

# Contact

July 1978



Welcoming Smiles  
(see page 142)

# Appointments . . .

## District Commercial Engineers

### LIVERPOOL

Mr. Bob Hodson, acting District Commercial Engineer for MANWEB's Clwyd District for the past year, has been appointed District Commercial Engineer for the Board's Liverpool District, based at Lister Drive. He succeeds Mr. Bob Jowett, who recently became the Board's Energy Sales Manager.

Mr. Hodson, who is 35, began his career as an apprentice with the North Western Electricity Board. This was followed by a scholarship to Salford University, where he gained a B.Sc. Honours degree. He then resumed work for NORWEB, holding posts of increasing responsibility at Walkden, Leigh and Bolton, before spending two years in Switzerland working for a large electrical manufacturing company. Returning to NORWEB he held posts at Rochdale and the Board's Head Office before joining MANWEB at Rhyl in 1975 as energy sales engineer.

Married, with one daughter, Mr. Hodson enjoys gardening, reading, and classical music.



Mr. Bob Hodson

### GWYNEDD

Mr. Douglas J. Willacy, who is 43, moves from his post as energy sales engineer, North Wirral District to take up the appointment as Gwynedd District Commercial Engineer.

Beginning his working life with Norweb in 1950 as an apprentice electrician at Clitherce, Mr. Willacy moved to Blackburn as a student engineer prior to taking up a post as general assistant with the District Engineer. Then he moved over to the power sales department at Area Office before joining MANWEB at Birkenhead in 1963.

He held various appointments in the District, first as consumers engineer for the Wallasey section, then contracting engineer and later development engineer prior to taking up the post as energy sales engineer in 1970.

His pastimes include playing badminton and golf and he has a narrow boat on the canal.

He is married and has a married daughter and a son who is reading architecture at Liverpool University.



Mr. Doug Willacey

Mr. Willacy is looking forward to living in Wales and meeting the people in our Gwynedd District.

### CLWYD

(Seconded)

Mr. Kenneth Appleton, energy sales engineer for our Mid-Mersey District, has been seconded to the appointment as Clwyd District Commercial Engineer.

Mr. Appleton served his apprenticeship as an electrician with a Warrington electrical contractor. Then, after a spell of National Service with R.E.M.E., he worked for the Admiralty at Risley prior to joining MANWEB in 1957 in our former Runcorn District.

He later held appointments at Warrington and the former Area 2/3 in Chester. From here he was seconded as liaison officer with the Runcorn New Town Development programme.

In 1970, he was appointed as energy sales engineer for Mid-Mersey District.

A family man, with three sons, Mr. Appleton is a founder member of the Thelwall Community Association and serves on the Parent Teacher Association of the local school.

Last, but by no means least, he is an ardent supporter of Warrington Rugby league football club.



Mr. Ken Appleton

# Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE  
OF THE  
MERSEYSIDE AND  
NORTH WALES  
ELECTRICITY BOARD

Vol. 30 No. 7

July 1978

On other  
pages . . .

Prize Day for Hoylake Apprentices	140
Deputy Chairman visits Oswestry District	142
Dual Job for Geraldine	144
Talking Notes	145
Presentations to Head Office staff	148
Activities at Oswestry	150
Retirements	152
Gwynedd District Long Service	156
Obituary	156

## CRAFTSMEN OF TOMORROW

THE electricity supply industry has always taken a pride in the standard of workmanship carried out by its craftsmen. For these men skill and competence of the highest order have always been points of honour. Responsibility for safety and security, and for the reputation of our industry, leaves no room for the 'cowboy' among their ranks.

For these reasons MANWEB—in common with other Boards—carries out its own rigorous programme of apprentice training, with the initial period spent at our own Training School at Hoylake under the watchful eye and firm guidance of men for whom the only acceptable results are the best. By the time our apprentices have been 'through the mill' in the Districts, their technical education carried forward by those who passed that way before them, they bear comparison with any tradesmen in the land.

This number of *Contact* records the end of the beginning (with words of safe advice from the 'chief electrician') for those who began their apprenticeships last October. They will soon be succeeded by the next batch of new boys, chosen from a highly competitive flood of hopefuls.

In our industry the path to posts of the highest responsibility is open to the apprentice whose talents and energies set him apart from the rest. More than a few senior posts in the MANWEB organisation are filled today by men who began as craft apprentices, extending their qualifications and competence through determination and hard work. The future of our industry—and our ability to meet the challenges and problems which lie ahead—rest largely in the hands of lads such as those.

### Editorial Staff

Phone H.O.

Keith Baldwin 2164  
John F. Perry 2167  
Sam Doughty 2166

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

## HOYLAKE PRIZE DAY

# Reminiscences and Advice for Apprentices

WITH his retirement only a few days away, our Education and Training Officer, Mr. Lionel Ladner chaired the proceedings for the apprentice prize day ceremony at the Hoylake Training Centre for the last time.

He took a nostalgic look back over the 22 years of the Training School's history and spoke of the 'little' problems which had arisen from time to time and of the great successes achieved by many of the young men who had started their working lives under instruction with MANWEB at Hoylake.

"No matter how much money is spent on buildings and machinery in a training centre, this will not produce good craftsmen," he commented. "Good craftsmen are made by the people who train them as apprentices and who look after their needs as youngsters, from the ladies who make the meals to the 'Headmaster' who keeps his eye on them." He paid tribute to the Hoylake landladies who, through the years, had helped many a young man stand on his own two feet.

