

Honoured by the Queen

WE send our sincere congratulations to three MANWEB people who were honoured by Her Majesty The Queen in the Birthday Honours list.



Joan Dittrich was awarded the MBE. She is the only lady engineer in MANWEB and she is responsible for the development of electrical catering equipment. Joan joined MANWEB in 1950 and became a demonstrator during the massive rural electrification programme. Later she devoted her energies to selling catering equipment to the hotel trade on the North Wales coast. She was appointed to the Head Office staff in 1970 as an energy sales engineer, to specialise in catering. Joan is married, and she and her husband, Walter, have a grown-up son, and they live in Connahs Quay, Deeside.



Robert Adamson received the BEM. He is a financial control foreman in Liverpool District and was selected for the award in recognition of his work in dealing with customers. He has a team of 26 and considers the award is as much for them as for himself. Bobby told 'CONTACT': "I do feel highly honoured to be chosen, but I think that it is a recognition of the work of all the lads and girls in the section—in fact in the whole District." Bobby joined MANWEB in 1968 as an electrician. He is married, and he and his wife, Norma, have a son, Karl.

Richard de Zouche, a part-time Board Member, received the OBE. He is a chartered accountant in Liverpool and has been a member of the Industrial Development Council for the past ten years. He is a past chairman of the Merseyside Chamber of Commerce and a former treasurer of the Chamber, and is now treasurer of the Association of Chambers of Commerce.

REFURBISHMENT IS ESSENTIAL

—top priority for the
extension of the programme

ENSURING that customers had a safe and secure supply of electricity into the next century is the Number One priority of MANWEB Engineering Director, Denis Farquhar. He told his management colleagues at their annual conference that further development of the refurbishment programme was urgently needed.

He and his management team from Head Office gave comprehensive and forceful presentation of their case. Mr. Farquhar outlined the history and the present state of the network. He illustrated with slides the progress being made and the need for an enhanced programme. This challenge must be faced now, and he called for a fresh and innovative approach to engineering in MANWEB.

The extent of the challenge was presented by John Powell, Engineering Manager, System Operation and Planning. Using graphs and statistics, he described how the major portion of the MANWEB network was built in the 1960s and much of this plant was now nearing the end of its working life. The strategy for refurbishment of the network was based on a steady build-up of resources, arriving at a plateau which would be reached "for ever", on the principal of painting the Forth Bridge—once the job was completed at one end, it was time to start at the other again.

Some of the buildings which held the equipment were in a sorry state, Harry Foreman, Civil Engineering and

... plastered with graffiti ...

Building Manager told the conference. Vandals had badly abused some sub station buildings and plastered them with graffiti—slides of which made a light-hearted interlude. However, Mr. Foreman stressed the MANWEB obligation to maintain secure and safe sub station buildings and compounds, in the interests of the health and welfare of the public and of a reliable electricity supply.

The practical aspects of getting the engineering work done are the responsibility of Plant and Construction Manager Stan Roberts. To ensure that

KATE PLACED THIRD AGAIN

THE MANWEB representative in the Ladies' Section of the Electricity Council's Public Speaking Competition found herself placed third for the second year running.

Kate Jacks, from Liverpool District, has won the MANWEB Area final for the past two years, and, in the 1986 event held at London's Connaught Rooms, she over-ran her allotted time, but she still managed third place.

Her colleague from Liverpool District, Paul Dobson, repre-



Head Office engineer Peter Jones, right, explains an exhibit to, from left to right: Chairman Bryan Weston, Appliance Marketing Manager Warwick Saunders, Energy Marketing Manager Bryan Ogden and Financial Manager —Income Alan Waddock. The management team broke from their conference to visit the Engineering Exhibition at Clwyd Office

the programme was carried out efficiently, there had to be changes in work practices, better planning and a high degree of mechanisation—all designed to increase productivity. The quality of the work had to last for at least 40 years. To emphasise his points, he showed three videos, one of which was by British Gas, and showed their pipe-laying procedure.

... key to the future ...

Newest member of the Engineering Management team is John Turner, Technical Engineering Manager, and, at the conference, he concentrated on future developments and the implications of introducing new technology into MANWEB. The "key to the future" was how he described the micro-processor relay. This was a digital protection system which MAN-

WEB had been deeply involved in developing, and would be used to help reshape future networks.

Mr. Turner explained several technical development strategies, one of which was the elimination of the 33,000-volt network in rural areas, and the possible eventual replacement of the 11,000-volt system with one of 20,000 volts. Using a computer simulation, he demonstrated the use of network automation to improve supply security, using less plant and greatly simplified sub stations, which would cost about a third as much as the present sub station. Finally, he described how a computerised "corporate database" could help to improve efficiency and service to the customer.

The whole engineering management team in their combined assault left no doubt about the strength of their case for further refurbishment of the network. Their presentation, entitled *The Highway to the Customer*, ensured that it would be one trodden by MANWEB. Commenting on the combined effort, MANWEB Chairman Bryan Weston commented: "This is the best engineering presentation I have seen in 30 years".

To further his case, Denis Farquhar invited his colleagues to an engineering exhibition at the Clwyd District Office. This comprised two Portacabins locked together to give a large display area for the various sections to show their exhibits. This mobile exhibition will tour the area, and show staff and customers the extent of the technology and expertise used to bring electricity to the public.

Liverpool FC help MANWEB score with top business people

INDUSTRY and commerce between them use nearly 70 per cent of the electricity sold by MANWEB. It includes the highest proportion of industrial sales of units for any Electricity Board in the country. It is a vast market that is constantly changing, and in which there is some very stiff competition.

