

Contact

July 1979



"Ken Commended"
(see page 130)

The Chairman writes . . .



**MANWEB Chairman,
Mr. Ben Hastings**

An illustrated summary of our Annual Report and Accounts for 1978/79 has been produced and is being distributed to all members of the Board's staff.

Annual Reports tend to be rather unexciting documents. Those which record the affairs of public corporations are packed with data and statistics and make heavy reading.

The great majority of us, however, take a pride in the work we do and in the vital service we provide to the public. Most of us like to be able to understand the main results of our common efforts. This understanding helps us to take pride in our achievements, to recognise where there is room for improvement, and to relate our daily work to the broader picture of life around us.

It is for these reasons that I ask you to devote a little time to studying the summary of our year's work which has been produced largely for your information.

Our progress during 1978/79 was more encouraging, in many ways, than for some years past. Most of our main activities were the subject of healthy expansion. Our satisfactory profit of £11.8 million, although a lot of money, represents only 3.2 per cent of our income. This profit, of course, helps finance our capital expenditure and reduces our borrowings, and therefore benefits our customers in the future.

The results recorded in the Annual Report were achieved only by the unremitting effort and loyalty of thousands of people. Sometimes, as in the case of our North Wales colleagues who had to face atrocious conditions repairing the ravages of the winter's blizzards, those efforts went well beyond run-of-the-mill routine.

On behalf of the members of the Board I thank you all most sincerely for your loyalty and hard work throughout the year.

Ben Hastings

Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE
OF THE
MERSEYSIDE AND
NORTH WALES
ELECTRICITY BOARD

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NOT ALWAYS SO EASY!

WHEN people lose their electricity supply—for whatever reason—the natural reaction is to want it back. Immediately!

Some make a bee-line for the telephone. Others go to check whether their neighbours are also without supply. The philosophers probably swear and settle down to sit the situation out as best they can.

For the average customer an hour or so without electricity is an inconvenience. A whole day with no supply sees inconvenience turning progressively to real hardship and increasing anxiety. The natural reaction of the customer is to demand an explanation. More important, and equally naturally, he wants to know when the precious current is likely to start flowing again..

Most faults which interrupt our electricity supplies are straightforward in origin. Their nature is such that we are able to make quick restoration, and usually to give anxious inquirers a reasonably accurate forecast as to how long it will take.

But it isn't always like that. There are times when Nature in her most perverse moods can confront our engineers and linesmen with the kind of situation where early attempts to assess damage call for a crystal ball, and where immediate forecasts of repair progress are reduced to hopeful guesswork.

Such a pattern is recorded in this number of *Contact* in an article by Gwynedd District Engineer Russell Shaw. We apologise for its late appearance, but its publication is more than justified.

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.



Civic Leaders at Head Office

A former saleswoman with the Board, Mrs. Ruth Dean, returned to MANWEB recently as a specially-invited V.I.P. guest in her capacity as The Lord Mayor of Liverpool. She was accompanied by The Mayoress, her daughter, Mrs. Barbara Brickell.

Accepting the invitation from Mr. Bill Shires (*Chief Commercial Officer*), our special guests toured the Head Office building. Their guides were Messrs. Bob Jowett (*Energy Sales Manager*) and John Edwards (*2nd engineer-Technical*).



Top left. Pictured from left to right; Messrs. Bill Shires, and Ben Hastings, The Mayor, Mrs. Ruth Dean and Mayoress, Mrs. Barbara Brickell and Mr. Richard Gales.

Middle left. Mr. John Edwards explains a point to our guests watched by Mr. Bob Jowett

Bottom left. Mrs. Doris Holland (typing supervisor) explains the workings of the audio bank.

Below. The Lord Mayor meets former shop colleague Mr. Stan Gordon, now a principal assistant in Personnel section.



