

VH

CONTACT

July 1970



The Stern Gang (see page 161)

PAST and PRESENT MEET AGAIN



Looking as if their years were being taken off rather than going on, the fit and active figures of former MANWEB Chairman Mr. D. H. Kendon and his wife were welcome visitors to Head Office recently as guests of Mr. D. G. Dodds our present Chairman. Without the worries and cares which go with the responsibility as Chairman of the Board, Mr. Kendon is still working hard down on his farm in Sussex. Our picture shows, from left to right, Mrs. Dodds talking with Mrs. Kendon while Mr. Kendon finds out how things are going with Mr. Dodds

Have you got your picture yet for the . . .

CONTACT Photographic Competition

Colour — Black and White Sections

Cash Prizes to be won

CLOSING DATE 30th SEPTEMBER, 1970



Mr. W. Gibson (Establishments Officer), *centre left*, conveys the best wishes of the staff of the Personnel Department in particular, and the rest of Head Office in general, to Mr. Robert McMahon on the occasion of his recent marriage to Miss Valerie Ann Roberts. The honeymoon was spent in the Isle of Man

THEY'VE BEEN AND GONE AND DONE IT!

The young man with the big smile is Mr. John Roberts, a 4th assistant Commercial engineer, who is being congratulated by Mr. S. Fairclough (Assistant C.C.O.) on the occasion of his marriage a short time ago to Miss Pamela Baxter. The ceremony was held at Prenton Congregation Church after which the couple left for Cornwall on a touring—and rainy (*but who cared?*)—honeymoon!



CROSSWORD SOLUTION and PRIZEWINNERS

Maybe we did not give you enough time to complete and return your crossword solution—maybe most of our crossword fans were on holiday—whatever the reason, *and we would never suggest that the puzzle was too hard*, we did not receive our usual quota of entries.

However, from those received we have managed to draw out three winners who win a guinea each for their efforts. They are : Mr. R. Frackleton, Telephone Office, Hatton Garden, Liverpool. Mr. F. Owen, Legal Section, Head Office, Chester. Mr. D. Jones, Salaries Section, Area 4 Office, Rhostyllen.

Solution

Across : 1 Warwick. 5 Paladin, 9 Anger. 10 Exercises. 11 Endophagy. 12 Frere. 13 Shipshape. 17 Roast. 18 Ken. 19 Caleb. 21 Endeavour. 24 Athos. 25 Affidavit. 27 Tonsorial. 28 Verne. 29 Risings. 30 Yorkist.

Down : 1 Weavers. 2 Raged. 3 Irrupts. 4 Keep awake. 5 Piety. 6 Lucifer. 7 Desperado. 8 Nascent. 14 Idle hands. 15 Pen. 16 End of play. 19 Charter. 20 Bassoon. 22 Anchor. 23 Retreat. 25 Aries. 26 Verdi.

ACCOMODATION REQUIRED

In Chester area, married couple require a self-contained flat, preferably unfurnished, with rent around £5 a week.

Contact Mr. A. S. Jones, MANWEB, Town Bridge, Northwich, Cheshire.

FOR SALE

Genuine bargain. Voigtlander Super Dynarex 1 : 4/135 wide-angle lens. Compur shutter.

Offers to : Mr. Paul Foulder, MANWEB Depot, Pumpfields, Liverpool. (Internal phone 92.240)



CONTACT

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Editorial Staff
Keith Baldwin
John F. Perry
Sam Doughty

EDITORIAL

Recognition

MOST people, in the course of a lifetime, perform some kind of service to society. Pre-occupied with the task of earning their living, they may not even recognise that they are at the same time carrying out a function of a much more far-reaching nature, but very few reach the point of retirement without leaving behind them a lasting monument to their efforts.

Splendid architectural masterpieces, or some great breakthrough in man's battle with Nature, are usually self-evident, but it takes a little thought for us to realise for instance that the light in our office, the water that flows so freely from our taps, the happy healthy youngsters who make up the rising generation, are the products of the sweat and research which our predecessors have put into their work.

Two MANWEB people have been singled out for distinction in the recent Birthday Honours List. Each has contributed a lifetime of effort and interest to his special theme. The endeavours of Board Member Professor Williams (*page 160*) have been devoted, in the final analysis, to the task of keeping us all adequately fed. The men who have been led by Mr. Ernest Morris, (*page 161*) foreman of our famous (or infamous) "Stern Gang" at Llanberis, have constructed and guaranteed reliable supplies of electricity—despite the worst that storm and blizzard could produce—to those who live in the wildest part of the MANWEB Area.

Neither is likely to dispute that these awards are tributes, not only to themselves, but also to all those who have contributed to the work which is recognised.

Individuals are selected for honour—in name at least—but almost all those who are named owe a debt of gratitude for the support and encouragement given by colleagues, workmates, friends and family.

HONOUR FOR BOARD MEMBER

A WORKING lifetime of interest in the economics of agriculture, both at home and on a world-wide scale, is recognised in the award of the C.B.E. to Professor H. T. Williams, who occupies the Chair of Agricultural Economics at Aberystwyth University, and who has been a part-time Board Member of MANWEB since March 1967.

Professor Williams has studied his subject during trips to many parts of the world, investigating agricultural methods in both sophisticated and primitive societies.

Asked his views on the controversial Common Market question, he said that it would be ridiculous for Britain to accept the common agricultural policies now prevailing among the Six. Our negotiators would have to tread very carefully, bearing particularly in mind our dependence on cereals for animal feeding.