The guest speaker for the day was Mr. Don Higgs, the Board's Installation and Service Manager. He began by informing the apprentices that, as future electricians, they would be his ultimate responsibility. He spoke of his own apprenticeship—many years ago—and of how, during his training, he had learned many lessons—some being very sharp lessons driven home by the toe of somebody's boot! He explained how his inquisitive fingers landed him with his first electric shock and of the lesson he learned from that experience.

Mr. Higgs mentioned a highlight of his career—the one and only time he got the sack! Apparently he was caught 'tickling' trout from a nearby stream when he should have been at work. Fortunately, his loss of job only lasted overnight as his boss took him back on the following morning. "The lesson I learned then, from my boss was that I should take time for leisure but it should be my own time and not my employer's."

Turning to the present times, he commented on the aim for higher qualifications in order to climb further up the ladder of success, "This, in its way, is a good ambition to have," he said, "but remember, you are learning to be craftsmen and I urge you, never be ashamed of being a craftsman. Be proud, for this country of ours has been built by craftsmen, you can see evidence of their lasting work around you all the time". He advised the apprentices to learn their craft well. "I would also urge you all to be part of and proud of our Board in particular and our industry in general."

He then turned to the business side of the Board's activities saying, "Always do a good job but remember the costs. A good motto to bear in mind is 'A good job, yes, but at what cost?' It is sometimes easy in a large public service industry such as ours



### Prizewinner ..

Top craft apprentice at Hoylake this year was John Crawford from our Liverpool District who received an award for the Best All-Round Performance. John is seen in our picture being congratulated by Mr. Don Higgs. Completing the picture are, from left to right: Mr. Jack Crawford, Mrs. Hetty Higgs and Mrs. Ivy Crawford.

to confuse service and profit and forget that profit is vital to every business whether it is public or private. Without it any business, in the long term, will fail”.

Bringing his remarks to a close, Mr. Higgs said that MANWEB had recently seen many changes in its management structure. “Some of our senior staff who have given sterling service to the electricity supply industry are now retiring. Their places are being taken by younger people who will now lead us into the 1980’s and 90’s in which there is a good future for you all.”

He talked briefly of our competitors, saying that to deal with them we had to become more efficient.

He said that electricity, without a doubt, was the

fuel of the future and the contracting side of our industry was expanding all the time. “We want apprentices,” he stated. “Their future is good with jobs for all as long as you don’t go ‘tickling’ trout in the Board’s time!”

He then congratulated everyone who had completed the first few months of their apprenticeships and had a special ‘pat-on-the-back’ for the prize-winners.

Mr. Ladner then called on Mrs. Higgs to present the prizes to the top apprentices.

Bringing the proceedings to a close, apprentice Stephen Walkden from Clwyd District voiced a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Higgs and to the staff and landladies at Hoylake for their care and help.

### *... more of the Prizewinners*

*Right:* Top apprentice in “Electrical Subjects” was Kevin Hughes from Menai Bridge in our Gwynedd District. He is seen here receiving his award from Education and Training Officer, Mr. Lionel Ladner. Kevin’s Mum, Myfanwy, and Dad, Trefor look on.

*Below left:* Hoylake ‘Headmaster’ Mr. Ron Slack, congratulates apprentice Brian John Murray from Litherland in our North Mersey District. Brian received his prize as the best apprentice in “Mechanical Subjects.” His proud father, Alan, shows how pleased he is with his son’s performance.

*Below right:* Off to the West Highland School of Adventure next month is apprentice Ian Trevor from Chester, seen here with his parents Peter and Brenda Trevor.



# Oswestry Welcomes Deputy

Deputy Chairman, Mr. Richard Gales is touring the Board to meet staff throughout the Districts and in the various departments at Head Office.

Pictures on these pages were taken on the occasion of his visit to our Oswestry District offices at Maesbury Road and the Newtown depot.



*Above: Mr. Gales meets garage staff Brian Morris, right, and Dennis Neaves, centre. Below: In the company of Lyn Price (D.C.E.), our Deputy Chairman chats with Reg Edwards (installation engineer), right. Below, right: Paul Edwards looks on as Teg Williams (D.A.O.), right, talks to Mr. Gales.*



*Left: With engineering staff, from left to right: Roger Restieaux, Richard Owen (D.E.), Mr. Gales and Frank Sanderson.*

**OUR COVER  
PICTURE**  
shows . . . two  
attractive  
receptionists,  
Mina Roger left,  
and Susan  
Powell.



## DEPUTY MEETS OSWESTRY STAFF

Mr. Gales with—John Hollywell (2nd engineer), above left, Betty Duffy (shop supervisor), top right, and Eddie News (draughtsman), left, at Newtown; George Wild (material control), right; Dot Lorenzo (general services), left; Sid Warburton (Admin. asst. general services), right; Denzil Ellis (Production Engineer), below left; and Alan Jones and John Williams (electricians), below right.



## Our 'Girl from MANWEB' at work in her job as District Demonstrator

There is a theory that if you want an extra job doing then give it to a busy person. This is proved by our North Wirral District demonstrator, Geraldine Leake who keeps herself fully active in her job in addition to taking on the role and duties as our "Girl from MANWEB—1978."

