

CONTACT

July 1972

The Prizewinners
(see page 134)



The Girl from Manweb 1973

WHEN we first introduced our "Girl from MANWEB" competition way back in 1968, there were those who suggested that Personality Girls might be all very well for some firms . . . but for the sober, responsible, electricity supply industry . . . well . . . !

But imitation, they say, is the most sincere form of flattery, and since then quite a few other Area Boards have come along with their "Miss Electricity" or "Miss Central Heating" contests . . . but by now we are looking for the sixth charming and talented young lady to wear the "Girl from MANWEB" sash.

There are, of course, a number of differences between our contest and the average beauty competition.

Most competition winners collect their prize money, appear briefly in glamorous newspaper pictures—and are never heard of again.

But the "Girl from MANWEB" has a year of office which is studded with interesting and informative social and business dates, carrying the flag for the Board at gatherings of various kinds, with plenty of opportunity to achieve that much-quoted ambition of many young people—"to meet lots of interesting people."

The previous holders of the title, without exception, have done MANWEB proud—and one or two have said they wouldn't mind having the job on a permanent basis. We have had a typing pool supervisor, a demonstrator, and young ladies doing a variety of clerical jobs, so the field is absolutely wide open.

Entry is free—all you need is an entry form obtainable from *The Editor*, "Contact," MANWEB, Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR (Internal telephones 2164/2166/2167). Photographs will not be required. Districts and Departments may have as many entrants as they wish.



Preliminary judging will be arranged to bring forward one girl from each of the three Groups and three girls from Head Office staff. *These numbers are based on proportional representation.*

The six finalists will then be invited to Head Office towards the end of this year when "The Girl from MANWEB—1973" will be chosen.

The judges throughout the competition will be looking for girls with charm, personality, beauty, dress sense, clear speech and deportment. The entrant must of course work for MANWEB, she may be married or single, but **must be** over 18 years of age.

The girl chosen as the winner will receive a prize of £50. The runner-up will receive £25 and for the girl in third place there will be £15. Each of the losing finalists will receive £10. Even the sponsor of the winning girl will get £5 so there are some excellent prizes to be won.

Most important—please make a note—the closing date for entries is November 1st, 1972.

So don't delay—send for your entry forms now!



CONTACT

Vol. 24 No. 7

July 1972

On other pages

Prize Day for Apprentices	132
Safe Drivers at Rhostyllen	135
New Look for Liverpool School Meals	136
Sports pages	138
New Homes for Old	140
Lawn Care	142
Questions in the House	144
Lighting for Living	145
Safe Drivers at Northwich	147
Pension Scheme	148
Pensioners' Trip	150
Retirements	151
MANWEB Advertisement	152

Editorial Staff

Keith Baldwin
John F. Perry
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EDITORIAL

The Generation Gap

ONE of today's "in" phrases, bandied about as though parents and children lived on separate planets, is "The Generation Gap."

Admittedly the current generation of young people differ superficially from the last three or four crops, but the differences are only skin-deep, resulting probably from differing historical circumstances.

The long hair sported by many young men of today may be enough to give the shudders to their short-back-and-sides fathers and grandfathers. But after all, the fathers and grandfathers didn't have much say in the matter—the drill sergeant saw to that!

In any case, the young men will have their hair cut in time. What would look more ridiculous than a bald head with a shoulder-length fringe?

In other ways, also, the present younger generation may be considered by many to be rejecting some of the sacred cows of yesterday, but most observers of Mother India would probably whole-heartedly agree that sacred cows can be an unbearable drag on progress.

In not accepting some of the values of their parents, today's youngsters prove one thing only—that they are just the same as any other rising generation, impatient with red tape and outworn convention, and eager to find the true values of life as they see them.

Given reasonable circumstances, today's young people are just as industrious and socially-conscious as those of any other age. In this number of *Contact* we report on the prize-day ceremony at MANWEB's own apprentice "academy" at Hoylake, and there is no doubt that Mr. Helliwell, our Group Manager who went along to present the awards, would see little fundamental difference in his audience and his fellow-apprentices of many years ago.

Generation differences or not, we all have reason to be grateful that our rising youngsters appear likely to be spared the "character-forming" lessons taught by bombs and bullets, and to have a more than even chance of making a more positive contribution to the future than that made possible by names carved on local war memorials!



Prize Day Audience in Happy Mood



Craftsmen of the future leave Hoylake

*" Technical Studies
. . . . can bring rewards "*

—Mr. Helliwell



Mrs. Helliwell congratulates prizewinner Stephen Landrum.

AN APPRENTICE of long standing who had well and truly proved himself during his lifetime of work in the electricity supply industry, was the very popular guest speaker at the 16th annual prizegiving ceremony at our Apprentice Training Centre at Hoylake recently.

The former apprentice, now Group Manager Mr. Kenneth Helliwell, greeted his audience by showing his own Deed of Apprenticeship dated May 1929. "This is a very proud possession of mine," he commented. Then he went on to say that his eldest son had also been an engineering apprentice, and that he himself had gained quite a lot of experience in dealing with apprentices especially over the past 20-odd years with MANWEB.

He said that this day should be remembered as a milestone in the lives of every young man who had completed the course. He informed them that they were very fortunate to be at Hoylake, for last February some 1,170 young men applied for apprentice training with the Board and from these it was only possible for 70 to be selected for training and

to be one of these was no mean achievement.

Mr. Helliwell went on to say that he considered that in MANWEB we had one of the finest training schools for apprentices throughout the country and he was confident that every apprentice in the hall had received an excellent start in his basic training.

He went on to pay tribute to "Headmaster" Mr. Ron Slack and his team of instructors, who during the past fifteen years had been responsible for the initial training of nearly 1,200 apprentices.

Mr. Helliwell then spoke of the future when he said, "From next Monday, each of you will be reporting at one of the ten District Offices to start the next phase in your training." He continued by giving a concise summary of the set-up of the supply industry from generation through transmission to distribution, emphasising that the electricity supply industry was "big business."

He talked of the District organisation within MANWEB, and in passing introduced the three District Commercial Engineers present, Messrs. George Bowers (*North Wirral*), Bob Jowett (*Liver-*

Guest speaker and 'Headmaster' with the prizewinners. *From left to right: Stephen Landrum, Robert Holmes, Mr. K. Helliwell, Mr. R. Slack, Roy Palin and Philip Currie. Phillip, from Birkenhead, was awarded a place on a Course at the West Highland School of Adventure.*



pool) and Dennis Noad (*North Mersey*). (*The prize-winning apprentices came from their Districts*).

Mr. Helliwell then referred to the "two-way" Agreement which all apprentices would be asked to sign when they reached their Districts. He explained that the Board had the responsibility to give each apprentice the opportunity for a first rate training until they became fully qualified craftsmen.

"We don't expect all of you to become professors but we do expect you all to reach a high standard and obtain a technical qualification," he continued. "It has been our experience that in some cases, after leaving the School, that interest in technical studies goes down, but if you are interested in your own progress, technical studies leading to a technical qualification can bring rewards."

