

CONTACT

July 1973



The Final Touch
(see page 148)

WEDDING

Our very best wishes for a happy future go to Mr. Thomas Edward Jones, a labourer at our



Mr. and Mrs. Jones.

Mold Depot and to his new bride, Miss June Anne Boden. The ceremony took place at St. Michael's Parish Church, Brynford, a short time ago.



At a recent meeting of the No. 11 Local Advisory Committee, Mr. M. M. Parker (*Secretary and Solicitor*), as Chairman of the Committee, presented First Aid Certificates to members of the Head Office staff. Above, from left to right: Miss Irene Mathewson, Miss June Cadwallender, Mr. Parker, Miss Catherine Thomson, Miss Susan Holmes and Mrs. Pauline Walker.

FIRST AID AWARDS

Here we have the men who received certificates, from left to right: Messrs. Geoffrey Lloyd, George G. Evans, Richard Greenwood, M. M. Parker, Harold Wilson and Ken H. Wynn. Awarded a certificate but unable to be present to receive it was Mr. John Shallcross.



AT SCHOOL TOGETHER

Miss Helen Hodgson, a private secretary at Head Office, and Mr. Bill Foster, a cable jointer from our Clwyd District, photographed when they attended one of the Spring and Summer Schools held at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, a short time ago. They were the first of 24 MAN-WEB employees who have been selected for these Schools during 1973.

ELECTRIC CATERING FOR NEW MENUS

The highly specialised techniques of cook-freeze catering are explained in a series of nine data-sheets published by the Electricity Council under the overall title of "Electric Catering for New Menus."

Prepared as an introduction to cook-freeze operations for caterers and management, the data-sheets are titled:

- 1) An introduction to cook-freeze;
- 2) Food freezing technology in cook-freeze;
- 3) Cook-freeze cooking operations;
- 4) Food production equipment—packaging, blast freezing and storage;
- 5) Food distribution and transport;
- 6) Peripheral service areas—the new kitchens;
- 7) Planning cook-freeze—assessing the feasibility of the freeze production catering facility;
- 8) Planning cook-freeze—layout and electrical requirements;
- and 9) Advantages of cook-freeze.

Sets of Electric Catering For New Menus data-sheets may be obtained free from The Publications Section, The Electricity Council, Trafalgar Buildings 1 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DS.



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Editorial Staff
 Keith Baldwin
 John F. Perry
 Sam Doughty

EDITORIAL

Changing Trends

AS SOCIETY becomes more developed and sophisticated, so inevitably our demands for fuel and power, in every form, increase. Continually-rising living standards bring parallel rises in the domestic use of energy for heating, lighting, and convenience, but it is undoubtedly industry which is the 'big spender' of the earth's energy resources.

The enormous appetites of our factories, shipyards, mills and furnaces are satisfied only by a veritable torrent of fuel of every kind—electricity, coal, oil and gas, and by far the greater part of our present energy demands are still met from the world's reserves of fossil fuels.

Whether recent gloomy forebodings over the future of world oil supplies—for example—are justified or not, there is no doubt that these reserves have their limits, which will be reached in a period of time directly related to our increased use of them.

The possible use of solar heat, tidal power, and the heat of the earth's inner core, still await technical breakthroughs which will permit their exploitation on a large and practical scale, and at present the only non-fossil power source being developed in an effective and economic way is the nuclear generation of electricity. More than once, in recent months, the Electricity Council's Chairman has stated his conviction that nuclear power will provide the fuel for future electricity generation, and it seems certain that our industry will have to increase the nuclear proportion of its generating capacity progressively, as the pressure on natural resources increases.

Already every industry uses electricity, at least for lighting and motive power, and this number of *Contact* describes electricity's role in the production of marine propellers—a field in which electricity has proved to be especially suited as a heating agent.

It seems likely that the years to come will see the ever-increasing use of nuclear electricity in industrial processes at present served by other fuels, as the question mark of the supply of those fuels grows ever larger.



The breaking out of a typical large propeller from its mould.

Big Ships' Propellers

BIRKENHEAD SPECIALITY

Electric melting is the key to efficient production at the Birkenhead works of Stone Manganese Marine Ltd., which is the world's largest electric melting installation for the manufacture of marine propellers. This particular works concentrates on fixed-pitch propeller production up to the very largest sizes and weights, which form part of the Company's full range of fixed and controllable pitch propellers and bow thrusters. With over 60 per cent of its output directed to export, the Company's outstanding international reputation can be judged from the fact that it has received the Queen's Award to Industry no less than three times in the

