

# CONTACT

July  
1974

Cover  
Girl  
(see page 126)



## OUR QUEENSFERRY QUEEN

OUR COVER GIRL is Lynne Worrall, a 21-year-old financial clerk at our Queensferry Stores who has just completed a hat-trick of beauty competition titles. She began as "Miss Connah's Quay Nomads" (her local football team) and then went on to win the title "Miss Hawker Siddeley." Her most recent victory came when she beat eight finalists to become "Miss Wrexham Football Club" and win a holiday for two in the Isle of Wight.

Lynne represented Wales at the National Football Queen Competition in Weymouth where she ran the local girl very close to finish as runner-up, winning a cash prize and a compact.

By the way—the holiday for two—Lynne will be going with her husband Colston!

Our dark-haired beauty joined the Board last August and was in the finals of this year's "Girl from MANWEB" competition.

### MANWEB LEADS IN THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

Among the many gaily decorated floats in this year's "Lord Mayor's Show" parade in Liverpool, was the MANWEB entry which successfully carried off the first prize for "The most original design and workmanship," and was awarded the Lamson Paragon Trophy.

The 38 feet long low-loader vehicle, driven by Mr. Syd Wilson from our Queensferry depot, was neat and tastefully decorated and carried the

Board's current advertising theme, "You're one in a Million at MANWEB."

Potted plants and trailing flowers surrounded a centre piece in gold and white leading up to a circular awning of ruched white nylon. Around the top was the Electricity Council slogan, "There's a better way of living with Electricity." Beneath the awning, seated on a revolving dias, was MANWEB stores clerk, Lynne Worrall, holder of several beauty titles.

The Board's display leader, Mr. Gordon Lewer, designed the winning float which was built by Gordon Studios Limited—no relation—of Liverpool.

We hear that Mr. Lewer has already designed next year's winning float!

The float (below) and the prize





THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE MERSEYSIDE  
AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

# CONTACT

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July 1974

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## EDITORIAL

### *Public Service*

**S**ERVICE to the public, in one way or another, plays an important part in the proper functioning of a democratic society, and it is often necessary for organisations performing public services of different kinds to work in harmonious liaison if they are to do their jobs properly.

Different public services operate in different ways. Those responsible for some aspects are directly elected by the public, while others are administered by boards or corporations appointed by the government of the day. On many occasions the fields of operation of various bodies become common, and in the interests of eliminating red tape and administrative tangles there is much to be said for establishing friendly person-to-person contacts between those responsible for differing tasks.

The MANWEB policy of establishing cordial links with elected representatives of local authorities—exemplified by the recent Board meeting at Crewe (*see page 133*) is a practical way of achieving the desired ends. The paths of electricity supply and local government cross on many occasions (often in holes in the road) and the building of such bridges can only result in a better service to the public.

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Please let the Editorial staff know of any large-scale or unusual engineering schemes or commercial projects going on in your department. We are interested in people too! Contact us about your interesting personalities with a story to tell.



Tasty dishes—cooked by electricity—set before the hungry Fiat workers.

## Not Forgetting the Workers

### ALL-ELECTRIC KITCHEN AT FIAT FACTORY

**M**ANY YEARS AGO, a famous general said, "An army marches on its stomach." A more recent quotation along the same lines was uttered by Signor Alberto Morandini, the general manager of the FIAT Car Company's Distribution Centre at Warrington who said, "A well-fed worker is a happy and efficient worker."

To back up his words, Signor Morandini has on his works premises one of the best-equipped and up-to-date all-electric canteens for his 300 workers.

His decision to go electric came when he visited one of the Board's Commercial Catering exhibitions and asked Malcolm Whalley, 2nd assistant engineer in our energy sales section of the South Lancashire District to come up with some ideas.

Malcolm called in Joan Dittich, our Commercial Catering expert at Head Office and together they soon appreciated that Signor Morandini wanted nothing but the best. So they submitted specifications to the country's finest authority—The

Electricity Council's Catering Centre staff in London—who produced a design for the finished kitchen.

The plans were submitted and the total cost, including a special 400 cubic foot cold-room, amounted to over £10,000 with a load in excess of 120 kilowatts. Items of equipment include a double unit forced-air convection oven, grill, two fryers, hot plates, dual temperature refrigerators, ice cream conservator, dishwasher, potato peeler, waste disposal unit, 100-gallon waterheater and two serving counters equipped with infra-red lamps, hotcupboards and refrigerated display cases.

The canteen is built on the open-plan style with the neat and compact kitchen separating two dining areas, one for about 150 workers and the other seating around 40.

Everything is spotlessly clean. "We chose electricity," said Signor Morandini, "because it was the natural thing to do. It is so clean has no smell and it is so very efficient."

Service is quick and the customers have a choice of two main meals, changed daily, at a cost of about 15 pence. Special meals can be prepared, given sufficient notice, and a T-bone steak would cost about 50 pence. Some 150 meals a day are prepared

and served. "We didn't expect so many to start with," commented Signor Morandini, "but after a few had sampled the deliciously cooked meals, word soon spread around the works and now many more are taking advantage of the facilities."

