

CONTACT

January
1971

Conquest
for Hilary
(see page 9)



WEDDINGS



TIME OUT FOR PRESENTATIONS

A few weeks ago, during the very busy days during the power dispute, Mr. D. G. Gwyn (*Deputy Chairman*) took time-out to go along and present Housecraft Certificates to members of the Heswall Branch of the Electrical Association for Women. Our picture, above, shows Mr. Gwyn making one of the presentations.



SUCCESSFUL DINNER DANCE

About 120 people, including District Engineer Mr. A. R. Shaw and his wife, went along to the Royal Victoria Hotel at the foot of Snowdon to enjoy an excellent Dinner Dance organised by the Caernarvon District Sports and Social Club just before Christmas. Music was provided by the TV group known as "Uncle Herbert," and a good time was had by all. Members of the organising committee are pictured above, *from l. to r.*: Messrs. J. M. Barlow, E. Griffiths and A. Toplis, Mrs. Joyce Jones, Mr. K. L. Jones, Miss Pauline Jones, Mrs. Jean Roberts, Miss Sheila Williams, Mr. G. Lamonby and Mr. J. Hughes.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

One of the many small groups of MANWEB staff who celebrated together during the festive season are shown above—members of the Liverpool Central District Engineering staff who had their Christmas lunch at a local hotel. *From left to right, seated*: Messrs. C. F. Higgins, J. Marsden, R. Burgess, T. G. Parry, J. T. H. Owen and C. S. Payne. *Standing*: Messrs. J. H. Range, E. R. Bostock, H. Holden, G. Haughan, Mrs. P. M. Tucker, Messrs. A. G. Morris, S. Green, M. R. Davies, K. W. Horrabin and L. Crapper.



Mr. and Mrs. Teare



BYRNE—COOKE

An electrical link-up was made when two members of the Board's staff were married to each other a few weeks ago.

We offer our best wishes for a happy future to Mr. Pat Byrne, of Head Office Printing Section, and Miss Chris Cooke, formerly of Work Study at Lister Drive and now near her husband working in the Wages Section, Head Office.

Pat and Chris were married at St. Christopher's Church, Speke.



Mr. and Mrs. Byrne



CONTACT

On other pages

Increase in Electricity Charges	4
Awards to Student Engineers	5
Power Crisis	6
"The Girl from MANWEB 1971"	8
Conference at Chester	12
Long Service Awards at Area 1	14
Caernarvon Conference	16
Runcorn Staff Conference	18
Rhostyllen Dinner Dance	20
Head Office Party	22
Children's Parties	24
Welshpool Staff Party	26
In Retirement	28

Editorial Staff
Keith Baldwin
John F. Perry
Sam Doughty

Our Pressing Problem

Two problems—apparently separate yet fundamentally connected, have confronted the electricity supply industry during the past couple of months.

The first was, of course, the crisis of power supplies which stemmed from the pay-dispute situation in the power stations in December. Not for many years had MANWEB been faced with such a difficult position, and only the most herculean efforts on the part of those closest to our difficulties made it possible for us to maintain even an interrupted supply of electricity.

Not un-naturally, the supply interruptions led to a great public outcry, culminating in the declaration of a national state of emergency. This could hardly have been otherwise, in view of the almost universal inconvenience caused.

The recent announcement of tariff increases—part of a nation-wide pattern—has, however, aroused very little reaction from either the public or the press. True, our achievement in holding our prices stable for more than three years is a creditable one in the present inflationary climate, and in the recent past there have been frequent public warnings by leading electricity industry people, including our own Chairman, that electricity prices would have to be increased following the repeated sharp rises in the price of power station coal. The facts and figures were writ large for all to see, and only the most short-sighted person could have denied the inevitability of increased electricity tariffs.

If, however, we are growing prone to accept frequent large increases in both prices and wages as part of the normal pattern, then we are indeed on dangerous ground.

Continuously-rising prices, and repeated claims for higher wages are, of course, the classic ingredients of any inflationary spiral. Which comes first is often hotly disputed over the bargaining table, and is probably a question to which no cut-and-dried answer exists.

The problem of inflation is, however, one which no single power-group or field of interest can hope to solve independently. It is, none-the-less, of burning importance to all.

There are many instances in history of currencies becoming so debased as not to be worth the paper on which they were printed. These instances have invariably been accompanied by social disaster at home, and degradation abroad.

INCREASE IN ELECTRICITY CHARGES

—after Stable Prices for more than Three Years

AT A MEETING of the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Consultative Council held on January 14th, MANWEB Chairman, Mr. D. G. Dodds explained the Board's proposals for increases in electricity prices arising mainly from substantial increases in the price of coal supplied to the power stations.

* * *

"The Council will recollect that I drew attention last October to the regrettable inevitability of price increases as a result of inflationary cost increases in all industries and temporary deficiencies in some generating plant.

"In the Electricity Supply Industry by far the greatest of these increases has been in the cost of power station coal. Electricity tariffs have been stable since October 1967, but retail prices in general have risen by more than 20% and the cost of power station fuel by 27.8%. In a full trading year, this is now costing MANWEB an additional £10 million, of which half is recovered automatically from industrial consumers. The remaining half should be recovered from domestic and other non-industrial consumers, together with other increases in cost applicable to all consumer classes. Unless this is done, MANWEB, already faced with a trading deficit this year, will face increasing deficits in succeeding years. A decision by the Board is, therefore, necessary as a matter of urgency and will be taken in the light of views expressed by the Consultative Council, the Electricity Council and the Government.

"The situation is not only highly regrettable, but acutely frustrating to the Board, which over the last two decades, has improved capital efficiency (load factor) by 12½%, and has reduced distribution costs by 23% per unit sold. The situation facing Electricity Boards arises, to a significant extent, from the special support given by Electricity Supply to the coal industry at the request of successive Governments. The Board have already represented that the Generating Board should be free to choose the most economic fuel for power stations and that the social cost of securing the contraction of the coal industry should be removed from electricity consumers.

"These formidable increased costs cannot, however, be contained by increased efficiency alone and must be substantially recovered if MANWEB is to remain financially viable. The Board have, nevertheless, decided after con-

sulting the Minister and the Electricity Council, to limit the proposed increases to levels intended to secure this overall viability in the coming year. Whether this intention is fulfilled and the extent to which the price increases will be durable depends on a degree of control over national cost inflation, contrary to all recent experience. Moreover, the continuing imbalance between non-industrial and industrial consumers (whose price rises automatically with the cost of coal) must ultimately be resolved.