He urged every apprentice to take full advantage of the Board's Day Release Scheme in order to gain further technical knowledge.

A few eyebrows were raised when Mr. Helliwell informed the apprentices that they had not seen the last of Mr. Slack and his team at Hoylake for during each of the remaining years of their apprenticeships, they would be returning to the school for short periods of further specialised training.

"At Hoylake," he went on, "you have worked as a group, but as you now go into the Districts you will be under less direct supervision. In effect you will be working on trust."

He said, "From now on you will be working in customers' homes and business premises. Be courteous and be good timekeepers," he urged. "Take the jobs as they come, the clean and the dirty, the rough with the smooth, and do them all with a good spirit."

Mr. Helliwell reminded the apprentices that last year the Board carried out about £2,410,000-worth of contracting business, which, besides being profitable, helped to offset the increasing price of electricity. He then explained how their efforts in the future could help keep up this valuable contracting work for the Board. "You will be expected to maintain a good general appearance, be courteous, polite and

OUR COVER PICTURE shows the prizewinners, from left to right: Robert D. J. Holmes of Southport (*Electrical Subjects*), Stephen Landrum of Liverpool (*All-round Performance*) and Roy W. Palin of Bootle (*Mechanical Subjects*).

well-mannered, and you should never let the Board down," he said.

To illustrate this point further, he quoted from letters received from two customers from the same District. One was a brickbat which among other things condemned our electrician who "at no time showed any respect for property" and "fixed the extractor fan backwards."

The other letter was a bouquet from a customer who expressed grateful thanks for the prompt attention and appreciation for the "recommendable young man" with his "polite manner and presentable appearance."

Mr. Helliwell brought his inspiring talk to a close as he congratulated the prizewinners and expressed the hope that all the apprentices leaving Hoylake that day would become first class craftsmen and would succeed in their chosen careers.

Mrs. Helliwell then graciously presented the prizes.

Bringing the proceedings to an end, Mr. J. L. W. Ladner (*Education and Training Officer*) referred back to Mr. Helliwell's comment on the need for technical training and informed the assembly that an apprentice of a few years ago had just obtained a First Class Honours Degree in Electrical Power Engineering at the University of Liverpool.

He then went on to thank Mr. and Mrs. Helliwell for their valuable contributions to the success of the day and expressed his appreciation to the staff at the Training Centre for their great efforts. He concluded by informing the apprentices that as a special concession from Mr. Slack, they would not have to 'clock-off' on this special day!

An informal shot taken after the ceremony at Hoylake. From left to right: Messrs. B. Duncan (senior clerical assistant, E. & T.), J. L. W. Ladner, J. H. Seymour (senior assistant instructor), D. Noad and R. Jowett.





Some of the Dee Valley Safe Drivers with Chief Superintendent Davies and Mr. Shell, extreme left, and Mr. E. T. Peter (District Engineer), extreme right.

POLICE CHIEF HANDS OUT TICKETS FOR GOOD DRIVING

SAFE Driving Awards from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents were presented to MANWEB staff at our Dee Valley District Offices recently by Chief Superintendent A. N. V. Davies of the Gwynedd Constabulary.

As the drivers gathered together, Mr. T. P. Shell (District Administrative Officer) said that this was the first time in Dee Valley that a formal presentation had been made and on checking through the records he was well satisfied with the very low accident rate for the 150 vehicles being driven in the District by MANWEB drivers.

"Compared to some fifteen years ago," he said, "driving today is a nightmare. All those who receive awards today for driving for long periods without an accident, have put in a very creditable performance."

He then introduced Chief Superintendent Davies who was to present the awards.

Before he did this however, the Chief Superintendent said that it was a nice experience to be on the other side of the fence, for as a policeman he often gave tickets for bad driving, but today he was giving out tickets for good driving.

He went on to quote statistics showing that in the Gwynedd Constabulary area some 2,424 people were convicted during 1971 for dangerous or careless driving. In the same period in the Wrexham borough and rural district, 1,153 accidents occurred in which 628 people were injured.

"We are learning to live with and accept accidents,"

he went on, "and we do not fully appreciate the seriousness of them."

He said that among the major causes of road accidents were inattention and carelessness and that in his experience, speed itself was not the major cause. He made mention of the tendency among the drivers 'over 45' to be a little careless and to let the mind wander while in charge of a vehicle.

Chief Superintendent Davies' advice to everyone was to drive according to the Highway Code. "If we did there would be no need for me to be sitting on the side of the fence handing out tickets for careless and dangerous driving."

After this brief and most interesting talk, he handed out the following awards:

Bar to 20-year Brooch: Mr. A. Davies.

Bar to 15-year Brooch: Mr. G. Parry.

15-year Brooch: Mr. W. H. Arkinstall.

Bar to 10-year Medal: Messrs. R. H. Bassingdale, F. Harrington, W. R. Isbill, F. Jones, E. Lloyd, R. J. Parry, D. Phillips, R. Richards, S. Taylor and T. C. Williams.

10-year Medal: Messrs. W. T. Allman, F. Cross, E. B. Edwards, I. A. John and J. F. Owen.

Bar to 5-year Medal: Messrs. G. Carlton, E. E. Davies, J. R. Evans, J. A. G. Harris, J. W. Pierce, E. H. L. Webb, E. N. Williams, G. Williams, H. Williams, J. M. Williams and W. P. Wright.

5-year Medal: Messrs. R. F. Hood and P. Hughes.

Diploma: Messrs. L. Broadbent, E. Ellis, D. T. Hughes, E. Jones, C. Lloyd, J. Millington, G. Morgan, D. Owens, D. A. Roberts, D. Roberts and D. J. Roberts.



Mr. Gwyn Parry being congratulated by Chief Superintendent Davies on his long period of safe driving. Others in the picture who have driven for ten years or more without accident are, from left to right: Messrs. D. Phillips, F. Harrington, F. Cross, T. C. Williams, R. J. Parry and E. B. Edwards.

SAFE DRIVERS AT CHESTER IN THE NEXT ISSUE

New Look for Liverpool School Meals Service

Story by

Terry Williams

A DRAMATIC drop, throughout Britain, in the number of children eating school meals, has been counteracted by the local authority at Liverpool through the use of cook/freeze catering. The jump in meal price to 12p was blamed for the trend towards sandwich lunches last year. But at Liverpool evidence has shown that children are willing to pay more than this standard price.

Cook/freeze catering, combined with an a-la-carte menu, is today's method of feeding the youngsters. And they love it, says the City's school meals chief, Mrs. Frances Hollinghurst. Parents don't mind paying the 12p a day, she maintained. But if the meals are poor the children complain, and they begin to doubt that this is really value for money.

Staffing problems started Mrs. Hollinghurst thinking in terms of cook/freeze back in 1968. Meals had to be transported to schools from a string of central kitchens, so cooking began at 7 a.m. each day to keep to schedule.

"I first considered using some packaged frozen food which would cut down on food preparation time and allow for a later start," explained Mrs. Hollinghurst. "My committee said I could experiment with this for a year.