Talking Notes

SUPERSPORTS

MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club chose a cold and windy evening to hold their annual "Supersports Night". There were 132 brave, some might say masochistic, contestants in 22 teams of six, three lads and three lasses, to play the 11 games. There were many fanciful names such as 'Economy Six' and 'Letsavalafonagigul'.

The two water games ensured that most competitors got wet. A tug-of-war, netball, volley-ball and six-a-side football game with the players jumping round in sacks, helped keep them warm. The designer of the games was **Hugh Farrow**, who was described by one competitor as having sadistic tendencies.

Yet another competitor gets wet!



Keeping the score were **Eifion Jenkins, Jim Wilcock** and **Cliff Houlbrook**, with **Gren Roberts** acting as MANWEB's answer to Stuart Hall. At the end of the night the scoreboard showed the first three winning teams as 'It's Magic', 'Nick's Six' and 'Liquorice Allsports'.

The evening ended with a

hamburger-and-beans supper and a barn dance. The only incident to mar the event was an injury to one of the canteen's team, trainee manageress **Joan Griffiths**, who fractured her wrist. We hope it mends soon, Joan!

Clubmen

An inter-District golf match was held recently when Clwyd and Gwynedd sportsmen met at the Betws-y-Coed golf course.

Playing over 18 holes, the twelve players competing, enjoyed an excellent game of golf in weather which matched perfectly the beautiful setting of the course.

Poetry in motion from two of the teams!



Clwyd District won the match and, after a buffet meal former electrician from Pwllheli, **Dick 'Porthdinlaen' Williams**, presented the trophy to the team captain.

The match, arranged by **Denis Atkinson** (*Material Controller*) Clwyd, and **Emyr Rowlands** (*asst. installation inspector*) Gwynedd, was a huge success and could be the fore-runner of an annual event.

Changes at Cheadle

Consequent upon the recent



New DIRO, Arthur Priest

retirement of Reg Minns, the Electricity Council's District Industrial Relations Officer in Merseyside and North Wales, Arthur Priest, the present DIRO for the North West will also take over the responsibility for Merseyside and North Wales.

Life Saver Commended

Further recognition of the prompt action taken by jointer's mate **Ken Dyke** from Oswestry District in saving the life of his colleague, jointer **Trevor Astley**, was shown recently when Councillor Ger-

aint Pritchard (*Oswestry Borough Mayor*), presented Ken with a Certificate of Commendation on behalf of the Royal Humane Society.

Readers may recall the story we published earlier this year which reported on Trevor working in a trench, slipping and touching a live cable. He was knocked unconscious and he stopped breathing.

Ken, who was quickly on the scene, got Trevor clear of the cable and then revived him with mouth to mouth resuscitation.

Colleagues congratulate you Ken on receiving a well-earned commendation.



St. John's Honour

A stalwart member of the Head Office first-aid team for many years, **Sybil Timmins**, an administrative assistant in the Superannuation section, has been made an Honorary Member of the St. John Ambulance Association.

She is the second member of the Head Office Team to be so honoured, the other was her name-sake Sybil Cooper.

Sybil Timmins took up first aid during the second world war as a member of the Red Cross. She joined MANWEB in 1948 and became a member of the St. John's affiliated Electricity Ambulance Centre in Chester nine years later. She has been a member of the Chester Ladies team for 21 years, a team which has come within a whisker of being the top team in the country.

For the last five years she has served on the Electricity Ambulance Centre Committee, and for two years now has been a

lay First Aid Instructor. She is a regular duty first aider administering to Head Office staff.

Sybil has been able to help at the scene of several accidents and recalls one in which the whole ladies team were involved. Travelling back from a competition in Workington they came across a car which had



First-Aider Sybil Timmins

plunged off the road, down an embankment into a tree.

"The team were marvellous, they acted as though it was a test in competition. We stopped a car to arrange for them to telephone an ambulance. Comforted and gave first aid to the passengers until the ambulance arrived," she recalls.

Sybil is glad she took up first aid, for she has known countless occasions in the home and in the office when her knowledge has enabled her to do the right thing in dealing with the every day accidents and illnesses, and recommends anybody to take it up.

