

CONTACT

July 1977



Long Service Men Retire (see page 164)

THEIR FUTURE IS ELECTRIC

A DOZEN young men, embarking on careers in the electricity supply industry, recently completed the first nine months of their craft training at our Hoylake Centre.

Six of the group stayed for a further five weeks on a jointing course. These are embryo Technical staff trainees who are patiently awaiting the results of their first year examinations at Birkenhead Technical College before continuing their technical studies for OND certificates.

By now all the apprentices will have returned to their respective Districts to continue and complete their training.

Our man from 'Contact' complete with camera and notepad, visited Hoylake a short time ago to 'capture' the twelve in training during their final weeks. He met . . .

Geoffrey Thomas Corrin, aged 17, from Prescot, who is now learning more about his trade as a meter mechanic at our depot in Lister Drive. An Everton football fan, he enjoys playing whenever he gets the opportunity.

Donald Owen Court, from Waterloo near Liverpool, now training as an electrical fitter at our Bridle Road depot.



In the appliance repair section we have Micheal Jones and Stephen Parry with the 'gubbins' from a washing machine.

Donald is 17, enjoys sailing and beach fishing. He also likes watching football and cricket.

Stephen Fitzsimmons, 18 in November, lived at Neston when he joined the Board last year. He is a technical staff trainee based in



Taking a break from work on the lathes are, from left to right: Stephen Fitzsimmons, Carl Woodman, Ian Taylor and Jeffrey Hunt.

Another group take time out in the installation section. From left to right: Stephen Holmes, Bryn Morris, Donald Court and Mitchel Hughes.



our North Wirral District. A keen motor cyclist, he also likes modern music and throws a good dart.

Stephen Colin Holmes, aged 17 from Bebington, is in training as an electrical fitter in our North Wirral District. He likes all kinds of sport with swimming as his number one.

Mitchel Robert Hughes, who was 17 last month, comes from Crewe, and is now based at Macon Way continuing his training as an electrical fitter. He is a keen sportsman and represented his school at football.

Jeffrey James Hunt, 17 and hailing from Heswall, is continuing his technical training in our North Wirral District. He is a keen cyclist and enjoys electronics having made a number of radios and various signal generators.

Micheal Keith Jones, a technical staff trainee from Handbridge in Chester, will be 18 in October. He is now working at our Chester Depot. Micheal is an indoor sportsman—darts and snooker. He also sings with the Cestrian Male Voice Choir.

Bryn Morris, nearly 18, also from Chester and now at our New Crane Street depot for further training as an electrical fitter. He enjoys driving—cars and golf—and is a keen cine cameraman. Next month he will be enjoying himself (!) at the Outward Bound School at Applecross.

Stephen William Parry, the youngest member on the course, he will be 17 in August, comes from Wallasey. He is now a technical staff trainee in our North Wirral District. He likes motor cycling—especially circuit racing at Oulton Park and enjoys a game of badminton and tennis (*lawn, shale or table*).

Michael Denis Price, aged 17 from Blacon in Chester, is continuing his training as a meter mechanic at the New Crane Street depot. He is a keen coarse fisherman and likes most sports.

Ian Geoffrey Taylor, who reaches his 17th birthday this

month, comes from Widnes. After completing his jointing course he is now gaining further knowledge in our Mid-Mersey District. He likes music—rock and progressive.

Carl Woodman, aged 17, a technical staff trainee from Gateacre in Liverpool. He is now at Lister Drive where he is continuing his training. Carl enjoys making radio controlled model power boats.

* * *

Doing a bit of conduit bending in the installation section are Michael Price and Geoffrey Corrin.



Talking Notes

OSWESTRY ECHOES

SOME GHOSTS from the past were unearthed by **Mr. Stan Roberts**, District Engineer at Oswestry, when he cleared out his office prior to moving to Dee Valley District to take over as District Engineer from **Mr. E. T. Peters** (whose retirement is reported elsewhere in this number of 'Contact').

A document left behind by one of his predecessors (Stan doesn't say which one!) took the form of an application to the Electricity Commissioners (dated October 1934) seeking permission by Oswestry Corporation Electricity Department to borrow £600 for electricity purposes.

The interesting part is what 43 years of inflation has done to costs—such as laying and jointing 5c 0.06 sq. in. cable, then 4s 7d per yard, now more like £12—£15 a yard if obtainable! To excavate a trench 18 inches deep in tarmac then was estimated at 1s 9d a yard (£3 today), while the provision of single-phase services at

£4. 0s. 6d. each would work out at £67-odd in 1977.