Among the many demonstrations she conducts was a 'special' electric cooking promotion a few weeks ago for a 'full house' audience of over 300 ladies at Heswall Hall.

She also runs 'on-the-spot' demonstrations in the District shops from time to time. Recently, at Birkenhead, she had a series of micro-wave cookery shows and in our picture on the right, we see Geraldine, left, with an interested customer at one of these presentations.



(Picture: Wirral Newspapers Limited)

## CATERING TEACHERS CONFERENCE

At a very successful conference held at Head Office earlier this year, our Commercial team were in attendance together with around 150 catering teachers from an area stretching from South Wales through the Midlands and Yorkshire and up to the North East. A full day was devoted to specialist speakers who passed on valuable information to the delegates. Our picture, below, shows our North Wirral District demonstrator, Geraldine Leake, with some of the visitors from the Yorkshire Electricity Board's area.



# Talking Notes

## LONDON NIGHT OUT

FIRST class rail travel to London, overnight accommodation in the luxurious Holiday Inn at Marble Arch, seats at the 'Palladium' to see and enjoy "The Two Ronnies" show and a royal feast at the famous 'Beefeater.' This was the winning reward for our window display specialists at the St. Johns and Llanrwst shops for their success in the Electrolux 'Top of the Bill' competition.

and their wives, who organised an entertaining motorised treasure hunt recently.

compass—went to **Gary Worthington**, a student apprentice.

Before settling down to chicken and chips and other refreshments the gathering heard club chairman **Keith Griffiths** express their thanks to the organisers for such a successful event.

### 200 Club

The winner of last month's draw in the EEIBA 200 Club was **Mr. Norman Walsh** (District Commercial Engineer) from Mid-Cheshire.

### Clean Air

The Annual General Meeting of the North West Division of the Clean Air Council was held at MANWEB'S Head Office in Chester a short time ago.

The Council's Chairman, **Mr. Bill Shires** (Deputy Chief Commercial Officer) told us that nearly 90 local authority and elected members were present at the meeting.

They heard guest speaker Mr. Ronald Scriven, Head of Environmental Physics Research for the CEGB at Leatherhead, talk on stack emission, commenting on the sulphur dioxide content of smoke from this country and others to the West, descending on the lakes and rivers of Norway.

He explained that sulphur dioxide travelled with the wind in the first kilometer depth of atmosphere and that much of it was removed by rainfall en route.



The winning window at Llanrwst

The happy foursome were **Bet Williams** (supervisor) and **Marion Scott** from Llanrwst with **Dave** and **Barbara Melting** from Liverpool. Dave was the displayman and he was able to take along his wife Barbara who works for us at the North Wirral District offices.

### Dee Valley Treasure Hunt

The thanks of the trail-blazers of Dee Valley's sports and social club are due to **Alan Evans** and **Larry Pritchard**,

Competition for the annual Cup was intense, and when the trail finally petered out at a Farndon hostelry it was discovered that the trophy had been won by **Roger Parry** (Consumer Accounts) and friends—who also received four wine goblets and a bottle of wine to fill them with.

Runners up were **Paul Forrett** and friends, who received a road atlas and a bottle of wine, while the 'booby'—a

Members of the Clean Air Council discussed various ideas on the promotion of the Clean Air Act and spin-offs related to it.

### Second Retirement

We recently received another letter from **Mr. Cyril Engineer**, one time of Northwich who later moved to Cambridge. After his retirement he started a second career as librarian with a firm of consulting engineers at Reading. Now, at the age of 73, he has retired for the second time and sends the best wishes of his wife and himself to old friends and colleagues in Mid Cheshire. Mr. Engineer's home address is 26, Elstow Avenue, Reading, Berks.

### Wedding

Our best wishes for a happy future goes to the attractive **Pamela Cuthbert**, who works in the Telex section at Head Office and to her 'partner' Mr.



All dressed up with somewhere to go is Pamela Cuthbert!

Ricky Blundell, a British Steel man.

Pamela and Ricky were married at St. Marks Church, Connah's Quay on the 15th July, following a rousing send-off from her friends in the telecommunications section.

### EEIBA Affairs

Facilities at the residential homes of the Electrical and Electronics Industries Benevolent Association are being upgraded to provide better nursing care for elderly people in the care of the EEIBA reported Mr. John Wedgwood, Chairman of the Board of Management, at the Association's recent Annual General Meeting.

Presenting the accounts Mr. K. W. Cook, Chairman of the Finance Committee, urged supporters who made regular contributions to the Association's fund to consider increasing them to make allowance for inflation.

### ESI Scholarships

Details of electricity supply industry scholarships for the coming year have been published, and a poster is appearing on notice boards. Application forms are available from the Education and training Officer at Head office, and must be returned, completed, to the Electricity Council by August 31st.

### Outings

In glorious sunshine, some lucky members of our Mid-Mersey Pensioners Association set off on a trip to Worcestershire where they visited the Stuart Crystal Glassworks.

They stopped for lunch at Wordsley where the ladies of the local Methodist church provided a delightful and welcome salad meal.

Before boarding the coach to continue their journey, **Mr.**

**Harold Thorpe** (Chairman), on behalf of the members, presented an English pewter tankard to their very active and able Secretary, **Mr. George Wheeler**.