Wedding

Our congratulations go to **Linda Perrin** (*clerk, Estates and Wayleaves, Head Office*), and to David Lewis, on the occasion of their recent mar-



Newlyweds Mr. and Mrs. Lewis

riage at St. Margaret's Church, Garden Village, Wrexham.

Linda is the daughter of **Dennis Perrin** (1st engineer, Technical Drawing Officer).

Medal Presented

At a special ceremony held at Shire Hall, Mold recently, **Ioan Green**, a chargehand linesman at Legacy in our Dee Valley District, was presented with the Fire Service Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Chairman of Clwyd County Council's public protection committee Councillor T. W. Jones.

Ioan, who has worked in our industry for the past 30 years, is also the Sub-Officer in charge of the Johnstown Fire Station.

Temporary Moves

Staff changes within our Marketing Department at Head Office, to take effect from the beginning of August, are as follows:

Warwick Saunders, to be seconded to Mid-Cheshire District Commercial Engineer.

Norman Walsh, to Deputy Marketing Manager.

Stewart Griffiths, transfer to special project work.

W. Howard L. Walton to Acting Marketing Manager.

All these appointments are for approximately eight months

Golf Memorial Trophy

The second annual golf tournament for the J. D. Greenhalgh Memorial Trophy, was won by **Mike Whitenburg**, from Head Office Personnel, who also organised the event.

The trophy is to commemorate **John Greenhalgh**, former Executive Officer from Personnel, and a leading member of NALGO who died on holiday in 1975 at the early age of 46.

The contest is open to all members of NALGO in the Electricity Industry within the MANWEB area. This year's tournament was held at the Abergele and Pensarn Golf Club.

In addition to the splendid silver cup the winner, Mike Whitenburg was presented with a bottle of whisky, donated by Mrs. Greenhalgh, John's widow, and a golf sweater, by **Alan Spargo**, a former close friend of John Greenhalgh. Second was **Denis Atkinson**, from Clwyd, and third, **Amyln Ab lowerth**, from Head Office.

Mum-to-be

Awaiting a very special development is Head Office dark

room assistant **June Owen**. She and husband John, a British Steel employee, are expecting their first baby shortly.

June has worked for the Board since she left school nearly ten years ago, starting as a punch card operator. She has been a dark room assistant for nearly five years in the printing section.

Friends and colleagues gathered at Head Office to see June off with a shower of gifts for the new arrival. We understand that she is an expert knitter—a pastime which will certainly come in useful in the coming years.

Off Again!

Here we go with yet another episode in the daily life of our Mid-Mersey pensioner folk.

On a lovely sunny day, our much-travelled group set off for pick-up points at St. Helens, Runcorn, Frodsham and Warrington to journey by coach to Scarborough.

They arrived in time for a stroll along the Prom. before lunch.

Then, with everyone in fine fettle, they enjoyed an afternoon sightseeing and/or, cool-

June Owen, clutches the cartoon drawing by Geoff Baker, as she receives baby gifts galore from her friends in the Printing section at Head Office. Principal assistant Joe Flanagan made the presentation



ing off by the sea.

With the weather still good, the happy travellers returned in full song down the M62 to home.

More Councillors

Following our feature in last month's 'Contact' listing members of our staff serving on local councils, we have now received information on one or two more.

E. Peter Frost (*chargehand electrician, New Crane Street*), East Saltney Community Council.

J. A. Gordon Harris (*Installation Inspector, Dee Valley District*), Rhos Community Council.

Violet Hepinstall (*clerical assistant, Dee Valley District*), Esclusham Community Council.

Malcolm Whalley (*senior engineer, Industrial Development*) Chairman of the Anderton Parish Council.

TO LET

Pwellheli. Detached modern bungalow on quiet estate. Sleeps five plus cot. All mod cons. Near beach. Ample parking space. Few vacancies left. All-electric, TV, showers, etc. 'Phone: Pwellheli 2073.