The result was fantastic. We found staffing costs had been cut by an average 50 per cent. Although the frozen food cost more than fresh, the savings made on the wages bill more than compensated for this."

The next stage was to build kitchen areas in schools where frozen food could be re-constituted. In many of the older schools this proved a problem as there was already a shortage of space.



Better than 'bummies' or 'scouse,' this excellent menu was chalked up at a Liverpool school ready for the lunch time rush.

"But most of the schools had an old cloakroom or class room which could be converted into a small kitchen. We now have 90 such kitchens and as a result have been able to close eight central kitchens" added Mrs. Hollinghurst.

"The kitchens where frozen foods are being used are all situated at schools where the demand for meals has far exceeded the capacity of the original school kitchens. Converting these kitchens for the use of frozen and other convenience foods has proved to be an economical proposition, compared with the alternative of enlarging them.

"For example, the estimated cost of extending a conventional kitchen with a capacity for 150 meals a day to 300 meals a day was £7,700. The cost of converting it to frozen food was £3,500. Where conversion kitchens are planned from scratch there is usually a saving on floor area of about one third to one half."

Sixty-five thousand meals are served in the City's schools each day and of these, one third are frozen.

A second blast freezer will be built by the local authority, and by 1974 every secondary school in Liverpool should be using frozen food, and have re-generation facilities.

Mrs. Hollinghurst decided that the introduction of a-la-carte menus to schools would suit the cook freeze system and satisfy the Senior pupils.

"I felt this freedom of choice should be offered to the older children to fit in with the changing patterns of eating. You see, children don't dislike school meals—just set meals.

The Department of Education and Science rules



Time for lunch. Taking the pre-cooked prepared frozen food packs from storage.



Nearly ready. Mrs. Joan Dittrich, our catering engineer, watches as the appetising food comes out of the forced-air convection oven ready for the table.

that a school meal shall consist of a main course and sweet so I insisted that every child should have the main course. This would cost them 8p."

Each day pupils have a choice of six main courses and six sweets. In addition they can have soup and rolls, cheese and biscuits, fresh fruit, squash and coffee.

"Children faced with this choice in fact spend more than the standard 12p on lunch," she said.

"Junior school children pay 12p, but have a choice of three set meals. I feel this is important, because at such an age children are inclined to eat chips with everything—they are not sufficiently aware of balanced diets."

The economic cost of producing a school meal costs 5.3p using food prepared by conventional methods, and 7p using frozen food. This price was estimated during the period in which frozen food was being bought commercially.

"The savings on labour costs more than make up for the

greater cost of frozen food. When the changeover is complete the cost of frozen food will drop. To illustrate the savings on staff costs, let me tell you that al-

though we have opened 90 frozen kitchens and had three major pay awards in the past three years, our staffing costs have gone up just over 8.4 per cent." she added.

The proof of the pudding . . . Here we see, from left to right, Mrs. Hollinghurst, Mrs. Dittrich and Mrs. Nancy Abbott (School Meals Organiser) trying the end product.



SPORTS PAGES

Cricket

The Test match on TV is all very well for some people, but the real setting for a cricket match is on a village green on a warm Summer evening.

Such a delightful English pastoral scene can be found in the village of Thornton Hough and it was there that a team of cricketers from our Head Office journeyed in order to meet a team from Sir Alfred McAlpine's.

Batting first MANWEB was soon in trouble when opener Teg Williams was out lbw off the first ball.

Worse was to follow when Dave Stevenson was caught and bowled without scoring. Our other opener, Rueben Perry soon followed and we were three wickets down for only two runs.

An early visit to the Seven Stars hostelry seemed certain for our team but then George Harrison and Tom Jones took command and enlivened the proceedings, and the hearts of their team, by taking the score to 37 before Tom was run out.

Don Roxburgh added a couple of valuable runs before being clean bowled. George was next to leave with the score at 40 for 6.

Peter Falcon and Tom Dutton then joined forces and made a fine stand with 18 runs before Tom (11) lost his wicket off the penultimate ball of the 20-over innings. Peter carried his bat for a stout six runs.

Faring slightly better at the outset of their innings, McAlpines had 14 runs on the Board before losing their first wicket as they climbed steadily toward's MANWEB's total of 58 runs.

However, accurate bowling from George Harrison and Tom Dutton kept the wickets falling

right up to the nail-biting finish, when, accompanied by vociferous encouragement from their fans, McAlpines finished just two runs short of the MANWEB total. -

Pies and ale were the just reward for both teams after an enjoyable and exciting encounter.

Golf

A team from the MANWEB (Chester) Golfing Society were in top form recently when they met a team from the Cheshire County Officers Golfing Society in their annual match which was played this year at Wrexham.

In each of the seven games played, the Men from MANWEB were the winners, although in four of these games, the result was very close indeed, going to the last hole.

After the match, everyone enjoyed an excellent meal, after which, the captain of the Cheshire team, Deputy Chief Constable W. Kelsall, who had been mentioned in the Queen's Birthday Honours List a few days previously, did the honours himself by buying drinks all round.

The results in the match were as follows MANWEB names first (handicaps in brackets): Messrs. K. Edwards (13) and H. B. Parsons (15) beat Messrs. P. Haywood and R. Thomas 2 and 1. Messrs. W. E. Daniels (8) and F. Parkinson (24) beat Messrs. C. Evans and E. Davies 2 and 1. Messrs. F. T. Edwards (9) and D. G. Jones (16) beat Messrs. W. Kelsall and I. Ramsay 2 and 1. Messrs. N. Jones (3) and W. A. Jones (16) beat Messrs. L. J. Fenton and G. C. Davies 2 and 1. Messrs. R. J. Barraclough (11) and P. Falcon (16) beat Messrs. K. Dryland and J. W. Owens 7 and 6. Messrs. N. Clarke (18) and I. Evans (19) beat Messrs.

N. Walker and D. B. McIntyre 4 and 3. Messrs. M. Stanks (17) and R. Norfolk (15) beat Messrs. D. Roberts and B. Braddock 8 and 7.

Chess

Long before the Boris Spassky-Bobby Fischer saga, the Head Office Chess Section of the Sports and Social Club were geared up ready for the coming season.

Six boards complete with chessmen and three clocks are now available, and score sheets are being printed.

A short time ago, sixteen chess players from Head Office took part in a chess tournament with players from Head Office were formed into a mini-league with four sets of four playing each other. The best two players in each set then played in a knock-out competition and to-date, they have reached the semi-final stage.

Those left to do battle for the honours are Messrs. **Norman Burnett** (engineering), **Bob Blair** (engineering), **Rob Fallowfield** (financial) and **Frank Reynolds** (finance).

John McInerney (engineering) who is the secretary of the Chess Section, tells us that we now have a team entered in the 2nd Division of the Chester and District Chess League.

It is anticipated that there will be nine teams in the league so that on a home and away basis we will have 16 matches to play.

Each team will have six players and the season starts in September.

MANWEB have also entered in a 'Knock-Out' competition with eleven other teams. In the preliminary round we have been drawn away to Chester Y.M.C.A.