Looking at the picture at home, Professor Williams said he thought there was a case for some increase in the average size of British farms, adding that the farm based on the family was still a most viable unit. There was much scope for co-operation between farmers, and it was essential that farmers paid much more attention to the needs of the market.

Professor Williams began his career in 1935, and during the early stages he spent periods on the staff of the Agricultural Economics Department at Reading



Professor Williams, left, talking to Mr. Keith Baldwin, MANWEB's Information Officer

University, and at the Agricultural Research Institute at Oxford.

He then moved to the Ministry of Agriculture as an economist, and after 14 years with the Ministry became head of the Economics Branch, concerned with such matters as the Annual Agricultural Prices Review and matters of Agricultural policy.

In 1959 he moved to Seale Hayme Agricultural College, Devon, as Deputy Principal and Bursar, and was appointed to the Chair of Agricultural Economics at Aberystwyth in 1964.

He has visited the U.S.A., India, Australia (twice) and Malawi, in pursuit of his professional interests.

Professor Williams is married, with a son and daughter. He enjoys game fishing.

Wayleave Payments for Multiple Lines over Agricultural Land

The Electricity Boards in England and Wales have reached agreement with the Country Landowners' Association and the National Farmers' Union on wayleave payments for multiple electricity lines over agricultural land.

In the case of fields of 20 acres or less, if a new overhead line is routed in the same field as an existing overhead line, the standard payments for each line will be increased by 50 per cent. Where a third line is so routed standard payments for each line will be doubled. For new lines such

payments will be made automatically but those who consider that they have existing structures on their property coming within this definition should request the enhanced payment from the appropriate Board. The increased rate will be paid on the next payment, due on or after 1st September, 1970.

In the case of fields exceeding 20 acres enhanced payments will be negotiated on the merits of the case.

Service lines for the supply of individual consumers are not included in this agreement.

Obituary

Mr. R. Rustage

Rather belatedly, we offer our condolences to the widow and family of Mr. Bob Rustage, a pensioner, from our Northwich District, who died a few weeks ago, at the age of 70, after a long illness.

Mr. A. W. Kettle

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. A. W. Kettle, a clerical assistant at Northwich. He had worked in the industry for 35 years.

Mr. Kettle leaves a widow, a son and a daughter, to whom we extend our condolences.

The Man who kept the Home Lights Burning . . .

story by Arthur Williams

(Liverpool Daily Post)

STOCKILY-built Mr. Ernest Morris, MANWEB's operational foreman at the Llanberis depot, looks the world in the face with clear blue eyes, and calls a transformer a transformer.

Aged 64, he was awarded the B.E.M. recently in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. After 47 years in the electricity supply industry he retires next December.

Among other things, he is head of the famous Stern Gang as they were christened, who have maintained and repaired high tension overhead lines in the heart of rugged Snowdonia.

Three trips by air

Mr. Morris has many stories to tell of his exploits under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions, all to ensure that customers got light and power.

But, there is one occasion that is quite out of the ordinary. During the Christmas of 1956 a blinding blizzard swept the countryside.

Serious damage was caused to a main overhead line between Caernarvon and Bangor, and Mr. Morris knew that unless action was taken promptly there would be a major blackout in Caernarvonshire and Anglesey.

Because of giant snow-drifts there was no way out of Llanberis by road. So, there was only one thing to do—to telephone Valley R.A.F. station to ask them to assist with a helicopter.

Mr. Morris recalls "I asked for the head man in Valley, and told him exactly the position.

"On his instructions we lit a huge fire in a field, to guide the helicopter which arrived 20 minutes later."

The helicopter made three trips with members of Mr. Morris's team, material, tools and equipment.

It was the first airlift of its kind in the industry.

Born in Llanberis

And during the second World War, with 60 pensioners in his gang, Mr. Morris successfully saw through a mammoth repair operation in the Wrexham area, including putting up three new towers to a dead-line of a fortnight.

Born in Llanberis, Mr. Morris started his career in the electrical industry in 1923 with the old North Wales Power Company, having worked in Dinorwic Quarry, and as a guard on the Snowdon Mountain Railway for a time.

One of his school friends was the late T. Rowland Hughes, the poet and writer, and Mr. Morris recognises himself in one of Mr. Hughes' books, although he is not named.

Another of his school friends was Mr. Howell Hughes, the musician, who now lives in retirement in Caernarvon.

In the early years, one Joe Ellis, a former comedian, in a travelling show which visited the village, decided to open a picture house there.

Tap dancing performances

Mr. Morris recalled: "We three got on very well with him, and he allowed us to use the wonderful selection of musical equipment that he had. This was the only time Rowland Hughes, who was very reserved and shy, came out of his shell."

"Mr. Ellis was a great tap dancer and he used to teach us the art, and I went on the stage in Devon and Cornwall to give tap dancing acts."

Mr. Morris joined Mr. Ellis as a cinema operator from the quarry, and went to work for him in Devonshire.

In time, Mr. Ellis decided to try his luck in America and invited Mr. Morris to join him, but he refused.

Character in his own right

He returned to Llanberis, got work as a guard on the Snowdon Mountain Railway, and afterwards joined the North Wales Power Company.

What he doesn't know about high tension lines is not worth knowing.

Dealing with main line failures have always been his concern and speciality, and the speed and efficiency with which he undertook repairs are almost a legend in the electricity business.

Looking back on it all, he told me: "In the old days you were an individual. Now you are just a number."

But this comment does not apply at all to Ernest Morris who is a great character in his own right, and always will be.