The site for this Fiat depot was very well chosen for its close proximity to Ellesmere Port where most of the vehicles, private and commercial, arrive from Turin in Company chartered ships. British exports go to Italy on the return journey. A fleet of transporters then bring the vehicles to Warrington to be cleaned and serviced ready for despatch to the many retail distributors throughout the country. This too is made easy for the factory is only a stone's throw from the M62 which links with the M56 and the M6 network of motorways. The turn-round for all vehicles is just one month from leaving the main factory in Turin to arriving on the dealers forecourts.

When the cars arrive in this country, they have a heavy coating of protective wax to prevent damage during transit. At Warrington they are stored on site in a 40-acre car park before being taken on conveyor belts through a de-waxing process—very much like a high-pressure hot-water car wash—then on through a clean water spray and final dry and polish.

A team of mechanics check the oil level, greasing points and up to 20 mechanical connections. This is the second of three checks made on all Fiat cars before they reach the customer. The first takes place as they roll off the assembly lines in Turin and the final check is carried out by the dealers who sell the cars.

The double conveyors at Warrington each take a



*Above: Signor Morandini shows Malcolm Whalley a typical lunch.*

*Centre: One of the forced-air convection ovens in use.*

*Below: Chips with everything—another batch goes into the deep fryer.*





**IN . . .** the cars are taken from the recovery area and put through a steam spray to take off the protective layer of wax . . .



**OUT . . .** where the water is cleaned off and the car polished before it is conveyed to the mechanics for a final check.

car through in four minutes, allowing 200 cars a day to leave the factory.

The latest moves in this go-ahead Company is the provision of a new spare-parts store. This has five 32 feet high storage bays holding 30,000 bins containing spares for all Fiat vehicles. With computerised selection of parts required by a host of dealers, this promises to be one of the most efficient spares supplies organisations in the trade.

To complete the five-star hotel image at the factory, every worker has their own private locker and in the wash-rooms, showers have been installed.

Signor Morandini has been with the Fiat Company for 19 years, the last seven here in Warrington. He is electrically-minded—he even uses an electric cigarette lighter! In the Warrington works there are doors which open and close by the breaking of a “magic eye” beam, a huge electric waste compressor which packs waste in at a ratio of six to one, and as an advertisement for electricity and Fiat, the building is tastefully floodlit at night.

And it doesn't finish there either, for in addition to Signor Morandini's all-electric kitchen at his works, he has an all-electric kitchen in his home!

**The floodlit Fiat works at Warrington.**



## Mid-Cheshire Calling

This month we feature our two telephone operators who direct calls in and out of our District Office at Macon Way, Crewe.

Mrs. Antonia (*Toni please*) Boyer, was trained by the G.P.O. before joining MANWEB 17 years ago at the former District Office in Electricity Street. She is an active member of the District Sports and Social Club and her artistic abilities are used on many occasions when posters are required. Another of her many talents is in dancing and she was for a period of time choreographer for the Crewe Amateur Operatic Society.

Toni and her husband Roy, a G.P.O. engineer, live in a 17th century cottage with a large orchard and an acre of land on which they keep horses, hens, ducks, a tortoise and of course "Crackers" their dog. Daughter Kay is a keen horsewoman and rides in local gymkhanas.

Despite her full-time job with the Board coupled with looking after her family—and the animals—Toni still finds time to do a stint as a disc jockey with the local hospitals broadcasting service.

Miss Patricia (*Pat please*) Margaret Jones has been with us for three years. After leaving school she went to work in a couple of offices and a shop for a time and on one occasion operated a small switchboard.



Pat, left, and Toni, on the switchboard

She enjoyed this experience and joined MANWEB to be trained as an operator by Toni. At Macon Way her Dad can keep an eye on her too, Dad being Bill Jones, a foreman in the contracting section!

Pat's current boy friend, Tony, works at Rolls Royce. She likes Disco's, clothes, watching sport, going to the theatre and listening to folk music. Her favourite 'pop' star is Cat Stevens.

## Chess Challenge

Chester's knights of the checkered board throw down their gauntlet in a challenge to any district who can provide a team of chess men—of any number—to test the cerebral dexterity of the Head Office players. Anyone daring to pick up the gauntlet should ring John McInerney, Head Office Internal 2403.

## Clubmen

Prizewinners at the June Meeting of the MANWEB (Chester) Golfing Society played on the Wrexham Golf Club course, were Messrs. Elwyn Griffith (41), T. L. Bishop and H. B. Parsons (39) and J. Hammond (38). There were 34 competitors taking part.

The next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 24th at the Rhuddlan Golf Club course.

## Smart Salesman

Following the recent announcement of an increase in the price of electricity, an irate customer was quickly on the telephone to our Dee Valley District Office requesting the immediate removal of three electric storage heaters from his home. He complained that with the new higher prices he would not be able to run them.

Senior sales representative Mr. Charles P. Williams went to see the customer and found that two of the heaters were situated in small bedrooms which the customer admitted 'got rather hot at times.' Charles also found that the house had no insulation—not even lagging in the loft. He decided that the time was ripe for the customer to be told a thing or two—in the nicest possible way of course.