Monday night has been chosen as 'Club Night' for our chessmen, when home fixtures in the league and in other competitions

will be played in Room 5E 30. When there are no matches, Monday night can be used for practice or for friendly games.

Table Tennis

Our sharp-eyed and nimble-footed colleagues at Head Office who make up the various table tennis teams competing in the Chester and District Leagues, have just completed yet another very successful season.

Pride of place goes to our Ladies' team who carried off the Curzon Park Trophy. This win was especially gratifying to them for last year they came very close to winning the Trophy only to be pipped in the final match.

Our first team in the leagues, finished as runners-up in Division 3 and won promotion into Division 2 for the 1972/73 season.

MANWEB "A" team (our second team) came third in Division 4 and next season they will be joined by the promotion winning MANWEB "B" team coming up from Division 5.

Taking their place in that Division will be our "C" team who ended the season in top position in Division 6.

Two years ago when we first entered the Chester and District Leagues, we had two teams who finished in the top place of their respective divisions. Last season we had four teams who provided the excellent results as described above.

For the 1972/73 season we shall have five teams competing for honours in the various divisions.

All the sports reports on these pages are of activities by Head Office staff. Surely we have some sporting types in our ten Districts? Let the Editor know of any sports events taking place in your District!

..... The Champions



Our Ladies team who carried off the Curzon Cup. From left to right: Mrs. Joan Hughes, Mrs. Christine Byrne and Mrs. Margaret Taylor.



Above: Our first team, now in Division 2. From left to right: Mr. Dave Stevenson, Mrs. Joan Hughes and Mr. Reuben Perry.

Below: MANWEB's "C" team who will play in Division 5 next season. From left to right: Messrs. Geoff Abel, Neil Allmark and Mal Thomas.



New homes for old

Many local housing authorities throughout our area have been staging exhibitions to help explain to the general public the Government's Home Improvement Scheme with grants of up to £1,500 being offered to owner occupiers and landlords of rented property—including local councils—who set out to modernise homes and bring them up to present day standards.

MANWEB is showing the flag at these exhibitions with well-designed display stands and equipment with staff on hand to explain electricity's vital part in Home Improvement.

We regret to report that Caroline, our "Girl from MANWEB," who is featured in every picture on these two pages, has been ill in hospital at Birkenhead.

We sincerely hope that she will soon fully recover from her illness and once again be back with us.



Our "Girl from MANWEB," Miss Caroline Smith, is joined by Messrs. Brian Baxter (energy sales engineer, Chwyd) left, and Ron Carter (energy sales assistant, Chwyd) as she chats to Councillor M. I. Glazier (Chairman of Mold Urban District Council).

MOLD

The Urban District Council haven't many houses under their control which are eligible for grants, but the 100 or so they do have are to be brought up-to-date. They have a pilot scheme going in order to find the best methods of central heating and water heating and when the tests are completed we are hoping that MANWEB will come out on top.

BIRKENHEAD

The Corporation estimate that they have approximately 12,500 homes suitable for improvement under the Government's grant scheme. The housing department have taken the lead in starting work to up-date the first phase of 3,000 properties.

They have so much to do that they have asked the Government of an extension after the June 1973 deadline for grants.

At the Birkenhead exhibition we see Caroline with, from left to right: Mr. R. Graham Page (Minister for Local Government and Development), Alderman Kenneth Porter (Mayor of Birkenhead) and, on the extreme right, Mr. Doug Willacy (energy sales engineer, North Wirral).





Caroline welcomes Councillor H. Whitehead (*Mayor of Warrington*) to the all-electric show house.



Mrs. A. I. Halliwell (*Mayoress of Bootle*) on the MANWEB stand with Mr. Dennis Noad (*District Commercial Engineer, North Mersey*) and Caroline.

WARRINGTON

The County Borough have 280 homes scheduled for improvement and these are being done in phases. The first set comprises of 56 houses and these are totally electric, with a contract worth £18,000 to MANWEB. The next phase covers 48 dwellings and we are hoping that these too will be all electric.

OSWESTRY

The Rural District Council have some 630 dwellings scheduled for modernisation and of these 304 will have Electricaire central heating, 50-gallon hot-

Caroline again, flanked by Mr. Tom Coyne of BBC Midlands, left, and Brigadier D. L. Betts (*Chairman of Oswestry R.D.C.*).



BOOTLE

The Corporation are well advanced on the first phase of their Home Improvement scheme with the first 105 homes being equipped with Electricaire units and electric water heaters, both on the White Meter tariff. The next 300 dwellings are earmarked to be all electric.

In adjoining Litherland, the Urban District Council have agreed that their first 30 houses will be all-electric.

water cylinders, focal point fires, airing cupboard heaters and complete rewiring. The contract is worth £113,000 to the Board and it is calculated that the total load will be 4.3 mW.

Mr. Ron Williams (*District Commercial Engineer, Oswestry*) left, with Welshpool Borough Council visitors to the Oswestry exhibition, Mr. Ken Fletcher (*Town Clerk*) and Mr. F. Lodge (*Borough Surveyor*) as they listen to Caroline's sales chat.



GROW ELECTRIC

LAWN CARE

THE British lawn is the envy of every foreigner. We kid ourselves that it is our gardening skill that produces our famous lawns but, if we are honest, it is our equable climate that enables us to have such beautiful green swards.

Of course, when you look closely at many British lawns, you will find that many of them contain many other plants than grass—daisies, moss, clover, and a dozen more.

Even so, the general effect is green. But if you want a perfect weed free lawn, it will not happen as Kipling said, by "sighing 'Oh how beautiful' and sitting in the shade."

To achieve a perfect lawn there is a sequence of operations that must be carried out. One glance at these usually puts the ordinary garden owner off. Please don't stop reading because you do not have to do all these jobs every year—indeed, if you do any one of them, your lawn will look much better.

Here we go. First task of all—make your lawn smooth. It may slope, or be undulating, but fill in hollows by sifting on soil so that the grass is almost covered. Do this several times if necessary. Reduce humps; slit the turf with a spade, roll it back, remove some soil, and replace the turf. But water it regularly until it has started to grow again.

Next, fix the weeds by watering on a selective weedkiller. It may be necessary to give the weeds more than one dose.

Lawns need feeding, but it is surprising how few gardeners realize this. They would not take a crop of vegetables off their ground year after year without putting on some fertilizers, but they cheerfully cut off the equivalent of three hay crops from their lawns without giving the grass a feed.

Ideally, one should feed a lawn in March, and again in late April or May. Also, one should apply

an autumn feed of an organic fertilizer. Often the autumn feed, especially on light soils, is as effective as both the spring feeds in promoting healthy strong growth.

Weeding

Now weeds. These should be no trouble today because there are plenty of selective weedkillers on the market that will deal with any lawn weeds.

But play it carefully. Buy sprinkle bars to fit your watering can. If the lawn is very weedy you buy a sprinkle bar about two feet long. If you only have weeds here and there, buy a bar a few inches long. Thus you do not waste the weedkillers on areas where there are no weeds.