Future outings are already arranged for trips to Anglesey, York, London, Kendal, Blackpool Illuminations and for a mini-holiday in Dunoon next Spring.

Our retired friends certainly think and plan well ahead!

They keep their spirits and hearts young too for they are arranging for a visit to see a pantomime in the New Year!

### Bowls Tourney

Head Office bowls enthusiasts gathered at the Egerton Arms Hotel, Chester, recently, for a crown green handicap competition—the first of what is hoped will become regular occasions.



Bowls chaps Gwyn Jones, front left, and Tony Dawson with Harry Foreman (S. & S. Club Chairman) left, and Jack Baird (Organiser, Bowls section).



Prior to his retirement as the Board's Chief Accountant, Mr. A. P. Whyte was honoured by the Industry's Chief Accountants when they decided to hold their Conference at our Head Office. Our picture shows, from left to right, standing: Messrs. J. McKeag (Northern Ireland E.B.), B. C. Driscoll (Eastern E.B.), J. Redman (C.E.G.B.), B. H. Johnson (Electricity Council), I. M. Rouse (Electricity Council), A. P. Whyte (MANWEB), J. Smith (London E.B.) and F. W. Barnes (South Eastern E.B.), Miss R. O. Furbank (Electricity Council), Messrs. G. J. Duley (Electricity Council) and D. S. Kirby (North Western E.B.). Seated: Messrs. J. K. Lardner (South of Scotland E.B.), A. D. Stewart (North of Scotland H.E.B.), A. Groves (North Eastern E.B.), G. W. John (South Wales E.B.), J. Tysoe (Southern E.B.), A. R. McCreddie (Yorkshire E.B.), A. Crowder (Midlands E.B.) and C. A. Thompson (East Midlands E.B.).

After a series of preliminary rounds, when unknown talents were brought to light, the semi-finals brought together Messrs. **Elfyn Griffiths** (Estates) against **Tony Dawson** (Creditors), and **Wilf Jones** (Revenue) against **Gwyn Jones** (Creditors).

In the final Tony Dawson ran out a fairly comfortable winner over Gwyn Jones (15-5).

#### Help for Disabled

To mark 'National Access Week'—staged to focus public attention on the obstacles with which disabled people have to contend, Mr. Alfred Morris, Minister for the Disabled, wrote to Sir Francis Tombs, Chairman of the Electricity Council.

In his letter Mr. Morris expressed appreciation for the efforts which our industry already makes to help and advise disabled people, and asked us to continue to extend the good work in every possible way.

#### Increased Benefits

The Merseyside Health Bene-

fits Council (Penny in the Pound Fund), announce increased contributions and benefits with effect from October 1st.

The contribution goes up to 25p per week, with corresponding substantial increases in grants related to hospitalisation, sickness, out-patient treatment and spectacles. A new leaflet setting out the changes in detail will be published by the Council soon.

#### Pensioners visit Wylfa

Despite torrential rain on the outward journey—and the failure of the coach's wind-screen wipers—the sun burst through immediately on the arrival of a party of Mid-Mersey District pensioners at Wylfa nuclear power station, Anglesey.

Continued sunshine kept spirits high for the rest of the day, while an excellent lunch prepared by the canteen staff and an interesting lecture and tour of the station all added to the enjoyment of a hectic day. Tea was taken at Old Colwyn during the homeward run.

Next trip for our wandering friends will be to London, with a visit to the House of Commons.

#### HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Luxury six-berth caravan near St. Tropez. To let from end of August. Three star site with bar, restaurant, swimming pool and mini-market. Tel: Culcheth 3820.

Llandudno. House to let. Three bedrooms (sleep five), one with washbasin. Lounge (TV), dining room, kitchen, bathroom. Quiet position facing park (tennis and bowls) and hills. Near beach, shops, theatres, swimming pool. Inspection invited. 'Phone: Llandudno 49239 evenings. Special terms for MANWEB/Norweb employees.

#### WANTED

1973-74 car. Escort or Viva. 'Phone: 733 0382.

## LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES FOR HEAD



### 40 YEARS ACCOUNTS and SECRETARIAL STAFF

*From left to right:*  
Messrs. Fred Whisker,  
Reg Keen, John Perry,  
and Larry Jameson,  
Mrs. Iris Roberts,  
Messrs. Ben Hastings  
(Chairman) and  
John Myers.



### 40 YEARS COMMERCIAL and ENGINEERING STAFF

*From left to right:*  
Mr. & Mrs. George  
Williams, Mr. & Mrs.  
Bill Copeman, Mr. &  
Mrs. Frank Holland,  
Mr. Ben Hastings  
(Chairman), Mr. &  
Mrs. Ernie Redman  
and Mr. Frank Brown.

### 30 YEAR STAFF

Some of the recipients of Certificates commemorating 30 years' service in the electricity supply industry. *From left to right, standing:* Messrs. Brian Livesley, Jim Blease, Tony Smith, Jack Hill and Roland George. *Seated:* Messrs. Gordon Jones, Jim Antrobus, Richard Gales (Deputy Chairman) who presented the Certificates, Miss Theresa Callaghan and Mr. Frank Burton.



## OFFICE STAFF

**H**HEAD Office staff who had qualified for 40-year long service awards were recently invited, with a guest, to lunch with the Board Chairman, Mr. Ben Hastings and some of his senior officers.