Our man from MANWEB explained the financial savings and heat retaining advantages of ceiling and cavity wall insulation. He also spoke of the true economy

of full central heating with the right capacity of heater in the right situation.

He then sold the customer full insulation and two extra storage heaters of smaller capacity for use in the bedrooms. The existing heaters were transferred downstairs giving whole house central heating—by electricity.

Charles convinced the customer that despite the increase in electricity prices that next Winter he would be comfortably warm throughout the house and with the high cost of all fuels in this day and age, he would certainly be getting full value for his money.

## Chairman Eifion

*"We are determined to provide a service to our ratepayers which will be second to none in the Principality."*



With these brave words a MANWEB man with more than 25 years' service in the world of local government to his credit started out on what is sure to be the most testing experience in his public life so far—as Chairman of the new Alyn and Deeside District Council.

The man concerned is Mr. Eifion Jones, principal assistant (administration) at our Dee Valley District, a personality well-known to MANWEB colleagues far beyond the bounds of his own District.

Eifion, or to give him the full title which goes with his heavy new responsibilities—Councillor Eifion Jones, J.P.—will be simply the 'Chairman of the Council,' though if Alyn and Deeside had chosen the more pompous path taken by many other District Councils, he would have been Mayor of the Borough.

His entry into public life came in the humble capacity of Parish Councillor, and despite many other important offices held during the ensuing years, he has maintained his links with 'grass roots' politics with 25 years' service as honorary secretary of the Flintshire Association of Parish Councils. For 19 years he was a member of Hawarden R.D.C., occupying the chair in 1964/65. He was elected to the Alyn and Deeside Council in 1973, following re-organisation, and chaired the 'shadow' Council during the year which led up to his official election as Chairman in April of this year.

He is honorary secretary of the Flintshire Playing

### ELECTED

Meter mechanic at Lister Drive, Liverpool, Mr. Thomas Smith, was recently elected as one of five members' committee-men to serve on the Committee of the Electricity Supply (Manual Workers) Superannuation Scheme for a term of three years. Tom, has been with the Board for the past 18 years and is a member of the Liverpool District L.A.C. and Works Committees.

Fields Association, and has given much service in the field of hospital management, and as a school governor. He was appointed a J.P. in 1956.

Eifion started work with Hawarden R.D.C. as a junior clerk in 1939, and after war service with the R.A.F. in the Mediterranean and Middle East theatres returned to that Council, joining MANWEB on nationalisation. In 1955 he became District Senior Clerk with the former Wrexham District.

On behalf of all his colleagues we wish him every success in leading his council in the service of the people of Alyn and Deeside.

## The Birdman of Aughton!

When Mr. John Ellis (Head Office) and Mr. Tom Owen (Test House) called to check a Centralec Field Trial installation at the home of Mr. Alf Sweeney (retired Liverpool North District Engineer), recently, they were treated to a rare sight. Alf has gained the confidence of a robin which lives in his garden to such an extent that it will freely come to his call, and take food from his hand.

Our picture, taken by Tom (a keen amateur photographer who happened to have his camera handy) shows Alf's feathered friend enjoying a lunch of cheese crumbs. Alf lives in Prescot Road, Aughton, near Ormskirk.







**On tour, from left to right: The Mayor, Councillor Bedson, Messrs. D. Hodgetts (District Administrative Officer), M. M. Parker (Secretary & Solicitor) and N. Walsh (District Commercial Engineer), Councillor Mrs. N. Golding (Chairman of the Housing Committee), Messrs. D. G. Dodds (Chairman), D. Holt (Chairman of Policy Committee) and R. Banks (Stores foreman).**



**In the office block are Messrs. T. Makin (Chairman of the Local Committee of the Consultative Council), G. Zeiber (District Engineer), F. Wood (Secretary & Solicitor, Borough Council), F. J. Brown (Chief Engineer) and H. A. Allman (principal assistant—Admin.). In the foreground is Miss L. R. Astle (clerk).**

## Board Meets Civic Leaders at Crewe

Civic leaders in our Mid-Cheshire District joined members of the MANWEB Board for lunch prior to a tour of our modern District office at Macon Way, Crewe, recently, when the Board held their monthly meeting at Crewe. Our guests were led by the Mayor of Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council (Councillor J. M. Bedson, J.P.).

Welcoming them, our Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, said that the holding of Board meetings away from Head Office provided an opportunity for Board members to meet local civic leaders, strengthening links between MANWEB and local authorities.

He added that more than £6 million has been invested in Mid-Cheshire during the past ten years in extending and reinforcing our networks. Large industries, and some of Cheshire's best farmland, offered an interesting challenge to MANWEB's services. Since 1964 our consumers had increased in number from 82,000 to 104,000, and electricity sales had doubled, while MANWEB provided employment for more than 450 local people.