Obituary

Mr. R. W. Jones, of Wrexham, a senior engineer with our former Area 4 prior to his retirement. He was 76.

"Robbie" maintained his interest in our affairs throughout his years of retirement. His fluent mastery of the Welsh language stood MANWEB in good stead every year, when he translated the summary of the Board's Annual Report for publication as a staff version and as an advertisement in Welsh-language newspapers. His combined knowledge of Welsh and of the electricity industry produced results which drew praise from many quarters.

HOLIDAY CANCELLATION

For sale. 14 days in Ibiza for two people with Club 18-30. Depart Friday, 26th October from Manchester Airport for holiday in San Antonio at Hotel March. Return Thursday, 8th November. £138. For details please contact Mr. Robert Buckingham 051-638 3240 or 051-737 1347.

PRIZEWINNERS

The three £5 prizes in our last Crossword Competition have been won by:

Mr. R. J. Furlong,

of West Kirby (retired)

Mr. Pat Byrne,

Printing section, Head Office

Mr. J. Old

Meter Repairs, Lister Drive

Solution: ACROSS—1 Conquest. 2 Offers. 3 Dibble. 9 Aver. 10 Piece. 11 Rabelaisian. 16 Robes. 18 Tenaces. 19 Corfu. 20 Pride. 21 Deserve. 22 Canna. 24 Choose a seat. 28 Opium. 30 Rich. 31 Geezer. 32 Entree. 33 Milliner.
DOWN—1 Camper. 2 Node. 3 Understudys. 4 Table. 5 Omega. 6 Feats. 7 Serenade. 12 Banksia. 13 Lucerne. 14 Inspectoral. 15 Indian. 17 Borneo. 19 Concorde. 23 Armour. 25 Other. 26 Eagle. 27 Steam. 29 Iron.

He was also an active member of the Retired Staff Association Committee, and his contribution to MANWEB affairs will be much missed.

* * *

Mr. Bernard Joseph Maguire, aged 73, who retired from his work with MANWEB at Derby House, Liverpool in 1965. Very involved in community activities Mr. Maguire was a former Chairman of Hoylake Urban District Council and founder of the West Kirby Committee of the Cancer Research Campaign.

A most active pensioner who will be sadly missed by many people.

TRANSMISSION ENGINEER



Mr. Brian Mather, senior engineer with the Central Electricity Generating Board for the past nine years, has joined the staff of MANWEB as Transmission Engineer. He will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the 132,000-volt network.

After gaining his B.Sc. at Manchester University he joined the staff of A.E.I. Ltd., Manchester, moving to the CEGB in 1960. He held posts of increasing responsibility with the system development section of the CEGB's North Western Region until 1969, when he was briefly Assistant District Engineer at Carrington before moving to Connah's Quay in the same capacity. On reorganisation of the Region's Districts he became Planning and Resources Engineer with the new Western "Super District".

After a short period at Head Office Mr. Mather will be based at Prenton, Birkenhead. He is married with two sons and three daughters, and lives near Mold.

MANWEB IN THE ROLE AS BEST MAN

Gets Power to the Church on time!

A wedding was recently solemnised in a small chapel in Cheshire. Nothing exceptional about that, except the wedding was probably the first to be held in the chapel since it was built nearly 400 years ago.

The Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary at High Legh, near Knutsford, is the private family chapel of Mr. Charles Legh, who decided to hold the wedding ceremony when his daughter

announced her engagement to an American professor, as she had always said she wanted to be married there.

However, there was a problem to solve. The chapel had no lighting or power supply, and the wedding had to be held within a month as the bridegroom was due back at university in America for the start of term.

An anxious Mr. Legh turned to MANWEB and the Board was

able to play best man, and get the power to the church on time. Dave Fisher, energy sales engineer at Mid-Cheshire District, designed a power and lighting scheme using 17 spot and floodlights.