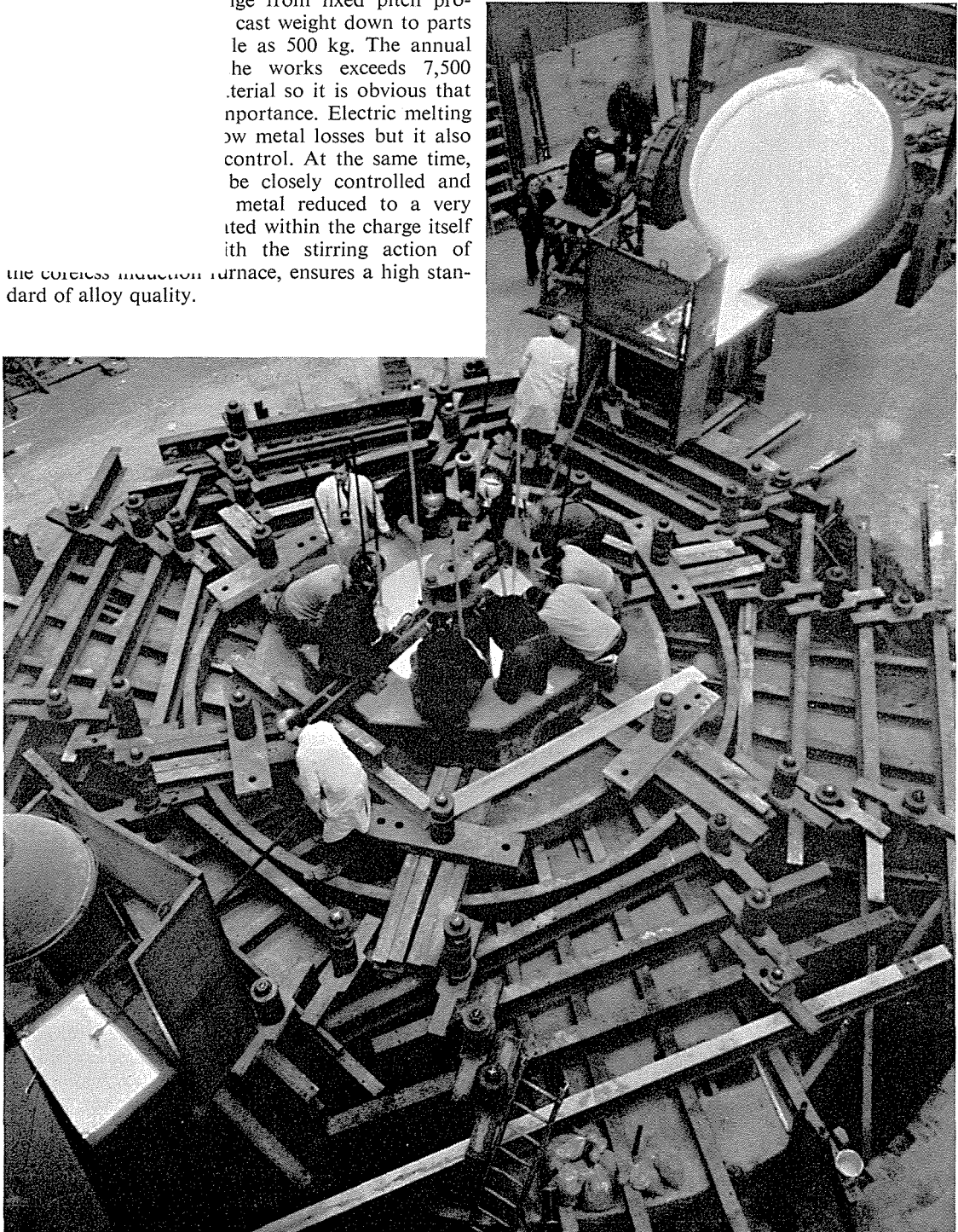
past six years.

Stone Manganese Marine Ltd., has been engaged in the production of marine propellers since about 1880 through the two original companies, J. Stone & Company, and the Manganese Bronze and Brass Company which merged in 1963. Throughout this period, developments in marine propulsion related directly to the increase in size of ships and the demand for greater power and improved performance. Ships' engines have changed from reciprocating steam engines to steam turbines and diesel engines. Considerable advances have been made in the science of hydrodynamics as applied to propeller design. Production methods have changed, while larger and still larger propellers have been required and new alloys have been developed and introduced.

OUR COVER PICTURE shows the final hand finishing of a very large propeller, nearing completion before despatch.

melting shop has a total tonnes it is not surprising
ices the largest propellers
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cast weight down to parts
le as 500 kg. The annual
he works exceeds 7,500
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mportance. Electric melting
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be closely controlled and
metal reduced to a very
uted within the charge itself
ith the stirring action of
the coreless induction furnace, ensures a high stan-
dard of alloy quality.

Below: The most critical phase in propeller production—the actual casting, which involves the pouring of up to 80 tonnes of molten metal for a large propeller.



Deputy C.C.O. tells Hoylake Apprentices of

'NOT-SO-GOOD OLD DAYS'

It was the last day of the course and with bags ready packed it was a time for a final farewell to staff and mates.

The occasion was the 17th prize distribution at Hoylake Training Centre, after forty weeks of hard learning by over 50 MANWEB apprentice tradesmen.

The Deputy Chief Commercial Officer, Mr. Bill Shires, went along to wish the lads well at the start of their working lives. He recalled his own youth and his training—or lack of it—in the 'not-so-good old days.'

He had started work in his native town of Bolton, as an errand boy for a sports outfitters. Prospects looked very limited so hearing an electrical contractor had a vacancy for a boy to learn the trade, off he went, cap in hand, and landed the job.

