification. This provided an interesting topic for discussion over the lunch which followed.

**From left to right: Messrs. L. Hanley (retired), K. Mason (consumers' engineer) and A. Owen (retired).**



Enjoying a drink and a joke at the Conference, from left to right: Messrs. A. Kidd (Secretary, Area 4), J. W. Anderson (District Industrial Relations Officer), R. Stewart (Commercial Officer, Area 4) and J. A. Williams (former District Manager at Oswestry).





## ... and finally, Aberystwyth

**N**EARLY 100 members of the electricity industry in Aberystwyth District gathered at the Belle Vue Royal Hotel, Aberystwyth, recently, for an Employees' Conference organised by Nos. 17 and 28 Local Advisory Committees.

The chair was taken by Mr. D. A. Hamblin (*District Manager*), who introduced the speakers, and reports on the year's working were made by Mr. D. G. Thomas and Mr. R. Evans, secretaries of the respective LACs.

Mr. K. Helliwell (*Area Manager*) reported on the year's work for the Area as a whole, and then Mr. D. G. Gwyn, (*Deputy Chairman*) spoke on the subject of "Our Industry".

Commenting on Britain's general economic condition, and the achievements of the electricity supply industry, Mr. Gwyn said, "The workers in this industry should take pride in the fact that if all other industry had done as well as we have done, the country would be in a much better position."

He then reviewed the fuel position for the nation as a whole, and referred to the possible existence of substantial deposits of natural gas off the west coast of Wales.

"There is no reason why the electricity industry should not be given the right of exploitation in this field," declared Mr. Gwyn. "We could use it in our power stations probably more effectively than we could use coal."

He then went on to deal with likely future developments in the industry, and examined the various factors influencing electricity costs.

"I am sure that the relative price of electricity is going to



Mr. Gwyn, left, at lunch with members of the District staff.

continue to fall over the next five years" he declared, "and if there were to be no increases in costs beyond our control, such as wages and fuel costs, then there would be an actual cash reduction in the price per unit sold.

"Question Time," was followed by an address on the subject of "C.E.G.B. Organisation," by Mr. D. W. Maddocks, Regional, Personnel Officer, C.E.G.B., and after a further Questions period, the conference was brought to a close by the presentation of Safe Driving Awards to members of the District staff, followed by lunch.

### SAFE DRIVERS

Messrs. H. C. Bates, R. Bright, L. C. Bryan, R. E. Burns, L. A. Carr, P. Cheshire, R. E. Clarke, J. W. Connah, J. Cowley, B. W. Davies, E. W. R. Davies, J. R. Davies, I. Edwards, W. Edwards, G. Fraser, G. Hughes, E. Griffiths, R. Griffiths, H. M. Jones, M. W. Jones, W. T. Jones, G. D. G. Morgan, J. A. Nichol, E. C. J. Parrott, D. J. Powell, D. R. Pugh, E. O. Rees, M. Rees, K. Reiter, H. D. Williams and R. Williams.



Candid camera shots taken at the lunch tables.





Instructors and Administrative staff enjoying their Christmas lunch at Hoylake Training Centre. At the head of the table are the ladies who served it, Mrs. E. King, left, and Mrs. A. Rothwell.

## Party Time at Hoylake and Head Office

About 130 sons, daughters, grandchildren, nieces and nephews of members of the Head Office staff had a wonderful time at the Christmas party held at Love Lane offices. The usual games, film show, eats, talent contest and sing-song preceded the arrival of Santa (Mr. W. Gibson) accompanied by his attendant fairies, Periwinkle (Miss Karen Jones) and Blossom (Miss Ruth Knipe).





## ***A PARTY for the CHILDREN at NORTHWICH***

About 100 children, including some young guests from the Kilri Children's Home, enjoyed a wonderful party held in the Memorial Hall, Northwich a few weeks ago.

After exhausting themselves with party games, organised by Messrs. W. Copeman, J. Swarbrick and A. Thackray, the happy youngsters then tucked into the food.

As a prelude to the arrival of Santa, Mrs. J. Day as the good fairy, kept the children well and truly entertained and even managed to convince some of them! The party came to an end with the man in the red cloak handing out the presents.



**Two youngsters pulling a cracker at the Northwich Party.**

•  
•  
The very realistic fairy who had complete control of the children within minutes of her appearance. Here they sit enthralled as she tells them a story.