OUR COVER PICTURE

shows, the man with the B.E.M. with some of the Men from MANWEB who make up the "Stern Gang" at Llanberis. From left to right we have Messrs. Meirion Jones (chargehand), Morris Parry (linesman), Morman Maden (District Commercial Engineer), Oliver Edwards (driver), Ernie Morris (foreman), R. Gordon Ward, Ellis Goronwy Pritchard and Ernest Owen (linesmen).

SALES TRAINING AT WALLASEY

Members of our Commercial staff who made up Course 244 at the Wallasey Sales Training Centre recently

Right : From left to right : Mrs. Bet. Williams (Llanrwst), Mr. Anthony Dobson (Instructor, Sales Training), Mrs. Janet Wager (Aberystwyth) and Miss Eirlys MacKean (Clwyd District).
Below : From left to right : Mr. Robin Ward (Kirkby, South Dene), Mrs. Margaret White (Kirkby, St. Chads) and Miss Pat. Fowkes (Wallasey)



Cartoon
by

Vic Hooson
—from our
Mold Depot

“I tell you
Norman—
its economy
gone mad”



Awards for Effort by Apprentices at Hoylake



Prizewinning apprentice Philip Dunn, with his mother and father, and, on the extreme right, Mr. Ladner



Above: The young man with the prize for the Best All-Round Performance, Peter O'Brien with his parents and, on the right, Mr. Scudamore.

Below: Hoylake Headmaster, Mr. Ron. Slack, right, joins apprentice Alan Fox and his family



“Keep the standard set” —urges guest speaker

BEAUTIFUL sunny weather heralded yet another big day in the lives of five, if not all, of the apprentice electricians who recently completed their first few months with the Board at the Hoylake Training Centre. This special occasion was the 14th annual prize day ceremony which was held recently in the main lecture hall at the Centre when Mr. J. L. W. Ladner (*Education and Training Officer*) welcomed the parents of the prizewinners and many of the Hoylake landladies—without whose help the accommodation of apprentices unable to travel daily to Hoylake, would have presented many problems.

Also present were representatives from the Plessey Company, two of their craft apprentices having worked alongside the MANWEB pupils for part of the term.

Mr. Ladner said that although there had been a reduction in the number of boys undergoing training, the year had again proved quite successful. Certain building enterprises had been completed to keep the Centre adequately equipped for apprentice training—“as good if not better than anywhere else in this country.”

The guest speaker for the occasion was Mr. L. J. Scudamore (*Management Services Officer*) who began by turning the spotlight on the past in order to get a clear view on how the industry had developed and progressed. He talked a little of the days when apprenticeships were very hard to come by and a young man who got this opportunity was considered to be ‘made.’ He spoke of the types of basic training then received and how, in the luck of the draw, many did not get a good start. At that time the working hours were long, there was no such thing as day release for special studies and an apprenticeship lasted for a full seven years.

He reminded the audience that in days gone by, the Hoylake depot was an important centre for electricity supplies in the North Wirral area. With today’s extensive network system in the locality, the depot was no longer so vital as a supply centre, but as an Apprentice Training Centre it had become just as vital to the Board.

Mr. Scudamore went on to talk about standards of behaviour, conduct, academic effort and practical attainments which he considered to be very high among the Hoylake apprentices. At this point he paid tribute to all the members of the Training Centre staff for their hard work and their devotion

to the job. This statement was greeted with spontaneous applause from the boys themselves.

He next turned to the problems brought about by the transition period between schooldays and training for a career. He told the boys that if they started off on the wrong foot then they would find it very difficult to get back on the right course. He emphasised that at Hoylake, the foundation laid for a career would stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives.

He went on to remind the apprentices that the next stage of their training was back in their home districts where they would have practical training within their work environment.

He said "Here at Hoylake, you have been supervised, programmed and worked to a set of rules. In the Districts, you will find less direct supervision and you will be very much on trust. You have

Some of the staff . . .



From left to right : Mr. R. D. Jones, Mr. M. R. Grisenthwaite, Mr. W. S. Evans, Mrs. Shiela Hughes and Mr. J. H. Seymour

reached a high standard in your conduct and in your job, don't play fast and loose when you get into the new environment in the Districts."

He urged the apprentices not to slacken or spoil themselves, but to continue in the determination to keep the standards they had so successfully started out with.

He said that from now on they would be working with craftsmen and advised them to copy what was good, and if, in their assessment, they saw something bad, then to reject it.

He informed them that they would now come across work on interesting jobs as well as dull jobs, easy jobs and hard jobs, clean jobs and the dirty ones. "All are vital to the work of MANWEB," he said, "Learn to take the rough with the smooth and you will become very competent and successful tradesmen.

Mr. Scudamore then turned his spotlight on the work done by MANWEB electricians on service and contracting jobs. He said that these were

fields of high competition and a man had to do a good job of work, at the right price, in order to have a satisfied customer. He explained that work in this field was expanding and public reaction was excellent regarding the craft work being done by the Men from MANWEB. "So," he continued, "now that you will be going out on these jobs, keep up the standards of good workmanship and help the MANWEB team keep its good image."

He urged the boys always to be prepared to look at and accept new methods and new techniques. He advised them not to get into a rut. He talked of incentive schemes now being built up whereby a good craftsman is given the opportunity to earn more money—up to one-third increase on good basic pay.

He concluded by asking the apprentices to keep up with their academic studies, even though the



. . . and some of the landladies

From left to right : Mrs. Wall, Miss Rogers, Mrs. Larke, Mrs. Harding, Mrs. Fullarton and Mrs. Earnden

temptations would now be to have a night out with the boys. He said that the opportunity they had taken at Hoylake should be followed up and they should think of the future and build a solid foundation for a good well-paid career. "Be active in learning all you can from the craftsmen you will be working with," he said, "Don't just stand and watch."