Stan, who has been at Oswestry since 1975, is himself succeeded by **Mr. Dick Owen**, who started with the Board as a student engineer in 1950 and has held appointments at Northwich, Liverpool, and Oswestry since then.

Wedding

Best wishes for a happy future to **Mr. Roger Wood**, senior salesman at our Huyton shop and Miss Anne Moxley who were married at St. David's Church, Childwall a short time ago.

Oswestry Cricket

Oswestry's orthopaedic hospital was the aptly-chosen venue for a 16-overs cricket match between the District's Engineering section (heavily reinforced by the Admin. department) and the Commercial section (also heavily reinforced from the same quarter) recently.

Batting first Commercial were soon in trouble, losing three wickets for six runs, but helped by a solid innings of 10 from **Sid Warburton** and 19 by **Brian Tomkins** (hastily loaned by Engineering to make a game of it) they finished up

with a reasonably respectable total of 64.

Engineering had a few scares before they knocked off the required runs. Useful innings came from **Gerraint Bellis** (17) **Les Hill** (12), **Pete Corfield** (18) and 12 'extras.'

After the game several senior members of the staff were seen limping or crawling in the direction of the Social Club to join the uninjured in a convivial hour or two.

Dee Valley Treasure Hunt

Fifty-four people in 14 cars took part in a successful Treasure Hunt organised by Dee Valley's Sports and Social Club a few weeks ago. Organised by **Mr. and Mrs. Emyr Wyn Davies** the hunt route started at Rhostyllen, taking in Hafod, Ruabon, Eyton, Penycae, Acrefair, Garth and Llangollen before ending up for an enjoyable chicken-and-chips supper at a Trevor pub.

Prizes were won by teams piloted by **Mr. Alan Evans** (M.S.U.), **Mr. Roger Parry** (Consumers' Accounts) and **Mr. Colin Lloyd** (Legacy Commercial)—in that order. The first team won the cup, while other prizes included silver goblets, evening and cosmetic bags, lighters and pens.

Mr. Don Hinsley (energy sales engineer), driver of the booby-winning car was awarded a knitting set and bird warbler!

Moves to Bootle

Congratulations to **Mr. John**



Stan Roberts, left, with his successor, Dick Owen.



Mr. John Walker

Walker who has been appointed Energy Sales Engineer for our North Mersey District. He succeeds **Mr. Denis Barrie**, who has retired.

John, who is 32, began with MANWEB as an apprentice electrical fitter in 1961. He later spent three years at Liverpool University on an Electricity Supply Industry Scholarship, where he obtained a 1st Class Honours Degree. Spells as a commercial engineer at Oswestry and Liverpool preceded his new appointment at Bridle Road. In 1975 he won the MANWEB Area heat of the industry's public speaking competition, taking third place in the national finals. He is married, with two young children.

Gwynedd Soccer

Our Gwynedd District colleagues at Llangefni took the initiative in organising a five-a-side football competition for nine teams invited from local authorities, industrial establishments, and the CEGB, at the recently-completed Plas Arthur Sports Centre.

Competition was keen, especially between the two MANWEB teams from Llangefni and Caernarfon, which met in the semi-final of the competition. Llangefni won through to the final after a "sudden death" penalty decider. The final went into extra time before our team had to give best to the team representing J. P. Woods (*Chuckie Chickens*), of Llangefni, who were presented with the MANWEB Shield by **Mr. R. T. Gibson**, Chairman of the Llangefni Sports and Social Club, for the second year running.

An exciting evening was enjoyed by the players and by the enthusiastic supporters of the various entrants. Un-

fortunately a MANWEB Ladies team narrowly failed to come through the qualifying rounds held during the previous week.

Moves to Norweb

Second engineer (Service) at Mid-Cheshire District, **Mr. Vic Hughes**, left us recently to take up the post of Technical



Vic Hughes, left, receives his cheque from Norman Walsh.

Services Engineer at Norweb's Macclesfield District.

Presenting him with a farewell cheque on behalf of his colleagues **Mr. Norman Walsh** (D.C.E.), said Vic's promotion was well deserved. Since his days as a prizewinning apprentice electrician at Hoylake he had set a consistently high standard, being later selected as a manual worker trainee and later becoming a general assistant engineer followed by promotion to the job he was now leaving.

The Gwynedd five-a-siders, with timekeepers and mediator. Left to right, back row: Bob Gibson, Hefin Thomas, Fred Keen, Ken Owen and Derek Jones. Front row: Paul Valencia, Clive Roberts, Jim Evans and Hugh Owen.



For Sale

1973 'M' Registered "Renault" 16TL. One owner. 55,000 trouble-free miles. Twelve months M.O.T. Motorola radio £975 o.n.o. 'Phone Chester 35958.