The wages were £26 per year and that for a 52½ hour week. There was no formal training, and his

employer had an excellent incentive scheme,—one mistake and you were out!

He asked for time off to attend night school. His boss commended him for his wish to improve himself, had no objections but if he went then somebody would have to be found to do his job!

Today the opportunities were limitless, anyone of his audience could be a future Chairman of MANWEB, and Mr. Shires welcomed the lads to the Commercial team which aimed at providing a first class service at reasonable cost.

Education and Training Officer, Mr. Lionel Ladner, explained that every year at Hoylake certain apprentices were selected for awards. Who was to receive awards was kept secret until the last minute. The only incling the lads had was when they were ushered onto the front row, and saw their parents present.

The parents of all four prize winners were present



Mr. J. L. W. Ladner.

◁
Hoylake apprentice training staff, from left to right: Messrs. R. Slack, J. H. Seymour and W. S. Evans, Mrs. S. Hughes (*secretary*), Messrs. C. J. Roberts, M. R. Grisenthwaite, D. Jones and J. A. Bailey.



to see them receive their awards from the wife of the Deputy Chief Commercial Officer, Mrs. Sybil Shires.

The award for the best all-round apprentice went to Colin Ward of Dee Valley District. Best electrical apprentice was Leslie Mather of South Lancashire District. The top award to a mechanical apprentice was won by Tony Capper of North Wirral District.

A special award made to the apprentice who it was thought would benefit greatest from the award itself was made to Adrian Whyte from North Mersey District. His prize was a month at the West Highland School of Adventure in Scotland.

Following the presentation of awards it was the turn of Ian Hughes an apprentice from Clwyd District, to propose a vote of thanks.

In his concluding remarks Mr. Ladner, thanked all his staff both at the training centre and at Sealand Road, for their efforts. He had a special word of thanks for the Hoylake landladies who made a second home for the apprentices during their stay at the training centre. Present was one of the kindly ladies Miss Rogers, who was retiring after being on the Board's books for many years. To mark the occasion she was presented with a bouquet of flowers.



The Prizewinners. Top left: Adrian Whyte, off to the School of Adventure. Top right: Tony Capper, best mechanical apprentice, with his Mum and Dad. Above, left: Colin Ward, the best all-round apprentice. Above, right: Leslie Mather, best electrical apprentice, receives his award from Mrs. Shires. Below: A farewell wave as the last of this apprentice group leave Hoylake after their 40-weeks of training.





Above: The man with the 'mike,' Gren Roberts, whose running commentary kept the competitors and spectators up-to-date with the scoreline.

WHAT A KNOCK-OUT

T.V. GAME PLAYED AT HEAD OFFICE

The national and international crazy sports game 'It's a Knock-out,' pioneered by B.B.C. Television, provided one of the outstanding events in the Head Office social calendar.

Twenty teams took part in the five games, devised by Head Office engineer Mr. Hugh Farrow. The competition, held on the rear lawn of the Head Office building, was for teams of 10, of whom 5 had to be ladies, from the MANWEB Chester Sports and Social Club.

The M.C. for the evening—a sort of MANWEB *Stuart Hall*—was Club Secretary Mr. Gren Roberts. It was he with Hugh Farrow, the referee, who had been responsible for the excellent organisation and some of the professional polish.

Following the parade of teams which heralded the start of evening's entertainment, the competitors hurled themselves, often literally, into the contest. In the midst of the hurtling bodies and flying pails of water

Below: This shot taken from the roof of our Head Office building shows five of the teams during one of the games.





Sorting the problems out. *Left*, the highly efficient scorers, Anne Seel and Connie Jones seem stumped for a moment. *Right*, Hugh Farrow, *centre*, ponders a point being discussed by Tom Jones, *left*, one of the judges and competitor Nigel Crossley.

were the team of judges keeping a careful eye on contestants, meticulously marking their scoresheets, and reporting to the Welfare Section's *Eddie Waring*, Mr. Tom Dutton, whose job it was to keep Gren informed of results.

With twenty teams competing it was no easy job for scorers Miss Connie Jones and Miss Anne Seel to keep tabs on results—but they did.

The MANWEB Knock-out Champions of Head Office, were Billing 1, one of two teams from the Billing section of the Financial Department, and their other team Billing 2 came third. The winners were captained by Mrs. Heather Carr. Runners up were a scratch team entered at the last minute who called themselves the Odds and Sods, captained by commercial engineer Doug Gregg. Captain of the third team Billing 2 was Mrs. Ellen Frances.

At the bottom of the pile were the typists, who despite the cajoling of their captain Mr. Teg Williams were awarded the wooden spoons.

The prizes were presented to the winners by the wife of MANWEB Secretary and Solicitor, Mrs. Joyce Parker.

Following the field events, inside the restaurant Mr. Norman Kenyon, from the Commercial Dept. did his *Jimmy Saville* bit, and introduced a disco session for the spectators to exercise their limbs.