The prizes were then presented to the apprentices by Mrs. J. L. W. Ladner, as follows :

Best All-round Performance :

Apprentice electrician **Peter O'Brien** from Rock Ferry, North Wirral District.

Electrical Subjects :

Apprentice electrician **Howard Probert** from Mold in Clwyd District.

Mechanical Subjects :

Apprentice electrician **Philip Dunn** from Mossley Hill, Liverpool District.

Michael Hickey, apprentice electrician receives his prize from Mrs. Ladner as a proud Mum, Dad, Sister and Brother look on



Apprentice having shown most progress :

Apprentice electrician **Michael Hickey** from Amlwch Port in the Gwynedd District.

The young man chosen for a place on a course at the West Highland School of Adventure at Applecross, Ross-shire was :

Apprentice electrician **Alan Fox** from Knowsley in our Liverpool District.

Then on behalf of the whole course, apprentice Ian Mawdesley from Liverpool District, offered a vote of thanks to Mr. Scudamore for his very interesting talk, especially the bit about how they could improve their earning capacity. He also thanked Mrs. Ladner for adding charm to the proceedings when making the presentations.

“At Hoylake we have been given the right lead,” said Ian, “and on behalf of all the apprentices may I thank all the members of the staff who have helped us with our training here. Nowhere could we have been set higher standards.”

Mr. Ladner then brought the prize day ceremony to a successful conclusion with his own sincere tribute to all members of the Training Centre staff and to the always helpful, Hoylake landladies.

HOYLAKE APPRENTICE OUTPUT OVER LAST 14 YEARS

1956/57— 26	1963/64—104
1957/58— 67	1964/65— 79
1958/59— 73	1965/66— 96
1959/60— 90	1966/67— 70
1960/61—107	1967/68— 69
1961/62—110	1968/69— 61
1962/63—122	1969/70— 42

Total—1,116

PRIZE FOR “OLD BOY”

The Electrical Trades Union prize for the Best Apprentice in the Liverpool area went to one of our young men from MANWEB, Philip G. Burrows, an apprentice electrician based at St. Helens.

The award consisted of a cash prize and a book token. We offer our sincere congratulations to you Philip.

Full attention from the young men concluding their initial training period at Hoylake as they listen to guest speaker, Mr. Scudamore. In the background are some of the parents and landladies



EVERY COOKER

tells a story

by "East Indiaman"

alias Mr. D. Lang

Principal Assistant Computer
Services Head Office

AT LEAST the recipe book included with every new cooker does. The pepper, ginger, cloves, cinnamon and other spices which form an essential part of so many dishes are rather taken for granted. Few cooks would think beyond the local provision merchant's shop if asked where these items came from and even fewer would be aware of the far reaching effects on world history which the acquisition of spices had.

To-day the use of spices may be an exciting gastronomical experiment for many but in the Middle Ages they were vital to the meat eating nations of Europe. Farming methods of the time did not produce sufficient fodder to support cattle for the whole of winter so the majority of the herds had to be slaughtered in the autumn and stored for later consumption. It can be imagined that before the spring, camouflage of the flavour of the meat would be essential!

Alas there was no electricity supply industry to come to the rescue and in any case the inventors of the day were far too pre-occupied to get around to designing refrigerators!

The normal overland supply route for merchandise from the mysterious East suffered a "take over" by the Turks who were not kindly disposed towards

the 'Christianity conscious' countries of Europe. This led King Dom Manuel of Portugal to despatch four ships, the San Gabriel, San Rafael, Berrio and a supply ship to discover a sea route to India. These tiny vessels under the Captain Generalship of Vasco da Gama, set out from the Restelo suburb of Lisbon on 8th July, 1497 on their now famous voyage in search of "Christians and Spices."

This curious combination did not have any cannibalistic motives but the spiritual backing of the Church would no doubt have been considered beneficial to the attainment of the temporal objective and relates to the search for the country of Prester John.

After a journey every bit as hazardous as any "Moonshot," the minute fleet rounded the Cape of Good Hope and reached Calicut in March, 1498.

Much to da Gama's surprise, he found there a Tunisian merchant who had a fluent command of Castilian, and Indian seamen who had ships, navigational knowledge and instruments at least the equal of, if not superior to his own. In fact the sea route to Europe could well have been discovered by the Indians but for the fact that they had not yet developed a taste for western goods nor had they much stomach for such adventurous exploits.

Bases were eventually set up in India by the Portuguese and later the Dutch, British and French to trade in spices, the majority of which came from the East Indies (Java, Borneo and the Moluccas).

At the time of the early voyages where maps or charts existed they had been compiled more from hearsay and imagination than from any scientific survey. Even as late as about 1730 when the British East India Company had been established for over a century and a quarter there were rather vague ideas regarding some areas as the map by Herman Moll shows.

Pirates on the High Seas

Even as knowledge of the seas improved, the life of seafaring men continued to be hazardous in the extreme. Shipwrecks, disease, accidents, storms, battles and piracy all took their toll. The seas covered by Moll's Map were notorious for activity by Malay and Chinese pirates. This coupled with the fact that it was not uncommon to lose about 2% of the men originally embarked, on the way out to India, without the aid of an epidemic or wreck, even at the end of the 18th century, certainly gives food for thought.

Maybe when you next have thought for food you will also spare a thought for the "Salts" who enabled you to add the pepper as it tells you to do in your cookery book.