Mowing is a weekly chore about 22 times a year. Recent statistics show that for every push mower, five powered mowers are sold. These are either powered by a petrol motor, or by electricity.

Electricity really comes into its own when the cutting of the lawn is considered. Electricity has heralded the development of a new race of mowers—the light-weights—just the sort of mower the woman gardener can use with such ease. These are the gay ones with pastel shades of colour and eye-appealing lines. The mowers are compact and very easy to manoeuvre in the small gardens or where there are complex flower borders to negotiate. The

womenfolk, who, at the last survey, do the gardening in over half the gardens in Britain, love electric mowers—especially the battery operated types.

Do not, please, set the blades of your mower down to the lowest hole and shave the grass to the bone. Grass is a plant. It needs top growth of foliage to feed its roots. Set the blades so that they leave five eighths of an inch of grass. Then you will have a strong, healthy, green lawn.

Rotary or Cylinder

The way in which the mower cuts the grass has to be considered before a purchase is made. There are two distinct actions—rotary and cylinder. In the case of the former the blade revolves in a circular motion parallel to the grass or ground and in the latter case the cylinder revolves at right angles to the ground.

You get the best of both worlds with the rotary because this action will cut tall or rougher grass nearly as well as the shorter grass whereas the cylinder can only cope with the short grass on the average domestic lawn. Grass collection facilities are not usually available for the electric rotaries but with frequent mowing the problem of cuttings is considerably reduced as the amount is reduced to the minimum.

The electric lawn mower has two very important advantages over its rivals. There are no starting problems—press the switch and the mower is in action immediately. No energy is wasted in strenuous starting procedures either! What a good buying point this is for the elderly or infirm gardener.

An electric mower is quieter. No mower is silent or ever likely to be, but the mains electric designs reduce noise considerably and this feature will be welcomed by many gardeners.

Battery electric mowers are now available for every size of

lawn. A 12 inch rotary mower will cut between 500 and 800 square yards of lawn before needing to be recharged. A 14 inch machine will cut between 1,000 and 1,350 square yards. Models with higher capacity batteries will cut up to 2,200 square yards, which means a cutting time of about two and a half hours—and a lot of lawn can be cut in that time.

The advantages still continue because there is the minimum of maintenance required, therefore overall running costs are reduced dramatically.

There is a range of even more powerful electric mowers which will suit the larger lawns. Both rotary and cylinder methods of cutting are available and with grass collection facilities.

Pride of Place

There is no doubt that the lawn takes pride of place in most gardens and its neat appearance depends on a good cut and neat, trim edges. But those edges—don't they take time to cut! The solution could well lie in the use of an electric powered edger. These are quite light to use and are pushed or drawn along by their long handle. The edges can be cut very quickly because this tool is used at walking speed.

An edger can only work successfully however if the edge to the lawn is well defined. There must be adequate depth for the cutting blade and the soil should be drawn away towards the border and all stones etc. removed. There is an edger which has an adjustable head which will trim vertical edges or will cut in confined areas horizontally like a mower.

Electric power in the garden is like having an extra pair of hands! Labour and time saving are well-worn phrases but there is no doubt that they have a special application where mains electricity is concerned.



“This is the way to mow the lawn chaps!”

HEDGE TRIMMING

Most gardeners would be honest enough to admit that hedge trimming is not a task which is looked forward to. It can, however be quite an enjoyable and somewhat fascinating experience with an electric trimmer in your hands. It would be true to say in fact that the hedges would soon look a lot neater because they would be trimmed more frequently!

The latest designs are tough with most having the extra safety factor of double insulation. Double cutting edges cut fast and accurately and quite tough growth can be dealt with. Blade lengths of from about 15 in. to as much as 30 in. provide designs for every purpose.

Large, wrap-around handles on some designs contribute considerably to ease of handling and add to the comfort of the equipment. In large gardens extra cable length can be provided by the use of a neat cable dispenser which can take up to about 100 ft. of cable. Complete with waterproof 3-pin connector plug and waterproof socket, this can be a very useful accessory to have with most garden electrical apparatus.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

Crane Accidents

Mr. Rose asked the Secretary of State for Employment how many industrial injuries and deaths were caused during 1970 and 1971 by the jibs of cranes coming into contact with electric wires.

Mr. Dudley Smith: The total number of crane accidents caused by contact with overhead electric lines reported to H.M. Factory Inspectorate was 15 in 1970 and 10 in 1971, of which six and five respectively were fatal.

Electricity Supplies (Inflated Bills)

Sir G. Nabarro asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, having regard to the deliberations by the Electricity Council into electricity billing since the recent suicide which arose from a deliberately inflated bill submitted to Mrs. Ann Hemmingway by the East Midlands Electricity Board, what steps have now been reported to him by the Electricity Council, in accordance with his earlier request to avoid the recurrence of such a calamity.

Mr. Tom Boardman: I do not accept the implication in the Question that this unfortunate incident was the direct result of action by the East Midlands Electricity Board.

As my hon. Friend knows, I have an assurance from the Electricity Council that the practice of exaggerated and de-

liberate inflation of accounts is not being and will not be followed by any board.

The Electricity Council's review covers billing and collection procedures generally and I have received a progress report. Details of measures being or to be adopted vary from board to board according to local circumstances.

Heating Allowances

Mr. McElhone asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will grant extra heating allowances to persons on supplementary benefit who have to move to new all-electric houses.

Mr. Dean: The Supplementary Benefits Commission already helps in appropriate cases where a supplementary benefit recipient incurs extra expense in the initial period of adjustment from one form of heating to another. Where there are continuing exceptional heating expenses, including any exceptional expenses arising from the use of central heating, the Commission will consider making a discretionary addition to benefit.

Electric Vehicles

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what public funds are made available for research into the perfecting of electric cars and other vehicles.

Mr. Anthony Grant: Since 1967 the Department of Trade and Industry and related agencies have spent about £160,000 on research and development on electric vehicles, including advanced batteries. Further expenditure on new projects in collaboration with industry may be authorised in the near future.

Electricity Demand

Mr. Knox asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what growth in electricity demand is envisaged in the next

three years; and what measures are being taken to meet this demand.

Mr. Tom Boardman: The Electricity Council forecast of the growth of maximum demand envisages that the peak demand in the winter of 1974-75, in average weather conditions, will be 47,700 megawatts, or about 16 per cent above the comparable figure for 1971-72. By the end of 1975, the CEGB expect to have about 60,000 megawatts of generating capacity to meet this demand, taking into account stations now being built. This should provide an ample margin for any contingencies.

Obituary

Mrs. K. NEWBERRY

It is with very deep regret that we record the death of Mrs. Lilian Newberry, a clerk in our consumer accounts section in the North Mersey District.

Lilian, who was only 30 years of age, had made many friends during her brief two-year period with the Board, and she was extremely popular with her colleagues.

She will be missed.

Mr. W. LI. WILLIAMS

We are sorry to report the death of Mr. Walter Llewelyn Williams, a 3rd assistant engineer, energy sales in our Oswestry District.