The Commercial Department are constantly seeking ways to sell to the business community, trying to persuade them to invest in the electric answer to their problems. MANWEB sponsor PEP and Beta Awards, which reward the industrialist and the companies from commerce for their enterprising and efficient use of electricity—from which they have already had practical benefits, such as heating, lighting and motive power, the many processes and developments, some wholly electric and others working in tandem with other fuels—all aimed at the wiser use of electricity and cutting the energy bill.

The effort does not only go into selling more, but is also directed at shifting the peak demand of larger users. The more electricity used at peak periods, the more expensive for the big customer and for MANWEB, who have to pay more to the CEGB. Persuading the large industrialists to shift their load from peak periods helps all MANWEB customers, including the domestic sector.

... a tough market-place ...

How do the Commercial men and women meet the captains of industry to get the message across?—by letter, by telephone, by advertising, by literature, by providing news-sheets to set out the MANWEB stall. It is a tough market-place, and you have to shout louder and make the same or better offers than your competitors in order to succeed.

MANWEB sponsor meetings, seminars and events aimed at specialist markets, in the right setting of pleasant surroundings. One such venue has been the magnificent Trophy Room of Liverpool Football Club. Now Anfield have gone one better—they have built on an Executive Lounge, which is available on match days to business organisations to invite clients to have a meal and watch the game. MANWEB have been fortunate in obtaining a place in the lounge, before they were all snapped up.

... part of business practice ...

Commercial staff will host small groups of top businessmen from Merseyside and North Wales, and further afield, in the highly-successful atmosphere of Europe's leading football club. The same sort of operation has proved successful for other Electricity Boards in top football grounds around the country, but they do not have a Liverpool!

Sponsorship is now part of business practice and many organisations set aside part of their publicity budget for such deals, both in the private and public sector, and they are applauded by the press and television.

It seems strange then to be singled out for criticism from the local newspaper—the mouthpiece of Merseyside—the *Liverpool Echo*. Before the ink is dry on the contract, they are shouting about “MANWEB bosses living it up”, and the *Daily Post* comments about “junketing” and seeks condemnation from an MP.

... to further business interests ...

Why do banks, finance houses, builders, contractors, manufacturers and other businesses use part of their publicity appropriation for such sales opportunities? They invite clients and prospective clients, in their own time, to congenial surroundings, to develop contacts and to further their business interests.

Advertising and publicity is part of the commercial side of the MANWEB organisation, which is paid for out of the profits from shops, contracting, servicing and the additional unit sales won each year. MANWEB sell British goods, help British business and work with agencies to help to promote Merseyside and bring business and jobs to the area.

Why does the *Liverpool Echo* get involved in sponsorship such as speed-boats? In the long run, it helps to sell newspapers. Part of MANWEB business is to sell electricity and electrical products and this commercial aspect makes a profit, which goes to the main energy account. We help business to expand, to take on more staff and to bring back prosperity to Merseyside. The people of Merseyside and North Wales need the news media to shout their successes from the roof-tops, and not knock and niggle at every positive step. MANWEB want the whole region to be as successful as its two magnificent football teams—Liverpool and Everton—and are using one of them to bring that about



Pictured above are, from left to right: Joan Dittrich, Judith McIntyre, Mike Harrison and Peter Wynne

Cooking ahead to 2000

—MANWEB Conference for Catering Teachers

A CULINARY trip to the year 2000 and beyond was arranged for delegates and guests at the MANWEB Conference for Catering Teachers. Speakers demonstrated the latest in equipment and techniques to their specialist audience.

Mid-Cheshire's Judith McIntyre demonstrated the induction hob, its speed and controllability. Even though this is switched on, it uses no energy until a ferrous pan is placed on the hob—then it is the metal in the pan that heats up to cook the food. Judith used a wok to cook some mouth-watering stir-fried vegetables and chicken with sweet and sour sauce

“Sous Vide” is a cook-serve system being used by up-market restaurants to maximise the skill and output from their chefs. Details of the scheme were explained by Brian Dunne, from Taylor Freeze (UK) Ltd.

There is tough competition for the small butcher from the large multiple outlets, but one man who was holding his own was Peter Wynne, a master butcher from Deeside. He explained how vacuum-packing of his fresh and cooked meats enhanced the product and also

latest of the Electricity Council publications designed for catering colleges, entitled *The Electric Source Book*, copies of which were given to delegates.

The Taylorplan staff provided an excellent meal—judged to be so by the very discerning diners—which helped to make an excellent day for all of those who attended.

Richard Clague, Chairman of the Catering Teachers Association, opened the conference and proposed a vote of thanks to MANWEB and the catering specialist, Joan Dittrich, in particular, who had organised the event. This was supported by the whole audience.

Following the conference, Joan Dittrich was sent a diploma from the Catering Teachers Association for MANWEB, in recognition of the valuable support and furthering of interest in the work of the Association, which had been signed by the National President and the National Chairman.

MANWEB INDUSTRIAL SEMINAR

'Quality of electricity supplies to industry'



Seminar speakers, chairman and organiser, left to right: David Booth and John Acklan, district engineering speakers; customer Roy Graham, of Joseph Crosfield Ltd., a speaker; Glyn Norbury, chairman; Head Office engineering speaker Brian Nield; and organiser John Ellis, Energy Marketing Engineer, Mid-Mersey

MANWEB Warrington staff were hosts to engineers from industry at a seminar in a Winwick hotel recently. District engineering and commercial staff, a Head Office engineer and a customer presented a variety of experience for Mid-Mersey District Manager Glyn Norbury to introduce as speakers.