"The proposed increases, in broad terms, are as follows :

Domestic

(a) Standard Tariff

The increases proposed are likely to cost the average domestic consumer using about 1,000 units a quarter on the Standard Tariff, an additional 1s. 8d. per week over the year. This represents an increase of 12%, a figure which can be applied to all levels of consumption except the lowest, where the increase is marginally smaller. The cash increase would naturally rise or fall with actual usage. The final rate in the tariff would be increased by 0.207d. to 1.932d.

(b) "Off-Peak" Tariff

Increases proposed for "off-peak" tariffs range from 0.198d. per unit, for installations with an afternoon boost, to 0.15d. for those supplied only under the 8-hour night tariff. In these and other "off-peak" cases, the cash increase per unit is noticeably less than that of 0.207d. in the final rate of the Standard Tariff and represents increases of 20%. The relatively higher percentage increase is because the fuel costs represent a greater proportion of the low prices for "off-peak" supplies compared with the higher prices in standard tariffs.

(c) White Meter Tariff

The increases proposed in the Day rate of 0.232d. per unit and in the night rate of 0.15d. per unit are equivalent in percentage terms respectively to the 12% increase in the Standard Tariff and the 20% in the "Off-Peak" tariffs.

Commercial and Industrial Tariffs (Without automatic fuel adjustment)

Prices in these tariffs would be raised by 0.742d. per unit in the first rate to 0.396d. per unit in

the final rate, these increases amounting to some 17½% in each case.

Farms and Combined Premises

Tariffs covering these cases are designed to cater for a mixture of domestic and commercial characteristics. The first two rates in each tariff, dealing primarily with domestic usage, would be increased by 12%, i.e. by 0.742d. per unit and 0.398d. per unit respectively. The final rate dealing mainly with commercial use would be increased by 0.373d. per unit, the overall increase amounting to between 17% and 18%.

Commercial and Industrial (With automatic fuel adjustment)

Since consumers under these tariffs are subject to automatic price increases when the cost of power station fuel rises, the proposed increases have been restricted to 5% on both kilowatt and unit prices. This is intended to cover increased costs extraneous to fuel.'

The increases will apply to quarterly accounts due for payment on and after 26th April, 1971.

AWARDS, INDENTURES AND CERTIFICATES FOR ENGINEERING TRAINEES

The Annual Conference of MANWEB Engineering Trainees was held in Liverpool on December 21st when presentations of Awards, Indentures and Certificates were made by Mr. J. V. Marshall, Head of Electrical Engineering Department at Birkenhead Technical College.

After congratulating all those who were to receive awards, Mr. Marshall paid tribute to the drive and enthusiasm of Mr. Laurie Broughton, who had now emigrated to Canada.

It is interesting to note that many of the recipients were former craft apprentices with the Board.



Study Prize Award winners, from left to right, back row: Messrs. R. Anderton (Junior), M. Bellis (Junior), J. L. W. Ladner, (Education and Training Officer) and D. J. Edge (Junior). Front row, Senior Awards to Messrs. A. F. Whitelock, R. Lee, A. Bratt, R. A. Kelly and K. Rigby.

Among those present to receive their Final certificates were, from left to right: standing: Messrs. K. Rigby, R. A. Kelly, V. Hughes, C. A. Lynch, R. H. Black, J. E. Ashton, G. Ravenscroft, P. D. Moray, W. J. Hatton and B. P. Shaw. Seated: Messrs. A. F. Whitelock, R. Appleton, A. Bratt, J. V. Marshall (who presented the Awards), R. Maddaford, J. S. Pickard and J. P. Parish.



EMERGENCY!

During the period of the power workers dispute many members of the MANWEB staff worked under heavy pressures for long hours at a stretch. Engineers commercial staff, clerical staff and shop staff were all involved and telephone operators on our switchboards dealt with thousands of calls from customers some abusive and some understanding.

Between December 7th and 14th approximately 10,500,000 consumer hours were lost due to the disconnection programme.

No doubt without the excellent co-operation and economies achieved by Industry, Commerce and in the home, the situation could have been much more serious.

The pictures on this page were taken at Lister Drive, Liverpool and are typical of what went on in offices throughout the Board's area.



All systems go as Mr. G. Haughan (*District Engineer*) stands by, right, while load shedding instructions are broadcast over V.H.F. radio by Mr. A. Eyres (*systems engineer*) and over the telephone by Mr. J. Heaton (*production engineer*). Mr. J. M. Jones (*section engineer*) is kept very busy logging the details.



Assistant section engineers Mr. H. Evans, left, and Mr. G. Cain, centre, discuss future switching arrangements as Mr. R. Owen (*section engineer*) brings the system diagram up to date.



Commercial engineering staff manning the emergency enquiry service. From left to right: Messrs. Jim Ligget, Mal Cooper, Tony Swift and Wilf Cooper. In the left foreground is the control board showing the programme of proposed outages and areas affected with some of the larger consumers ringed enabling advance warnings to be given.

Section engineer, Mr. G. Perkins, centre, gets a welcome 'cuppa' from Mrs. V. Roberts (*clerk*) while showing Mr. S. Ashcroft (*clerk*) the areas affected by load shedding.



Praise from Council

At the January meeting of the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Consultative Council held in Chester, Mr. H. Evans (*Chairman*) praised the work of MANWEB engineers during the power crisis.

He said that they had put in long hours carrying out switching operations necessary to avoid the system collapsing and ensuring that no major hospital in the MANWEB area had been affected.

He noted that some of the Board's engineers had been attacked while they were going about their work and this he regretted because the attackers did not appreciate what the engineers were doing.

The Council placed on record their highest appreciation of the work of the engineers.

Kind Hearts and T.V. Sets

During the power workers dispute in December, public spirited action by some members of our St. Helens District staff brought praise from a Whiston Councillor and many residents of an estate at Clock Face.

Workmen from the Whiston Council were helping some pensioners to move into new homes in Field Lane when it was found that the electricity cable was fractured, cutting off supply to the flats, bungalows and the community centre.

After a call to MANWEB, men soon arrived on site to repair the cable and restore supply. Everyone was relieved to see them as the "work-to-rule" was by then in full swing.

The residents were even more pleased when they discovered that the men had agreed to work overtime in order to complete the job. They did not want to get at cross purposes with their union so they decided to donate their overtime payment towards the cost of a colour TV set for the old folks community room.

Councillor John Quinn said afterwards, "The electricity workers were getting a lot of criticism at the time they mended the cable, but we are very grateful to them. They showed considerable depth of human feeling and they deserve a bouquet for what they have done."

So, bouquets to Mr. Brian Atherton (*assistant section engineer*), Mr. Ron Garvey and Mr. Mike Joyce (*joiners*) and their mates Mr. Keith Davies and Mr. Ray Garvey.

Letters . . .

We have pleasure in reproducing here a few of the many letters received by the Board from customers who appreciated the efforts made by our staff.