Walter, a very well-known, well-liked and well-respected man, was 57.

He started work at Newtown as a junior clerk in 1932 and later moved over to the sales side still in Newtown.

His many friends within the Board and among the customers of the Board will certainly miss him.

LIGHTING for LIVING

By
MR. BERRY WORTHINGTON
LIGHTING ENGINEER
ENERGY SALES



SINCE last month's article on "Lighting for the Home," I have received many requests for some kind of magic formula from which ideas for lighting arrangements can be obtained.

Regrettably, no such formula exists to cater for home lighting. There is no single plan which could be adapted to be the answer to all ills, and perhaps it is for the best that there is no such plan.

Every home, from the functional point of view, is divided into three major zones—living, working and sleeping. There are always the same basic objects—tables and chairs, working surfaces, cupboards, beds and so on. It would seem from this that the lighting requirements are also the same in all houses and flats. But we all arrange things to our own taste and ideas so that despite the basic similarities in our living accommodation, very considerable differences arise.

There is no "recipe book" to provide total satisfaction in lighting design just as there is no light fitting that can only be used in one place. Any ideas for home lighting that one can offer must be based on the assumption that everyone wants to live in homes that are bright and well illuminated at all times.

In next month's issue of 'Contact,' I hope to provide several ideas for incorporating the lighting as a structural element within a room, but in the meantime let us look briefly at how to obtain the best lighting effect using the extensive variety of fixed pendant and portable lamps—standard and table, that are now widely available.

In place of the single-light ceiling pendant consider replacing this with a multi-light pendant. Such fittings allow the use of several lamps of low wattage

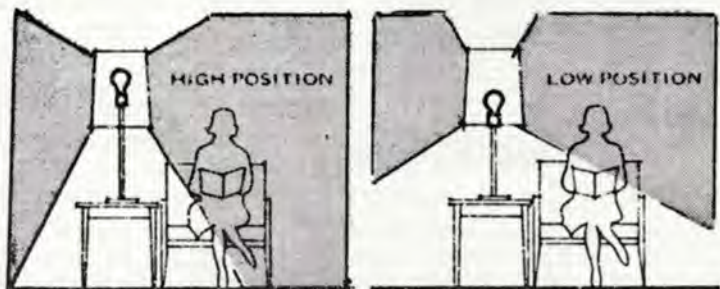
although the total output should be greater than 150 watt. Because of the greater number of light sources this multi-light type of fitting tends to reduce the harsh shadows produced by the single light, although local lighting is still necessary to ensure visual comfort.

The position of local lighting (*specially positioned wall spot lights and table or standard lamps*) depends on how you arrange your furniture. There should be a light source where any visually demanding task take place—reading, sewing and so forth. The height of standard and table lamps should be such that light is cast directly on to the task. Figures 1 and 2 show the position of the lamp in relation to the shade; the size of the shade in relation to the light source and how these factors do affect light distribution.

Deep, narrow shades are to be avoided for lamps intended to provide useful illumination; they are double ended bottle necks resisting the spread of both upward and downward light. In living areas a pleasing effect is achieved when the shades blend smoothly rather than contrast sharply with their backgrounds in both colour and brightness. White or very light coloured shades should always be

FIGURE 1.

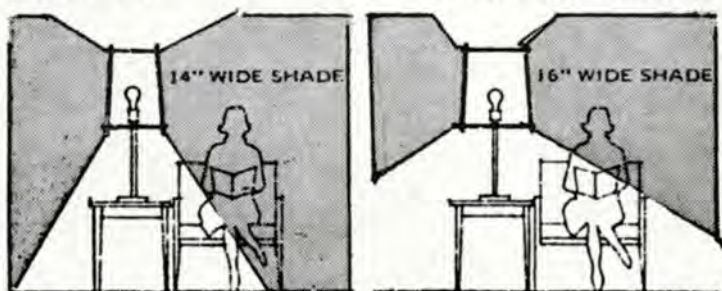
POSITION OF LIGHT SOURCE



INFLUENCE OF LIGHT SOURCE POSITION ON LIGHT DISTRIBUTION

FIGURE 2.

SHADE DIMENSIONS



INFLUENCE OF THE SHADE DIMENSIONS ON LIGHT DISTRIBUTION

used against light walls and darker shades used against darker walls.

A point worth remembering about strongly coloured shades is that, unless you want the room and decorations to be saturated with that particular colour then you should buy a shade with a white lining.

Some means of varying the light output of portable lamps is a desirable feature, because they are often required for purposes other than specific task illumination. For TV viewing, entertaining or simply conversation, lower illumination levels are usually preferred. The utmost in control is obtained when the unit has a built-in full-range dimmer.

However, wall mounted, high/low, three way and dimmer control units are suitable means of achieving flexibility.

Lighting is very inexpensive when you consider the enjoyment that an improved domestic environment brings.

By the use of portable table and standard lamps improvements can be made without the need to re-organise or drastically improve the existing electrical installation. Where any extension to the installation is needed, however, do ensure that the work is done by a qualified electrician and who better to contact than the Installation Engineers at our own District Offices.

There are so many ways in which you can bring more light into your life by putting better lighting in your home. Practical hints and useful ideas on using domestic lighting to best advantage are contained in a new 16 page colour brochure "Lighting Your Home" from all Electricity Board shops.

Nuclear Power breaks the Price Barrier

RISING prices of oil and coal have given nuclear power its long awaited lead in the economy table for providing the cheapest electricity in Britain.

Last year's figures show that the nuclear power stations at Dungeness 'A' station in Kent and Sizewell station in Suffolk were in first and second places respectively.

The comparison is made only on output from the most modern coal, oil and nuclear stations, thus ruling out any charge of being unfair to the older coal-fired plant.

The cost of each unit supplied to the national grid last year was

the nuclear power stations at 0.31p from Dungeness, 0.32p from Sizewell, 0.35p from Ratcliffe in Nottinghamshire (*coal-fired*), 0.36p from Kingsnorth in Kent (*oil-fired*) and from Ferrybridge 'C' in Yorkshire (*coal-fired*).

The oil costs included tax equal to 0.05p per unit. Oil and coal costs have both increased since last year.

MANWEB Charter Flight to Canada

We have decided to offer an additional [prize of £3 in the 'Contact' Photographic Competition.

It will be won by the person travelling with the MANWEB party on the trip to Canada in August, who submits the best colour photograph taken on the trip. Entries marked 'Canada Trip' to be sent to The Editor, 'Contact' Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester before 30th September 1972.

Don't forget your entry for the 'CONTACT' PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



Some of the Safe Drivers from Northwich with Mid-Cheshire District officers and Mr. Marshall, centre, front row, and Mr. Yates, right, front row.

Safe Drivers at Northwich

SOME few weeks ago, 32 of the 41 members of our Mid-Cheshire District staff based at Northwich, who had qualified for Safe Driving Awards, met in the MANWEB Sports and Social Clubroom on Winnington Hill to receive their awards from Mr. Don Marshall, the Road Safety Officer for the Mid-Cheshire Road Safety Committee.