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•  
A lively comedy spot was provided by the MANWEB Muckspreaders from Sandiway House. Easily recognisable, from left to right, are, Messrs. R. Jones (records draughtsman), W. R. Copeman (engineering draughtsman), A. R. Thackray (engineering draughtsman), W. J. Swarbrick (building engineer) and D. W. Sankey (engineering draughtsman).



## Dinner Dance at Wrexham



Leading the "conga" is Miss Susan Carr, a "Girl from MANWEB" prizewinner.



Relaxing between dances, Mr. and Mrs. J. Greenhalgh, left, with Mr. and Mrs. J. Myers. Mr. Greenhalgh is the Chairman of the Area 4 Sports and Social Club, and Mr. Myers is the Vice-Chairman.



Well over a hundred members and friends associated with the Area 4 Sports and Social Club went along to the Annual Dinner Dance held at the Maesgwyn Hall, Wrexham just before Christmas.

The evening got off to a fine start with Mr. David Trevor (Legacy) as Master of Ceremonies. Dancing was to the music of the Wilf Field Band whose varied programme provided dances for both young and not so young.

Throughout the evening a number of party games were played, and these were organised by Mr. Dennis Atkinson (Stores). They proved to be as exhausting for the spectators as they were for the participants.

Thanks go to the organisers for a very fine and successful evening. They were Mr. J. A. Humphreys (Drawing Office), Mrs. A. Richards (Costs) Miss Sandra Evans and Miss Susan Carr (Costs).



Some of the lads and lassies at the Area 4 Dinner Dance.



## CHRISTMAS AT CAERNARVON

### *For the Children . . .*

Sixty children attended the Christmas Party organised by the Caernarvon District Sports and Social Club a few weeks ago. After tucking in to the "goodies" they were entertained to a film show with the accent on comedy and the climax of the afternoon came with the arrival of Santa. Soon Christmas wrapping paper littered the floor as the excited youngsters opened their presents.

### *. . . and the Adults*

To beat the breathalyser, the members of the Caernarvon District Sports and Social Club together with their friends journeyed to the Marine Hotel, Criccieth by buses. By doing this they were able to make merry at the Annual Buffet Dance without the worry of the drive home afterwards.

Mr. R. Owen, very capably compered a very successful evening.





## SOUTHPORT DISTRICT



## SOCIAL



## EVENING





# Questions in the House

## Nuclear Power Generation (Cost)

**Mr. Swain** asked the Minister of Power what is the forecast estimate of the cost of electricity produced from nuclear power in 1975.

**Mr. Mason:** A nuclear station to be commissioned in 1975 could be expected to have lower costs than the estimate for Hartlepool of 0.52d. a unit.

## Resale Price (Control)

**Mr. Carter-Jones** asked the Minister of Power if he will now take steps to control the resale price of electricity; and if he will make a statement.

**Mr. Freeson:** The maximum price at which electricity may be resold is laid down by the electricity boards in accordance with their powers under Section 29 of the Electricity Act, 1957. Investigations are being made into the working of this control, and my right hon. Friend is considering what further action may be necessary to improve it.

## Electricity Prices (Large Consumers)

**Mr. J. H. Osborn** asked the Minister of Power what is the outcome of his Department's study of special electricity prices for large consumers.

**The Minister of Power (Mr. Roy Mason):** The possibility of special electricity prices for large consumers is the subject of continuing study by the electricity supply industry, in consultation with my Department. The industry's tariffs already confer considerable advantage on con-

sumers with large and economical loads.

**Mr. Osborn:** When are we to know what the tariffs will be and which are the industries concerned? Presumably aluminium, chemicals, and perhaps steel, are the industries. When are we to have a definite statement placed before the House on what is the policy?

**Mr. Mason:** There is no specific study as such. I should remind the House that the statutory responsibility for fixing electricity prices rests ultimately with the Boards in consultation with the consultative councils.

## Joint Meter Reading

**Mr. Whitaker** asked the Minister of Power whether he has completed his study into the desirability of joint meter reading.

**Mr. Freeson:** Yes, and feasibility studies are being carried out by two Electricity and two Gas Boards. When these have been completed and the results assessed, decisions can be made on whether to extend these studies to field trials, after consultation with trade unions.

## Underground Cables (Research)

**Mr. Bryant Godman Irvine** asked the Minister of Power what discussions he has had with the Electricity Council with regard to increasing the level of its appropriation for research, particularly into the possibilities of placing 132 and 225 kilovolts cables underground.

**Mr. Freeson:** My right hon. Friend will shortly discuss with the Chairman of the Electricity Council their general programme of research, but we believe they have the right order of expenditure on underground cables generally and on high voltage in particular.