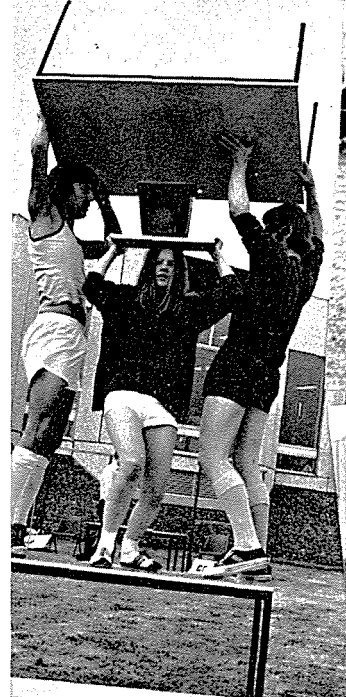
One or two observers from the Districts present commented that this sort of contest might go down well as a Board event, and they were certain they had teams which could beat the Head Office winners.

Our congratulations go to the organisers and participants for providing a splendid evening's entertainment. Verdict of those spectators on what they thought—"It's a knock-out!"

MORE PICTURES ON THE NEXT PAGES ▷

Group Manager, Mr. Harry Telfer, one of the many cameramen with plenty of happy faces to take, like the ones below.









A happy group from our South Lancashire District.

Sales Training Meeting



Over the past few weeks, each of our ten Districts have held special training meetings for their sales staff. The main purpose of these get-togethers was to launch three new lines now being sold by the Board. First was the well-publicised McDonald vacuum cleaner, then the new and exciting Electra L1 washing machine and finally the full range of Ideal Kitchen Cabinetry.

Pictures on this page are some members of our sales staff from the Liverpool, North Mersey and South Lancashire Districts, taken at their joint meeting held in Liverpool.

◁ Soft drinks only for this St. Johns trio.



Sales representatives from each of the three Districts.



The powerful sales team from our St. Johns shop.





SPECIAL AGENT

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of his famous namesake Dick, **Brian Barton**, whose under-cover occupation is that of engineering draughtsman at Head Office, has been busy sleuthing.

He recently read a newspaper story about a youngster from Prestatyn who discovered a piece of microfilm in the lace tabs of a new pair of shoes. Further investigations revealed that the shoes came from Poland!

Like a flash, our "Man from M.A.N.W.E.B." realised that he too was wearing a pair of Polish made shoes. He quickly checked the lace tabs and carefully unfolding them he found pieces of crimped-up microfilm.

Was this some secret message? Plans for industrial espionage? Down in the bowels of our Head Office building, the Board's expert photographic team headed by **Bill Griffiths**, examined the minute pieces of film.

It was photographer **Mike Hall** who finally produced the print, pictured below, from four or five pieces of film, each half an inch long and one-sixteenth of an inch wide.

Normally in a story of this kind, we show pictures of the people concerned, but on this occasion we

are taking the precaution of keeping the true identity of our photographic team a top secret. Incidentally, the names we have used are fictitious. Well—you have all heard of T.H.R.U.S.H. and Smersh and of course the K.G.B.!

The mystery remains, however. Is there some sinister plot to denationalise us or is it that the Poles are just using old film for stiffening the tabs of shoe laces—and so gain some valuable publicity for their shoes at the same time?

Jones the Chairman

A popular member of our Dee Valley District staff, **Mr. Eifion Jones**, was recently elected as the first Chairman of the new Alyn-Dee District Authority.

Eifion, who is the principal assistant, Administration at Rhostyllen, has represented his native Treuddyn as a Labour councillor on the Hawarden Rural District Council for the past 18 years. He has been Chairman of its Finance Committee for nine years.

He has also been a member of

Treuddyn Parish Council for 20 years, and is a magistrate on the Mold Bench.

The new Alyn-Dee District Authority covers an area of 60 square miles and has a population of some 70,000. It is an amalgamation of Hawarden Rural and Buckley and Connah's Quay U. D. Councils.

Mixed Football

Next month, cricketers and tennis players will be playing their final matches as footballers bring out their boots, shorts and shirts ready for another season. The most common sight will be teams composed entirely of men, but on occasions we may see a ladies' team in action.

The next logical step is for a mixed (*ladies and gentlemen—if you will pardon the expression*) team.

The MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club already have such a team and now offer a challenge to any other mixed team within the Board.

If you can take up the gauntlet, please contact **Mr. Dave Cartwright**, Costs Department, Head Office, (*Internal Extension 2840*).

Sheepdog Champ

A year or two back we told the story of **Mr. Garnet Jones**, an electrician based at Mold, who has the unusual hobby of breeding and

The developed piece of microfilm from 'the other side.' What do you make of it?



'trailing' sheep-dogs, in which he has scored many outstanding successes, often at the expense of well-known farming competitors.

We hear that Garnet is still notching up the honours in his hobby. At the recent Preston Sheep Dog Trials he won the Open class, from a field of 80 competitors, and took second place in the 'young dog' trials.

Football Star

Eighteen years old **Karen Hughes**, an accounts clerk at Head Office, is making a name for herself in the football world. Recently she was selected for a trial for the Welsh International Ladies Squad.

Karen plays for Prestatyn Ladies,



the all-conquering North Wales team. This was their first year in the league, and they won it by five clear points.