Dear Sirs,

We should like to express our thanks to the Management and Staff of Newtown Branch for the help and co-operation we have received during the recent Power Supply work-to-rule.

The advance programme of scheduled cuts that we have been given have been of great value, and has enabled us to minimise considerably, the disruption to our production.

Yours faithfully, (Signed).

Dear Sirs,

We thank you for your letter of the 16th December and feel that we must thank you also for your assistance during what was for you a most difficult period.

That we managed to maintain our production

Man from MANWEB

—the Super-Salesman

Sales representative in the Dee Valley District Mr. Dennis Jones went to a house in the village of Brynteg on the outskirts of Wrexham following up an enquiry for storage heaters. The date was Dec. 8th, 1970 . . . day two of the power dispute.

On his arrival at the house Dennis was horrified to find that the electricity supply had been disconnected as part of the load-shedding programme. Nothing daunted, he knocked on the door and when it was opened by the lady of the house, he announced that he was The Man from MANWEB, then stood back waiting for what was to come next.

He was agreeably surprised when he was invited into the home. Outside the weather was bitterly cold even inside the house it was cold and dark. Dennis was offered a warm drink before the lady of the house realised that she had no means of heating the water, so as an alternative, and a very nice one too, she offered our man a tot of whisky.

Dennis then proceeded to talk about storage heaters and the advantages of an overnight charge at the cheap rates. What else he said we do not know but shortly afterwards he left the house feeling much warmer and overjoyed at the fact that he had sold four storage radiators and a new electric cooker.

We don't know whether to class this as a 'shot in the dark' or term it as 'cold selling' but Dennis had come away with an order worth £200!

levels prior to Christmas, is due in no small part to the efforts you made to alleviate what could have been a most serious position.

Yours faithfully, (Signed)

Dear Mr. Woodall,

On behalf of our Company we would ask you to convey our sincere appreciation to your staff for the consideration we received during the industrial dispute.

We realise that you must have suffered a rather trying period when such intolerance was shown, particularly to your telephonists.

Many thanks, (Signed)

Dear Sir,

Whilst in no way condoning certain electricity workers we would like to record our appreciation of the efforts of those of you who were not involved in the dispute in maintaining adequate supplies.

The policy which your Board pursued in making selective rather than mandatory cuts had enabled us to keep in business through-out the dispute.

Yours faithfully, (Signed)

'The Girl from MANWEB 1971'

NERVE TINGLING FINALS HELD AT HEAD OFFICE.

MISS HILARY PANTING, an attractive 21-year-old bonus clerk supervisor working at Birkenhead in our North Wirral District, was successful in carrying off the title "Girl from MANWEB—1971" when the final round was held at Head Office just before Christmas.

Beauty, deportment, personality, dress sense and speech were the major points considered by the four judges who again had the most difficult task of selecting a winner. Each of the nine finalists scored high marks and the final check on the votes awarded showed that only a few points separated each of the competitors.

Second place went to Miss Susan M. Moss of Southport and in third place was Mrs. Julie Vennard who works at Head Office.

This year was the third time lucky for Hilary who had been placed second in the two previous competitions. She certainly showed great courage in entering again this year.

"When the results were announced" she said later, "the name of Julie Vennard in third place made my heart seem to stop. Then Susan's name was given in second place and I went cold. It seemed then that my watch was ticking away with a sound like Big Ben in the moments which passed before I heard my name being called—as if from an echo chamber—as the winner of the competition.

"My mouth went dry and I started with the shakes and for the next half hour or so as photographs were being taken, I was in a daze."

During her year of office, which started on January 1st, Hilary will act as a hostess and ambassador for the Board at various official functions and exhibitions. She has already fulfilled her first engagement when she visited our Huyton Shop on January 11th to be at the official opening of the Mobile Heating exhibition.

Of the nine girls gathered for the final round, three had been selected from Head Office, and two from each of the three areas.

The judges and their choice, all smiles after a most difficult job had been completed. From left to right, Mr. M. R. Cowan (Chief Commercial Officer), Miss Diana Pulson (Women's Editor, Liverpool Daily Post), Miss Hilary Panting ('The Girl from MANWEB—1971'), Mrs. Doreen Tysall (Patricia Platt Model Agency, Liverpool) and Mr. D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman).





OUR COVER PICTURE

Miss Hilary Panting, winner of the title "The Girl from MANWEB—1971." She works as a supervisor of bonus clerks at Birkenhead and enjoys motor rallying and racing, cooking and dressmaking, playing tennis and relaxing with a good book. She is 21—has brown hair and blue eyes—and is unattached!

... AND IN THIRD PLACE

Mrs. Julie Vennard, who is 24, has been happily married for the past five years. She works as a Revenue clerk at Head Office. Julie is keenly interested in First-Aid work and devotes much of her spare time to this worthwhile pursuit. She is a member of the very successful MANWEB Chester Ladies team. Her other pastimes include horse-riding, reading and dressmaking. An avid supporter of the Liverpool Football Club.



IN SECOND PLACE . . .

Miss Susan M. Moss, aged 20, now works as a demonstrator in our Southport District. Last year Sue was in the final round of the "Girl from MANWEB" competition when at that time she was working in our Crewe District, where her family still live. Now she is a 'bachelor girl' in Southport, having the occasional visit back home to Church Lawton. Sue enjoys meeting people and visiting places. She is interested in fashion and enjoys motor racing, dancing and cooking.



Two who did 'nt quite make the finals, from Area 2/3, Miss Ellen Barlow, left, and Miss Joyce Brassey.



OTHER FINALISTS

From left to right, standing :

Miss SUSAN HOLMES, a receptionist at Head Office. She likes dancing, canoeing and playing badminton.

Miss MARY WILKINSON, the youngest competitor at 17 years of age. She is a trainee punch card operator at Sealand Road. She enjoys reading, dancing and listening to classical music.

Miss EIRLYS ROBERTS is 23 and works as a demonstrator in the Caernarvon District. She is Welsh speaking and her hobbies include shell crafts and camping.

seated :

Miss SUSAN HINDE works as a clerk in the Revenue Section at Head Office and is 21 years-old. She likes to keep up with the fashion scene and enjoys dancing.

Mrs. CHRISTINE FARRELL is 23 and works at our Bootle shop as a demonstrator. She enjoys sailing and driving and for hobbies lists dressmaking and decorating.

Miss LAURWENDA DAVIES is a saleswoman at our Portmadoc shop. She is 23 and is engaged. She was chosen as Merioneth County Hostess at the Investiture of the Prince of Wales in 1969.

Hilary having her sash straightened by Miss Peggy Francis, the retiring "Girl from MANWEB."





Miss BERYL TURNER, an 18-year-old clerk from Marsh Lane was in the Area 1 judging.