Ancient AND MODERN

THE DRAGON—a most appropriate name for a Welsh hotel—is situated in Montgomery, the peaceful and beautiful county town, mid-way between Welshpool and Newtown and only a couple of miles from the MANWEB border with the Midlands Electricity Board.

Built as a coaching house in 1750, the hotel is now protected as an ancient building. Lying in an ideal setting just behind a market square dominated by an almost modern town hall, one can almost picture the bustling scenes of days gone by when farmers from the surrounding county sealed their buying and selling activities by adjourning to The Dragon to quaff a quart of ale.

Recently, however, it was found that in this timber-constructed hotel, the electrical circuits had also become rather ancient, so the owners of the property, Powis Estates, decided to call in the Men from MANWEB to completely re-wire the premises.

This entailed the installation of 22 socket outlets, two cooker and immersion heater circuits, shaving points and wall heaters in the bathrooms and the rewiring of 65 lighting points, mostly in the bedrooms where two-way switches were fitted.

The work was completed in six weeks and by utilising five distribution points and temporary feeds, there was little, if any, interruption to the smooth working of the hotel business.

Huge solid oak beams, some up to 18 inches thick, confronted our electricians as they took the



The 18th Century coaching house in Montgomery

cables from one point to another. True to form, they overcame the difficulty and went on to make a neat job of the installation.

The quaint old bars don't lose any of their charm and interest even with the modern fluorescent lighting among the shelves. The only thing which seems a little out of place is the inevitable one-armed bandit machine in the public bar. But still, we had highwaymen in the days when the hotel was first built!

Mine hosts, Mr. Geoffrey Proe and his wife Phyllis



Letter of Thanks

Dear Mr. Williams,

Now that I have a spare minute I felt that I must write and tell you how delighted we are with the excellent job your two workmen have made of the rewiring of The Dragon, also how courteous and helpful they both were. We couldn't have had two nicer lads in the house.

If only everybody in the country worked as conscientiously as they did, there wouldn't be the unrest in the country. I cannot praise them enough. They've done a wonderful job.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) Phyllis Proe.



Electrician Gareth M. Joseph makes the final connections to the cooker control unit in the all-electric kitchen in the hotel.

Apprentice electrician D. Lewis Jones fixes one of the wall-light fittings on the first-floor landing



Men from MANWEB at work



Mr. George Davies (*foreman electrician*) left, discusses a point on the installation with Mr. Walter Williams (*consumers' engineer*).

The old-fashioned call system whereby a pull on a cord in various parts of the hotel would set off one of these bells in the hallway and away would go the servant.





The Bryn Offa School at Wrexham. In the centre foreground and to the left are some of the new unit classrooms

Comfort in the Classroom

THE WEATHER seems to be a favourite topic for nearly everyone in these islands, and up to recently, the main talking point was the glorious heatwave. More recently we have had good reason to be thankful for the drop of rain, but now we look forward to another spell of sunny weather, especially for those who have not yet had their holidays.

School holidays are now upon us and one group of fortunate youngsters in the Wrexham area are the pupils of the Bryn Offa County Secondary School where, regardless of the outside weather conditions they have been working in complete comfort in their new classrooms.

Just before the onset of winter last year, Mr. C. Lloyd Thomas, Headmaster at Bryn Offa, was faced with influx of extra pupils due to the closure of the Penygelli Secondary Modern School.

More class space was urgently required, but,

because of the lack of time, a new permanent building was out of the question. After careful thought, the use of prefabricated unit classrooms seemed to be the answer.

To begin with, seven such units were erected in the school grounds, each having accommodation for 30 pupils and a teacher. Later, another double unit was added and now there is housing for at least 270 extra pupils. The units are in many ways the same as the regular classrooms, the advantages probably outweighing the disadvantages. One unit, for example, is completely fitted out as a science laboratory.

The next problem to be faced was the efficient heating of the classrooms. The Denbighshire County Council architects, decided to use electricity in the form of separate Electricaire units for each classroom. These have proved highly successful even during the

most severe weather which we experienced over the past long and icy winter—a period most difficult to remember now.

Crede nine kilowatt fan-assisted units provide the heat-storage—electrically charged overnight on cheap rates—all ready for blowing warm air into the classrooms during the periods of occupation by the pupils and teachers during the school day. The heating is programmed to operate from about 8 a.m. until the end of the school day, normally around

(continued opposite)



Some of the young pupils working in the comfortable warmth of their new classrooms, even with the severe weather conditions outside



A Creda nine kilowatt Electricaire unit sited in the hallway adjoining one of the unit classrooms

4 p.m. Thermostats in the classrooms control the output from the heaters to keep the air temperatures at 68°F. The neat and compact units are sited in the entrance area—a kind of hallway—where the pupils can leave their top coats to dry-off, helped by the warm air being recirculated through the cabinet.

The system, without doubt, has proved the wisdom of the County architects in their choice of Electricaire. With the installation carried out by MANWEB, the costs have been most reasonable and the running charges, which have a direct bearing on the County rates, are competitive and very economical, even in extremely cold weather.

“After some minor problems initially,” said Mr. Lloyd Thomas, “the Electricaire system is now working very satisfactorily. The temperatures in the classrooms provide an ideal and most comfortable condition in which the pupils can work.”

There's snow on the ground and frost in the air, but inside these unit classrooms, the Electricaire units keep the temperature at a steady 68°F

As for the pupils themselves, Stephen Scott, 10 Barnfield, Wrexham, said “I worked in one of the classrooms before the heating was installed and it was very cold, but now, with the new heating system, the same rooms are really warm.”