The team, for which Karen is their aggressive right back, also won the Congaron Cup, which is open to teams from Merseyside and Wirral—now extended to include parts of North Wales.

Recently they played the top teams from Ireland and South Wales and beat them convincingly, home and away.

In the three years since they were formed the Prestatyn Ladies have raised £1,200 for charity.

Karen, the girl with style and skill.

Situation Vacant



WANTED— An attractive, well-spoken, nicely-groomed and smartly-dressed young lady who has a pleasant personality and enjoys meeting people. She should be a MANWEB employee and be prepared to take on new responsibilities as from January 1st, 1974. Application forms are obtainable from: *The Editor, "Contact," MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.*

Previous applicants are encouraged to apply again.

Retirements

Mrs. A. BONNELL

Many of our electricians and those still serving their apprenticeships will be interested to hear of the recent retirement of Mrs. Ada Bonnell from her job at Hoylake Training Centre where she assisted in the canteen.

Ada, who is a keen gardener, was presented with a collection of gardening implements by her friends at the Centre.

LEAVING SOUTH LANCS.

Mr. C. R. Worrall, a labourer working from our Frodsham depot, retired recently with colleagues presenting him with a gift of cash and their best wishes for the future.

Ill health brought the retirement of Mr. P. O'Hara, a labourer based at Warrington. He too received a parting gift from friends who wished him improved health in his retirement.

CONTACT Photographic Competition 1973

Sections for Colour/Black & White

Cash Prizes

Write to The Editor for a copy of the Rules.



Some of our Northwich drivers who received awards, with their guest speakers and District Officers.

Safe Drivers at Northwich

AT a ceremony held a few weeks ago and presided over by Mr. G. Zeiher (*District Engineer*), members of our staff based at Northwich were presented with awards for safe driving by Mr. D. M. Marshall, Mid-Cheshire Road Safety Officer, who congratulated them all on their high standard of driving.

He also asked for a special vote of thanks for Mr. Ken Tatler and his team of mechanics for their part in keeping the vehicles maintained in a road-worthy condition.

After the awards had been presented, Mr. E. Yates from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, echoed thanks to the maintenance team and to the drivers for their diligence. He said that many MANWEB drivers had to handle very large vehicles and at times were faced with the difficult problem of reversing into narrow alleyways and similar awkward places. To do this day in and day out without even scratching the vehicle was quite an achievement, he went on.

Speaking of new legislation which had been introduced as aids to road safety, he said that in his opinion the pelican crossing was one of the finest pieces of safety aid now operating in this country. "It gives drivers and pedestrians a definite command of what to do," he said. He reminded drivers that the flashing light meant that they could make progress providing that there were no pedestrians on the crossing. He also mentioned the 'bleep' sound effect which was a boon for blind people.

"It is interesting to note," he went on, "that on safety publicity it says that the penalty for committing a driving offence on a pelican crossing was

£50, but the penalty for a pedestrian committing an offence, could be death." He then emphasised that pedestrians should only cross on the black and white stripe section and not on the zig-zag lines.

Mr. Yates concluded his brief but informative address by once again congratulating the MANWEB drivers on their success in gaining the coveted awards which were as follows:

Star Bar to 20 Year Brooch: Mr. F. Riley.

Bar to 15 Year Brooch: Messrs. W. R. Micklewright and F. Stringer.

15 Year Brooch: Mr. D. Senior.

Bar to 10 Year Medal: Messrs. R. Maddock, A. H. Pulham J. E. Treeby and G. Wood.

10 Year Medal: Mr. E. Benyon.

Bar to 5 Year Medal: Messrs. E. Bratt, G. Breeze, R. Craven, J. A. Davies, R. Edgeley A. R. Howman, K. S. Massey, R. M. Paton, L. Stenton, G. Taylor J. H. A. Wilson and A. M. Woodier.

5 Year Medal: Messrs. P. J. Edwardson, J. A. Maguire, H. Massey, T. E. Raynor and J. A. Tomlinson.

Diploma: Messrs. S. Brown, S. H. Catley, R. W. Cooke, J. A. Dean, A. Dickens, G. Edwards, J. W. Foster, A. F. Gibb, G. L. Greenhough, A. V. Kettle, C. T. Kinder, K. Leather, R. Leather, T. D. Martin, R. Penny, B. L. Shaw, R. H. Smith, J. E. Spruce, J. Summers, D. Thompson, A. Wakefield and G. Young.

Farewell to Friends

NOT RETIRED YET!

Friends and colleagues of the Liverpool District gathered together recently to bid farewell to Mr. Harold Speechley. After over 38 years in the electricity supply industry Harold was not retiring, but entering new fields with the Liverpool Corporation.

Mr. Speechley commenced work at Clarence Dock Power Station as an assistant to the Control Engineer in 1934. Two years later he transferred to the Meter Reading Section with the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department later MANWEB's Area 1, and in 1959 he joined the outside staff as a representative dealing with consumers' complaints and queries.

Presenting him with a transistor radio his colleagues wished him success in his new venture.