1976 Escort R.S. 2000 Mk. 2 Red, black interior, 9,000 miles only, Ziebarted, absolutely mint condition. No comps. Very fast road car. £2,850 o.v.n.o. 'Phone: Norman, Hesketh Bank 3974.



Mr. Barraclough, centre, with most of the Queensferry safe drivers.

Queensferry Safe Drivers

MANWEB's big delivery vehicles based at Queensferry stores cover about a quarter of a million miles every year, and it was a great tribute to the care and courtesy of their drivers that they were all nominated for Safe Driving Awards, year after year.

This was the compliment paid by **Mr. Jim Barraclough**

(Group Manager) when he went along to Queensferry recently to present ROSPA Safe Driving Awards to the staff. He added that he had great admiration for the men who handled the big vehicles with such skill. They maintained a personal contact with all the District store locations, and were held in high respect throughout the Board.

Awards were presented as follows:

25 Year Medal Mr. J. Hampton.

Bar to 15 Year Brooch—Mr. H. E. Smith.

Diplomas—Messrs. H. Finch, E. D. Lewis, D. A. Jones, D. G. Jones, P. Ladyman, P. Holland, D. Whale, C. Jones, W. Harrison, S. Wilson, and G. A. Edwards.

OUTWARD BOUND

These technical staff trainees have recently completed their OND Part II course at Birkenhead Technical College. During their Summer recess they will be enjoying themselves on various "Outward Bound" courses at the West Highland School of Adventure at Applecross in Ross-shire. There is, however, one exception, John Winters, who was unable to go on a course for personal reasons. The group in our picture are, *from left to right, standing:* Messrs. Stephen Matson, George Pye, Michael Casson, John Winters, John Duggan, Andrew Smith, Neil Hart and Alan Smith. *Front row:* Messrs. Edwin Howells, Gary Worthington, Richard Lumb and Peter Mylchreest.





Time-keepers and officials, from left to right: Messrs George Brown, Ken Woodward, Norman Kenyon, Gren Roberts and Hugh Farrow.

CHESTER SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Super-Sports and Barn Dance

The jubilant winning team receive their awards from Club Chairman Mr. Harry Foreman, centre. The team, from left to right: Jill Hockaday, Viv Ellins and Liz Jones, Joe Pugh, Joe Norris and Mike Edwards.

The weather turned decidedly chilly for the Chester Sports and Social Club's annual sports-night and barn dance. Fortunately organisers Hugh Farrow and Gren Roberts were ready for the cold. There were sixteen teams, with such names as 'Jubilee Mugs', 'Bionic Boobies' and the 'Fryer Tucks', and sixteen games plus two mini-marathons-one for ladies and the other for the men.



Each team spent 4 minutes at each game, then moved on to the next, thus no team were standing about in the cold waiting their turn, it was all action from the first whistle.

Winners were 'It's Magic' from computers as were the runners-up 'Liquorice All-Sports,' who also won the best mascot prize. Third were Personnel's 'Imperial Mints.' Steve Buswell won the men's mini-marathon, and Isobel Lindsay the ladies race. Prizes were presented by Club Chairman Mr. Harry Foreman.



Runners-up and winners of the 'Mascot' prize, 'Liquorice All-sports' who are, from left to right: Brian Sheppard, Helen Roberts, Roy Casey, Linda Littler, Colin Brocklebank and Jane Gaskell.

A cowboy supper of bangers and beans followed and then the 500 strong family gathering enjoyed four hours of barn dancing to the Rose and Thistle Country Dance Band.

More pictures on next pages





**Fun and
Games at
Chester's Sports
Night and
Barn Dance**



RETIREMENTS

North Mersey District

June 30th was a particularly nostalgic day for our North Mersey District colleagues when they gathered together in the canteen to say "farewell" to four electricity industry stalwarts who between them have chalked up no less than 183 years of service.

Genial Master of Ceremonies, chief payer of tributes and presenter of gifts was Mr. Dennis Noad, District Commercial Engineer, backed up by a dozen or so other speakers, all paying very sincere compliments to a quartet of colleagues who are obviously going to be very much missed.

The longest-serving of the Bridle Road foursome was Mr. Walter Preen, an installation inspector who would have completed 50 years if he had stayed until September. Walter joined Liverpool Corporation as an office boy in 1927, and commenced an apprenticeship two years later. A qualified electrician by 1935, he later became an inspector/fixer, until being directed into private industry by the Ministry of Labour in 1942.