Also in attendance were Mr. E. Yates from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, Mr. G. Zeiher (*District Engineer*), Mr. N. Walsh (*District Commercial Engineer*) and Mr. D. Hodgetts (*District Administrative Officer*).

The awards presented were as follows:

Bar to 20-year Brooch: Mr. Frank Riley.

Bar to 15-year Brooch: Messrs. William R. Micklewright and Frank Stringer.

Bar to 10-year Medal: Messrs. Roy Maddock, Albert H. Pulham, Derrick Senior and George Wood.

Bar to 5-year Medal: Messrs. Enoch Bratt, Eric Bennion, George Breeze, John A. Davies, Jame Mahon, Roger M. Paton, Lawrence Stenton, John E. Treeby and Maurice Woodier.

5-year Medal: Messrs. Roy Craven, Robert Edgeley, Alfred R. Howman, Kenneth S. Massey, Geoffrey Taylor and John H. Wilson.

Diploma: Messrs. Robert W. Cooke, James A. Dean, Arthur Dickens, Peter J. Edwardson, Stuart H. Gatley, Augustyn F. Gibb, Charles T. Kinder, Arthur V. Kettle, Kenneth Leather, Ronald Leather, Harry Massey, James A. McGuire, Robert Penny, Thomas E. Rayner, Bernard L. Shaw, John E. Spruce, John Summers, Derrick Thompson and John A. Tomlinson.

NEW PRESIDENT

A man with a "deep and abiding interest in the people in our industry and a real desire to help those in need" has just been elected as President of the Electrical and Electronic Industries Benevolent Association. He is Sir Jules Thorn, and the tribute paid in the quote was from the retiring President, Mr. Stanley Stewart.

Ruby Wedding

We send our sincere congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Haigh who celebrated their Ruby Wedding anniversary on July 9th.

Ernest, now retired, worked for us at Aberystwyth for 17 years prior to his retirement last September.

A Belt and Braces for Your Pension

by

C. A. FRENCH

former

Financial

Adviser

The Electricity

Council



I DO NOT suppose one in a hundred people in our industry worries about the safety of the industry pension they look forward to enjoying in their old age. The great majority believe—and rightly—that it is as safe as the Bank of England. However, the hundredth man is the born worrier and he may just wonder. This article is written for him.

The essence of our Schemes, from the employee's point of view, is that, in return for a defined contribution, he becomes entitled to defined benefits. To finance those benefits his contributions, together with matching or more than matching contributions by the employer, are paid into a Fund and the Fund is invested.

All very well, you say, but how do we know the Boards' contributions are going to be enough, with our own, to pay the pensions and how do we know the investments are safe—and what happens if an investment goes wrong, as investments have been known to do?

The answer to the first question is that the Boards are required to ensure that the Fund is solvent—that it is sufficient at any given time, with future contributions and other income, to meet the pension benefits payable and those which will arise in the future as existing members retire in one, ten, twenty or even forty years' time (or, alas, die in service before then).

This is where the Actuary comes in, for the Boards have to get an Actuary to value each Fund every five years and report whether the Fund is solvent or not. I will not bore you with an account of how the Actuary goes about his work of valuation. It is a highly complicated and highly expert business,

involving assessing how long members are likely to live, what their salaries and hence contributions and benefits are going to be in the future, what income the invested funds are likely to produce in the future and so on.

Expert Assessment

From the members' point of view, the important thing is that the Actuary provides an independent expert assessment of the solvency of the Fund every five years. Should the Boards' contributions be, in his view, inadequate, it will show up as a deficiency in his valuation and the Boards have to put matters right by making additional contributions. (*Of course, there can be too much in the Fund, in which event the Boards are entitled to decide what to do with the surplus. They can reclaim it but they can also use it to improve benefits, as has happened in the past.*) In effect, the Boards have underwritten your pension benefits—they are 'Board guaranteed.' This is the 'belt' I refer to in the title of this article.

This really answers another point which has been put to me recently by one or two members of the Manual Workers Scheme. Over the last year or two and in contrast to earlier history, membership has been declining and they wondered whether this could affect them adversely. The answer is a clear no. The whole object of the valuation is to make sure that, even if the Scheme were closed to new members, the invested funds and future income will be enough to meet all future pension liabilities. If not, the Boards' 'guarantee' operates and they have to provide the additional contributions required to bridge the gap.

In a way, the existence of this guarantee also answers at least part of the other question raised earlier—are the investments safe and what happens if an investment goes wrong? An investment which is reduced in value or lost altogether reduces the value of the Fund itself and is thus brought within the scope of the valuation made by the Actuary. If the Fund were reduced significantly in this way, it could emerge as a deficiency in his valuation which the Boards would have to meet by additional contributions—another example of how the Boards underwriting of your pension benefits works.

This might suggest that employees have no real interest in the investments of the Fund. In my view, this is quite wrong and I am glad that so many members do take a keen interest in how the Funds are invested—and do not hesitate to criticise if they think criticism is justified. In the first place, the Management Committees are entrusted with this serious responsibility of investment, as trustees for the members, and the employees' representatives share the burden with their colleagues nominated by management. In the second place, invested Funds

provide an additional safeguard—the 'braces' of my title—for pension benefits. Thirdly, successful investment can pave the way for better benefits; certainly the employer is likely to be more favourably disposed to this if it leads to actuarial surpluses.

Maximum Income

The ideal investment 'portfolio' (*the expert's jargon for all the investments held by a fund, institution or individual*) would produce maximum income and capital gains with no risk. This is impossible because all investment involves risk. You are committing money now to produce income in the future and nobody has yet invented a crystal ball which can predict the future with certainty.

Even investment in Government stocks is at risk of inflation and of changes in interest rates, as many a public and private investor knows to his cost.

What the Management Committees aim for is a well-balanced spread of investments, in Government and other fixed interest stocks, in company shares and in property, designed to maximise income and minimise risk. Within the investment powers in the rules of the Scheme they have, therefore, established broad targets for particular types of holding, e.g. at the moment not more than 30% of the portfolio can be invested in property.

In setting targets, the Committees have had available the advice of their merchant banking adviser and of their property adviser. The duty of day-to-day investment within these policy targets is delegated to the Council's Financial Adviser in whose Department there is an investment branch, headed now by Mr. George Cumming, and they, too, bring their expert help to the Committee in formulating policy. Supervision and control of investment by the Committees is exercised in detail through the Investment Sub-Committees they have established, which meet jointly.

Whilst much investment, e.g. in shares quoted on the Stock Exchange, is carried out from day to day by the Investment Branch, subject only to report, new ventures are normally the subject of prior approval by the Sub-Committees. I say normally because in the property field, for example, investment opportunities often arise which involve immediate decision if they are not to be lost. However, no property investment can be made except on the specific recommendation of the Committees' property adviser, the distinguished senior partner of a well known firm of chartered surveyors.