After an excellent meal, Mr. Hastings, on behalf of the Board, expressed appreciation for the long and loyal service given by all the recipients of the Certificates.

Since completing his 40 year's service, Mr. Don Roberts, a popular member of our Revenue section, has died, but his widow, Mrs Iris Roberts, a clerical assistant in Wages section, was present to receive Don's Certificate.

At a separate ceremony, Mr. Richard Gales (Deputy Chairman) presented long service Certificates to Head Office staff who had completed 30 and 20 years' service in our industry.

Certificates were awarded to:

**40 years service** Messrs. R. G. Andrews (2nd engineer, Energy Sales), F. J. Brown (former Chief Engineer), W. R. Copeman (3rd engineer, Plant and Construction), F. Holland (2nd engineer, Technical), L. F. Jameson (principal assistant, Revenue), R. W. J. Keen (senior executive officer, Personnel), H. E. Morgan (1st engineer, Transport), J. J. Myers (principal assistant, Revenue), J. F. Perry (principal assistant, Press and Public Relations), E. Redman (principal engineer, Energy Sales), D. P. Roberts (administrative assistant, Revenue), F. G. Whisker (principal assistant, Revenue), and G. E. Williams (senior engineer, Technical).

**30 years service** Miss T. Callaghan (clerical assistant, Revenue), and Messrs. J. Antrobus (principal assistant, Finance), J. A. Blease (2nd engineer, System Management), F. Burton (shift porter, Security), H. Daly (clerical assistant, Estates Section), T. R. R. George (draughtsman, Plant and Construction), J. Hill (principal engineer, Transport), G. S. Jones (2nd engineer, Plant and Construction), K. R. Knight (administrative assistant, Systems Management), B. Livesley (work study officer, M.S.U.), N. Maguire (principal assistant, General Administration), and A. A. Smith (2nd engineer, System Management).

**20 years service** Mrs. A. Carr (clerical assistant, Revenue), Miss J. Houston (private secretary), Miss S. Owens (clerical assistant, Revenue), and Messrs. R. J. Berry (work study officer, M.S.U.), J. A. Cheers (senior engineer, Installation and Service), D. Crangle (1st engineer, Meter Test), H. C. Foreman (Assistant Chief Engineer, Civil), R. Holden (engineering assistant, Hoylake Training Centre), B. Johns (principal assistant, Computers), J. Kinsella (work study officer, M.S.U.), R. Morris (3rd engineer, Plant and Construction), S. A. Pendlebury (3rd engineer, Plant and Construction), A. M. Pierce (records draughtsman, Plant and Construction), E. Roberts (administrative officer, Estates and Wayleaves), G. Roberts (administrative assistant, Revenue), A. Sumner (3rd engineer, Plant and Construction), A. R. Thackray (3rd engineer, Plant and Construction) and E. T. Williams (D.A.O., Oswestry).

### 20 YEAR STAFF

Head Office staff who attended the ceremony for the presentation of Certificates for 20 years' service. From left to right, standing: Messrs. John Kinsella, Bev Johns, Reg Morris, Tony Thakray, Dave Crangle, Austin Pendlebury and John Cheers. Seated: Mr. Harry Foreman, Miss Jean Houston, Mr. Teg Williams, Miss Sheila Owen and Mr. Gwyn Roberts.



# ACTIVITIES IN OSWESTRY DISTRICT

## FIRST AID

In the District First-Aid competition held at Head Office earlier this year, a new section for 'Novices' was introduced. This was designed for people who were competing in first-aid competition for the first time, with three people making up a team.

Our Oswestry District were quick off the mark with their team of Elaine Feeney from Debt Control, who, on the day of the competition, suffered a sprained ankle, Jean Hall from Liaison, who was a last minute replacement in the team, and Harry Higgins, an electrician.

Team captain Elaine told us, "The experience was great and we enjoyed watching the various teams in the main competition. We could even see ourselves in the next District competition!"

Syd Warburton (*Admin. asst. General Services*) who capably organised the first-aiders in the District commented, "We shall shortly be recruiting new members to be trained as first-aiders. However, our main object at the moment is to train and field possibly two teams to enter for next year's District finals. One for the main competition and another to try in the 'Novices' section.

"The response in the past from members of the staff in Oswestry District has been most encouraging and I am hoping that this will continue. Everyone who has taken first-aid training has enjoyed the course and are pleased that they made the effort. Incidentally, Oswestry District have a 100 per cent record of passes in their first-aid examinations!"



First-aiders, from left to right: Jean Hall, Harry Higgins and Elaine Feeney.



Typing pool trio, from left to right: Hazel Rogers, Gwen Evans and Stella Jones.

## FLIGHTY LADIES!

This happy group of ladies are members of the Oswestry District Dart's Team who have been together for about twelve months. Our picture shows, from left to right: Judith Williams, Joan Griffiths (*captain*), Jean Evans, Elaine Feeney, Pat Mortimer, Dot Lorenzo, Gay Hill, Jean Hall, Dorothy James and Ann Pugh. Other members of the team are Enid Thomas and Phyllis Jones, from Oswestry shop, and Margaret Butler and Marion Jones, both affiliated members. The ladies of Oswestry offer a challenge to any other ladies darts team within easy travelling distance. Please contact Joan Griffiths in Debt Control.