MANWEB's electricity distribution system is highly regarded throughout the industry because of the design of the system, which ensures a high level of security of supply.

The design concept provides an inter-connected network,

allowing electricity supplies to reach our customers through “alternative routes” when there is damage or when a fault develops.

In the majority of cases, loss of supply is avoided, but switching operations can momentarily affect the voltage wave-form. Most customers are unaffected, but there can be problems for those with voltage-sensitive equipment.

The seminar set out to explain the quality of electricity supply which MANWEB can realistically maintain, and makers of protection devices outlined possible remedies.

Long Service

OUR congratulations to the following members of MANWEB staff who have completed, during the month of June, 40, 30 or 20 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

40 YEARS—North Wirral District: **Bill James** (craftsman electrical fitting).

30 YEARS—Liverpool District: **James Blair** (craft attendant). Clwyd District: **Arfon Thomas** (Commercial foreman).

20 YEARS—Liverpool District: **Brian Beacham** (meter attendant), **Marie Sweeney** (cleaner) and **John Turner** (craftsman—mechanical fitting).

Letters

Dear Sir,

I have just read in the local press of the Board's intention to hire executive boxes at Liverpool FC for the 1987/88 season. Frankly, I am amazed that we are proposing to offer our valued customers second-class entertainment, when the best football show on earth is available only half a mile away, at the School of Science.

As I see it, the only likely change in Liverpool FC's play this year will be from “kick-and-rush” to “kick-and-no-rush”. Perhaps I have misjudged our Commercial colleagues, and they have chosen boxes which do not face the pitch? If that is not the case, then please advise them that I will be available for the “Derby” game to give technical advice on football matters to our less knowledgeable customers and other Liverpool FC season-ticket holders.

Yours etc.

George Harrison
(Nil Satis Nisi Optimum—
Nothing But The Best Is
Good Enough!)

Personnel Dept.,
Head Office.

(I don't know—you let them mind the shield for the odd year, and they get all cocky and become instant experts.—Editor.)

TECHNOLOGY IN THE KITCHEN

—brings savings on the energy bill

"DOMESTIC customers today use only ten per cent more energy than they did 20 years ago, despite the fact that there were now around 200 different appliances available to the home-owner," Mr. Jack Taylor, the Electricity Council's Central Director, Marketing, told an audience of journalists.

Strides in technology meant that modern domestic appliances used far less energy than their predecessors, he explained.

Speaking at a presentation of domestic appliances in London, Mr. Taylor pointed out that the appliances on show all contained "high tech" components, which had not even been dreamed of when the inventors of the vacuum cleaner, washing machine, cooker, refrigerator and food freezer first demonstrated their ideas.

"This is already being described as the 'high tech generation', enjoying the personal and practical benefits of science and technology to a greater degree than any previous generation in human history," he said.

"It is possible to have 200 different appliances in the home, from electric shavers to food freezers, yet, despite this proliferation, the average domestic consumption of electricity per head of the population has gone up by only about ten per cent in the last 20 years.

"Improvements in technology have given us appliances that do their job with maximum efficiency. Today's appliances are more efficient than the ones they replace.

"For example, the modern television set uses far less electricity than the models sold ten years ago. Modern washing machines have economy

A SMALL party of journalists from the MANWEB area visited London to see the Electricity Council's Jenny Webb demonstrate the latest in British-built electrical appliances. A hide-away grill from Valor, Tricity Halogen hobs and Halogen microwave cookers, the Creda magnetic induction hob and Hotpoint's "Quick Star" ceramic hob all excited interest. Kelvinator have produced an electronically-controlled freezer and Servis their "Secret" dish-washer, which hides under the work-top. Electrolux have developed a Jetstream washer, which washes by jet-sprays. All these are new ideas and British-made, and we will feature some of the new models in future editions of 'CONTACT'

programmes to work effectively at lower temperatures."

Mr. Taylor said that there were many other examples where the introduction of new technology had produced not only better-designed appliances, but ones which had better performance, were more efficient and used less energy.

"Both microwave cookers and individual cooking appliances designed for a specific purpose, such as slow cookers, sandwich toasters and contact grills, all use less energy than a traditional cooker and incorporated precision thermostats to control temperatures closely," he said.

"The halogen hob, originally developed at our Research Centre at Capenhurst, is highly controllable and energy efficient. It also has the gentleness of simmers—at this setting, gas would blow out."

Mr. Taylor continued: "Technology has also been applied to the factory. Quality control has increased so dramatically in UK domestic appliance factories in the past ten years that British-

made washing machines, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners and freezers are now believed to be the most reliable in Europe.

"A study of more than 3,000 appliances, carried out by the Consumers' Association for the National Economic Development Office, shows that British quality has improved significantly."

Mr. Taylor said that the study also revealed that washing machines and fridge freezers manufactured in Britain were now more reliable than Continental imports.

"We really must dispel once and for all the myth that British-manufactured appliances are of inferior quality and reliability," he said.

Mr. Taylor also said that electricity price increases over the past five years had been well below the rate of inflation.

"Still talking value for money, the average electricity bill for use in the house is only about £5 a week. That is about the cost of one pint of beer a day—and for that you have the benefits of the latest technology," he pointed out.



The Electricity Council's Jenny Webb, left, shows how an induction hob boils water and yet does not singe a £10-note—only the metal in the pan gets hot. Watching is a member of the MANWEB party, Val Surridge, of the Liverpool Echo

Beverley Davies, of the Cambrian News, with Jenny Webb, who explains the hide-away dish-washer by Servis

North Mersey answer a trunk call for help!