The Investment Branch itself has at its elbow the advice of many financial experts. It is, for example, linked by direct line to some dozen of the leading stockbrokers; it has a terminal linked to a computer which can provide it at the touch of a button with the investment data of any of the 3,000-odd com-

panies and public bodies whose stocks and shares are quoted on the London Stock Exchange and will even plot graphs of prices; and it has closed circuit TV to give it market prices as they fluctuate throughout the day. The Management Committees and their Joint Investment Sub-Committee can judge the quality of the Branch's work from their direct contacts with its Head and senior men, by the independent appraisal of the portfolios made by the outside advisers and by results.

Shares and Holdings

Over recent years, the invested funds of the two Schemes have been growing by some £35 million a year and now amount to some £500 million. They hold shares in some 360 different companies (*whether this is too many to handle properly is the subject of considerable study*) and holdings in some 650 other bodies. Moreover, the area of investment has been deliberately widened to cover, for example, property and unquoted companies. Investment in property scarcely needs justification (*although all particular property investments do*) but the decision four years ago to put some part (*not more than 4½%*) of the funds in the shares of unquoted companies merits explanation.

To find fruitful investment outlets for funds of the size of the Schemes is never easy and the Committees agreed that it was right to deploy some money in a field where the risks might be higher but the rewards correspondingly greater.

The risks are certainly higher in the sense that if a quoted security starts going wrong, there is a chance to sell out (*though if every other investor takes the same view, you will still have to take a loss*). On the other hand, the proposition can normally be studied in greater depth and with fuller information which should reduce risk. So far, the results in the unquoted field as a whole have been very satisfactory. Spey Investments, which was the subject of a great deal of Press comment, is one of the exceptions but needs to be put in perspective. The amount we have at stake there now is under £800,000. Of this, about three-quarters is in loan debt which is well secured and about one-quarter in shares. In my judgment, the Schemes have not lost any money in Spey. Indeed, some of the transactions associated with this venture have proved quite profitable. For example, the disposal of its banking interests as part of a process of rationalisation currently shows a profit to the Schemes of £800,000. Now that Spey has been rationalised, I look forward to its future with some confidence.

I hope that all I have said has re-assured that hundredth man I referred to at the beginning. Anyway, I will myself be on pension by the time this article is published and I will not be worrying.

Annual Outing—a Great Day for the Pensioners

Over 100 pensioners with their wives and friends boarded three coaches at Rhostyllen early one morning a week or so ago and were soon on their way for a day in North Wales.

Their first stop was at Betws-y-Coed for a morning coffee and then on to Llandudno for lunch.

During the mid-afternoon they continued their trip to Eirias Park in Colwyn Bay where they had tea.

All in all it was a very successful day out with plenty of time and opportunity for former colleagues to talk over old times.

Thanks must go to the organisers, Club Chairman Mr. Joseph Ellis and Secretary, Mr. Elis Wyn Griffiths.



Above:

Checking the parties on board the coaches are Mr. Joseph Ellis, left, and Mr. Elis Wyn Griffiths.



Left:

Seated comfortably, now for the off!

Below:

Just a few of the early arrivals at Rhostyllen in a happy mood as they prepare to board the coaches.



RETIREMENTS

Mr. J. ROBERTS

"A quiet efficient man"—summed up Mr. Jack Roberts (*3rd assistant engineer—Network Management*) as colleagues paid their tributes to his service and companionship at his farewell presentation ceremony held in the Network Reporting Centre at Head Office recently.

Mr. R. T. Gales (*Assistant Chief Engineer, System Management*) informed the gathering that Mr. Roberts joined the industry in 1923 which meant that he had served for nearly 49 years, which was a remarkable record.

Originally Mr. Roberts worked for the Wrexham Corporation and in 1964 he joined the North Wales Power Company. Six years later he made a trip over the border to work at Crewe, but he was soon back to his homeland at Legacy where he worked for many years before his transfer to Head Office.

"He quietly got on with his job, which he did extremely well," said Mr. Gales who went on to refer to the duties of a control engineer being normally fairly quiet but in times of emergency, as experienced in the February coal crisis, there was a sudden outburst of activity when much yeoman work was put in.

Other colleagues paid their tributes to Mr. Roberts' work, his talents and to his outside interests, one of these being his passionate love for classical music. A colleague from the 'other side' (*CEGB Grid Control at Roseneath*) came along to add a voice in tribute to Jack's work and to thank him for the Welsh language lessons he used to give during the long quiet nights on watch.

A presentation of a transistor radio and other gifts was then made as everyone wished Jack and his wife Nell many years of happy and healthy retirement.

Mr. Roberts, front left, receives a farewell handshake from Mr. Gales as colleagues gather round to wish him a happy retirement.

Miss D. HUTCHINSON

One of our ladies from Lister Drive, Miss Dorothy Hutchinson retired from her job as typist some few weeks ago after more than twenty-one years with MANWEB.

Dorothy worked for a long time with the Head Office staff in the Love Lane days, and on the move to Chester she transferred first to Hatton Garden and later to Lister Drive.

It was here that her many friends gathered to say their farewells and to present her with a number of parting gifts.

Away from the office, Dorothy spent a lot of her time caring for her mother who is now well into her 90's. She is also interested in the theatre and is an excellent needleworker having won many prizes in the D.J.A.C. Arts and Crafts exhibitions of the past.

Mr. J. CUSHING

It is not very often that in these retirement pages we come across a colleague who has managed to complete 50 years' service in the electricity supply industry, and it is therefore with great pleasure that we record this achievement by Mr. James Cushing, a general foreman in our North Mersey District.

Mr. Cushing began his working life with the former Hightown Gas and Electric Company before they were absorbed by the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department.

During his long career he has worked as a battery attendant and switchboard attendant. Then he became a jointer's mate, going through the ranks of jointing to reach his present job.

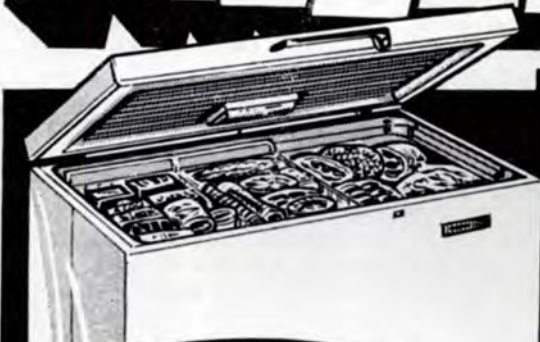
Friends at Marsh Lane organised a great farewell party at the Navy Club in Seaforth where Mr. Cushing was presented with parting gifts.



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Very popular chest-type freezer, 12.4 cu. ft. capacity. White enamel steel cabinet. Lockable, full-width counter-balanced lid which acts as a work top. Height 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ "", width 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ "", depth 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ " inc. handle. Deposit £8-90 16 quarterly payments £5-43 Total H.P. price £93-78.



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Chest-type freezer, the largest in the Manweb range—16.6 cu. ft. capacity. Cabinet lock. Full-width, counterbalanced work top lid. Height 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ "", width 56 $\frac{1}{2}$ "", depth 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ "", Deposit £8-90 16 quarterly payments £7-01. Total H.P. Price £121-06.

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