**Mr. Godman Irvine:** Would the Parliamentary Secretary tell us

any other organisation which is trying to keep abreast of a technological field and which spends less than 1 per cent of its annual revenue on research? Now, with a substantial profit, is this not the moment to reconsider it?

**Mr. Freeson:** It would be more correct to consider the actual figures. I understand that approximately £300,000 is spent specifically on underground cables and that a substantial part of the £700,000 which is being spent on high voltage direct current transmission and superconductivity is also related to undergrounding.

**Mr. Hall:** Would the hon. Gentleman not look again at the amount of research devoted to the particular problem of placing cables underground, before the countryside becomes irretrievably ruined by the mass of pylons and overhead wires?

**Mr. Freeson:** I, and doubtless other hon. Members, would appreciate it if a little less colourful phraseology were used. I have no doubt—I am as concerned as anyone here about the countryside—about the responsible attitude which the C.E.G.B. seeks to take. The last complete year's figures available show that about £6 million was spent on amenity in addition to commercial costs by the Board.

## BOARD OF TRADE Electric Lamps (Monopolies Commission Report)

**Mr. Archer** asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he will make a statement on the Report of the Monopolies Commission on the supply of electric lamps.

**Mr. Crosland:** The Report was published this morning. The Commission have found monopoly conditions, as defined in the legislation, in the supply of electric lamps. One supplier, British Lighting Industries Ltd.,



alone has more than one third of the market; and a much greater proportion of the market is held by four suppliers (British Lighting Industries Ltd., G.E.C. (Osram) Ltd., Philips Electronic and Associated Industries Ltd., and Crompton Parkinson Ltd.) who in certain respects conduct their respective affairs in ways which restrict competition.

The Commission have found the general performance of the industry to be satisfactory and the level of prices to be reasonable by international standards. They have not found that British Lighting Industries' monopoly position as such operates against the public interest. But they have criticised certain practices of two or more of the main manufacturers. In particular they have found to operate against the public interest the manufacturers' policies of recommending resale prices, of relating prices for individual buyers to the buyer's purchases from all suppliers, and of exchanging information on prices and sales. They have also found to be against the public interest the practice of three component manufacturers, which are subsidiaries of British Lighting Industries and Osram and each of which has a monopoly in its own field, of discriminating in price in favour of the parent companies.

By way of remedy the Commission have recommended that each of those practices should cease. In the case of price discrimination by the component manufacturers, the Commission have recommended that the range of quantity terms which they give should be only such as can be justified by actual variations in costs, and that whatever scales of quantity discounts or rebates they apply should be submitted, together with evidence of cost justification, to the Board of trade.

The Commission have conducted a thorough and useful investigation, and I accept in principle their conclusions. My Department will now discuss their implementation with the companies concerned.

#### **Multi-Storey Flats (Gas Supply Fitments)**

**Mr. Rankin** asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will inquire into the extent to which the rigidity of gas supply fitments affects the safety of tenants in multi-storey flats.

**Dr. Dickson Mabon:** My hon. Friend, no doubt has in mind the recommendations concerning the safety of gas installations made by the Tribunal of Inquiry into the collapse of flats at Ronan Point. My right hon. Friend the Minister of Power has these under consideration.

**Mr. Rankin:** Do I assume that we shall in due course hear that something is being done and that electricity as a source of heat and power is far safer than gas for tenants in these flats when high winds are blowing? Is an admission to that effect now expected? Will my hon. Friend tell us what he is doing?

**Dr. Mabon:** I can only comment that the tribunal reported that no case was made out for the permanent exclusion of gas from high blocks. My right hon. Friend has asked local authorities to cut off the gas in any case where there is the slightest doubt about the freedom of a block from danger of progressive collapse. My hon. Friend will hear more about this from the Minister of Power.

#### **Demand**

**Mr. Lane** asked the Minister of Power what was the percentage increase in electricity demand between 1966-67 and 1967-68; and upon what percentage rate of increase the Central Electricity Generating

Board are planning for the years up to 1973-74.

**Mr. W. H. K. Baker** asked the Minister of Power what is his latest estimate of electricity demand in 1972-73 and in 1973-74.

**Mr. Freeson:** The estimated maximum potential demand on the C.E.G.B. system increased by 3.7 per cent between 1966-67 and 1967-68. The Board's planning is based on the Electricity Council's load forecast, published last March, of 54,000 megawatts by 1973-74, an average growth rate of 7.2 per cent per year. The forecast for 1972-73 is 50,600 MW.