Janet Sanbrook, 12 Bryncabanau Road, Wrexham, and her friend Jane Thomson, 129 Norman Road, Wrexham, were in agreement when Janet said, “We expected the new classrooms with their seemingly thin walls and lots of window space to be really icy and cold, especially during a bad winter, but we were very pleased to find all the classrooms lovely and warm, with the electric heaters doing a grand job.”

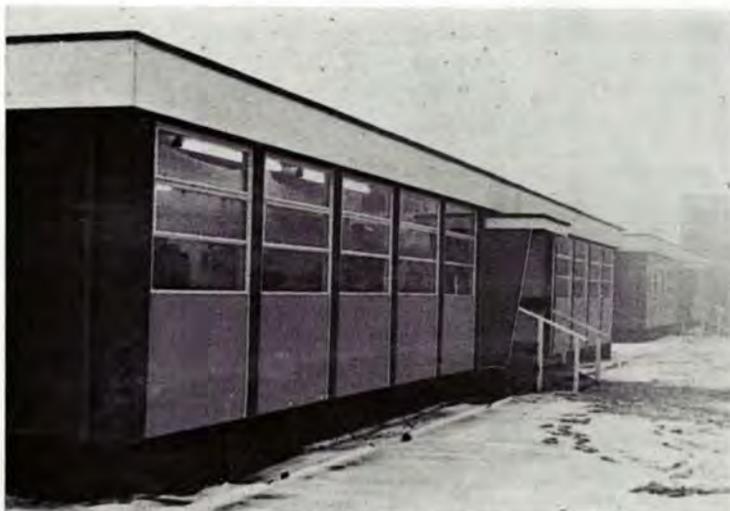
More Electricaire Units Installed

Since the installation went into Bryn Offa School, five more Electricaire units have been installed in other local schools, two at Gwenfro County Primary School, two at Hafod-y-Wern County Primary School and one at Marchweil Controlled School. Two more have been accepted for St. David's Secondary Modern School.

Still within the jurisdiction of the Denbighshire County Council is the Mochdre Country Primary School at Colwyn Bay where three Electricaire units have been installed in unit classrooms.

In all of these schools, next winter does not present any problems as far as heated classrooms are concerned. No stoking smokey and dirty boilers, no wildly fluctuating temperatures—just the steady clean heat provided by the modern Electricaire method.

Even the pupils will be keen to go back after their holidays!



CITY RACECOURSE BUILT ON A LEGEND

Story by: **Mr. CHARLES UTTLEY**

(Advertising assistant, Head Office)

BRITAIN'S place-names frequently conjure up strange and romantic associations, but few have such a dramatic legend attached to them as Chester's "Roodee", best known in comparatively recent times for the racecourse which circles its perimeter.

The Roodee is a flat alluvion, 62 acres of grass-land bounded on three sides by a sweeping loop in the river Dee. The name somehow brings to mind an ancient fair or market once held on the banks of the river, but nothing could be further from the truth. "Roodee" is a composite of two ancient words—"rood", meaning a Holy wooden cross, and "eye", here meaning island.

The legend which gives its name to the area we know is very ancient indeed. The action takes place in the first century A.D., and like all folklore probably has a basic element of fact. With this qualification the story goes as follows.

One summer day about the year 525 an enthusiastic young Priest named Deiniol Wyn set out from the great monastery at Bangor-Is-y-Coed on his first missionary journey. He floated down the river Dee in a tiny wicker coracle, pausing now and then to befriend the people of the little villages on either bank, until with some justifiable trepidation he faced the open sea ahead, and the wild unknown county of Gwynedd rising mountainous to the left.

Wisely he landed at a small creek and made his way to the village of Mancot, and thence uphill to the village and hill-fort of Hawarden or Penelag. Encouraged by a hearty welcome he planted his cross beneath a tree and delivered the good word to the villagers. This place is still remembered today in the form of a timbered, ivy-shrouded farmhouse called St. Deiniol's Ash situated mid-way between Mancot and Hawarden. He remained long enough to construct a tiny wattle-and-daub church, the forerunner of the magnificent parish church which still bears his name.

Now, with historical licence we leap some 400 years into the long hot summer of 946 A.D. A severe drought brought cattle near to starvation as the grass began to wither. The people of Hawarden

(continued opposite)



Hawarden Parish Church, a beautiful structure which took the place of the tiny wattle-and-daub church established long ago by the priest Deiniol Wyn

With the stands of the City racecourse in the background is the grave marker of The Rood



SUPERANNUATION CHANGES

The following amendments to the Rules of the Electricity Supply (Staff) Superannuation Scheme have now received approval of the Minister of Technology, and take effect from 1st July, 1970 :

Rule 17—Final Contributions

This rule has been deleted from the scheme so that a member who has completed 40 years contributing service, for purposes of the scheme, or who has attained normal retiring age, whichever first occurs, will no longer be required to contribute to the scheme, and his pensionable salary will be the average annual salary of (a) the last three years of service, or (b) the highest paid five consecutive years in the last twenty years service.

Formerly, whilst a member's normal contributions have ceased to be payable in such circumstances, he has been required under rule 17 to pay a final contribution based on the excess of current salary over the salary three years earlier in order to maintain the highest pensionable salary average.

Rule 29a—Additional widow's pension option

The option to pay an additional family contribution to increase the widow's pension from the one third rate to the one half rate has formerly had to be exercised within three months of becoming a member (if married) or within three months of marriage or re-marriage.

The time limit of three months has now been removed, and any married male member of the staff may elect to contribute for the additional widow's pension. He will be required to pay for previous service reckonable by abatement of the retirement lump sum payment at the rate(s) of contribution applicable during the period.