**Seeing "The Wheel" at work, from left to right: Councillor Mrs. Golding, Messrs. D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman), D. Holt, D. G. Dodds and H. J. Bird (Installation Engineer), with the Mayor, Councillor Bedson, taking a closer look over the shoulder of Miss M. P. Johnson (clerk).**



## From VICKI

our

Liverpool

District

'Contact'

Correspondent



### ON THE WAY BACK

A big "Hello" to Mr. Harry Kaye, consumer's engineer based at Lister Drive. All colleagues and friends will be pleased to hear that he is well on the road to recovery after suffering a heart attack a few months ago.

Although we cannot guarantee to provide the sunshine he has been basking in of late, we can say that a warm welcome awaits his return to "The Drive."

### JUMP TO IT!

An unusual letter—asking for a slot meter to be changed to a credit meter—recently arrived at our Liverpool District Office.

It came on letterheaded paper from a gentleman described as "Chief Clifford E. Ekoku, The Enzenwani of Agbor." But early fears that we had somehow picked

up a consumer in some far-off, sunny clime, where mule-bells tinkle and palm fronds wave, were soon dispelled. Chief Clifford lives in Aigburth, Liverpool, and is in the property business.

A copy of the letter came from our busy correspondent Vicki Roberts, with the comment—*"Not often we get Royalty writing to us!"*

### STORK VISIT

That tired old bird the stork, was busy again recently when a baby daughter was delivered to Mrs. Norma Gladwin who prior to this event, worked on the Outside Control Section in Liverpool District.

Jacqueline and Mum are doing fine.

### OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we report on the death of an old friend, Mr. William (Bill) Pickett, who until his retirement in 1969, was the driver on the fault vehicle operating from Pumpfields. Bill had worked in the Industry since 1935. 'Contact' crossword puzzlers will no doubt remember many of Bill's teasers.

His funeral at Anfield Crematorium was attended by many of his former friends and colleagues.

## DOING WELL

Former friends and colleagues of Mr. Keith Hackney, section engineer at Mold until 1969 when he left to take up an appointment in New Zealand, will be interested to hear that he is doing well 'down under.'

A cutting from a New Zealand paper announces that he has been appointed Engineer-Manager of the Cambridge Electric Power Board, after working as senior design engineer with the Wellington Municipal Electricity Department.

## A WINNER

Consistency finally paid off when Mr. Barry Harding, a chargehand electrician working from Lock Street, Northwich in our Mid-Cheshire District took the Winners Cup in the Individual



Barry with his trophies.

*Wanted Urgently—*

## Football Manager

The Football Section of our Head Office Sports and Social Club invite applications from anyone who would like to put their football theories to the test and manage an already successful team who have just gained promotion to the 2nd Division of the Chester and District League.

This is an unpaid post—like most of the best jobs—and besides having a good knowledge of the

game, the applicant should be capable of planning tactics. The team is willing, keen and talented.

The manager will have to plan training sessions and be on hand at most matches to help and advise his players. He will have sole responsibility for team selection.

If this is a job that you can do then please get in touch with Mr. Nigel Crossley, Superann. Dept., (internal 'phone 2717).

'Knock-Out' Competition in the 1st Division of the Sandbach and District Table Tennis league.

Barry has been runner-up on several occasions in previous tournaments and next season he will be competing in the 1st Division of the Crewe and District league.



'Knockout Champions' Sec 'C' with their trophies, *left to right*: Don Roxburgh, Marilyn Robinson, Daphne Walker, Cora Roberts, Brian Farren, David Buchanan (*kneeling*), Gill Farren and Martin Cross. Plus Mrs. Joyce Parker, who made the presentation, wife of MANWEB Secretary and Solicitor.



Scorers Ken Woodward, *standing*, Dowell Jones and Connie Jones.



# IT'S A KNOCKOUT

The second annual Head Office 'It's-a-Knockout' event, held at Sealand Road recently, proved an unqualified success.

Fifteen teams braved the cold evening, which was made colder for competitors with the high water content of the games. A bottle of champagne was offered

for the best dressed team. There were four joint winners of this prize and three more bottles were found by the Sports and Social Club.

Comperes, *right*, Gren Roberts and *below* Tom Dutton.



*Right*, referee and games deviser Hugh Farrow after his annual ducking.



Winnie's Wombles (one of the teams) had two supporters up on a day trip from Wimbledon.







# OCKOUT ACTION



*Competitors  
and Spectators  
enjoy themselves*





The 'Earl'—one of the railway's original locos, still giving reliable service.

## OTHER PEOPLE'S HOBBIES

# For the Love of the Job

**I**T SOUNDS like the beautiful dream of an inflation-fighting government! Imagine the existence of a business where all the staff except one work for nothing, except the satisfaction of enjoying their work, and where the shareholders draw no dividends—and don't worry about it!

The reality, however, does exist—and in the MANWEB area at that. Nestling among the green hills of Montgomeryshire lies the Welshpool and Llanfair Railway, one of the "Great Little Trains of Wales," with eight miles of 2 ft 6 ins gauge track—and the only paid employee of the "*W and L Light Railway Preservation Company Limited*" is the General Manager!

All the rest—drivers, firemen, guards, signalmen and maintenance staff—are railway enthusiasts who spend their weekends and holidays doing what has been described as 'playing with the world's biggest train-set.'