Norman Davenport (*2nd engineer-Installation*) programmed the work and after a week-and-a-half the job was completed—ahead of schedule.

Electrician Barry Harding supported by his supervisor, Ken Foster, can take the credit for beating the clock, and their work has given the chapel impressive lighting which has benefited by hiding the cable runs.

"I am really delighted with MANWEB," said Mr. Legh, "They did the work so quickly and expertly, and what's almost more, they were all so pleasant to deal with. What a difference friendliness makes! They made sure the wedding went ahead on time and have done me proud."

Mr. Charles Legh, centre, chats with men from MANWEB, Messrs. Ken Foster, left, and Dave Fisher, in front of the privately-owned 400-year-old chapel





LONG SERVICE STAFF AT OUR GWYNEDD GROUP

Members of our Gwynedd District staff who were presented recently with their Long Service Certificates by Mr. Glyn Dodd (*Group Manager*), are pictured in the above photograph. They are, from left to right, with years of service indicated in brackets:—

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. H. D. Jones (30), Mr. and Mrs. Francis Jones (30), Mr. and Mrs. Eric Phillips (30), Messrs. Keith Jones (*District Administrative Officer*), Doug Willacy (*District Commercial Engineer*), Glyn Dodd, Russell Shaw (*District Engineer*), Mr. and Mrs. Matthew O. Jones (30), Mr. and Mrs. Edward O. Williams (30), Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Jones (30), Mr. and Mrs. Ron Cotgrove (30), Mrs. C. O. Luckman, Mr. Thomas V. Jones (20), Mr. Cecil O. Luckman (30), Mrs. T. V. Jones, Mrs. D. H. Roberts, Mr. Mal Donaldson (*principal assistant, General Services*), Mr. Dafydd H. Roberts (30), Mrs. and Mr. John Williams (30) and Mrs. and Mr. Alun Jones (20).

Two members of the staff, unable to be present, were, Mr. R. Dennis Jones, who had completed 40 years' service but was too ill to attend, and Mr. J. Norman R. Phillips, who was to receive his 30-year Certificate but was on holiday in America.

Here & There...

FIRST AID

Top right: OSWESTRY DISTRICT FIRST-AID CLASS

From left to right standing: Colin Thomas, David Rogers, Walter Jones, Peter Corfield, Brian Speakes, Terry Edge, Terry Williams, Philip Grosvenor, Stan Holloway, and Ken Dyke. Seated: Malcolm Cartwright, Alan Owen (District First-Aider), Nurse Dorothy Davis and George Wild.

Bottom right: MID-CHESHIRE FIRST-AID CLASS

From left to right; back row: Helen Haycocks, Gerald Clarke, David Williams, Barry Harding, Bernard Kimpton, Harold Snape, Gail Reed, Keith Owen, Ken Sandlands and Nurse Dorothy Davis. Front row: Colin Barrow, Peter Roche and Christine Forster

Below: Board Secretary John Scudamore presents Certificates to the Head Office First-Aid team who came in third place in this year's National Competition. The team are, from left to right: Sybil Cooper (captain), Sybil Timmins, Dave Roberts, Elizabeth Jones and Harry Longdon





FIRST OUTING FOR NEW PENSIONERS GROUP

The recently-formed Chester and Head Office Retired Staff Association opened their activities last month when 45 members journeyed by coach to Erddig Hall, a National Trust property near Wrexham.

Former engineers in the party were pleased to leave behind them a sudden thunderstorm which caused a line fault blacking out most of Chester. However, their destination was reached in most favourable weather and a very interesting afternoon was spent by everyone.

Later, the party went on to our Dee Valley District Office at Rhostyllen to enjoy an afternoon tea organised by Messrs. Arthur Ellinson (*District Administrative Officer*) and Keith Griffiths (*principal assistant, General Services*) and laid on by the helpful ladies of the canteen.

The venture proved a great success and members are eagerly looking forward to their next get-together.