He returned to the Corporation in 1945 as an electrician at Clarence Dock, eventually joining the former Liverpool North District of MANWEB as an installation inspector.

A particularly interesting document produced by Mr. Noad at the presentation ceremony was a note of Walter's original appointment as office boy—at one and fifteen/sixteenth pence (old pence) an hour!

Hard on Walter's heels, with 47 years' service behind him, was Mr. Harold (Harry) Pope, Commercial administrative assistant, who joined the Corporation's staff in 1930, later serving with the inspection department.

After war service with the RAF—part of the time in South Africa—he returned to Liverpool in 1946

as a consumer inquiries clerk. In 1967 he was promoted senior assistant, commercial clerical, at Hatton Garden, moving to North Mersey District as an admin assistant on re-organisation in 1970.

Particularly amusing was the way in which Harry recalled his early days at Hatton Garden when, as a raw 14-year-old, he remembered Walter as a much superior and experienced lad of about 17!

A long and busy career as a commercial engineer lies behind Mr. Denis Barrie, North Mersey Districts energy sales engineer, who retired after 45 years' service to the industry.

Mr. Barrie began in 1932 as a trainee with Portsmouth's Electricity Department, later serving as a meter engineer until the outbreak of war, when he joined the REME, reaching the rank of Captain.

He came to the MANWEB area in 1947 as deputy consumer's engineer at St. Helens, taking over as District Commercial Officer at Runcorn in 1949. In 1960 he moved to the former No. 2 Sub-Area as senior assistant commercial engineer, joined the Head Office staff in Liverpool in 1965, and moved to North Mersey as energy sales engineer on re-organisation.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Barrie are keen gardeners, and a major retirement priority will be to look for a piece of land somewhere in Cheshire to build a dream home—with enough garden space to keep them out of mischief!

A wide variety of experience as an engineer and as a manager is included in the 41 years which Mr. Bert Hawley, most senior-ranking of the four, has given to the electricity industry.

After a period as a trainee with a private firm in his native Midlands, Mr. Hawley joined Birmingham's Electricity Supply Department in 1935, progressing to the job of assistant engineer and later

Mr. Charles Donovan, Liverpool District Engineer, left makes the presentation to Mr. Jim Gonzales.



OUR COVER PICTURE shows Mr. Dennis Noad, centre, our North Mersey District Commercial Engineer, congratulating four of his colleagues who had amassed a total of 183 years' service in the electricity supply industry before their recent retirements.

They are, from left to right: Messrs. Bert Hawley, Denis Barrie, Harry Pope and Walter Preen.

Picture by "Boottle Times"

becoming a deputy outside test engineer with the Midlands Electricity Board on nationalisation.

Mr. Hawley first came to MANWEB in 1949 holding a number of engineering appointments with the former No. 3 Sub-Area. In 1951 he moved to the South of Scotland Board in Glasgow, holding a variety of engineering appointments, and ultimately that of District Engineer.

Liverpool District

He returned to MANWEB in 1961 as District Manager at Conway Valley, and moved to Bootle on re-organisation as District Engineer.

Forty-two years' service to the industry in Liverpool is the record of Mr Jim Gonzales, who retired from his job as senior records draughtsman at Lister Drive—although technically on Head Office staff.

Mr. Gonzales began as an assistant switchboard attendant at Clarence Dock Power Station in 1935, moving after a couple of years to the meter department at Hatton Garden, Liverpool, where he stayed until joining the Army in 1940.

His service with the REME took him to many overseas postings, after which he returned to Hatton Garden until 1949 before moving back to Clarence Dock for another spell of three years. From 1952 onwards he worked in the Drawing Offices at Hatton Garden and Lister Drive.

A great cine enthusiast, he was responsible for shooting all the 16mm film depicting the construction of Chester Head Office, together with other filming work for the Board. For the past 18 years he has filmed the Thingwall Road Childrens' Christmas party, and intends to carry on with his film work, as well as the recording of classical music, in retirement.

On behalf of his many friends he was presented, appropriately enough, with a new exposure meter by Mr. C. E. Donovan, District Engineer.

After 18 years' service to the Board Mr. Tommy Hammond, a labourer at Liverpool District, retired recently. Before coming to MANWEB Mr. Hammond served in the Merchant Navy from 1931 to 1956, including war service in Far Eastern waters.

On behalf of his friends he was presented with a gift of cash.

Mid-Mersey District

After 43 years' service to the industry Mr. H. R. Johnson, Mid-Mersey District's supply engineer, has retired. Mr. Johnson began his career as an apprentice electrician in 1934.

On behalf of his many friends he was presented with a suitcase and a calculator by Mr. J. G. Norbury (D.C.E.), while Mrs. Johnson received a bouquet.