NO job too big or too small for MANWEB—for North Mersey, add "too peculiar"! Why? Because they have just serviced an elephant!

It wasn't pink, before you think it was due to drink—it was a genuine grey mechanical elephant. It is owned by Nazareth House, Crosby, which is run by nuns and is a home for children in care and for old folk.

The elephant was built by English Electric apprentices, and was one of eight in existence, which have now dwindled to two. When the company were at their Netherton factory, they used to lend the elephant to Nazareth House for their gala days. When the firm became part of GEC and the factory closed, they made a present of it to Nazareth House.

It fell into disrepair, vandals built a fire under it, and it was left in the open. Enter the mahout—sorry—man from MANWEB.

Ian Ledson, a 2nd engineer, was involved with Nazareth House in a £20,000-plus wiring contract for the children's villa, the kitchens, the sisters' quarters and flats. He spotted the elephant and brought along a MANWEB mechanic, to see if the engine would work. It did—and Jumbo almost ran amok, charging straight at a greenhouse, but, with all hands to the trunk, disaster was averted.

The engine was beyond repair, but is seemed a shame that such a unique—well, almost—machine should be scrapped. Assistant District Manager Bob McMahon agreed to help, and the District brought in the elephant, replaced the engine and renovated the body of fibreglass, repainting it and restoring it to its former glory. The job was done, and Jumbo was returned to Nazareth House, in time for their summer gala in mid-June. There it was used to give rides to children and to help in raising funds for the house's work.



△ Above: Joiner's shop foreman Bert Miller examines "Jumbo" before a final coat of paint

right: Ian Ledson with the completed "Jumbo", handing it back to the sisters at Nazareth House in time for their fete



NAZARETH HOUSE
CROSBY
LIVERPOOL

Dear Mr. Ledson,

Our very sincere thanks for your great kindness in having "Jumbo" repaired in time for our garden fete.

Please convey our gratitude to everyone who helped to do the job so beautifully. "Jumbo" was much admired and was a great attraction for the many children who attended the fete.

We were blessed with an afternoon of glorious sunshine, which helped to bring a good crowd, and made the fete a great success.

With renewed thanks and all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)
Mother Superior.





NORTH MERSEY LJCC OPEN MEETING

Fine 'Balad' and excellent Salad

IT was pouring with rain, but it did not seem to dampen the spirit or reduce the attendance at the North Mersey LJCC Open Meeting.

The District had moved the meeting to the summer, to avoid the bad weather and cold nights of the winter. They even hired a marquee to house the buffet meal. The food was excellent and the atmosphere of warmth made up for the slightly chilly temperature.



Former District Commercial Manager Ken Appleton, left, now at Head Office, with former District Administrative Manager George Shoesmith, now retired

At what District Manager Jim McLennan described as "the best attended LJCC meeting he had ever seen", he welcomed guests and former members of the staff to Bridle Road. He kept his comments brief, and it was then the duty of the LJCC Chairman, Roy Fallows, to introduce the guest speaker. From the most southerly District in MANWEB — Aberystwyth — Tomos Davies addressed the staff of the most northerly District.

Tomos, who won the national public speaking competition two years ago, recited *The Ballad of William Jones* for, he says, the very last time. It was his winning talk for the public speaking contest, and it has earned him a few dinners since.

Safety was the theme of the talk, wrapped in a witty mono-

logue, and Dr. McLennan took up the point, commenting that everyone was a little too complacent over safety, and it is something that must be taken seriously.

It was the last meeting of the LJCC that the chairman would attend as a member, for he would retire before the next one was due. Roy Fallows expressed his opinion that the electricity supply industry, and MANWEB in particular, was an efficient organisation working as one team, and he was proud to have been a member of it.

The Open Forum was next on the agenda, but there were no questions that the LJCC could answer, so the meeting closed, and everyone left the canteen for the marquee and the food.



Pictured left are, from left to right: Jim McLennan, Tomos Davies, Roy Fallows and Len Cornah (LJCC Secretary).

Pictured above and immediately below are just a few of the lovely ladies of North Mersey District. If we give the impression that the ladies seem to outnumber the men in North Mersey, we put it down to the prejudice of our photographer who, as a consolation, did produce the bottom picture of three handsome fellows



PENSIONS GUIDANCE No. 1

From Mike Cannan, Chief Executive, Electricity Supply Pension Scheme

Personal Pensions—warning

THE Government have decided to allow all employees to have the right to choose to make their own arrangements for a pension with effect from 6th April 1988. For some employees, this choice might be possible from 4th January 1988, but this is not yet certain. Despite what you may have been told by others, or may have read in the press, you cannot opt before then. These pension arrangements are called "personal pensions". We know of certain life assurance companies already selling what they call "personal pensions", but they are not true personal pensions and cannot be until 1988.

Because there is a lot of confusion over personal pensions and employees are beginning to be approached by pensions salesmen and are asking questions about the situation, we have decided to write a series of articles which will try to cover simply—yet factually—the following:—

1. What is a personal pension (this article)?
2. What is the difference between a personal pension and an occupational pension scheme such as ours?
3. What does it cost?
4. What benefits do they both provide?
5. Some questions answered.
6. Summary.

Trade Unions agree that personal pensions, although seemingly attractive to employees, pose dangers and are not to be encouraged. Together, we agree that the benefits package provided by the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme offers a certainty that the employee and his family can rely on, whereas personal pensions will offer a hope, and the actual result will depend upon how well—or badly—the life assurance company (or other personal pension provider) has invested your money.