Near Misses

From the Area 4 eliminating round came, from left to right, Mrs. JULIE DAVIES, a 26-year-old saleswoman from Pwllheli

Miss MARIAN THOMAS aged 19 and works as a shorthand typist at Blaenau Ffestiniog and Miss SHEILA WILLIAMS, 24, working as a clerk at Caernarvon.



From Head Office. . .

from left to right :

Miss KATHERINE CRITCHLEY, an 18-year-old blue-eyed blonde who works as a clerk in Revenue. Kathy enjoys doing sponsored walks.

Miss EILEEN KEEN, aged 22, also a blonde and working as a clerk in Revenue. She likes travelling.

Miss ELAINE DUNN is sweet sixteen and is employed as a punch card operator. She likes dancing, football and horseback riding.

Miss WENDY GRIFFITHS, is a punch card operator, is 17 years old and would like to travel abroad.

Miss PATRICIA JONES is 18 years of age and is engaged. She too works as a punch card operator and is very keen on athletics.

Miss DOREEN PEERS has travelled in Belgium, Holland and France. She is just 18 and is a punch card operator who likes dancing.

Miss PAULA ROSKAM, the last of our punch card operators, is 17 years of age. She enjoys driving and most sports. She also dances.

Miss CAROL MILNES is 19 and works as a clerk in Revenue. She is an Assistant Guider and a member of the Neston Young Conservatives.

Miss MARGARET FEWSTER, another blue-eyed blonde who works as an Accounts clerk. She is 22 and likes being on the move—driving, swimming and dancing.



SHERIFF OF CHESTER AT STAFF MEETING



Deep concentration on the 'top table' as Mr. Trimble delivers his address. From left to right: Messrs. M. M. Parker (Secretary), D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman), P. Pocklington (guest speaker), C. Gibson (Sheriff of Chester) and D. Keeling (Vice Chairman No. 11 L.A.C.).

AFTER AN excellent meal in the Head Office Restaurant, at Sealand Road, Chester, the annual employees meeting for Area 2/3 and Chester District staff, was opened by the Area Manager, Mr. J. W. Trimble.

MANWEB had had a record good year thanks to the efforts of the staff and management and despite the restrictive economic climate. New sales records had been set up for energy appliances and contracting.

Two increases in the price of coal had already been absorbed by the supply industry, but the imminent third increase promised by the Coal Board would have to be passed on to the consumer in the form of dearer electricity. This was very frustrating in the light of the successful efforts made by MANWEB in the last few years to keep down Board costs.

Turning to the re-organisation, Mr. Trimble said that he had heard criticism that nothing had happened in the last 12 months. This he utterly refuted. The new building had only been completed for 11 months, already the Head Office staff from Liverpool had moved in, so had Area 2/3 staff, together with most of Area 1 and Area 4—800 staff in all. New

designations had been given to 650 people in the new organisation, 500 in the new building and 150 of the senior district staff. This represented a large amount of work which he likened to a huge jigsaw puzzle, fitting the right person into the right job.

In addition the work done with the aid of the computer was increasing, for example, one quarter's billing had been completed for Area 1 consumers.

Finally Mr. Trimble said that nobody liked change but it was necessary, a quotation he had seen recently stated "There is no sadder obituary on the pages of time than 'we've always done it this way'".

The Area Manager then introduced Mr. D. G. Gwyn, the MANWEB Deputy Chairman, who presented the safe driving awards to some of the Chester safe drivers, who were able to attend the meeting.

The Sheriff of Chester, Mr. Cyril Gibson—also an engineer with MANWEB—was to introduce the guest speaker. Before doing so he had a few words for the Chester District Staff who may be moving to Wrexham in the proposed merger of Wrexham and Chester Districts, to form the new Dee Valley

☛ A section of the audience at the staff meeting held in Chester.



District. He was posted to Rhostyllen in 1963, but shortly would be returning to Chester. He went there with some trepidation to join his new Welsh colleagues, but soon found that he need not have had any misgivings as the seven years he had spent there were his happiest in the industry.

Mr. Gibson then introduced Mr. Peter Pocklington, F.L.A., Chester City Librarian, whose talk was entitled "The Lighter Side of Being a Librarian."

Initially Mr. Pocklington told his audience that he wanted to join the Civil Service, but at the time there was a waiting list so he applied for, and was successful in obtaining a position which he thought would be temporary, with Southend-on-Sea Library. He started on a somewhat ominous day, April 1st!

As he patrolled the avenues of books, on his first day he was accosted by the only other young man in the library, whose advice was 'get out quick.'

Mr. Pocklington ignored this despite the dictatorial rule of a godlike chief and deputy. His adviser however did move on shortly afterwards leaving him the only young man amongst 40 young women. These young ladies were addressed by surnames only, and were virtually slave labour. After promotion, he picked the best of them and she became his wife.

He stayed in the Library service, and after university study he moved to various appointments, each having some amusing incident which he related. Finally he was appointed as Chester City Librarian in 1965. He closed his entertaining talk by saying he hoped he had dispelled the public image of a bespectacled sexless librarian.



"Why are we waiting" seems to be the cry from the left as their colleagues on the right start on their soup!

Mr. R. D. Thomas the Area Secretary thanked Mr. Pocklington, and Mr. Trimble then invited questions from the floor in the open forum.

These ranged from whether the 28th of December was to be an official day off to "Have the Board any objection to ladies wearing trouser suits?" Dealing with the latter question Mr. Trimble said he thought it would be a shame, but there was no real objection.

There were other questions on decimalisation for meter reading and collecting staff, queues in the restaurant at lunch time, and wrong prices on leaflets and display material—a point which Mr. M. M. Parker the Board Secretary and Solicitor promised to examine.

Answering the final question—whether the Board were prepared to pay bank charges for staff being paid through the bank—Mr. Trimble said he thought this was something the individual had to bear.

There being no more questions from the floor Mr. Trimble thanked the panel and closed the meeting.

CROSSWORD.

Solution and Prizewinners

From the very few entries received for our Christmas Crossword puzzle, this proved to be rather difficult for most of our regulars. No doubt our compiler, Mr. F. G. Lott, will be pleased at being able to stump so many. However, we did get our three winners and as promised, prizes of £2 each will be sent to Mr. F. Owen (Legal—Head Office), Mrs. N. Udall (wife of Mr. B. G. Udall, Engineering Technical—Head

Office) and Mr. T. Hawes (son of Mr. J. Hawes—Head Office, now retired).