Mr. Johnson will not be at a loose end in retirement, for he numbers among his hobbies home winemaking (which has earned him a number of prizes over the years), reading, car maintenance, and the management of a productive fruit and vegetable garden.

Another very long-serving colleague who recently said "Farewell" is Mr. Harry Blythe, engineering foreman with Mid Mersey District at Frodsham depot, with 48 years service to his credit.

Mr. Blythe began as an apprentice with the former Mersey Power Company way back in 1929, and has worked in all sections of the engineering department. From 1940 to 1960 he was a charge-hand, being then promoted foreman. His favourite hobby is gardening, and both Harry and his wife are keen caravanners.

At a pleasant function at a Frodsham hotel he was presented with a cheque by Mr. A. R. Cooper (District Engineer), with a bouquet for Mrs. Blythe. The cash will be used to purchase gardening tools.

Surrounded by Mid-Cheshire colleagues Mr. Roland Johnson is pictured, *centre*, holding a tankard, one of his retirement gifts.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Blythe.





With Mid-Cheshire colleagues Messrs. Reg Jenkins, *in the centre*, and Tom Cash *on his right*.

After 13 years' service to the industry Mr. J. J. Hawkesworth, meter-reader/collector at St. Helens, retired early on health grounds recently.

On behalf of his colleagues he was presented with a transistor radio and a silver tankard—with a bouquet for Mrs. Hawkesworth—by Mr. D. Hodgetts (District Administrative Officer).

Mid-Cheshire District

Mid-Cheshire District's contribution to the torrent of retirements was the departure of two long-serving and much loved characters—Messrs. Reg Jenkins and Tom Cash.

Reg started at the old Nantwich office of the North Wales Power Company way back in 1936, and apart from a wartime spell with the R.A.F. remained at Nantwich, in posts of increasing responsibility for 26 years. His original NWPC District extended some 24 miles from the office, and his responsibility was to develop electric load in this vast area, usually on a bike! Eventually he became our consumers' engineer for Nantwich, to whom the local people turned for help and advice on countless occasions.

On re-organisation he was transferred to Macon Way, principally on development duties, and at the time of his retirement was responsible for industrial sales.

Much of his spare time has been devoted to the service of others. He was a founder member and regular broadcaster with the Crewe and District Hospital Broadcasts organisation, a past chairman of Rotary, and was involved with the Nantwich Lads Club and with the Seahorse and Aquarius organisation, which helps spastics learn to swim. For 20 years he gave motor cycle commentaries from Oulton Park and other venues. A special interest has always been matters nautical, especially the shipping of the Port of Liverpool, and it was fitting that his

gift from his friends consisted of a ship's barometer and ship's clock.

Tom Cash, the District's production engineer, began as an apprentice in 1932 with the Mid-Cheshire Power Company, later becoming a technical assistant at Northwich.

After war service with the Admiralty he was appointed assistant engineer at Northwich, later being promoted to section engineer. After a brief spell at Sandiway House with the old Area 2 staff he became 1st assistant District Engineer at Northwich, becoming production engineer for Mid-Cheshire on re-organisation.

Tom was yet another colleague who could always find time to help other people with their problems, and who will be much missed by his many friends in the District. On their behalf Mr. Graham Zeiher, District Engineer, presented him with a ship's brass chronometer and also a barometer, while Mrs. Cash received a bouquet from Mrs. Rhonda Leedham

Dee Valley District

The departure of Dee Valley's District Engineer Mr. E. T. Peters was the occasion of a rather special function at a country hotel near Llangollen when nearly 200 colleagues and their wives turned out to wish "Pete" a long and happy retirement.

In charge of the proceedings was Ron ("Eamonn") Williams, Dee Valley's irrepressible DCE, who, aided and abetted by several dozen happy conspirators turned the spotlight on the lifespan of the almost-retired. First on the scene was the Board's Chief Accountant, Mr. A. P. Whyte, who recalled their short-trousered days together as classmates at Mold, and so it went on, through a long and distinguished career as an engineer and manager in the electricity supply industry in North Wales.

The theme running through the story of Mr. Peters' life was his "unflappable" character, the

chap who kept his cool even if the snow was ten feet deep and the wind blowing at a hundred miles an hour, a man who had obviously earned the deep loyalty and affection of many young engineers and others who had learned from "Pete" that the main priority was to get the supply back on—and keep it on—regardless of effort, discomfort and inconvenience to themselves.

The formal presentation of a workbench and a lawn mower was followed by a social evening much enjoyed by the big turnout which attested to Mr. Peters' popularity among his colleagues at all levels.