TRIPLE DEPARTURE

A triple presentation to three lady members of North Mersey District office staff was carried out by Mr. George Shoesmith, *District Administrative Officer*, a short time ago.

The ladies concerned were all saying 'farewell' to their colleagues to make new lives for themselves in other spheres. Mrs. Betty Jackson, who had been with MANWEB since 1965, first at our Southport shop and later as receptionist/cashier at Southport District office, left to devote her noted organising ability to running a Day Centre for pensioners on behalf of Southport Social Services Committee. She had been the secretary, and an active committee member, of the MANWEB Southport Sports and Social Club.

The other two ladies—Miss Cathy Power and Mrs. Lyn McIntosh, both popular members of the consumers accounts section, left for different

reasons—Cathy to take up duties with the Gas Board, and Lyn to start a family.

Their many friends wish them every happiness as they go their respective ways.

OFF TO CANADA

The staff at Gwynedd District office, Caernarvon, have lost a real stalwart with the recent departure of Miss Pauline E. Jones, who left us recently after nine years' service to go and make a new life for herself in Canada.

Head Office is really to blame, for Pauline went on the first charter flight to Toronto organised by the Sports and Social Club, and she liked the country so much that she decided to go and live and work there.



Pauline, left, receives her farewell gifts from her friends at Caernarvon. Alan Snape is making the presentations.

She was one of those indispensable people who will be sorely missed. Not only was she our *Contact* correspondent, but she played a leading role in the First Aid scene, and in the local Sports and Social Club. She helped to organise many functions, such as the kiddies Christmas parties, dinner dances, and car treasure hunts.

On behalf of her many friends, at a social evening at a Caernarvon inn, Pauline was presented with a watch and a Welsh dragon lucky charm by Mr. Alan Snape, Secretary of the Sports and Social Club.

Surrounded by some of our North Mersey District glamour squad is Mr. George Shoesmith after presenting parting gifts to the three ladies who were leaving us.



QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

Electricity Council

Mr. Thomas Cox asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he last met representatives of the Electricity Council.

Mr. Tom Boardman: I frequently meet representatives of the Electricity Council. The last such meeting was on 7th May.

Mr. Cox: I note that reply, but is not the Minister aware that electricity boards are unwittingly aiding landlords and property companies to get tenants out? When it is a landlord's responsibility to pay the electricity bills and he refuses, the supplies are cut off; and such is the inconvenience faced by the tenants that they then vacate the premises. Will he, therefore, as a matter of urgency bring this matter to the attention of the boards and request that in future they consult tenants to ascertain who is responsible for paying bills before any supplies are cut off?

Mr. Boardman: I suggest that, if the hon. Member has specific instances in mind, he should put them to the electricity board or consultative council concerned, which will certainly examine such cases.

Mr. Bruce-Gardyne: On the last occasion that my hon. Friend met the Electricity Council, did he emphasise that the subsidising of various electricity boards to compensate them for price control would be applied to ensure that the least efficient boards receive the largest subsidy?

Mr. Boardman: I have had a number of discussions with the Electricity Council on the question of the compensation for

which it has asked in respect of price restraint. This has been a continuing dialogue.

Mr. Varley: Will the Minister say something about the reported application by the electricity supply industry for a 15 per cent increase in the domestic tariffs? If this were agreed, does he agree that it would blow another hole through the Government's counter-inflationary policy?

Mr. Boardman: To my knowledge, no request for such an increase has yet gone to the Price Commission. I would certainly not comment on speculative rumours which may have been heard by the hon. Gentleman.

Public Sector Borrowing

Mr. Bruce-Gardyne asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress he has made in financing the public sector borrowing requirement in the current financial year; and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of State, Treasury (Mr. John Nott): Good progress, Sir.

Mr. Bruce-Gardyne: I am delighted to have that most informative reply from my hon. Friend. Can he state the extent to which, apart from the useful further information that we shall obtain from my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer in a few moments, the progress of the Government's efforts to finance the borrowing requirement has been assisted by borrowing by the nationalised industries—the Electricity Council especially?

Mr. Nott: Borrowing overseas will not have any effect on the size of the borrowing requirement. Transactions through the Exchange Equalisation Account in sterling are still required within the domestic economy, even when money is borrowed abroad in foreign currency.

Mr. Paget: Does the hon. Gentleman agree that the use of foreign funds for investment in

this country is highly beneficial to the country and should be encouraged?

Mr. Nott: I do not quite catch what the hon. and learned Gentleman said, but if he was suggesting that enforcement by overseas companies in this country was advantageous, the answer is "Yes."

Pensioners (Heating Installations)

Mr. Roger White and Mrs. Kelleff-Bowman asked the Secretary of State for Social Services whether he will ask the Supplementary Benefits Commission to consider making grants for the installation of all-night heaters for pensioners.

The Under-Secretary of State for Social Services (Mr. Paul Dean): The commission can already make payments for this purpose under its discretionary powers.

Mr. White: I acknowledge my hon. Friend's reply and the Government's concern for pensioners, particularly during inclement weather, but will he give the House further information about the availability of electric blankets for elderly people who suffer from low temperatures?