Solution: Across. 1 Elegant. 5 Replies. 9 Eight. 10 Pimpernel. 11 Rare Event. 12 Icen. 13 Windscreen Wiper. 16 Roget's Thesaurus. 20 Geese. 21 Cigarette. 23 Astrolabe. 24 Clare. 25 Endmost. 26 Nonplus. **Down.** 1 Eyebrow. 2 Elgar. 3 Anthems. 4 Top Secret. 5 Remit. 6 Preview. 7 Innkeeper. 8 Soldier. 14 Neglected. 15 Evergreen. 16 Re grate. 17 Tremolo. 18 African. 19 Stereos. 21 Chant. 22 Trail.

WANTED

Pony trap and harness

Contact :

Mr. Harry Davies,
Warrington District,
Home Telephone :
ARDLY 329



Some of the Area 1 staff with their wives as they listen to the Chairman's remarks.



An Award for Miss E. M. Roberts.

Final Ceremony for Area 1 Staff

ONE OF THE last official duties carried out by Mr. H. Telfer in his capacity as Manager of the former Area 1 was to preside at a ceremony held in Liverpool in mid-December when Long Service Awards were presented to members of the Area staff.

Mr. Telfer, now a Group Manager, said that this family gathering was the last occasion on which such a group would get together to pay tribute to the long and loyal service given to the Industry by members of the MANWEB staff. Some 65 people who were to receive awards had a combined total service amounting to nearly 2,000 years.

Expressing his pleasure at seeing so many of the District Officers present as well as members of the No. 1 and No. 4 Local Advisory Committees, Mr. Telfer then went on to welcome the Chairman, Mr. D. G. Dodds who was to present the awards.

After the tumult and shouting of the first week of the power dispute, Mr. Dodds said how pleasant it was to come to such a gathering when he could meet not only the staff but also their wives and families and pass on the Board's appreciation to them.

He expressed the Board's real concern for the staff even during periods of strife as experienced in the recent dispute. He said that we had shown commendable examples to other industries in the care and concern for all employees.

He went on to say he was truly sorry that many members of the staff had recently been through an experience with the public whose condemnation, in the main, was of the wrong people.

"In an industry like ours," he went on, "it is difficult but necessary to reconcile equity with order.

"It will take time for us to recover the public repute we had before the troubles began, but at the end of the day, this is what we live by . . . public repute. If people don't buy what we have, then jobs are at stake."

Mr. Dodds then continued, "If we can't live in partnership, we can't live at all. We are utterly interdependent."

He concluded by offering his sincere thanks to every member of the staff who took the backlash from some members of the public during the dispute.

(continued opposite)

Staff and their families at the annual ceremony held to present Long Service Awards in Area 1.



Long Service Awards

—Area 1

45 Years: Area Office: Messrs. A. Baker (*senior clerical assistant*), A. Brown (*meter mechanic*) and J. Evans (*3rd assistant engineer*). **Central District:** Messrs. L. W. Oliver (*clerk*), C. S. Payne (*section engineer*) and H. Walker (*foreman installation inspector*). **North District:** Mr. G. Harrison (*elec.*).

35 Years: Area Office: Miss E. M. Roberts (*higher clerical assistant*). Messrs. J. Doyle (*ch/hand assembler*), R. J. Ellis (*ch/hand elec.*), J. Fishwick (*4th assistant engineer*), E. A. Floyd (*assembler*), E. Hare (*meter reader*), E. V. Harrison (*salesman*), C. J. K. Jones (*meter tester's assistant*), T. W. Jones (*administrative assistant-Welfare*), J. M. Moore (*4th assistant engineer*), G. H. Morton (*ch/hand fitter*), J. Pittaway (*assembler*) and E. J. Webb (*print room assistant*). **Central District:** Messrs. T. Bradley (*installation inspector*) and G. A. Taylor (*electrician*). **North District:** Messrs. A. Connor (*fitter, electrical*) and L. J. Murphy (*senior higher clerical assistant*). **South District:** Messrs. R. H. C. Adams (*higher clerical assistant*), F. Carney (*elec.*), J. Gonzales (*records draughtsman*) and E. W.

McDonnell (*shop supervisor*). **Southport District:** Mr. E. H. Berry (*shift electrician*).

25 Years: Area Office: Miss N. Winstanley (*clerk*). Messrs. H. Andrews (*assembler*), T. Barber (*meter reader*), T. J. Bradshaw (*ch/hand meter reader/coll*), R. Froggatt (*assembler*), R. W. Gilchrist (*meter tester's assistant*), J. E. Kneen (*jointer's mate*) and J. H. Pritchard (*meter reader/collector*). **Central District:** Messrs. H. Beesley (*fitter's mate*), W. Benson (*fitter's mate*), R. Collins (*meter fitter*), J. T. Cummings (*District Engineer—retired*), R. Davis (*jointer*), E. Dolan (*ch/hand elec.*), J. Duffy (*labourer*), J. Elliott (*messenger*), L. Jacobs (*meter fitter*), E. Owens (*installation inspector*) and C. H. Thompson (*assistant shop supervisor*). **North District:** Messrs. S. Boyle (*meter fitter*), G. J. Hughes (*installation inspector*), G. Large (*labourer*), S. Paul (*driver*) and T. Timson (*meter fitter*). **South District:** Mrs. M. Evans (*clerk*), Mrs. E. M. Wareing (*shorthand typist*). Messrs. G. Butter (*installation inspector*), R. E. D. Cumpstey (*assistant section engineer*), J. Dunn (*store keeper assistant*), J. H. Duvall (*ch/hand storekeeper*), V. D. J. Heard (*section engineer*), P. Houghton (*meter fitter*), E. W. Jones (*fitter's mate*), J. Sharp (*jointer's mate*) and G. Young (*meter fitter*). **Southport District:** Mr. R. C. Linaker (*fitter's mate*).

Mrs. M. Evans



Mr. Dodds presents Awards to

Mrs. E. M. Wareing



Miss N. Winstanley



Season of Goodwill

Tragedy struck at two families of MANWEB employees just before Christmas in almost identical cases.

Both involved severe fires at their homes in which a considerable amount of damage was done to the furniture and personal possessions, but fortunately nobody suffered any physical hurt.

In Chester, the home of Mr. Arnold Jackson, an electrical fitter on the maintenance staff at Head Office, was completely

burnt out, while on Christmas Eve in Warrington, furniture and possessions were destroyed by fire in the home of Mr. Tom Collins, a meter reader/collector in the District.

It is at times like this that ready cash comes in very useful, and so sympathetic staff quickly subscribed to a fund to help the families.

Donations of £50 each was also made to the families from the Manual Workers' Benevolent Fund.

Members of the Chester Lions

Club were also quickly on hand to help out the Jackson family by clothing each of his five children. Another gift of cash came from the Top Rank Club in Chester.

The Board's staff at Warrington, in addition to their cash donations, helped the Collins family to move what was left of their furniture to a new flat made available by a thoughtful Warrington Council.