Tucking-in to lunch in the canteen are welcome visitors, from left to right: Messrs. 'J. L.' Williams (former District Manager), Jim Dickens and Eric Davies (former District Engineer). Yes, that is a glass of water in front of Eric!



Two of the ladies who prepare and serve the excellent meals—Rita Jones (manageress), left, and May Gough.

### SONGSTERS

There is an abundance of vocal talent in our Oswestry District, so, while on our visit there, we managed to get together just a few of the songsters. We see here, from left to right: Ray Owen (Llanymynech Choir), Gwyn Roberts (Orthopaedic Hospital Choir), Mal Jones (Llan-silin Male Voice Choir), Jean Davies (Ceiriog Valley Mixed Choir), Glyn Jones (Rhos Male Voice Choir), Ern Preston (Lichfield Cathedral, Oswestry Parish Church and Orthopaedic Hospital Choirs) and Sid Pugh (Llanymynech Choir). Others who can take a bow are, Geraint Bellis (Llangollen Operatic Society), 'E. V.' Jones (Wrexham Maelor Choral Society) and 'J. J.' Pritchard (Oswestry Operatic Society).



### REPORTING CENTRE

A hive of activity in the Oswestry District's new Reporting Centre. Our picture shows, from left to right: Messrs. Dennis Day (switchboard attendant), Richard Owen (District Engineer) and Charlie Seager (switchboard attendant).





MANWEB staff, past and present, gather on the occasion of the retirement of Mr. Peter Henderson, seen here, centre right, with Mr. Parker, centre left, and Mr. Hastings, centre.

## RETIREMENTS

Mr. P. B. HENDERSON

At a gathering of Board staff, past and present, from Head Office and our Districts, Mr. Ben Hastings (*Chairman*) said that he had great pleasure in chairing the meeting to honour Mr. Peter Burns Henderson who was retiring as Secretary to the Board. He said that "at great expense" he had managed to bring back Mr. Massie Parker (*former Secretary and Solicitor*) to make the presentation on behalf of the staff of a portable TV set to the man who had taken over from him.

Mr. Parker began by thanking Mr. Henderson for all the sterling work he had done for the Board and for him personally. He went on to outline his long and distinguished career commenting that all his achievements had been done with distinction. During the war Mr. Henderson served with the RAF and, for four long years, was in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp.

When he returned home he set about building up his exceptional academic background. Although he suffered from a heart condition, he regarded this as just one more challenge and self-discipline helped bring about his fitness.

Mr. Henderson worked for the North Eastern Region of the CEBG prior to joining MANWEB

Farewell handshakes from Mr. Matt Cowan (*Chief Commercial Officer*), left, to Mr. Joe Winchester, centre left, and from Mr. John Scudamore (*Secretary*), right, to Mr. Lionel Ladner, centre right, on the occasion of the double retirement ceremony at Head Office.

as Secretary for our former No.2 Sub-Area. Later he became the Board's Deputy Secretary before succeeding Mr. Parker as Secretary.

"He was always diplomatic and patient," said Mr. Parker. "For thirty years he has served as a member of many of our industry's negotiating machinery committees—and this must be something of a record!"

"At all times he has been an absolute gentleman," concluded Mr. Parker as, paying tribute to Margaret, Mr. Henderson's wife, he wished them both happiness and good health in retirement.

In reply, Mr. Henderson thanked Mr. Parker for the many kind things he had said and congratulated him on his research organisation. He remarked on how pleased he was to see so many of his former colleagues present at his farewell gathering. "I shall always be most grateful to the people who have helped me," he said.

Mr. J. A. WINCHESTER

After 47 years in the electricity industry, Group Manager, Mr. Joe Winchester has retired from the Board. He started his career as a 'wireman's' lad with the Northmet Power Company in London in 1931, becoming a showroom manager three years later.

In 1935 he was made a fourth assistant sales engineer, and by the time war was declared had



risen to first assistant. In 1940 he joined the Navy and served as an R.N.V.R. electrical officer until 1946.

Back in civilian life he went to Cornwall as the assistant to the District Manager of the Cornwall Electric Company. On nationalisation the company became part of S.W.E.B. and he was made District Commercial Engineer. It was in a similar post that he joined MANWEB in 1954, in the former Rhuddlan District. A year later he was made District Manager at the old Conway Valley District moving to Crewe in a similar position in 1961.

The re-organisation of the Board in 1970 saw the combination of Chester and Wrexham Districts into the new Dee Valley District with Joe Winchester at the helm of the Commercial activities as D.C.E. He was appointed Group Manager two years ago.

Away from MANWEB he likes listening to light classical music and enjoys sailing. It is his interest in boats and his service with the Royal Navy which have left him with his nautical turn of phrase and his deep sense of loyalty, which he displayed toward the Board and his staff. The retirement gift from his shipmates still serving aboard 'HMS MANWEB' was, aptly, a radio for his boat.

#### Mr. J. L. W. LADNER

The Education and Training Officer for MANWEB, Mr. Lionel Ladner, retired from the Board after 28 years in the electricity industry and 41 years in education.

He was, himself, educated at St. Lukes College, Exeter and London University, where he gained a science degree. He also gained a teacher's diploma and became a supply teacher and later a science master before the outbreak of World War II.