### Big Tourist Draw

In pursuing their hobby these people, drawn from all walks of life, have saved from destruction a little local railway which served the people of Llanfair Caereinion well for more than 50 years. At the same time they have provided mid-Wales with a major tourist attraction.

The Railway has about 800 supporters, mainly from London, the Midlands and Merseyside, with a hard core of about 80 active workers. One of their number is 26-years-old Chris Tigwell, a MANWEB third assistant engineer at Liverpool District.

Chris, who has been interested in trains "ever since my mother used to wheel my pram to the station to keep me quiet" now lives at Rhyl. He became involved in the affairs of the "W and L" as a schoolboy way back in 1962 when, during a weekend visit, he asked if there was anything he could do to help. Came the reply—"Grab a shovel and dig those weeds up!"

Over the years his interest has increased, and now he travels to Montgomeryshire practically every weekend. "Signals and Telecommunications" is his line of business (though he is also the company's honorary electrical engineer). Plumbing, laying drains, paving, even rebuilding the souvenir shop, are all grist to the mill during the winter's maintenance and improvement programme, while Summer, bringing the tourist thousands, sees Chris on duty as signalman or guard.

Last year the railway carried 43,000 visitors, at 50p for the round trip, and broke even financially—a feat only made possible, of course, by the existence of unpaid staff!

The "W and L" line was built in 1902, to provide a link for the small market town of Llanfair Caereinion with the Cambrian Railways at Welshpool. Until 1931 it carried passengers, but this role was then taken over by the G.W.R. bus service. The little trains, however, continued to chug their uneventful ways back and forth, carrying sheep, cattle, agricultural materials and coal, until the line was eventually closed in 1956.

And that might well have been the end of the "W and L," but by that time two other Welsh light railways—the Tallylyn, at Towyn, and the Festiniog Railway, at Portmadoc—had started new leases of life in the hands of preservation societies run by unpaid enthusiasts. It was inevitable that a similar attempt should be made to save the "W and L," and the new prospect of entertaining large numbers of tourists provided the enthusiasts with the incentive for vigorous action!

The original line had managed with only two locomotives, but it rapidly became clear that these would not be enough for the railway's new role. The subsequent nationwide—and eventually worldwide—search for suitable locomotives, both steam and diesel, eventually brought to Wales engines from a paper mill at Sittingbourne, a steelworks at Nettleton, three separate Admiralty railways, a Peterborough brickworks, the Steiermark in Austria, and the Antiguan sugar cane railways in the West Indies! Coaches to carry the tourists came from the Admiralty railway at Chattenden, Kent, and these were later joined by four vintage coaches from the Zillertalhbahn, Austria.

*(continued overleaf)*

*Top: Chris (left), in his role as labourer, during track-clearing work.*

*Right: Track-clearance of another kind. A maintenance train, carrying drums of chemicals, on a weed-spraying run.*

*Below: A load of happy tourists enjoy their trip.*





Straight from the Antiguan sugar plantations, an addition to the 'puff' department is unloaded at the quayside (left), and undergoes overhaul (right).

With this very 'mixed bag' of stock, the "W and L" has developed steadily. Until now trains have been run over the five-mile stretch between Llanfair Caereinion and Sylfaen, but the operators are now looking forward to re-opening the remaining three miles of track to Raven Square in Welshpool. Never again will the trains wend their way through the streets of Welshpool, but the loss of this section of line (for a road improvement) should be recompensed by the establishment of a new terminus at Raven Square.

According to the Welsh Tourist Board the narrow-gauge railways (all of which happen to be in the MANWEB area) are the third most popular tourist attraction in Wales. The "W and L" is a major attraction in Montgomeryshire, and must present an attractive and efficient face to the public.

To this end, major alterations to the station at Llanfair were carried out during the past winter, and it is hoped that 1974 will see yet another increase in the number of people taking a trip on this historic link with times gone by.

## ***Electric Aids for Disabled People***

**E**LECTRIC domestic appliances can play a positive role in helping disabled people to stay independent. A booklet produced by the Electricity Council "Electric Aids for Disabled People" is intended to give those working with disabled people an indication of the range of suitable equipment available.

With the implementation of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Bill, public attention has been focused increasingly on the personal and national advantages of rehabilitating disabled people in their own homes, as distinct from segregating them in Homes.

Electric appliances can assist disabled people in many aspects of their daily lives. The convenience, cleanness, in-built safety and automatic features of electric appliances help disabled people to look after themselves and rely less on others. Where necessary

they may even help a disabled person to look after another as well as themselves.

For many disabled people special appliances are often unnecessary. Standard appliances have the advantage of being normal, of good appearance and psychologically acceptable to disabled people. The thoughtful positioning of an appliance is usually all that is required to allow even severely handicapped people to use it. If necessary, the requirements of a particular disability can be met by simple modifications or by repositioning control devices, switches and socket outlets.

Many electric appliances can be controlled automatically and this can be a great help to a disabled person—a time switch for an electric blanket, for example, may save an extra trip to the bedroom. Electric heating and water heating, too, can have automatic controls. Both are clean, safe in use and easy to install and operate. Electric appliances for cooking, laundry and personal care can also be of great assistance.