Christmas was made much brighter than it would have been for both families thanks to the wonderful generosity of people.



Mr. K. Helliwell.

Successful District Conference at Caernarvon



Mr. L. J. Scudamore.

“FROM START to finish the productivity schemes are a gigantic consultation exercise.”

With these words Mr. L. J. Scudamore, the Board's Management Services Officer, guest speaker at Caernarvon District Employees' Conference, organised recently by No. 18 L.A.C., and held at a Caernarvon hotel, summed up the relationship between Joint Consultation and productivity payment.

Mr. Scudamore outlined the progress which had been made throughout the MANWEB area since work first began on the introduction of productivity payment schemes. Work study teams, he said, were moving into the last of the MANWEB Districts to be involved, but schemes took anything from four to six months to complete and introduce.

The work study staffs had been drawn from a very wide cross-section of the MANWEB organisation, he added, and went on to urge his listeners: “Be patient. They cannot do everything at once, and you

can help us speed the introduction of the schemes by helping the work study teams as much as possible.”

The Conference was opened with a welcome from Mr. K. Helliwell (*Area Manager*), and this was followed by a report on the work of the L.A.C. by Mr. E. Griffiths (*Committee Secretary*). Mr. Helliwell then outlined the progress made by Area 4 during 1969/70, while another high-spot of the evening was the presentation of Safe Driving awards to members of the District staff who had achieved accident free records.

A lively and informative Open Forum included questions on subjects ranging from after-sales service on appliances, canteen facilities at Caernarvon District office, accountancy methods relating to hire purchase payments, and the effects on the staff of introducing various productivity payments schemes, and of re-organisation.

The Committee's Annual Report shows that during the year attention was given to such widely

Some of our staff who attended the Caernarvon Conference ready to feed the 'inner man.'





Mr. D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman), centre, presenting Safe Driving Awards to members of the District staff.

diverse subjects as pay advice slips, arrangements for the Investiture, safety sampling, the Manual Workers' Benevolent Society, summer schools, storekeeping methods, and the effects of re-organisation.

Safe Driving Awards

Bar to 15-Year Brooch : Mr. J. E. Butterworth (*Blaenau Ffestiniog*) and Messrs. E. Morris and A. M. Tyler (*Caernarvon*).

15-Year Brooch : Mr. I. Williams (*Bangor*).

Bar to 10-Year Medal : Mr. G. Davies (*Bangor*), Messrs. D. G. Jones and J. T. Jones (*Blaenau Ffestiniog*), Messrs. W. J. Hunt, W. T. Jones, R. I. Morris and W. H. Morris (*Caernarvon*), Messrs. J. S. Jones, R. E. Owen, G. W. Roberts and J. C. Williams (*Pwllheli*).

10-Year Medal : Mr. C. G. Williams (*Central Stores*), Messrs. E. Jones and R. Williams (*Pwllheli*).

Bar to 5-Year Medal : Messrs. W. K. Hall, C. Hughes, E. Jones, H. I. Williams and J. D. Williams (*Bangor*). Messrs. O. Griffiths and T. L. Jones (*Blaenau Ffestiniog*). Messrs. O. Edwards, E. Phillips and A. K. Richardson (*Caernarvon*), and Mr. G. Evans (*Central Stores*).

5-Year Medal : Mr. R. D. Jones (*Blaenau Ffestiniog*), Messrs. W. B. Lloyd and R. J. Williams (*Caernarvon*) and Mr. L. Jones (*Pwllheli*).

Diploma : Mr. A. E. Hewitt (*Bangor*), Messrs. A. C. Humphreys, Glyn Jones, Gwyn Jones and G. M. Williams (*Blaenau Ffestiniog*), Messrs. E. Gould, W. Griffiths, J. C. Jones, T. W. Jones, W. J. Jones, E. H. Williams, O. C. Williams and F. Williams (*Caernarvon*), Messrs. A. Jones and H. W. Roberts (*Pwllheli*).

Exemption Certificate : Mr. R. D. Jones (*Caernarvon*).

Big Cat Caption Competition

Entries for this competition, which first appeared in the Christmas issue of *Contact*, were very few in number and in the humble opinions of the Editorial staff, the captions submitted did not show much ingenuity or bring even a ghost of a smile to our faces.

So, we have decided to continue the competition for another month. Have a good look at the

picture on the right, get your grey matter working and let us have some really good—and funny—captions to go with the picture.

Send them to *The Editor, Contact, MANWEB, Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.*

We keep our original offer open for £1 each for the best three received by **February 12th, 1971.**



RUNCORN STAFF ANNUAL MEETING



MANWEB Chairman, Mr. D. G. Dodds, *extreme right*, with members of the No. 8 L.A.C. at their annual Meeting. *From the left* are Messrs. D. W. Barnes, G. H. Dodd, P. B. Henderson, R. D. Thomas and R. G. Monk.

'The Way Ahead' outlined by MANWEB Chairman

IT WAS rather surprising that in spite of the many rumours and wild speculation concerning jobs and re-organisation in the Runcorn District that less than 40 per cent. of the total labour force took the trouble to go along to the annual staff meeting in order to get clear and concise answers to their questions and at the same time hear from the Chairman of the Board regarding our plans for the future. Still, staff interest seems to be growing as the attendance was slightly better than last year's.

After an excellent dinner—provided free—Mr. J. W. Trimble (*Manager Area 2/3*) gave a brief report on the work carried out by the No. 8 Local Advisory Committee during the year under review. He mentioned that since he became Chairman of the Committee last April, he had been very impressed by the contributions made by both sides, adding that it was generally agreed that poor communications were often the cause of breakdowns in negotiations. He then expressed his view that in the electricity supply industry communications were very good, but members of the staff should be more aware of the negotiating machinery available to them.

He then went on to quote some figures which showed that the Board had enjoyed a record year and proved that we were all engaged in 'big business.'

The Way Ahead

Then Mr. D. G. Dodds (*Chairman*) rose to address a few remarks to the gathering. He referred to the re-organisation of the Board and to work study programmes as some of the changes taking place which produced many practical problems. He emphasised that in all respects changes were gradual in order to help us emerge as a more efficient organisation, pointing out that at times there would be a slight dip in the graph, but this was inevitable.

"It is easier to talk of ten years time rather than of tomorrow," he went on. "In between, things

can zig-zag. Today, more than at any other time, electricity is faced with fierce competition from other fuels, nuclear power being the balancing factor."

He said that we were not a monopoly and could not survive unless we stayed in business. "We are a publicly-owned commercial enterprise," he commented.

"In ten years time, on information I have now," went on Mr. Dodds, "I can forecast that coal-fired power stations, which are expensive to run, will be on the way out and nuclear and oil stations will be on the increase. However, for the next twenty years we shall still be using a great deal of coal."