After 29 years service in the industry, meter reader/collector Mr. Ernest Willmot Davies retired from Dee Valley District recently.

One of his colleagues claimed it was difficult to follow Ernie on a collecting round as consumers always asked where was the nice man who called last time—and it was always Ernie who was offered the cup of tea by the housewives.

In his spare time he is keenly interested in football and has been associated with Saltney Juniors for many years. Both his adult sons had formerly played for the team.

As well as two sons he has a daughter and four grandchildren. His wife, Bertha, was at New Crane Street Offices to see Mr. Tony Shell the District Administrative Officer present Ernie with a lawn mower.

A joint retirement party was held in the lovely setting of the Chain Bridge Hotel in Llangollen for two popular members of the Dee Valley District Staff from Rhostyllen.

Miss Lillian Jones and Mr. Jim Walker heard each of the District Officers and other colleagues express their appreciation of their service to the Board and of their helpfulness.

Lillian, who was a shorthand typist, joined the North Wales Power Company in 1946 after war-time



With his 'life' in his hands Mr. Eurwynn Peters, pictured left, is congratulated by D.C.E. Mr. Ron Williams, watched by his wife, centre, and Dee Valley District colleagues.

service with NAAFI working at various times at Johnstown and Wrexham.

Her many friends and colleagues expressed the good wishes to Lillian for the success of an impending eye operation which it was hoped would improve her eyesight.

Jim Walker, a supervisor in the general administration and welfare section at Rhostyllen, started his service with the electricity industry on the last day of 1934. During the war he was in the Royal Army Pay Corps returning to civilian life and the North Wales Power Company in 1946, joining MANWEB on the Board's formation in 1948.

He is a keen first-aider and has an ear for classical music. Jim is married with a married son and

Mr. Tony Shell, left, bids farewell to Mr. Jim Walker, watched by Mrs. Walker.



A fond farewell to Miss Lillian Jones from Dee Valley D.A.O. Mr. Tony Shell.



daughter, and he and his wife Nancy have one grandchild.

Friends and colleagues wished Jim and long and happy retirement in good health as he had recently had a serious stomach operation and he had wisely opted to take an early retirement.

North Wirral District

His 'girls' were nearly in tears as Wallasey shop supervisor Mr. Joe Martin retired from the Board after 40 years' service in the electricity industry. The ladies of Wallasey shop expressed their sadness at his leaving as did other members of the North Wirral District Staff.

Joe joined the Electricity Department of the Birkenhead Corporation in 1937. With the outbreak of the war he served with the South Lancashire Regiment until the cessation of hostilities, returning to the Corporation and later MANWEB.

He worked in the Birkenhead District Office, became a sales representative before his appointment to supervise the Wallasey Shop in 1961.

Motoring, particularly in North Wales, is his favourite pass-time, in addition to doing his own car maintenance. He also enjoys gardening.

He is married and has one daughter, Joan. His wife Eunice was a surprise guest at the farewell party held in his honour.

Head Office

Chief Accountant Mr. Alec Whyte presided over a very happy farewell ceremony for four of his staff who had completed 146 years between them.

He commented that three who had the sauce to go were younger than he. It was apparent that somebody could do themselves a power of good had they



Mr. Joe Martin, left, with his wife Eunice and District Sales Supervisor, Mr. Doug Wilmot.

sneaked up on Mr. Whyte to express surprise at this revelation.

Mr. John E. Eaton, was unique among the quartet, as Mr. Whyte had presided over his coming and going. He recalled his excellent handwriting played a part in his appointment to the audit section in 1949 where he remained for 11 years.

He was then appointed as senior storekeeper at Lister Drive, moving to Derby House stores accounts section in 1966, and transferring to the Head Office section on re-organisation, as an administrative assistant.

John has an unusual hobby in that he is virtually an expert on the history of buses and coaches. He and his wife Margeret have two married sons.

Mr. Thomas E. Griffiths, an application programmer retired after 41 years service in the industry. He started his working life with the Birkenhead Corporation, served with the Royal Army Pay Corps during the war, and came to MANWEB on nationalisation in 1948 in the meter records section in Birkenhead.



The retiring accounts staff at their presentation with the (Chief Accountant), Mr. Alec Whyte, left to right, Messrs. Tom Griffiths, Alan Malcolm, Alec Whyte, John Eaton and Ernest L. Jewell.

In 1962 he was appointed as a computer programmer when the Board installed their first computer, and had been a stalwart member of the section since. As the only member of the original team he became invaluable in amending programmes from the old computer, when work was converted to the new one.