What electric appliances do for the physically able, they do even more effectively for the disabled.

Copies of "Electric Aids for Disabled People" are available from Electricity Boards or direct from the Electricity Council Marketing Department, 1 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DS. Single copies are free.



# THE MOVIE MAKER

**“A most  
fascinating  
hobby”**

Under the heading of ‘Movie Makers’ are a wide range of people who make cine films, from the multi-million dollar Hollywood productions to Dad’s holiday spectacular.

In all categories there are the good and the bad. The glittering Californian film capital has captured some top Oscar-winning acting performances and, as the old movies on our TV screens bear witness, some pathetic ones.

Dad, too, has his moments, but all too often his jerky, out of focus film record of young Willie wallowing in the waves during the family’s holiday on the Costa Mersey, bores the pants off most of us.

Between the Movie Moguls and the front room film maker, are a growing group of amateur cinematographers, and one MAN-WEB man who has made his mark in this sphere is Mr. Jim Gonzalez, a records draughtsman at the Lister Drive Office in Liverpool District.

Throughout his life Jim, who is a bachelor, has been keenly interested in photography in it’s many forms. He is a member of the North West Region of the Institute of Amateur Cinematographers, and the Liver Cine Group.

With his latest film *“Majestic we stand together,”* about the contrasting architecture of Liverpool’s two cathedrals, he won an award for the best film in the North West Region, and it was highly commended at the Lon-



Jim Gonzales at his drawing board.

Two other films completed are *‘Cornish Capers’* about a camping holiday in Mullion Cove, Cornwall, and *‘Wordsworth Country,’* a documentary about the Lake District. Both films have commentary and background music.

“A most fascinating hobby,” is how Jim describes film making, “but it could be enjoyed by many more. It’s not all that expensive once you have bought the basic equipment. A 5 minute 8mm film costs about £2.00.”

To start off in the filming game Jim suggests that anyone interested should call in on a shop that specialises in cine equipment and have a chat. When buying, he suggests buy good equipment, it is possible to get second hand cameras at fairly reasonable prices.

For the person who already dabbles in the cine business he offers the good advice—“think about what you are about to shoot.” Beginners tend to pan much too fast, and the finished shot is just a blur.

When mixing people and places, either start with a close-up of the

person and move out for the scenic shot, or the other way around. Figures tend to be too small on many amateur films.

Before making a film Jim suggests the photographer should walk around and have a good look at what there is to shoot. Then plan the shots. Use people to “walk into” shots, try to get them to act naturally—avoid posing. Market places are ideal for interesting shots, both from a distance, and close-ups of what is actually being sold.

To make the finished product better, make sure the over-exposed bits and the mistakes are cut out. Or better still join your local cine club and get some expert opinion.

Over the past few years Jim Gonzalez has shot several films for the Board, including one of the building of Head Office. He has also produced some sequences for use at the Commercial Sales Conferences.

He is also well known in the Liverpool District for his valuable services to the young and old, at children’s parties and for the pensioners’ club.



Mr. Gwyn, seated centre, with Mr. Wilson, centre left, and Mr. Scott, centre right.

## FAREWELL TO "THE DEPUTY"

Our picture, *above*, was taken at one of the many farewell presentation ceremonies held to mark the occasion of the retirement of MANWEB's Deputy Chairman, Mr. David Glanville Gwyn after more than 40 years' service in the electricity industry.

It shows some members of the Head Office staff who gathered together on June 28th to hear Mr. Harold Wilson, in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Local Advisory Committee, pay tribute—with a few well-chosen anecdotes—to Mr. Gwyn's service.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Gwyn had lunched with Mr. Denis Dodds (*Chairman*) and senior officers from Head Office, who were joined by District Officers. Here, tributes to Mr. Gwyn were paid by Messrs. M. M. Parker (*Secretary and Solicitor*), H. Telfer (*Group Manager*) and D. Hamblin (*District Engineer, Aberystwyth*). Mr. Dodds then made

a presentation to Mr. Gwyn of eight silver goblets and a silver tray, a parting gift from all ranks of the staff.

On other occasions, farewell gifts were presented to Mr. Gwyn by Mr. Don Scott and Mr. John Greenhalgh on behalf of Nalco and the staff side of the District Joint Council, and by Mrs. Ramsden Williams and Mrs. Meurig Roberts, on behalf of the Electrical Association for Women.

A final presentation will be made to Mr. Gwyn when the Board members come together for their monthly meeting on July 12th.

We join with his many friends and colleagues in wishing Mr. Gwyn many happy years of well-earned retirement and every success in his new life in Canada.

In characteristic mood, Mr. Gwyn responds at his farewell luncheon.



Six long serving members of the Accounts Department retired from the Board at the end of June. They started their retirement with the good wishes of the Chief Accountant, Mr. A. P. Whyte.



**Mr. John N. Jukes**, the Assistant Chief Accountant, Financial and Management Accounts, retired after 25 years with MANWEB. He joined the Board in 1948 on nationalisation, having formerly been employed in senior accounting positions with Verrities and Daimlers.