As personal pensions cannot begin until April 1988, if you are already in the scheme, we would warn you to be on your guard if anyone tries to sell you one before then. **DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING. If in doubt, contact your Board's Pension Officer.**

WHAT IS A PERSONAL PENSION?

As its name suggests, a personal pension is a pension arrangement entered into by an individual on a personal basis, unlike the Industry's Pension Scheme, where a member is part of a scheme with over 180,000 members. The Government included in the Social Security Act 1986 provisions to give employees the right to make their own pension arrangements through a personal pension, even if they were

in their employer's scheme as a condition of their employment.

A personal pension will be a contract between an individual and an investing institution, such as an insurance company, a building society or unit trust. If the contract meets the conditions for such arrangements set out in various Government Regulations, then it will qualify as a personal pension. The employee will not actually need personally to pay anything into it, but merely let the institution collect a National Insurance rebate and the Income Tax relief on that rebate at the end of each year which the Government have agreed to pay—in total, this would amount to about 6.5 per cent of pay if you left the Industry's Pension Scheme to have your own personal pension.

If you were to choose to take out the contract with a building society or unit trust, then, upon retirement, you will have to use all your money in your pension fund to buy a pension and/or other permitted benefits from a life insurance company. Some of the benefits you buy are laid down in the Act, e.g., there must be a widow's benefit provided equal to half the pension you will get from the fund built up from the N.I. rebate referred to earlier, and you must also provide for three per cent pension increases in the widow's benefit. As we understand the present proposals under the Act, you will not be able to provide for children's allowances in the event of your death (unlike the Industry's Scheme).

Despite its name, what you are not doing in arranging a personal pension is actually fixing up the amount of your pension and other benefits, or how they will be calculated. All you are doing is arranging for an amount of money to be built up and invested for you. Naturally, out of that fund, the company with whom you are saving will expect to charge not only for its agent's commission, staff salaries, office rents, etc., but also for its profit, and the balance will then be available to you on retirement.

With this balance you will be required to buy a pension annuity, and the amount of the annuity will depend on two things—firstly, the size of the fund you have accumulated, and, secondly, what interest rates are at the time. Thus, with a personal pension, you do not know what you are getting when you make the arrangement, and you are relying on the investment not only working out well over the time to your retirement, but also on the market for buying an annuity being good when you retire.

Some insurance companies will give a guarantee, but, when you work out on what the guarantee is based, it will probably turn out to be a very low rate of compound interest, such as two or three per cent. They will quote your expected benefits on a much higher rate of investment return, but put in the small print that their figures are only estimates.

WHEN DOES IT START?

This part of the Act will not come into force until 6th April 1988 and so, until then, despite what may be advertised by insurance companies and the like, no one can have a personal pension. There was a proposal in the Budget in March 1987 to move this date forward to 4th January 1988 for some employees, but this proposal was scrapped when the Government called the General Election. It may well be re-introduced later this year, but we do not know.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Put simply—**NOTHING**. You cannot even if you wanted to, until 1988, despite what any salesman may say. They want to tie you into a binding agreement now. You may well be bombarded through the post, etc., with mailshots urging you to do something before then—but ask yourself why they are so keen for you to sign up now, and who is going to pay for all the advertising going on. One thing is for sure—I'm not!



Chairman Bryan Weston cuts the tape, ceremonially opening the superb Engineering Exhibition, watched by managers and engineers at Clwyd District Office

ENGINEERING EXHIBITION OPENED



It's shirt-sleeve order for directors and managers at their conference, before touring the Engineering Exhibition



Engineer Eric Fisher, with manager Terry Brookshaw



Assistant District Managers John Walker, left, and Bob McMahon, right, and Financial Manager Alan Waddock watch engineer Tony Dowd demonstrate an exhibit



"The Key to the Future". Engineer John Hampson shows manager Arthur Ellinson

Below: Engineer Barry Harrison, left, with managers Lyn Price, Teg Williams, Dick Owen and Ken Crabtree, watched by engineer Rex Winnard

Just some of the engineers manning the exhibition





HOTPOINT WASHER WINNER

A competition for a Hotpoint washing machine was run for the opening of the Norris Green shop. It brought a massive entry, and the lucky winner was Mrs. Marie Webber, of Stalisfield Avenue, Norris Green, Liverpool. Supervisor Peter Jones congratulates Mrs. Webber, watched by her husband, and Hotpoint demonstrator Avril Williams

Marathon run for charity

SOME men from MANWEB were attracted to the London Marathon. Oswestry District's John Burton, a 2nd engineer, raised £267 for leukaemia research. From Head Office Income section, Dave Fisher raised £110 for the NSPCC, while Bob Faulds from Queensferry helped local charities in Mold.

Brian Middleton from Liverpool District completed the course, as did Pat Doyle from Head Office. Well run, lads! It was a great effort.

MANAGERS' CONTEST

IT seems that there is a contest between some District Managers to see how many times they can get in front of the 'CONTACT' camera lens. Bob Hodson, Dee Valley, last month managed four appearances, but this month Glyn Norbury has topped that with five! Well, they have been pretty busy in Mid-Mersey.



MANWEB SEVEN-MILE RUN

Mid-Mersey District Manager Glyn Norbury was on hand over the June Bank Holiday weekend to present prizes in the MANWEB-sponsored seven-mile race at Runcorn. There were in fact two events, the second being a 7,000-metre fun-run. As with Economy 7 the runners received more than they bargained for—the seven miles was 7.7 miles, on police advice for safety reasons. The winner by quite a way was Alistair Houghton, seen here receiving his prize from Glyn Norbury, right. The winning lady was Lynne Kennedy, centre, and runners-up in the prizes were, left to right: Joe Wycherly, Brian Horrigan, Robert Mitchell and Graham Prescott

THE MANWEB DAY-TRIPPER

Silence is Golborne

THE only way to tell that you are on the move is to watch the canal bank drift slowly by. There is no noise as *Golborne* carries her cargo of day-trippers gently along the Trent and Mersey Canal. The electrically-powered boat does not vibrate—even the drinks on the bar are without a ripple.