During the hostilities he managed to serve in three army regiments, the Royal Engineers, the Royal Artillery and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. After the war he became a lecturer before joining Central Electricity Authority as Education and Training Officer, in 1950, coming

Just a few of the many members of the Board's staff who attended the farewell get-together to recognise the retirement of Mr. 'E. V.' Owen, seen here, centre, receiving a farewell handshake from Mr. Dodds (former Chairman).



to MANWEB in a similar capacity six years later.

One of his first tasks was to bring the Hoylake Training Centre into operation. Since the centre started 1,400 apprentices have been trained under Lionel Ladner's supervision, and a further 250 engineers have undergone their training. Some have already filled positions in the ranks of management of the industry, in MANWEB and other Boards, which is a credit to his judgement on their initial selection.

During his service in the Board he has represented MANWEB on numerous education and training committees, within the industry, with the C.B.I. for Wales, Merseyside Chamber of Commerce and for most local colleges of further education.

In retirement Lionel and his wife Joan plan to return to his birthplace in Mousehole, Cornwall, where they will live in the house in which he was born. A little reluctant gardening, listening to the classics and a round or two of bridge will be some of the ways in which he will enjoy his retirement.

#### Mr. E. V. OWEN

Former Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds, returned to Head Office recently to present a farewell gift from a host of friends and colleagues throughout the Board to Mr. E. Vincent Owen on the occasion of his retirement from his post as Assistant Secretary—Policy Administration.

Chairing the proceedings was Mr. John Scudamore (*Secretary*) who said how pleased he was to see so many people gathered to pay tribute to a colleague. He went on to comment on Mr. Owen's renowned expertise in taking a difficult letter or report and being able to set down a reply—not necessarily to satisfy the demands of the writer but with a turn of phrase which made things acceptable—*"even for a driving offence!"*

*"Mr. Owen, has over many years, established first class relationships with many people,"* said Mr. Scudamore. *"The Consultative Council have also*

*put on record their appreciation of his work and co-operation over a long period."*

Mr. Dodds then addressed the assembly saying how delighted he was when asked to come along and make the presentation to "*Vincent who has given me extraordinary service over the years since I joined MANWEB*".

He spoke of Mr. Owen's particular qualities and commented, "His skill in communications and getting over a point was an art not to be taken for granted."

He went on to say that since joining the industry in 1932, Mr. Owen had given many years of loyal service.

In reply, Mr. Owen said, "Retirement always seems to happen to somebody else so it comes as a surprise when it happens to you." He disclosed that it was a very emotional time for him. He then thanked his colleagues for coming along, saying he appreciated the sentiments expressed by Mr. Dodds and Mr. Scudamore and concluded by paying tribute to the other departments of the board.

*"To Engineering for keeping the current flowing, to Commercial for keeping our image bright and to Secretarial for putting up with the first two! Then to Accounts, I thank them for paying my salary for many a long year and hope that they will continue the good work with my pension—again, for many a long year."*

#### Mr. ROY STEWART

After 48 years' service to the industry Mr. Roy Stewart, Energy Sales Manager at Head Office, retired recently.

**A memorable occasion for Mr. Roy Stewart, centre left, when friends gathered to join Mr. Cowan in saying their farewells to a popular colleague. Following this formal presentation, Roy and his wife were entertained at a special party night at Penyffordd.**



Mr. Stewart began his career as an apprentice with Birkenhead Corporation before moving to the commercial side of the industry. He made his way up "through the ranks" until being appointed Area Commercial Officer for our former Area 4, moving to Chester as Energy Sales Manager on re-organisation.

A big gathering of colleagues assembled at Head Office to hear Chief Commercial Officer Matt Cowan pay tribute to Roy's lifetime of work in the industry. In these days of specialisation, he said, we were not likely to see many more men like Roy Stewart who would rise from very modest beginnings to posts of high responsibility purely on the basis of energy, ability and hard work.

On behalf of Roy's many friends the CCO presented him with a music centre.

#### Mr. R. K. C. SHELDON

Our Stores Accounts section at Head Office lost one of its most popular and longest-serving members with the recent retirement of Mr. Robert (Bob) Sheldon.

A native of Oswestry, Bob worked for the former Oswestry Corporation before transferring to the Board at Wrexham in 1948. He stayed at Area 4 until 1971 when he moved to Head Office.

Unfortunately, the last few weeks of his service were marred by illness and he was unable to return to the office to say his farewells. Feeling that the occasion should not be overlooked, Mr. Glyn Dodd (*Assistant Chief Accountant*), who had known

Bob since his early days at Wrexham, visited him at home to make an informal presentation from his many friends throughout the Board.

We join with them all in wishing Bob a speedy return to good health and hope that he will enjoy a long and happy retirement. An ardent supporter of Wrexham A.F.C., no doubt their recent promotion will help his recovery in time for the new season.

#### Mr. A. BLEARS

After 21 years with the Board, working as a painter at our Mid-Mersey District centred at Warrington, Mr. Arthur Blears retired a short time ago.

Arthur, a keen motorist and swimmer, took with him best wishes from his many friends and colleagues in the District.

#### Mr. P. B. ROBERTS

Taking advantage of the early retirement scheme, Mr. Percy Roberts leaves the electricity industry after 43 years' service.