He was appointed as an accounting assistant at Head Office, then in Liverpool, became a principal assistant in 1950 and joined the senior management team in 1956.

Mr. Jukes is a very keen gardener and spends much of his leisure time in his garden and greenhouse. He was at one time a very keen chess player.

possible for some 150,000 consumer's accounts in the Liverpool area.

Travel plays a large part in the life of the twins. After preliminary sorties into Europe they made news when they became the first people to visit the United States on the liner named after that nation, in 1958 when the travel allowance was lifted. They visited New York, Philadelphia and Washington. Since then they have cruised, their favourite way of travel, to Russia, South America, the West Indies, and many more delightful places, sometimes taking two cruises a year.

Plans for their retirement include doing the jobs around the house and gardening, plus, of course, more travel, this time they are planning a 100-day round the world trip.

**Mr. Earle Hewitt** joined the North Wales Power Company in 1934 and later worked for the Mersey Power Company. During the war he was in the



**A loss to our Accounts Department.** Above, from left to right: Messrs. Jukes and K. S. Leach (Deputy Chief Accountant), Miss Ronnie Whyte, Mr. Hewitt, Miss Winnie Whyte, Messrs. Clarke, A. P. Whyte and Evans.

A married man, Mr. Jukes has a son and daughter, both of whom are married with children.

Misses **Veronica and Winifred Whyte**, known better to their friends and colleagues as Ronnie and Winnie, are twin sisters who are retiring after 40 and 34 years service respectively. Ronnie started work with the electric supply department in 1936 whilst Winnie was doing some nursing, and she joined the same department, after the outbreak of war, in 1940.

Ronnie Whyte rose through the ranks to become a principal assistant in the Revenue section, and at the same time the highest paid woman in MANWEB. Sister Winnie was not far behind as Administrative assistant, also in the Revenue section res-

R.A.O.C. and attained the rank of Warrant Officer serving some of that time in Burma.

In 1948 Mr. Hewitt joined MANWEB on its formation, as a junior executive officer at Head Office. He moved to the then No. 1 Sub Area in Liverpool as revenue superintendent in 1953 and on the reorganisation in 1970 became Executive Officer Cash at Chester.

He is an extremely keen golfer and member of the Bidston Club. He also enjoys gardening and spends more of his leisure hours with rod and line both fresh water and sea fishing.

He is married and he and his wife have two sons, the elder of whom, Jimmy, is also married with two children, and the younger, David, is due to take the matrimonial plunge this month.

**Mr. Fred L. Evans**, a higher clerical assistant at Sealand Road, has completed 38 years in the electricity industry, starting his career with the Mold U.D.C. in 1936. He served in the R.A.F. during the war and joined MANWEB on nationalisation at Rhostyllen in 1948. He came to Head Office in 1970 after the amalgamation of the Accounts Department as part of the re-organisation of the Board.

He served for some years as a councillor on his local council in Mold. Much of his spare time is spent in promoting fund raising to aid spastics.

Fred is married and has two married sons, both in the teaching profession, and three grandchildren.

A stores inspector based at Rhostyllen, **Mr. Albert Clarke**, retired from the Board after 38 years service. He started his service in the electricity industry with the North Wales Power Company in 1936, as a storekeeper. During the war he was an engine room mechanic in the Royal Navy.

He returned to civilian life in 1946 at Shotton and two years later became a stockchecker with MANWEB on the formation of the Board, at Rhostyllen.

Albert joined the Head Office staff in 1970 and was appointed Stores Inspector in 1972. He is looking forward in his retirement to pursuing his hobbies of gardening and fishing.

#### **Mr. DAVE PALMER**

**Mr. David Palmer**, who retired recently from our North Mersey District staff, was a meter-reader/collector for 25 years—but it was as an artist that he made his mark in the District!

When an old friend or colleague left or retired, he was often delighted to receive as a keepsake an immaculate scroll from Dave's pen, and accurate street maps, skillfully executed to guide his collea-

gues round new estates not listed in official guides, are still preserved at Bridle Road.

Dave Palmer was a popular colleague, who will be much missed by his workmates. On their behalf he was presented with a farewell gift by Mr. George Shoesmith (*District Administrative Officer*).

#### **Mr. HUGH DUNNING**

Retiring to sunny Llandudno, after a lifetime of varied service to the electricity supply industry, is Mr. Hugh Dunning, Supply Engineer in our North Wirral District Commercial department.

Mr. Dunning, aptly enough, began his career in Birkenhead in 1927, as a trainee electrical engineer with the Corporation undertaking, being concerned with the operation of the long-disappeared tramway system. Later he became a substation switchboard attendant, and during the varied career which followed he worked for both the Yorkshire Power Company and the Mersey Power Company. Following nationalisation he joined the Eastern Electricity Board as service manager, later moving to the South Western Board as 1st assistant District Commercial Engineer, and finally 'coming home' to MANWEB and Liverpool District, where he was appointed D.C.E. in 1967. After re-organisation he made his final move, back to his old stamping-ground in Birkenhead.