Tom and his wife Gladys, have a son and daughter, both of whom are married. Away from MANWEB he enjoys walking, does the mandatory amount of gardening, and is an horologist, to save you looking it up—we did—he “tinkers about” with watches.

Mr. Ernest Llewellyn, despite his name, is a native of Liverpool and not Wales, and it was in the Corporation of that city in which he started his service for the Electricity Industry 36 years ago.

Mr. Whyte, as an auditor, first met Ernest when he was a stores record supervisor in Derby House, where he greeted the auditor with a smile.

Anyone who smiles at an auditor has his books carefully checked, just in case. Ernest was still smiling when they left so Mr. Whyte concluded the records were in apple-pie order, or they had not found what he was smiling about!

Ernest, a widower with a married daughter and two grandchildren, had an exceptional record, in that since nationalisation and the formation of MANWEB, he has not had a day off sick, which the chief accountant claimed, he was about to spoil by retiring at his early age to lie liesurely in bed while the rest of those present continued to come to work. Never-the-less he wished him a long and happy retirement. from his position as administrative assistant in the Head Office stores accounts section.

Mr. Alan Malcolm an administrative assistant in management accounts at Sealand Road, was the last of the Accounts quartet to be congratulated on their service by the Chief Accountant. He had completed 41 years' service starting with the Liverpool Corporation, serving in the Royal Artillery during the war, and coming to MANWEB on nationalisation.

In 1948 Mr. Whyte selected Alan Malcolm to join his audit staff.

Since centralisation at Chester, Alan has been a

senior member of the cost office staff and earned a reputation for scrupulous accuracy.

Alan, who is a bachelor, has obtained professional qualifications and has guided the fortunes of the Marine Football Club, Crosby, one of the premier amateur teams in the country.

* * *

Head Office senior Engineer (special projects) Mr Sidney Towill, retired after 44 years service to the electricity industry.

He started work as an apprentice with the Carlisle Electricity undertaking in 1933 and worked for various organisations before and during the war. He also studied for and gained a degree under difficult wartime circumstances, on a part-time basis.

He joined MANWEB shortly after nationalisation in 1948 and has held various technical engineering posts at Chester.

He has also chaired and been a member of several technical organisations associated with the electricity industry. He has written a number of papers, which have been published, for the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

It would appear that he intends to continue to produce more papers in retirement, as his choice retirement gift was a calculator.

MANWEB's own 'Memory Man' Mr Joe Cutts has retired from the Board only ten days short of half a century in the industry.

Most of his working life has been spent in the Engineering Drawing Office, initially with Liverpool Corporation and then with MANWEB's former Area 1, transferring to Chester with the 1970 re-organisation of the Board.

His knowledge of the electircity network has been invaluable to the Board and the previous undertaking. His memory of plans and location on site, of the cables and other underground obstructions is phenomenal.

When he produced plans for a cable to run along Liverpool's Rice Lane, the plan instructed the construction gang to take a semi-circular detour at a road junction. "Why?" he was asked. "There is a meteorite there," he told the disbelieving gangers,

In the centre of the picture Mr. Sidney Towill receives a farewell handshake from (the Assistant Chief Engineer) Mr. Dennis Farquhar.





With his farewell gifts under his arm Mr. Joe Cutts is congratulated by (Assistant Chief Engineer) Mr. Gerry Haughan on attaining a near half century of service in the electricity industry.

who took a straight line. Where Joe had predicted, they came up against a solid rock which drills, hammers, picks, and shovels could not shift, and they were forced to take Joe's route.

Hitler's bombers managed to destroy some records of the Liverpool system, but Joe's memory enabled engineers to repair cables and keep the electricity flowing. He also helped save a tremendous amount of time when MANWEB comprehensive records were being produced.

Outside the office Joe is a family man. He and his wife Joan have a son David, who is married with two children. We understand he is planning to buy a caravan, which he will no doubt use to visit the old pubs and buildings around the country, of which he has a fair knowledge.

Friends in the Engineering Department said farewell to Mr Eric Pearson who retired after completing 15 years as a clerk in the Head Office engineering clerical section, initially at the Love Lane Offices in Liverpool, and more recently at Chester.

Eric was a former variety artist and toured the music halls until the out-break of the war in 1939. Since then he has continued in 'showbiz' part-time as an excellent dance band pianist. He still does the odd 'gig'.

Making sure Eric Pearson seated works to the last are colleagues from left to right Eric Dodd, Norman Burnett, Ken Knight and John Gillette.



No doubt he will continue to tickle the ivories in retirement. He is married and he and his wife May have a son and two grandchildren.