He then talked a little of the price of coal, explaining the true meaning and scale of the recent price increases which were costing MANWEB £5 million extra on top of the £3½ million already being borne.

He said that representation was being made to the Government in line with the argument that the coal industry was a declining industry, but each successive Government has had to "cushion" the effect of the run down. Mr. Dodds then went on to praise Lord Robens, the Chairman of the National Coal Board, for the efforts he was making in the handling of a very difficult job.

Continuing his comments on the coal problems, Mr. Dodds said that if the electricity industry had continually to bear the cost of increased coal prices, then people would use other fuels and so we would have to stop buying coal.

"This stops freedom of choice in industry and in the home," he said, "the social cost of running down the coal industry should not be solely placed on the electricity supply industry."

He informed his audience that the generating board were now doing all that they could to bring other fuels into their power stations. Already one



Guest speaker, Miss Collins with Mr. E. J. Lollar (Management Adviser) and Mr. J. Fareham (retired Area Engineer).

station was using natural gas and was the second biggest consumer of that product.

He said that we should burn more oil with stations built near refineries and that we were now moving from a coal based economy to a nuclear based economy, with natural gas thrown in.

Mr. Dodds closed his remarks by saying that he had tried to give a birds eye view of some of the fundamental points of the way ahead, and that all staff should play their part to maintain our cutting edge in the field of hard competition. As MANWEB must succeed, so must the C.E.G.B. with their own technical problems.

Helping Others

The next guest speaker on the programme was Miss M. L. Collins, the Social Development Officer for Runcorn Development Corporation, who gave a very enlightening discourse telling what social development is trying to achieve in Runcorn New Town. She explained that she and her colleagues had to try to interpret the needs of the community in their new surroundings.

They too had to look ahead to the great problems which lay before them with the many changes taking place in planning concepts and fashion changes, as the attitudes of the people changed with the times.

New people coming into the Town had to be carefully integrated with those already there. Miss

Collins maintained that the social front was a good starting place for this integration.

She talked of new schools being built with sports facilities which could be used by other groups out of school hours. They were now co-operating with the Council to make a contribution to provide swimming pools, a sports hall, all-weather tennis courts and a social area or hall which could be used by both young and old in the New Town. Plans were even going ahead for sauna baths, a gymnasium and squash courts. This was the beginning and it was hoped that other such schemes would follow.

The meeting concluded with an Open Forum session when a number of questions, written and verbal, were put to management. The field covered book presentations to pensioners, stores and drivers,



Mr. J. Goode asks a question during the Open Forum session.

salary structure for shorthand typists, staff replacements, re-deployment schemes and the prospect of the Government selling off our shops.

One question which was fully appreciated by everyone present was phrased, "Should there be a day of prayer for the Industry?"

Mr. Trimble replied that he did not think the industry really needed it but if anyone felt strongly about it and thought it necessary then they should go ahead and do it, but he added a rider that first we should all make sure of our own efforts to keep the industry on top!

Some serious and others amused during the Runcorn Staff Conference.



Dinner Dance at Wrexham

Our cameraman was kept very busy at the staff Dinner Dance held at the Memorial Hall, Wrexham just before Christmas. The pictures on these pages show some of the happy throng.

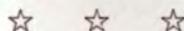




Great Party Night at Head Office

The first Christmas Show to be held at the new Head Office was an outstanding success. The evening opened with 'roll-a-penny' side shows until the excellent buffet meal when everyone ate their fill. Then followed some wonderful entertainment put on by members of the staff—our pictures on these pages show them in action.

The evening ended with a dance and 300 happy people—all members of the MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club—in one accord in voting it a "Great Party Night."



Above: Our charming trio of sexy secretaries in the middle of their song and walk-around act. *From left to right:* Carol George, Sylvia Griffiths and Joyce Hughes, all from the Financial Department.

Centre, from left to right: Joan Beam who gave a fine 'dramatic' recitation—with actions! Next we see John Fletcher who nearly brought the house down with his fiery sermon and finally is Les Gilpin in 'good voice'—very pleasing on the ear.

Below: The Dancing Girls—and such timing! *From left to right:* Sue Holmes, Joan Whatling, Ann Parry, Pat Williams and Pat Dando.





Above : Some of the audience fully captivated during the show.

Centre left : Mr. Alan Price encourages his 'willing volunteer' during his most interesting act in which he used his powers of extra-sensory perception.

Middle : The inimitable Gren Roberts—the bard of the Board.

Right : The trio who accompanied the Glee Club, Ken Wynne (*drums*), Geoff Newnes (*bass*) and Syd Hanson (*pianist*).

Bottom : Mr. Emyr James seems to hold the voices in his expressive hands as he conducts the Glee Club whose singing delighted the audience.





Santa and his 'helpers,' from left to right : Frances Doyle, Carol Cuthel, Pat Dando, Joan Whatling, Sue Holmes, Santa (W.A.G.), Ann Parry, Cora Roberts, June Allen and Jean Whittle.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTIES

at Head Office..

The restaurant at Sealand Road reverberated with the happy sounds from some 300 youngsters who went along to the Christmas Party, organised by the Committee of the MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club.

From a lively start to a tired finish, things were kept swinging with games, a puppet theatre, eats, singing and the arrival of Santa.

◀ Candid camera shots of some of the youngsters.



Our cameraman distracts the attention of some of the youngster during the 'tuck-in.'





.. Rhostyllen ..

where nearly 100 youngsters enjoyed their party organised by members of the Rhostyllen Sports and Social Club.

.. Aberystwyth ..

with our picture showing some of the 70-odd children who had a visit from Santa.

and Birkenhead

where the children, clutching their presents got together with Santa—he is somewhere in the middle!



Staff Party at Welshpool



Caught by the camera, from left to right : Mr. Ken Williams, Mrs. E Davies, Mr. Fred Davies and Mr. Jack Preece.



Keith Morris and Sid Warburton take a breather from the fun and games.



"May I have the next dance" seems to be the request of Mr. Denzil Ellis.



A happy group, from left to right : Mr. Ron Pierce, Mrs. Pierce, Mr. Richard Newby, Mr. Sid Warburton, Miss Nita Bebb, Mrs. Ellis, Mr. Denzil Ellis and Mrs. W. Morris (wife of Mr. Bill Morris our Welshpool 'Contact' Correspondent).

NORTHWICH EMPLOYEES' CONFERENCE

"It is only too easy for people to blame others for accidents. Workers can blame management, and managements can blame workers, but anyone tempted to blame someone else should bear in mind that no one in his right mind sets out to have an accident!"

So said Mr. D. Hudson (*Regional Safety Officer*), when acting as guest speaker at the Northwich District Annual Employees' Conference, organised recently by No. 9 L.A.C.