Mr. Dean: I am grateful to my hon. Friend for that suggestion, although it may involve safety problems. I am sure that the whole House welcomes the practical suggestions that my hon. Friend has made. A number of considerations are now being actively looked into by the Government, local authorities and voluntary organisations in an effort to try to find a variety of ways to improve heating arrangements for elderly people.

Mr. Alexander W. Lyon: How many old people will die as a result of the Government's refusal last week to allow more discussion of a Bill that would have given heating allowances to all the old people who are at risk?

Is not the real problem the hypocrisy of the Government in pursuing this subject piecemeal?

Mr. Dean: I am sorry that the hon. Gentleman feels it right to use emotive language on such a serious subject. He must know that the Government, with the help of local authorities and voluntary bodies, have done far more than have any other Government to deal with this deep-seated problem.

Mrs. Kellett-Bowman: Will my hon. Friend bear in mind that night storage heaters are a particularly safe form of heating for the elderly? When he is next in discussion with the Chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, will he bear in mind the maxim that a word to the wise is sufficient?

Mr. Dean: I am grateful to my hon. Friend, but she will appreciate that the powers of the commission are fairly limited in this respect but substantial powers

are available to local authorities. About 400,000 additional people will benefit from the improved heating arrangements which the Government intend to introduce before next winter.

Mr. O'Malley: Bearing in mind that the system of heating allowances through the commission is still inadequate in spite of the changes recently announced by the Government, and that the commission has discretion to make grants, will the hon. Gentleman ensure that the commission's discretion is more generously exercised than it is at present?

Mr. Dean: Yes, I assure the hon. Gentleman that the commission is very exercised on this matter. Not only is it doing, and intending to do, all it can to assist more people, but it is also working in close co-operation with local authorities and voluntary organisations which are also doing a great deal to improve the arrangements.

Another Satisfied Customer

Dear Sir,

I recently invested in an electric cooker through your Allerton Road branch, this being our first venture in this field. Previously, all our cooking has been done by gas. Now, it is a question of going back to school!

The purpose of writing is to convey my thanks, in the order of dealing, to the manager and staff of the branch who assisted me with courtesy. Secondly, to the two electricians who did the installation, for the very good job they made.

I hope to return in the not too distant future to invest in a small 'fridge and deep freezer.

Thank you once again,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed).

Obituary

Mr. C. HIGGINS

It is with much regret that we report the death on May 14th 1973 of Mr. Charles Higgins, a former member of the Liverpool District engineering clerical Staff.

'Charlie' had 36 years' service in the electricity supply industry, but unfortunately enjoyed only 15 months' retirement.

He leaves a widow, to whom all his many friends offer their condolences.

Mr. ALBERT TUCK

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Albert Tuck, a chargehand in the inspection and metering department at Liverpool District, following absence through illness lasting only a month.

Albert will be sadly missed by his colleagues, particularly be-

cause of his pleasant manner, humour, and eagerness to help anyone with a problem, large or small.

He joined the electric supply industry 43 years ago as an apprentice electrician, and in 1936 he transferred to the inspection and metering dept.

He was also a founder member—and active member of the No. 1 L.A.C. for a number of years.

Mr. H. LI. WILLIAMS

We deeply regret to report the death of Mr. Howell Lloyd Williams, sub-District clerk at Llandudno Junction until his retirement in 1961.

Mr. Williams, who lived at Llandudno Junction, previously worked for Conwy Corporation electricity department. He served in the forces during the 1914-18 war.

Calling Aberystwyth

We were delighted to receive a letter from one of our old friends, Mr. E. Haigh, who retired some time ago after serving MANWEB for 17 years in our Aberystwyth District, deep in the heart of Wales.

He told us that he is now living in Lancashire, to be precise, at 206 Beechtrees, Fir Treet, Digmore, Skelmersdale.

Mr. Haigh wrote that he made many friends while with MANWEB, but is rather disappointed when he receives his monthly 'Contact,' that he does not see many items of interest or of happenings in his old District.

Next month's issue however should please him, for we think there might be a couple of items from Aberystwyth.

We still hope that this pensioner's appeal will be heard in the District, and more news and views will come from them.



Mr. Roberts, with friends at Marsh Lane.



Mr. Wintle, left, with Mr. Griffiths.

RETIREMENTS

MR. J. ROBERTS

After 25 years' service to the industry Mr. Jack Roberts, a messenger on the staff of North Mersey District, retired recently. Mr. Roberts had earlier worked with the mains gangs, and was very popular with all his colleagues.

Jack, a bachelor, is a keen gardener, and kept various colleagues supplied with fresh vegetables and flowers. He is also an ardent Everton fan, and an expert cook. On behalf of his friends, Mr. Shoemsmith presented him with a set of pans, to help keep his cordon bleu standards up to scratch!

Mr. E. A. G. WINTLE

Nearly 25 year's service with MANWEB came to an end a few weeks ago for Mr. E. A. G. Wintle when he retired from his job as engineering clerk in our Aberystwyth District. Known to one and all as Ted, he did some good work for over 20 years as a committee member of the Aberystwyth and District Sports and Social Club.