Golborne is the flagship of Catercraft Ltd.'s fleet of electric boats. She operates out of Lostock Gralam, Northwich, and carries her customers on two- to four-hour trips, and—as the company's name implies—food is available.

When Mike Cryer took early retirement from the Distillers Company following the take-over by Guinness, he launched his own business, with his son Andrew as his partner. In association with the Colliery Narrow

Boat Company, they have established their business, providing meals afloat for day-trippers or for chartered parties.

Meals are prepared ashore by Jane Hills in the all-electric kitchen, and kept hot on board

in a bain-marie. There are two toilets and a bar. In the stern section of the boat there are seats at small tables; in the adjoining bow section, sectional seating is around the sides of the boat and a table can be brought in for meals—it is kept on the roof. Sliding windows give an almost uninterrupted view from inside the vessel.

The traditionally-constructed narrowboat plies along the canal up to and past the Anderton Lift—an industrial masterpiece which lowered or raised the working craft to and from the River Weaver below. Opened in 1875, it is currently undergoing a repair programme to return it to its former glory, but money still needs to be found to complete the work.

Ancient tunnels, double locks and the Cheshire countryside are all further wonders for the passenger to behold. Refreshment ranges from cream teas for £1.25 to gourmet dinners at £8.00 a head.

There is room for up to 50 passengers, and wedding parties and business meetings are undertaken by the craft. For 30 or more, Mike and Andrew will provide a meal and live musical entertainment for £4.00 a head. Champagne breakfast cruises and folk boat trips with the "Narrowboat Boys" are just a few of the special trips organised by this enterprising company.

The regular trips on Wednesday and Sunday cost £2.75 for adults and £1.50 for children and O.A.P.s for a three-hour journey. Day boats are also available for hire, with a capacity of up to 12, and for eight hours the cost is £35, and the company can provide you with a packed lunch.

For a day out with a difference aboard an electric boat, you might like to try *Golborne*—ring Northwich 44672. *Bon voyage!*

Phil Youell, from Mid-Cheshire District, enjoys a glass of wine served by Jane Hills



Above: It's bon voyage for Catercraft from lovely Kathy Taylor, of the BBC *Holiday '87* programme. Pictured are Jane Hills, Andrew Cryer, Kathy Taylor and Mike Cryer

Below: Welcoming people on board is Mike Cryer, with MANWEB sales representative Phil Youell





Annika and her 'A' Team

This is Annika Rice and her 'A' team who helped in the hunt for treasure around MANWEB. The 'A' for 'Ambassadors' are, left to right: Alan Harris, Alun Jones, Robby Morris and Keith Mason, all from the Transmission section at Prenton. Annika and her Prenton stars appear in a video to be released in the autumn



Neil Walsh, a Mid-Mersey apprentice, receives his City and Guilds Bronze Medal from his District Manager, Glyn Norbury, watched by his parents

PARENTS AND APPRENTICES' EVENING

EIGHT apprentices brought their parents to an informal meeting at Mid-Mersey District Office, hosted by District Manager Glyn Norbury.

The object of the exercise was for the young employees and the mums and dads to have a chat with senior staff about career prospects in MANWEB.

The Production Engineer and Installation and Service Engineer, together with District foremen from Commercial and Engineering functions, were on hand to give practical advice. From Head Office, Education and Training Officer David Mellor, and Head of Training from Hoylake, Alex Smitton, were also on hand to give help with training aspects of the discussion.

Glyn Norbury took the opportunity of the gathering to present apprentice Neil Walsh with the City and Guilds Bronze Medal for obtaining the highest number of marks nationally in his year, competing with 6,500 students.



Time Served

District Manager Jim McLennan presents Apprenticeship Completion Certificates to qualified craftsmen David Mark Hughes, left, for jointing, and craftsman electrician Carl Henry Roberts

Mid-Mersey Retirements

Mr. J. R. DREWE

THE 2nd engineer—Installation and Service, in Mid-Mersey District, John Drewe, has retired, having spent 36 of his 51 years' service in the electricity industry with MANWEB.

He became an apprentice electrician with a Birmingham firm, served with REME during the war, and joined MANWEB in 1951. He was appointed installation inspector during the change-over from DC to AC supply. Moving to Warrington in 1954, as a sales representative, he was made an assistant consumers' engineer in Runcorn in 1959. He later became a contracting engineer working on contracts with the Runcorn Development Corporation.

He has been employed on energy sales, and, in 1981,



Farewell to John Drewe, left, from District Manager Glyn Norbury, watched by his wife, Win

became a member of the installations and service section. His knowledge of film-slide and studio equipment has led to his being in demand for conferences and meetings throughout the

area. John and his wife, Win, enjoy life in the open air, and we wish them a long and happy retirement, with many years camping ahead of them.

Mr. R. MARTIN

WELL-LIKED and respected member of Mid-Mersey District, widely known throughout the organisation, Bob Martin, Executive Officer, Consumer Accounts, has "called it a day" after 39 years' service.

Bob joined MANWEB in the year that it was created out of mixture of public and private undertakings—1948. He had completed his National Service in the Pay Corps, serving mainly in India, and started with the former No. 2 Sub Area at Sandiway as a temporary clerk. Since then, he has moved around the area and helped to train the managers of several Districts in how things should be run!