CITY RACECOURSE . . .

(continued)

went to their church and prayed for rain before a figure of the Virgin whose hands held a heavy Holy Rood. Their supplications still brought no rain, and so to add more influence to their prayers perhaps, they asked Lady Trawst, wife of Sytsyllt, governor of Hawarden Castle, to join them in prayer.

Whilst she prayed the Rood fell from its mounting and killed her.

A judge and jury was appointed to try the Rood, and they brought a verdict of "willful murder", a crime demanding death by hanging. Much discussion followed, some said that as rain was re-

C.E.G.B. PUMPED STORAGE INVESTIGATIONS IN NORTH WALES

The Central Electricity Generating Board propose to carry out exploratory surveys, including trial borings, at three sites in North Wales to assess their suitability for hydro-electric pumped storage development.

This is part of the continuing process of investigating potential sites for new power stations required to meet the growing demand for electricity and follows on the established success of the Ffestiniog pumped storage installation, both technically and as a local tourist attraction.

Two of the sites are near the existing pumped storage station at Blaenau Ffestiniog. At the Bowydd site, partly in Merioneth and partly in Caernarvonshire, a low-level reservoir is envisaged in Cwm Penannen, south of Dolwyddelan, and a high-level reservoir using Llyn Bowydd and Llyn Newydd to the south. At the Croesor site, in Merioneth, a lower reservoir in Cwm Croesor would be linked with an upper reservoir on the high ground at the head of the valley.

The third site is in Caernarvonshire near Llanberis. Llyn Peris and Llyn Padarn will be investigated as lower reservoirs in conjunction with an upper reservoir formed by enlarging Llyn Marchlyn Mawr to the north east.

Any development proposals arising from the investigations would be published and be the subject of consultations with the local planning authorities before the Generating Board sought the necessary statutory powers.

buried the Rood should be "drowned!" Finally, it was decided to lay the offending Rood on the sands of the river Dee, and wait events. This was done, and the incoming tide took possession of the Rood and carried it to the low-lying land near Chester, where it was washed up much to the astonishment of the Cestrians who found it.

They decided that the decent thing to do was to bury the Rood where it lay, and later a stone cross was erected on this site, the remains of which survive to this day near the city boundary of the Roodee.

Legends such as this serve as a reminder of the modern failing to regard the past as mundane and uneventful.

Safe and Successful Year for MANWEB Drivers in Liverpool

AREA 1 MANAGER, Mr. H. Telfer, paid sincere tribute to the drivers in the Liverpool Districts who were presented with Safe Driving Awards at a ceremony held recently at the Pumpfields Depot. In thanking them for their fine efforts, he then went on to praise Mr. J. Hill (*Transport Officer*) and the mechanics in the repair section.

Mr. Telfer said that the Area fleet of 230 vehicles had travelled nearly 1,732,000 miles during the year, and of the 167 people who had been eligible for the awards, 91 per cent had been successful.

Then Mr. Lionel Piper, the Road Safety Officer for the City of Liverpool, and for 20 years the head of RoSPSA Road Safety Division, said a few words in adding his congratulations to the staff who had won awards under the very difficult driving conditions in a City undergoing reconstruction.

The Awards were then presented as follows :

20-year Brooch : Messrs. George Garnall and Robert E. Lucas.

Bar to 15-year Brooch : Messrs. Robert H. Porter and Charles W. Whitfield.

15-year Brooch : Messrs. Griffith Forsyth and George Harrison.

Oak leaf Bar to 10-year Medal : Messrs. Robert Allen, Robert S. Carter, John Fitzpatrick, Edmund V. Harrison, Stanley M. Lee, Joseph Metcalfe, Robert N. Moore, William A. Owen, William S. Owen, Stephen Paul, George Prout, Percival Rivers and James Scogings.

10-year Medal : Messrs. Albert W. Brisco, Thomas E. Mathews and William Riding.

Bar to 5-year Medal : Messrs. Arthur Bent, William H. Butterfield, Sydney Cain, Frederick Cato, Robert H. Clepham, Kenneth Cooper, David Crangle, John H. Davidson, Denvir M. Drury, William Foster, Albert S. Greenhalgh, George H. Harrison, William Hogskin, John I. Johnson, Harry M. Kaye, James W. Lennon, James A. Liggett, Gerard J. Livingstone, Herbert G. McCormick, Frederick N. McHugh, John Neill, Arthur O'Donovan, William A. Perkins, Joseph P. Pritchard, Patrick J. F. Quinn, Arthur Rainford, Robert Reid, Kenneth Stewart, Frank Tarpey, William J. L. Taunton, Joseph Tattersall, James E. Tierney, John Tully, Henry E. D. Walker, Charles F. Walmsley, David Ward, Keuneth W. Webb, Peter Wild and Frank Woan.

5-year Medal : Messrs. James G. Bather, Vincent Danks, George H. Jones, Edward Kelly, Charles P. McCormack, John T. Quilliam, Bernard J. Rice, Francis Sheehan, Brian Stephens, Stanley N. Wappett and Kenneth F. Wright.