Before leaving, however, Ted had to face two ceremonies when presentations were made to him. The first was when Mr. I. H. Griffiths (*energy sales engineer*) on behalf of members of the Sports and Social Club, handed over two silver goblets as a token of their appreciation of his service. Then Mr. D. Parry (*system engineer*), on behalf of all the District staff, made a presentation of a wallet,

suitably filled with the right kind of notes.

We join with Ted's many friends down Aberystwyth way in wishing him many happy years of retirement—and good fishing!

Mr. V. SAWYER

A few weeks ago, retirement day came around for Mr. Vic Sawyer, a popular member of our North Mersey District staff based at Southport.

In his youth, Vic trained as a motor mechanic, but on completion of his apprenticeship he found that jobs in his line of business were very scarce and so he did the next best thing and became a driver. In 1950 he gave that up when he joined MANWEB as a labourer and fourteen years later he became one of a team of three acting as gatekeeper/shift/security men at our Southport Depot.

He has made many friends among the staff and with our customers, especially those who had occasion to telephone for "after hours" service.

Vic, is an exceptionally keen gardener and now he will be able to devote more time for his very own 'Flower Show.'

At a farewell ceremony, colleagues gathered together to see Mr. G. Shoemsmith (*District Administrative Officer*) present Vic with their parting gifts and on their behalf, to wish him and his wife many happy years together in retirement.

Mr. Sawyer, centre, with some of his friends and colleagues at our Southport depot.



ELECTRICITY and the ENVIRONMENT

The major task of electricity supply utilities in society today is to harmonise the supply of electric power with the preservation and improvement of man's environment.

This is the unanimous view of the three largest publicly-owned electricity authorities in the English-speaking world—the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario and the Central Electricity Generating Board. It was expressed at their 7th biennial conference held in London recently.

Electricity supply and the environment came under intensive discussion at the 11-day conference and afterwards the three utilities made the following joint statement:

'Since our last conference two years ago the great international debate on the environment has intensified and we believe, as producers of electricity for more than 23 million consumers, that we can make a useful collective contribution to it.

'First, it should not be forgotten that electricity makes a major contribution to the quality of life—one of the most important considerations of our time. Electric power is more than just a clean, convenient and versatile aid to modern living: it is the very lifeblood of industrialised nations and an expanding supply is essential for economic growth. Without it, life for the expanding population of the world would be insupportable. Even a temporary shortage of electricity can have serious social and economic consequences.

'Electricity utilities must not only provide adequate supplies: they must also do so at an economic price and with full regard for the quality of the environment. But protection of the environment costs money and that money has to come from electricity consumers. What, then, is the right price to pay for environmental protection? In our view, the environmental aspects of each new project must be considered as an integral part of the overall concept in order to achieve satisfactory results at acceptable cost.

'This is the cornerstone of our policy of caring for the environment. It is not a new policy. We have a well-developed sense of social responsibility and have pooled experience and knowledge over the last 12 years to the all-round benefit of the people we serve.

'As public utilities, we are extremely conscious of the need to keep the public fully informed of our work. It is right that they take the closest interest in the preservation and improvement of the environment. It is equally right that they base their opinions on fact, not on emotion generated by well-meaning but often ill-informed people. A vital part of our job is to

ensure that everyone has the facts and understands our aims and problems.

'One fact is that the demand for electricity never stops growing and that if it is to be met more power stations must be built. It is also true, in our view, that with proper care an acceptable balance can be struck between the need to continue to satisfy consumer requirements and, at the same time, to safeguard beauty and amenity. Co-existence is not only a legitimate goal; it is one we know to be attainable,' the statement concluded.

AIR CONDITIONING

'The Ins and Outs of Ventilation' is a new eight-page publication produced by the Electricity Council which discusses the need for ventilation in commercial buildings.

Ventilation supplies fresh air, removes contaminants and provides a movement of air to prevent a 'dead' atmosphere. Natural ventilation of a building depends on outside conditions and is hardly ever ideal. It is least effective in hot weather when good ventilation is wanted most of all. Controlled ventilation uses fans to ensure air movement regardless of outside conditions. Ducts, with several vents, are often fitted to help even out the flow of ventilation.

Basic methods of ventilation are described, together with types of equipment available—simple propeller fan for window or wall mounting, roof unit with propeller or axial flow fan with short duct runs, duct mounting axial flow fan, and duct mounting centrifugal fan. The last two types are used in long duct runs or a distribution system.

To illustrate the success of controlled ventilation, several case histories are given. These depict commercial and light industrial premises where controlled ventilation systems have been installed—offices, shops, kitchens, hotel, chemical works and a laboratory.

Where ventilation is not enough to provide the degree of internal atmosphere control required, air conditioning is the answer. A second new 8-page publication, in full colour, has been produced to show some of the many successful air conditioning installations. *'These businesses rate air conditioning one of the best investments they ever made'* contains case histories of shops, offices, restaurant and a pub where precise control of temperature and humidity is exercised by air conditioning.

Both of these publications are available, free of charge, from Electricity Boards and from the Air Conditioning Advisory Bureau, 2 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DR.