#### **WHO'S WHO**

**The Rt. Hon. A. Crosland**  
*Grimsby (Lab.)*  
President of the Board of Trade.

**Dr. J. Dickson Mabon**  
*Greenock (Lab., Co.)*  
Minister of State,  
Scottish Office.

**The Rt. Hon. Roy Mason**  
*Barnsley (Lab.)*  
Minister of Power

**Mr. R. Freeson (Lab.)**  
*Willesden East*  
Parliamentary Secretary  
Ministry of Power

**Mr. P. K. Archer (Lab.)**  
*Rowley Regis and Tipton*

**Mr. L. Carter-Jones (Lab.)**  
*Eccles*

**Mr. J. Rankin (Lab., Co.)**  
*Govan*

**Mr. T. Swain (Lab.)**  
*Derbyshire N.E.*

**Mr. B. Whitaker (Lab.)**  
*Hampstead*

**Mr. W. H. K. Baker (Con.)**  
*Banff*

**Mr. J. Hall (Con.)**  
*Wycombe*

**Mr. B. G. Irvine (Con.)**  
*Rye*

**Mr. D. Lane (Con.)**  
*Cambridge*

**Mr. J. H. Osborn (Con.)**  
*Hallam*



# People write...

... from the Royal Navy

following our "HMS Upton" story.

Dear Mr. Rawes,

Thank you very much for the copies of your magazine *Contact*. I must say it was a jolly nice two-page article that you edited, which has been much enjoyed by the Ship's Company.

Looking back on our cruise, general opinion is that Northwich was the most enjoyable visit of our sixteen ports. In fact, if you could only recognise them in their plain clothes, I believe a number of my sailors still return to Northwich for weekend leave.

On behalf of the Ship's Company of "HMS Upton", may I wish you and your staff a very happy and successful New Year.

Yours Sincerely,

G. J. Claydon,

Lieutenant Commander, R.N.

## QUICK SERVICE AT CONWAY VALLEY

Sir,

*On Monday at 10.15 p.m. our electricity supply completely failed. A telephone call was made to MANWEB and although I live on a remote place on the Great Orme, a service engineer came and everything was in order by 11.15 p.m. Such excellent service is worthy of acknowledgment.*

(Signed).

## CHEAP HEAT

Some facts and figures  
from a retired colleague

Dear Sir,

You may be interested in a contribution, on a topical matter, from a retired employee (Commercial Department, Area 4).

I retired in April, 1966 and decided to return to Wistaston, where I resided from 1936 to 1945, and I found that heating, using smokeless fuel, was an expensive business, costing some 26s. 0d. a week during the winter months, with additional cost for an electric fire during and after breakfast.

As a result I decided to change to 'Off-Peak' heating, with a 3-kW Bermuda storage radiator in the Lounge/Dining Room, area approximately 180 square feet, and a Berryblaze Magicoal fire having simmerstat control (most important this) as a 'focal point', to provide a modicum of local radiant heat as and when required.

I realised that efficient thermal insulation was a 'must', in order to keep down running costs, so I installed double glazing and polystyrene ceiling tiles to finalise the changeover.

I give below details of total electricity costs for the two quarters following completion of thermal insulation:

Quarter ending 9th September, 1968.

Off-Peak 766 units

On-Peak 1,149 units

Total cost £13 6s. 11d.

Quarter ending 27th November, 1968.

Off-Peak 1,550 units

On-Peak 1,330 units

Total cost £17 9s. 4d.

I am more than satisfied with the result, which I think is good value for an All-Electric bungalow (no other fuel bills), having a connected load of some 23-kW, and I am confident that the next quarter will show a substantial reduction compared with the corresponding quarter for 1967.

It is a delight to enter the lounge early in the morning, to find a temperature of 70°F on the thermometer and no ashes to remove, and a cylinder of really hot water.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

## "EXTRA EFFORT, EXTRA PAY"

In reply to our C.C.O.

Dear Sir,

Freezes and Squeezes—

by Chief Commercial Officer

(Christmas *Contact*, 1968—Page 248)

Our Chief Commercial Officer stated: "We have been asking you to sell more and more... We must continue to fight for sales."

Mr. Cowen then asked us to re-consider five benefits that arise as we become more and more efficient at selling. Isn't it a pity Mr. Cowen didn't include a sixth item;

"Extra effort, extra pay"—based on reasonable statistics.

The incentive to efficiency, productivity, selling etc. is salary inducements as well as pride in our work and patriotism.