He and his wife, Ena, have a son Kenneth, who works at Head Office. Out of the office,



It is Glyn Norbury again—this time saying goodbye to Bob Martin, and watched by Bob's wife Ena, son Kenneth, and friends and colleagues

Bob likes gardening, motoring and doing crossword puzzles. For his retirement gifts from friends and colleagues, he received a music centre and a set of woods, as he now intends to

add bowling to his hobbies. We join with his many friends and colleagues inside and outside the Board in wishing Bob and Ena a long and happy retirement.



Pictured above: Charity representatives and North Wirral District staff watching Colin Hough, LJCC Chairman, present cheques to Elsie Robinson, left, at St. Winifred's Holiday Home, and Margaret Vogwell, Wirral Toy Library. Standing, are, left to right: Des Lock, Steve Holmes, John Jones (St. Winifred's), Steve Williams, Bob Wales, Dave Gilmore, Graham Reeming, Mike Townsen and Nora Knowles (Toy Library)

TREASURE HUNT WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS to the three winners of the May Treasure Hunt Competition. It certainly foxed a few of you, as our winners were the fifth, seventh and eighth opened, but the first three correct. They win a fiver each, and that is on its way. Two pensioners won—Bill Copeman and Tom Challinor, and North Mersey's "Elephant Man" (see page three), Ian Ledson.

Answers. 1.—£10.5m; 2.—Wrexham Industrial Estate; 3.—20 years; 4.—Corporate Marketing; 5.—40,000; 6.—Heatcare; 7.—Over £6m; 8.—165.

CHARITY CHEQUES

THE generous folk of North Wirral have contributed over £500 to charity, thanks to a tax rebate for charitable donations scheme. Handicapped youngsters were the first to benefit, as two cheques for £260 apiece went to St. Winifred's Holiday Home and Birkenhead-based Wirral Toy Library.

OBITUARY

IT is with deep regret that we report the deaths of the following former colleagues. We send our deepest sympathy to their family and friends.

Mr. Howard Abbott, aged 47, who was a commercial foreman in Mid-Mersey District.

Mr. Dilwyn Evans, who, until his recent retirement, was a senior salesman at Aberystwyth shop.

Mr. Edward Johnston, aged 58, who was a debt collector at Dee Valley District.



Cup winners, from left to right, standing: Andy Hughes, Callum Nocker, Steve Buswell, John Townend, Steve Ward, Ian Jones and Mark Harrison. Seated: Martin Lewis, John Kennedy, Brian Carman (manager), Nigel Crossley (captain), Mike Artell and John Gorman

Nalgo Cup Winners

A TEAM from Sealand Road foiled Liverpool Council's bid to complete a hat-trick of wins in the final of the Nalgo Watter Cup, held this year at Cheshire County Officers' Club in Chester.

Liverpool have twice won the national football knockout contest, organised by the North West and North Wales Area of Nalgo. There were 33 teams who started out on the quest to win the cup, and the winners from MANWEB never conceded a goal en route to the final.

It was in the final that they met the Liverpool team, and it was player-manager Brian Carman who opened the MANWEB account, with an electrifying diving header from a Callum Nocker corner, after only 15 minutes. The rest of the first half was quite a tussle, but with no more goals.

After the interval, our opponents hammered in two goals in as many minutes. With 15 minutes to go, that man Carman slid a John Kennedy volley into the net, to make it two-all. With five minutes of normal time remaining, Mike Artell crashed home the winner from the edge of the penalty area.

It was a delighted two-goal hero and player-manager Brian Carman who commented: "That was quite a match. They were a good, physical and skilful side, and we did well to beat them."

PLAY SAFE AND LIVE TO ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAYS

AS the main holiday season approaches, MANWEB repeats a "play safe" warning to children and adults alike—keep well clear of electrical installations and overhead lines.

Every year there are one or two tragedies in different parts of the country, caused by a lack of caution, as people make the most of long, light evenings and enjoy outdoor pursuits in their leisure-time.

Parents are urged to make sure that their children do not play anywhere near electricity sub-stations or transmission lines. The flying of kites and model aircraft can prove to be a hazardous pastime if strings or control wires come into contact with live lines, and in no circum-

stances should anyone venture into electricity sub-station compounds.

Adults should be especially careful when using long objects such as fishing-rods, CB aerials and the masts of small boats. Contact with electricity lines can lead to catastrophe.

It is most important that people who are holidaymaking in unfamiliar surroundings—especially camping and caravan sites—should make sure that there are no overhead lines in the vicinity.

CLANG!

ONE of our pages got away from us last month, and there were numerous errors in the captions. In the main, they got crossed and placed with the wrong picture. It would

have to be the course for foremen at Burton Manor—the men who are the backbone of MANWEB (he says, trying to creep back into favour!). Seriously, we do apologise for the errors. It was entirely our fault for not checking the page-proof.—Editor.

Sweet Revenge for Head Office

AFTER receiving two defeats at the hands of the Electricity Council Research Centre, Capenhurst, our Head Office fly-fishing team came back to defeat their rivals soundly at a competition staged at Mickle Trafford. The MANWEB team netted a total of 39 lbs. 2 ozs., while Capenhurst could only manage 23 lbs. 1 oz.

The salver awarded to the angler landing the heaviest single fish was retained for MANWEB by Barry Harrison (Plant and Construction) who was justifiably "over the moon" with his fish of 8 lbs. 15 ozs. Prize for the heaviest bag by a contestant from MANWEB went to Keith Griffiths (Dee Valley), with four fish, for 6 lbs. 12 ozs.