A keen footballer in his younger days, Mr. Dunning maintained an all-round interest in sport, and was noted for his enthusiasm for dancing. He was active in the affairs of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association, being a former Chairman of the Merseyside section committee.

His popularity, earned by many years of cheerful co-operation with his colleagues, was demonstrated at a gathering at North Wirral District Office, when he was presented with a portable radio/cassette

**Mr. Palmer, centre row, third from left, with some of his colleagues.**





Mr. Dunning, centre left, receives his parting gift from Mr. Bowers.

player by Mr. George Bowers, District Commercial Engineer. We all wish a long and happy retirement to Mr. and Mrs. Dunning.

#### Mr. F. HARRINGTON

**"THIS IS YOUR LIFE — 'BARNEY' HARRINGTON"** were the opening words uttered by Mr. Eifion Jones at the farewell gathering of friends of Mr. Frank 'Barney' Harrington, who recently retired from his job as foreman jointer based at Legacy.

Following an enjoyable turkey dinner at a Ruabon hotel, Frank and his friends listened to an 'edited' account of his 40 years in the electricity supply industry, first with the Wrexham Corporation and latterly with MANWEB. During this time he has had a progression of jobs from labourer to jointer's mate to jointer, with a brief period as a 'cable diver', then on to the elevated rank of foreman with special responsibilities for making the early morning tea.

The many anecdotes recounted from the time when he worked in 'joint holes' in Wrexham town getting a bird's eye view of things—no bonus scheme in those days—to a reminder of wartime with a telegram from the Middle East addressed to Mustapha Harrington from his many sons and daughters and finally to the accident report concerning the bee

sting in an embarrassing spot and the request to the nurse to take out the sting but leave in the swelling . . . all showed that 'Barney' was a great guy to know and to work with and a man whose heart and soul was in his job.

The proceedings were presided over by Mr. Ieuan Evans, section engineer for Wrexham town for the whole period of 'Barney's' service as foreman. In addition to Ieuan's tributes many more colleagues had a few words to say in praise of 'Barney's' work and friendship and Mr. E. T. Peters (*District Engineer*) in thanking him for his long and loyal service also added a special word of thanks to Ivy, 'Barney's' wife, for her patience, understanding and sustaining support.

On behalf of his many friends in MANWEB, he wished Frank and Ivy many happy years of retirement as he presented them with a number of parting gifts which included a clock, kettle, teasmade, iron, radio and a set of 'practice' golf clubs for it was disclosed that 'Barney's' ambition now was to beat Messrs. Ieuan Evans and Norman Clarke at their own game! Last but by no means least of his farewell gifts was his own tea-making equipment!

Miss Heather Pearson presented Ivy with a bouquet of flowers and the "This is your Life" book was prepared by Mr. Emyr James, Dee Valley District records draughtsman.

A great 'send-off' for Mr. Harrington, holding book.



## STORAGE HEATERS

# STOP MOANING

The angry ladies who went to Downing Street on Monday to complain about the 70 per cent increase in off-peak electricity charges for night storage heaters got more sympathy than they deserved. Off-peak users have been given a good deal for years, and will still get a reasonable one. What they are paying for is the miners' pay rise that many of them applauded earlier this year. A flat 0.3p a unit surcharge is what Mr. Denis Healey authorised the electricity authorities to charge to offset their dearer coal. The increase was announced in the budget, but has only just sunk in.

It takes as much coal to generate electricity by night as by day, so both rates go up by the same amount, to 0.75p for the night charge and 1.3p for the day. It still leaves off-peak electricity 0.55p a unit cheaper, but it is the percentage increases that have attracted attention. Since 0.3p is a bigger percentage of half a penny than it is of a whole penny, the rise on the cheap rate looks higher. It is part of the price the country pays for coming off the three-day week, and it could be described as the cost of Mr. Wilson as against Mr. Heath were it not for the

suspicion that Mr. Heath would have bought the miners off with equal alacrity if he had won the election.

It is unfortunate that many of the 2½m off-peak electricity users are old or poor, but many of them went in for this form of heating less because it was cheap to run than because it is cheap to install. Two night storage heaters could be bought two years ago for only £50. Because they are classed as fittings, they do not increase a house's rateable value as traditional central heating does. These advantages remain. But what the fuss has probably done is to encourage the Government not to allow future fuel price rises to be passed straight on to domestic consumers. The test will be this autumn when coal prices next go up. Industry will probably be stung hardest, although it already pays its full cost. In effect, the electricity industry is subsidising domestic consumers by its deficit of £180m last year and possibly £200m this.

Extract from  
*The Economist*, 15th June 1974

## Dee Valley District Pensioners' Outing

Over 100 pensioners set off from Rhosyllen recently for their annual 'day out.' After a mid-morning stop at Betws-y-Coed, they went on to Beaumaris where they had lunch. This was followed by a trip round the Anglesey coast to Benllech and then back to Beaumaris for tea.



*Our pictures show some of the Dee Valley pensioners*







**"Black Swan and her Cygnets."** A picture taken by Mr. G. Lewer, Display Leader at Head Office.  
For the enthusiasts it was taken on FP4 film with an aperture setting at f11 and a speed of 1/250th of a second.