This does not mean we will not do our part to project the image of MANWEB and continue to work under increased pressure which ever job we may be employed in. These comments are intended to spotlight the deficiency in rewards to efforts. Why doesn't our increased efforts and efficiency reflect in increased salary?

(Signed).





Mr Fitzpatrick, fourth from left, with some of his colleagues from Chester District, Mr. Speaight is on the extreme left.

## RETIREMENTS

### Mr. H. A. FITZPATRICK

A consumers' engineer in the Chester District, Mr. Harry Fitzpatrick, retired at the end of December after serving for 42 years in the electricity supply industry.

During this period, Mr. Fitzpatrick worked with the former Chester Corporation Electricity Department as a shop manager and later in the electrical contracting department. When MANWEB took over in 1948, he was appointed as a consumers' engineer.

In his younger days, he lived for periods in Ireland and in North America. He is a well-known and respected member of the Catholic community in Chester.

Before he left the Board, his many friends contributed to present him with an electric fire and a book which they hope may help him to improve his game of golf! The presentation was made by Mr. G. H. O. Speaight (District Commercial Engineer).

### Mr. H. SHAW

After completing 47 years' service in the industry, Mr. Harold (Pat) Shaw, a chargehand installation inspector at Northwich, retired a few weeks ago.

He began his career with the former Northwich Electric Company as an apprentice electrician and became an installation inspector soon after

Vesting Day. He was promoted to chargehand in 1956. Pat was not due for official retirement until a little later this year, but he decided to finish a few months earlier because of ill health.

In presenting him with a parting gift, his many friends and colleagues at Northwich wished him a speedy return to good health to enjoy a long and happy retirement.

### Mr. S. G. SMITH

Staff at our Hoylake Training Centre said their goodbyes recently to Mr. Samuel G. Smith when he retired from work on reaching the age of 65.

Mr. Smith was employed as a night watchman from 1955 until 1967 when he became a labourer.

He was presented with an electric kettle by Mr. J. L. W. Ladner, Education and Training Officer, as a parting gift from his friends at the Centre.

### Mr. R. PASCOE

It is with deep regret that we have to record the sudden death of Mr. Robert Pascoe of our Liverpool North District.

Mr. Pascoe only recently retired from his job as a substation electrical fitter.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his family.



# MANWEB GAZETTE

**Welcome to** . . . the following employees:

**Head Office:** Miss E. F. Cowan (telephone operator), Miss W. E. Griffiths (trainee punch card machine operator), Miss V. E. Hitchmough (clerk), Miss C. A. Kay (shorthand typist), Miss J. Keogh (office machine operator), Miss C. A. Reid (trainee punch card operator), Mrs. J. A. Watkins (punch card operator) and Mr. G. E. Maitland (assistant-Internal Audit).

**Area 1 Office:** Miss C. M. Barton, Miss E. R. Gaskell, Miss E. Holmes, Miss V. C. MacLeod (clerks), Miss N. E. Irvine and Miss G. Miller (machine operators), Miss J. Murray, Miss M. M. McShane, Miss P. Neale, Miss H. C. Webster (clerks), Miss C. Smith (machine operator), Miss M. Weekes (Drawing Office assistant), Mrs. V. Chapman, Mrs. M. E. Ellison, Mrs. M. J. O'Connor and Mrs. W. A. Murphy (clerks), Messrs. L. Lowey, T. Rossiter (transport drivers) and N. Siebert (Drawing Office assistant).

**Central District:** Miss A. M. Aylward (copy typist) and Mrs. T. Mather (cleaner). **North District:** Mrs. M. Hurst and Mrs. E. M. Tulloch (saleswomen). **South District:** Messrs. R. A. S. Luke (trainee salesman) and W. J. McCullough (driver).

**Area 2/3 Office:** Miss E. A. Morris (clerk), Miss Y. O'Neill, Miss W. E. Pollard, Mrs. P. M. Perry (machine operators), Mrs. M. Pye (typist). **St. Helens District:** Mrs. M. Chesworth (saleswoman). **Warrington District:** Miss A. S. Hodgson (sales demonstrator) and Mrs. J. Daintith (clerk). **Runcorn District:** Miss J. M. Spooner (shorthand typist), Mrs. M. A. Atherton (saleswoman) and Mrs. J. King (clerk). **Northwich District:** Mrs. E. M. Bate (clerk). **Chester District:** Mr. W. E. Watson (clerk). **North Wirral District:** Miss L. K. Swift (saleswoman) and Mrs. M. Mathews (clerk).