In National Team

WE send our congratulations to Harry Wyn Owen, of Gwynedd District, who qualified for membership of the 1988 Welsh Fly Fishing Team, after taking part in the Spring Trials at Llyn Trawsfynydd.

CONTACT FREE ADS

FOR SALE

AIR PISTOL — Webley Tempest. .22 calibre, with pellets. As new. £40. Tel: HO internal 2663 (Steve).

LEATHER JACKET — Black, 40-ins. chest. Nearly new. Cost £100, sell £60 o.n.o. Tel: 051-933 9221 (A. Quinn).

FRAME TENT — 4/5-berth, with canopy (no tent pegs). £50. Tel: 051-644 2521 or North Wirral internal 2125 (Phyllis Holmes).

RIDING BOOTS — Size 8. Worn once. £20. Tel: HO internal 2181 or 0244 534393 (Joan).

CYCLE — Boy's Puch racer. Suit 13/14-yr-old. Five gears. Fully maintained. Good condition. £45 o.n.o. Tel: 0925 34738.

48K SPECTRUM—With over 100 games, including £160-worth of originals, with four cassette racks. Tel: 0925 34738 (Mrs. B. Barlow).

CAMPING STOVE — Grillo Gaz. Used once. As new. £45. Tel: 02863614 (Mrs. Williams).

CARAVAN — 28 ft., sited at Formby, eight-berth, double doors, full cooker, end bedroom, two bunk beds, dressing-room, fitted wardrobes. Very clean. £2,550. Tel: 051-228 4393 (Mr. J. K. Cook).

TOURING CARAVAN—Ace Diplomat 1984. Two-berth, fridge, full cooker, heating, double glazing and awning. Excellent condition. £2,500. Tel: Aberystwyth internal 92 (D. Bennion).

MOTOR VEHICLES

LADA—W reg. 1600 saloon. 40,000 miles. Very reliable. In regular use. £650 o.n.o. Tel: 051-639 3294 (Ray Smith).

NISSAN MICRA — 1.0 GL, auto, B reg. Met. silver. One careful lady owner. Garage maintained. 16,000 miles. £3,500. Tel: Nantwich shop (Sheila Thomas) or 0270 668410 (after 6 p.m.).

HOUSES

WARRINGTON — Beautiful 4-bed. det. house. Through lounge, dining area, fully fitted mahogany kitchen, ground-floor toilet and upstairs bathroom, fully tiled. Private well-stocked gardens to front and rear. Quiet cul-de-sac, with easy access to motorway network. £47,750 freehold. Tel: 0925 824084 or 53039.

MISCELLANEOUS KIDDIES' PARTY? — Let the Silly Billies entertain while you relax. Tel: 051-924 5708 (Lorraine).

ANIMAL BOARDING "KATERAMA" cats boarding home. Licensed by Halton Council. Vet approved. Halegate Farm, Halegate Road, Halebank, Widnes. Tel: 051-425 3930 (A. Berrington).

BOARDING KENNELS—And Cattery. Ewloe. First-class accommodation, full central htg., individual runs, twice-daily exercise. Tel: Hawarden 532742.

HOLIDAYS

ABERYSTWYTH — Six-berth caravans to let from £35 a week (less 10 per cent discount for electricity supply staff and their families). Mains electricity, cooker, 'fridge and private toilet. Site facilities include a clubhouse, swimming pool, sauna, shop/restaurant and children's play area. Within easy walking distance from beach and town centre. Tel 0970 3596 after 5.00 p.m. (Tomos Davies).

TO LET—New luxury six-berth caravan on West Wales site, with a variety of amenities. 30 miles from Aberystwyth. Fitted kitchen and shower room. Families only. Tel: 0492 68 253 (evenings only).

CRICCIETH—House overlooking village green. Sleeps six. Colour TV. Beach and shops two minutes away. Tel 076671 2614 (Ann Tudor).

LLANBERIS—S/c holiday flat, spacious, modern, H & C all bedrooms, lounge, CTV, parking. Tel: 0286 871097 after 5 p.m. (Joan Williams).

LLANDUDNO—'April Court' small private hotel. Good food, friendly atmosphere. Quiet position, yet close to town, beaches, etc. Children welcome. Parking. Discount 15 per cent for electricity industry staff and pensioners. Tel: 0492 77898.

NEWQUAY, Cornwall—Guest house specialising in good food, comfort and friendliness. Sea views, two minutes from beautiful beaches. Quiet area close to town. Own car

park. Terms from £62 to £75 per week for BB & EM. MANWEB staff, past and present, most welcome. Send s.a.e. for brochure. Mike Pleasants, Fulmar, 43 Pentire Avenue, Newquay, Cornwall TR7 1PB, or telephone 06378 74291.

PORTHMADOG — Holiday bungalow, sleeps six. Black Rock Sands five minutes' drive; convenient Ffestiniog Rly, Snowdonia National Pk. For information: C. Jones, 2 Meadow Drive, Porthmadog. Tel: 0766 2519.

RHYL—Six-berth caravan on Pines Caravan Park. Electric, gas, mains water. Bathroom and bedroom. CTV. Club and shop. Tel: 051-526 6657 (L. W. James).

SOMERSET—Mod. spacious ground-floor flat in Berrow village on Somerset coast. Tel: 0278 786899.

S.W. FRANCE—Touring caravans to let. Mains water/electricity. Four-star site, swimming pools, restaurant, all facilities. Tel: 0270 766675 (Ian Linford).

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THE SPORTING CHANCES

by Mitch