* * *

A principal assistant in the Education and Training section, Mr. Eric Taylor retired after 41 years' service in the Electricity Industry.

He started in the Electricity Supply Department of Liverpool Corporation in 1936 as an engineering clerk, served with the RAF Regiment during the war, returning to the industry in 1946

In 1951 he became the youngest ever District Senior clerk in the former Liverpool South District, moving to Area Office as an assistant to the Area Secretary 13 years later. On reorganisation he transferred to his present appointment.

A keen athlete and sportsman in his younger days, he has for many years been a leading light in the Electric Supply Sports and Social Club at Thingwall Road, Liverpool, having been a committee member and chairman and currently President of the club.

Eric has been involved in the Local Advisory and Works Committee for many years, having been joint secretary of the No. 1 Works Committee.

He and his wife, Nora, have two sons, both of whom are married, and they have two grandchildren, one only several weeks old.

A keen horticulturist, Eric even grew tomatoes on the Head Office window ledge. This occupation will take up much of his time in retirement, as will his newly acquired sport golf. He and his wife also enjoy fell-walking.

Service of 42 years in the industry ended for Mr. Tom Jones when he retired on the last day of June. Liverpool Corporation was his starting point in 1935, and six years later he went off to fight in the World War as a pilot in the R.A.F., rejoining the Corporation in 1946.

He worked in the enquiry office in administration, estates and wayleaves and in the welfare office in Liverpool, at Area and District, at various times before becoming Welfare Officer in Area 1. He joined the Head Office Welfare Section at Chester with Board re-organisation.



Mr. Tom Hamilton *left* gives Tom Jones a farewell handshake, whilst Mr. Eric Taylor receives a similar gesture from Mr. Lionel Ladner, *Education and Training Officer*, on the right.

A very keen sportsman, and a good one, Tom played football, cricket and table tennis in his younger days as well as being a competitive swimmer and runner. He even found time to become the Thingwall Road Club's billiard champion in 1963, and is now a keen golfer.

Tom and his wife Marjorie have a son and daughter

David and Sylvia. Presenting Tom with his retirement gifts on behalf of his colleagues, another Tom, Assistant Secretary Mr. Tom Hamilton, paid tribute to his retiring colleague saying that his greatest attribute was his consideration for others, and the way he went out of his way to help people, he wished Tom a long and happy retirement.

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we report on the deaths of the following employees:

Mr. Harold Bunn, another former Chester Corporation employee who retired in 1971 after completing 42 years in the industry. One of his first jobs was that of a lamplighter. Later he became an assistant on the switchboard at New Crane Street.

Then he worked for the overhead line construction section and played a major part in helping bring electricity to the rural areas around Chester. When he retired from his work he was the foreman in charge of overhead line working.

He was a determined and fourttright man, hard working and well liked and respected by all his workmates.

Mr. Albert Crowe, a man who in this time probably knew more

about the electricity supply in Chester than anyone else, died recently. He was 74.

Mr. Crowe retired from his job as an installation inspector with MANWEB in October 1967 after 50 years in the industry.

On leaving school in 1916, he became a Scout messenger with Western Command during the first world war. Shortly afterwards he took up an apprenticeship as an electrician with the former Chester Corporation Electricity Department. He later became a lamplighter earning 11/-d (55 pence) a week!

In 1921, along with some of his colleagues, he joined the Union. When he asked for an increase in pay he was immediately sacked!

For a while he worked for a private contractor and was probably the first man in Chester to wire an a.c. motor.

He rejoined the Corporation in 1935 and worked on electrical installations in many of the City's famous buildings.

Mrs. Dorothy Edwards, who, prior to her retirement some seven years ago, was a clerk in our Computer Control section at Sealand Road.

Dorothy joined the industry in 1945 when she worked for the former Chester Corporation as a telephonist—she was then Dorothy Townsend. Later, with MANWEB, she became a clerk at the New Crane Street depot before transferring to the new building.

She was one of the original members of the Chester Ladies First Aid team and was a terrific worker for Nalgo, being a member of the local executive committee for many years.

Some time ago, she suffered a stroke and for the past few years has not enjoyed good health.

Mr. Gerald McAuley, of Morval Crescent, Runcorn, a labourer at Runcorn for 16 years prior to his early retirement last October.

Mr. T. Stanley, a labourer at St. Helens prior to his retirement.



'Jubilee', the first elephant to be born in captivity in this country keeps a watchful eye on cameraman Mike Hall of Head Office who went to Chester Zoo to take this excellent picture.

He used a 105 mm lens on a Mikkormat camera with Tri-X film set at F4 and timed at 1/60th of a second.