He started his career with the North Wales Power Company in 1935, as a clerk in the consumer records section. When the nation went to war in 1939, Percy joined up for the duration and served with the Royal Engineers.

Back in 'Civvy Street' he returned to the Power Company and worked in the Costs Section.

With nationalisation he joined MANWEB in a similar capacity at the former Area 4 in Wrexham. Re-organisation saw him move from Rhostyllen to Sealand Road where he became an administrative assistant in the Rechargeable Costs Section of Management Accounts.

Motoring and touring feature in the retirement plans of Percy and his wife Joan. One major project Percy is intending to do is the landscaping of their garden.



Long service man Mr. Percy Roberts, centre right, says his farewells to Mr. Jack Richards and colleagues from his section.

Wishing him a long and happy retirement his colleagues presented him with a car vacuum cleaner and convector heater.

#### Mrs. M. EVANS

A farmer's daughter, who was born at Acton Bridge and lived in the area for most of her life, Mrs. Mary (Molly) Evans recently retired from her job with the Board as a clerk in Revenue section.

Molly started her working life with her father on their farm. One of her chores was getting up in the early hours of the morning to deliver the milk.

Prior to being widowed, she was in private business for a number of years. Then she went to work for the Cheshire County Council Education Department for a short time before joining

MANWEB at Eversley in 1952. Later, on the merging of the former Sub-Areas in 1965 she transferred to Sealand Road, Chester.

During the last war she worked for the Red Cross organisation at a casualty station in Frodsham.

She has been a first-aider with the Board for the past 18 years. Another of her spare time activities is with the Women's Institute having been a member for the past 44 years.

In retirement, Molly intends to do a little gardening which she enjoys, and will return to the land when she visits her sister Nancy on her local farm at Kingsley. She also intends taking up dress-making and cookery—for a start! We wish her success and good health in retirement.

Surrounded by friends—and a host of cards of good wishes for her retirement—is the popular Mrs. 'Molly' Evans.





Gwynedd District long service staff with their guests and senior officers pictured after the presentation ceremony

## ***Long Service by Gwynedd District Staff***

Staff in our Gwynedd District who had qualified for long service awards, were presented with the Certificates at a ceremony held at Llanwnda a few weeks ago.

Mr. Jim Barraclough (*Group Manager*) congratulated each recipient as their respective District Officer made the introductions.

Staff who have received their awards are as follows:

**40 Years** Messrs. Emlyn Jones and Norman Jones.

**30 Years** Miss J. Davies and Messrs. W. L. Edwards, J. A. Jeffery, J. G. Roberts and A. R. Shaw.

**20 Years** Messrs. M. R. Cotgrove, O. Davies, I. M. Hughes, J. J. Madine, I. Nottingham, D. Owen, G. Pierce, O. G. Roberts, A. Spencer, A. Williams and J. O. Williams.

## **Obituary**

We deeply regret to record the deaths of the following colleagues and pensioners:

**Mrs. Molly ('Polly') Edwards**, canteen manageress at Rhostyllen from 1946 to her retirement in 1964. She was a keen voluntary worker with the Red Cross and WRVS ('Meals on Wheels'), and a voluntary helper at Wrexham hospitals.

**Mr. Edwin Evans**, a stores clerk at Shotton prior to his retirement.

**Mr. Samuel Jones**, a meter reader at Legacy depot, and a former storeman. He was 69.

**Mr. Harry H. Jones**, a former substation attendant in North Wirral District prior to his retirement in 1966.

**Mr. George James Parry**, a switchboard attendant at North Wirral District prior to his retirement in 1968. He had worked in the industry for nearly

50 years and had been awarded the M.B.E. for his long and loyal service.

**Mr. Lionel Atherton Peers**, who served the industry for 38 years prior to his retirement.

**Mr. Thomas Smith**, a driver at Warrington prior to his retirement in 1967. He was 76.

**Mr. Bob Thomas**, 2nd engineer in the Technical Drawing Office at Sealand Road. He joined MANWEB in 1954 at Rhostyllen.

**Mr. W. I. Thorman**, aged 85, a former 2nd assistant engineer in the old No. 4 Sub-Area at Rhostyllen until his retirement came in 1958.

**Mr. Arthur Weston** worked as a switchboard attendant in the North Wirral District prior to his retirement in 1973 after 40 years' service.

**Mr. John White**, senior records draughtsman at Mid-Mersey District, at the early age of 40. He

## **'CONTACT' PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

1978

Open to all MANWEB employees, pensioners and their families.

Copies of Rules from:  
*The Editor, 'Contact'*  
MANWEB Head Office,  
Sealand Road, Chester

was a draughtsman at Runcorn depot before moving to Warrington in 1971, and was vice-Chairman of the District's Sports and Social Club.

**Mr. Alf Whitley**, installation inspector at Dee Valley District, who had been employed as a repair man at Willow Road in recent years for health reasons. He joined the Board at Rhostyllen as an electrician in 1942, and subsequently served for many years as an installation inspector. He was treasurer of the Rhos branch of his trade union for 20 years, and held the union's gold badge for 40 years' membership.

**Mr. H. E. Wollam**, aged 74. Prior to his retirement in 1968, Mr. Wollam was 1st assistant to the District Engineer in our former Runcorn District.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of our former colleagues.