Diplomas : Messrs. Robert A. Aindow, Roy Atkinson, William Beare, David John Bedford, Arthur Bissell, Leslie Blackburn, Thomas Bradley, Ronald Brocklehurst, Sidney Brawnless, Donald Burleigh, Douglas John Case, Sidney Caswell, John R. Clarke, Jeffrey W. Cleugh, Michael John Connor, Harold Cooper, Alexander Cormack, John Dickinson, Edward Dolan, James Downes, Norman Peter Doyle, William Dunlop, James Ellison, Arthur H. Evans, John Evans, John Farrar,

(continued opposite)

Mr. John Dickinson, centre left, receives his Safe Driving Diploma from Mr. Piper





Mr. Frank Taylor, centre holding book, surrounded by colleagues from the Chester District after being presented with farewell gifts of a cheque, from them, and a book on gardening from the Works Committee

PRESENTATION

After serving for over 40 years in the electricity supply industry, 19 of these in the St. Helens District, Mr. W. J. McLachlan, a senior storekeeper has now left Carlton Street to take up a new

appointment in the Dee Valley District at Chester.

Until recently, Mr. McLachlan was an Assistant District Commissioner in the Boy Scout Movement.

Before leaving St. Helens, he was presented with farewell gifts from his many friends.

SPARKS OUT!

Service electrician Mr. Frank Taylor based at New Crane Street, Chester, recently retired after nearly 40 years in the electricity supply industry.

Frank joined the Chester Corporation Electricity Supply Dept. in 1931 and during the war years served with the Royal Engineers in India and Singapore.

His hobbies are gardening and dog breeding.

LIVERPOOL

SAFE DRIVERS (continued)

William Gibbs, Stanley Gordon, Terence Gordon, William A. Grieves, Kenneth J. Griffiths, Roy W. Harley, George C. Heaton, Neil Heller, Arthur Henderson, Geoffrey C. Hope, Gordon J. Hughes, Michael L. Hughes, Lawrence Jackson, Arthur E. Johnson, James Johnson, Charles Jones, George E. Jones, James Kenyon, Brian King, Charles B. C. Latham, Thomas Lawtenson, John Leatherbarrow, Patrick J. Lee, Lawrence G. Lloyd, Joseph Lowe, Reginald McFall, Frank Matthews, Robert Matthews, Herbert W. Miller, Charles E. S. Murdoch, Ernest Neary, John O'Neill, William J. Owen, Robert Patterson, Gordon Platt, Leonard Riley, David Roberts, Thomas Rossiter, Thomas F. Smith, Maurice H. V. Stubbs, John Swarbrick, Gordon Thompson, Frederick Tinsley, Albert Tuck, Dennis Underhill, Eric J. Willan, John E. Williams, James Willoughby and William Wilson.

GOLF MATCH

MANWEB v. COUNTY

An enjoyable four-ball better ball challenge match was played recently at the Wrexham Golf Club between MANWEB's Chester Golfing Society and Cheshire County Golfing Society.

The final result was a win for MANWEB by 4 matches to one with one halved, the games finishing as follows (*MANWEB names first*): Messrs. W. A. Jones and N. Jones beat Messrs. C. Brown and K. Mullineux; Messrs. T. E. Edwards and D. G. Jones beat Messrs. P. Heywood and C. Evans; Messrs. J. Barraclough and P. Falcon halved with Messrs. R. Davies and B. Swain; Messrs. G. Norbury and N. Clarke beat Messrs. B. Cookson and J. Owen; Messrs. J. Moffatt and W. Brighouse beat Messrs. P. Thornton and C. Pyke; Messrs. I. Evans and G. Williams lost to

Messrs. E. Wheeler and W. Thomas.

This first meeting between the two teams was so enjoyable and successful that it is now hoped it will become an annual event.

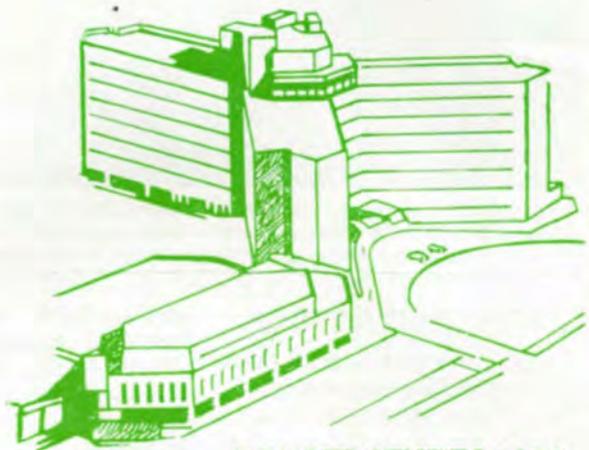
ICETOUNDING

This is a new word invented by our friends in the Commercial Department to describe the recent sales of refrigerators.

In one week during June, an all-time record was set up when—in spite of stock difficulties—1,739 refrigerators were sold by MANWEB staff—in one week! Yes, one thousand, seven hundred and thirty-nine!! Truly an icetounding effort!

It's Spring all year

in the New MANWEB Offices Chester



Freezing February or Flaming June—they're both the same to the people who work in the first large office block in Britain to use electricity to create an indoor climate by Heat Reclaim.

So far this year Nature has given us a 70°F temperature variation to cope with. Inside our new office conditions have been ideal at around 21°C (70°F).

Electric air conditioning and Heat Reclaim provide an economic breakthrough to high quality and efficient working conditions and eliminate the need for a conventional heating system.

Why not enjoy the low-cost high standards of electricity?

- No chimneys
- No boiler houses
- No fuel stores
- No smell
- No dirt
- No smoke

● NO PROBLEMS

TEMPERATURES 1970



When outside temperature dropped to -9°C (15°F) or soared to 30°C (85°F), a variant of 70°F—a steady 21°C (70°F) was maintained



For information write or 'phone the Energy Sales Manager,
Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board,
Sealand Road, Chester, CH1 4LR. Tel. Chester 40133.

The MANWEB Advertisement which appeared in "Financial Times" Supplement