"The vast majority of accidents happen in very similar ways, and in MANWEB the biggest single cause of accidents is the 'lifting and handling' category" continued Mr. Hudson.

"Every day people hurt their backs lifting things up, or hurt their hands carrying things through doorways, or hurt their feet by dropping things on them.

"If these causes could be eliminated, then our accidents would at once drop by one-third."

It was the responsibility of everyone—management and workers alike—to remove hazards and to make every job as safe as possible, continued Mr. Hudson.

RAINY DAYS AHEAD!

FROM TIME to time notices go up on the boards urging us to save some of our money. Quite often the immediate comment is "What money?" but others think about that rainy day which can come into everyone's life and look further into the matter.

They soon find that on contacting the Administrative Officer in their District or the Welfare Section at Head Office, information is offered on the numerous ways of setting aside a little nestegg. It can be done the easy way too by having it deducted at the source where it doesn't hurt so much!

For those already saving—and gathering interest—may be pleased to hear that we learned recently from Sir Robert Bellinger, G.B.E., Chairman of the National Savings Committee, that in the year ended 31st March 1970, no less than £4,566,000 was saved by some 60,600 employees in the electricity industry through National Savings schemes.

From these figures, those members of our staff who have not yet made up their minds about savings will see that if they do start, they will be joining quite a large number of people with an appreciable amount of money to their names.

Sir Norman Elliott, Chairman of The Electricity Council, writes in a letter addressed to our own

He warned his listeners that many people thought that because they had always done a job in a certain way—and had "got away with it"—it did not follow that they would not ultimately suffer for adopting the wrong methods. Injury damage could be cumulative, and as we grew older our body's capacity to repair damage done little by little was steadily reduced.

There were, he said, some situations in which protective clothing and equipment were the only protection against marginal hazards, and in these circumstances the proper use of such items as goggles rubber gloves and protective footwear was essential.

Chairman for the evening was Mr. J. W. Trimble (*Area 2/3 Manager*). During the course of his report on the year's work Mr. Trimble spoke of the value of the advisory machinery and urged employees to get in touch with their representatives if they had anything to raise.

The Open Forum session which concluded the meeting dealt with a wide range of subjects, including the use of computers, meter reading, and the structure of the L.A.C. following re-organisation.

Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, that this sum reflects the savings for the industry as a whole and that MANWEB has played its full part in this achievement.

"The record shows," he writes, "that this has been a sustained effort: for ever since a recommendation in support of the promotion and development of National Savings in this Industry was made in 1949 by the N.J.A.C., the number of savers and the amount saved has gone steadily upwards."

He concludes by offering his congratulations to all the voluntary workers within the Board who have given their aid unstintingly in order to ensure the success of this Scheme which has benefited so many of our employees.

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of the following members of our staff

Mr. Ralph Clayton, aged 62, an electrical fitter in our Northwich District who died after a severe illness.

Mr. William Isherwood, a driver in the St. Helens District, died on January 3rd.

We extend our sympathy to their relatives.

'KEEPING IN TOUCH'—After Retirement

A PROGRESS REPORT FROM

Mr. W. W. HUGHES

THIS IS A sequel to a note published in the June 1970 "Contact" in which I introduced myself as a recently retired Head Office Assistant Secretary accredited by the Board to act as an informal personal link with retired staff.

As was to be expected, this has brought me into touch with several former MANWEB personalities—and it has occurred to me that quite a number of "Contact" readers might like to know how their former MANWEB friends are going on in retirement. Accordingly I propose to ask the Editor occasionally to find room for a few notes I will send in after being in touch with some of the widely known "characters."

Several of them have, in fact, recently met each other and their "successors."

In a "Retired Members News Page" the November "Contact" reported a visit to the new Head Office by some retired North Wirral staff accompanied by present District Officers.

There has since been a Head Office visitation by another retired group—at the end of November, when the Board invited all retired management staff to Sealand Road. For various reasons a number were unable to accept the invitation for the date arranged, but a dozen of us were luckier and were made very welcome by the Chairman and Deputy and all the staff we met.

Mr. Pegg was one of those who could not be there in person. But he was certainly there in spirit—and, indeed, in voice. Earlier in the day he tape-recorded

an admirably worded message to all who might be present. It was collected from him at home and brought to Sealand Road in time to be reproduced and add greatly to the gathering's enjoyment of the occasion.

The longest journey to Sealand Road was made by Mr. "Joe" Taylor, formerly Head Office Chief Purchasing Officer and then Area 1 Manager before retiring in 1968 to live in Kent. On behalf of the visitors he seconded Mr. "Joe" Kellett's response to Messrs. Dodds' and Gwyn's words of welcome.

An apology for not being able to make a similarly long journey (from Sussex) came from Mr. Gilchrist, Chief Commercial Officer from 1948 to 1960. He was kept away by a prior engagement arising from one of the several activities which are keeping his retirement happily and helpfully occupied.

However, retired Commercial staff were well represented by Messrs. Kellett (*Deputy C.C.O. until becoming Area 3 Manager*), Forster (*former Commercial Officer, Area 1*), Gravett (*once Area 3 Commercial Officer and then a Head Office Assistant C.C.O.*) and Smith (*formerly Area 4 Commercial Officer and later a Head Office Assistant C.C.O.*).

Mr. Bennett (*Area 3 Accountant until his retirement in 1961*) was the only man from the finance side who could make the trip and Mr. Fareham (*Area 2/3 Engineer till late 1969*) the sole engineer.

Retired District Management was represented by Messrs. Hegan (*Crewe*), Griffiths (*Caernarvon*) and J. L. Williams (*Oswestry*).

What secretarial characters look like in retirement was demonstrated by Mr. Broadfoot (*Area 4 Secretary until he retired nearly nine years ago*) and me—W. W. H.

DECIMAL CURRENCY QUIZ

In our first Decimal Currency Quiz we were very pleased with the number of all-correct entries received, despite our 'deliberate mistake.' Then we decided to set you a really tough one to see how many of our readers were really prepared for "D Day."

Well, very few of you tried to win one of the 200p prizes, and of the few, only two turned out all-correct answers—and both came from our Northgate Street shop in Chester. So we send our

congratulations—and the prizes—to Mr. H. Thomas (*cashier*) and Mr. S. Rowland (*salesman*).

In most of the other entries only two questions seemed to give trouble . . .

No. 7—What colour ink is recommended for cheque conversion?

—Answer: A different colour from the original

No. 10—What is the approximate relationship between 33½p and a ¼lb box of chocolates?—Answer:

The same weight.

Due to the pressure on space in this issue of "Contact" a number of retirement pictures and stories have had to be held over for our next issue.