**Area 4 Office:** Miss A. H. Vaughan (punch operator), Mrs. M. G. Edwards (clerk), Messrs. N. D. Hughes (junior clerk) and H. C. Trent (stores accountant). **Crewe District:** Mr. G. B. Newbrook (fitter-electrical). **Wrexham District:** Mrs. S. V. Halford (shorthand typist). **Clwyd District:** Mr. D. C. Edwards (clerk). **Oswestry District:** Mr. C. E. Newns (records draughtsman). **Anglesey District:** Miss P. D. Francis (clerk). **Aberystwyth District:** Mr. N. M. Bilsland (junior clerk).

**Congratulations to** . . the following employees on their promotions:

**Head Office:** Miss N. Draper (assistant—Internal Audit), Messrs. J. Cuthell, C. J. Kilfoyle (assistants—Personnel), E. Maxwell (assistant—Accounts) and J. Seymour (senior assistant—Apprentice instruction).

**Area 1 Office:** Messrs. G. A. Bent (assistant—Establishments), E. J. Murphy, G. H. Newton and D. J. Smith (records draughtsmen). **Central District:** Miss E. A. Semple (senior demonstrator), Messrs. D. Coulter, R. Doughty (electricians), C. A. Kelley (assistant—manual workers records), P. B. Starkey and A. White (assistants—

Commercial). **South District:** Miss H. B. Parry (senior demonstrator), Messrs. F. R. Jones (assistant—Commercial) and R. A. Shollick (Sales Supervisor).

**Area 2/3 Office:** Mrs. A. Carr (assistant—Accounts) and Mr. A. J. Letherington (assistant—Costs). **St. Helens District:** Mr. H. V. Collard (shop supervisor). **Runcorn District:** Mr. A. Palombella (shop supervisor). **Chester District:** Messrs. R. G. Gwilliams and P. Williams (electricians). **North Wirral District:** Messrs. A. Boylan (electrician), R. Curtis (switchboard attendant), W. H. Evans (joiner's mate), R. J. Griffiths (substation attendant), C. Hough (chargehand electrician), S. Kempton (switchboard attendant), T. M. Lavelle (joiner EHT), T. Male (joiner's mate).

**Area 4 Office:** Miss P. Williams, Mrs. O. S. Simmons (assistants—Accounts), Mr. C. G. Blackwell (assistant—Statistics). **Crewe District:** Miss C. A. Stubbs (sales demonstrator). **Anglesey District:** Mr. O. I. Jones (salesman).

**Farewell to** . . the following employees who have now left the employment of the Board:

**Head Office:** Mrs. L. Ray (assistant—Accounts) and Mr. J. Whone (senior assistant).

**Area 1 Office:** Miss W. E. Robins (assistant—Estates and Wayleaves). **Central District:** Mr. E. Clayton (electrician). **North District:** Messrs. A. Leigh (labourer), and M. Steede (clerk). **South District:** P. Healey (labourer), E. Pritchard (joiner's mate) and W. H. Teare (linesman's mate).

**Area 2/3 Office:** Mr. J. C. Hopkins (2nd assistant commercial engineer). **St. Helens District:** Mr. J. Walker (labourer). **Northwich District:** Mr. H. Shaw (chargehand installation inspector). **Runcorn District:** Mr. H. E. Woollam (1st Assistant District Engineer). **Chester District:** Messrs. J. Campbell (linesman's mate) and H. A. Fitzpatrick (consumers' engineer). **North Wirral District:** Messrs. G. R. Halliday (installation inspector), S. Meadows (driver), L. Ronald and H. Smith (labourers).

**Area 4 Office:** Messrs. L. J. Havill (senior assistant commercial engineer), J. W. Kempster, C. Jones (fitter's mate) and H. Williams (clerk). **Clwyd District:** Mr. H. G. Cunningham (chargehand linesman). **Caernarvon District:** Messrs. D. O. Jones (linesman) and W. Jones (linesman's mate). **Anglesey District:** Mr. W. Jones (labourer).

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## Obituary

It is with deep regret that we report the deaths of several of a our former colleagues.

Mr. R. Kelly who was an assembler's mate in Area 1, Mr. W. Williams a Liverpool Central District joiner and Mr. G. Murray who was also a joiner with Liverpool North District.

In Area 2/3, Mr. P. H. Foster, a craftsman's mate in St. Helens District, Mr. A. B. Green an assistant consumers' engineer in Chester District and Mr. W. H. Smith a foreman meter reader/collector from North Wirral District.