Membership of the Association is now nearing the 100 mark. Other activities are already planned, and monthly meetings are held in the Sports Room at Head Office on the last Wednesday of every month.

Secretary Del Hall, 127 Hartington Street, Handbridge, Chester, is always ready to welcome new members.

BIG FREEZE ON ANGLESEY

As seen and reported by
District Engineer
RUSSELL SHAW

THE Anglesey part of Gwynedd District is an island, and noted for its mild climate and freedom from snow or ice. In 1938, and again in 1956, conditions caused ice to form on the overhead lines, and this phenomenon was repeated on the night of 16th March 1979 with rather disastrous consequences.

In the early afternoon of Friday, 16th March all was fairly quiet in the District Office and thoughts of the weekend off were in many people's minds . . . the phone rang a few times, and we received reports of no supply in the Carmel area.

Ivor Nottingham, the section engineer, turned out and found that half way up the hill to Carmel things suddenly changed, and Arctic conditions prevailed. He could see ice on the line, and that it was broken, but could not proceed in his car.

Repairs were organised and phone calls indicated that another line in the Groeslon area was broken. It appeared that the air temperature was well below freezing point about 1000 feet up the mountain and

It may seem a far cry from the bitter days of last Winter, but this article describing the events of a hard March week-end will bring it all back, especially for those involved. We apologise for the delay in publication, brought about mainly by pressure on space.

this was causing soft snow to build up into ice on the lines.

The office closed at five o'clock and the situation was well in hand with no trouble in Anglesey . . .

I was sitting comfortably at home in Anglesey when the lights started flickering. On looking out I was surprised to see snow on the ground, drifting quite heavily in the wind. I rang the reporting centre at Treborth and learned that the standby men were out in Anglesey and Caernarvon, and that things were getting a bit hectic in Anglesey.

I decided to go to the Reporting Centre, and told my wife that I'd only be an hour or so. This is no doubt what the standby men had also told their wives! I had to negotiate a couple of deep drifts of snow, and slide down most of the hill into Menai Bridge and across the Menai Straits to Treborth.

I found that by this time "change of state" alarms had been received from half the 33kV substations in



Left: Linesmen Owie Roberts, left, and Keith Powell straighten a pole in readiness for the re-erecting the 33,000-volt line. Below: Trainee Dewi Wyn Roberts, left, and linesman Jim Evans.



Anglesey, and that others were coming up. I quickly called out the available engineers and linesmen who were not already out, and organised the checking of the 33kV substations and reclosing of 33kV and 11kV oil circuit breakers.

Reports came in of ice "as thick as your arm" on the lines, which were sagging to within ten feet of the ground. It became obvious that the freezing layer of air had moved down from 1000 feet to the lowlands of Anglesey, and that we were seeing a repeat of 1956 and 1936.

The weather and conditions deteriorated and it became impossible to travel by car so Landrovers were organised to take the engineers round. It was impossible to attempt any line repairs, but trips due to transient faults kept everyone busy, together with sectioning lines with permanent faults.

Getting Nowhere

By two o'clock in the morning all our efforts seemed to get us nowhere. Transient faults caused by the wind blowing the ice-loaded conductors together kept recurring, and it was decided to call it a day. Three of the four 33kV feeders supplying the south east and central parts of Anglesey were faulty, and the situation on the rest of the area was not known with any certainty.

At Treborth one of the substation attendants went out to his car to go home and quickly came back reporting a huge flash in the 33kV compound. I went out with him and we saw a small arc on the far side of the compound. As we reached it to investigate there was a roar like thunder and sheet of blue flames shot three or four feet into the air, and was sustained. Trembling slightly we switched the circuit out and with it about half of Anglesey!

The thoughts of bed receded, and a fitter with spare parts were organised. By 7 o'clock in the morning the repairs were complete, and those engineers and men who had had a few hours sleep were ready to turn out again.

During the first few hours of Saturday morning information was collected like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, but the picture was far from clear.

It was, however, clear that several lines were broken and snow drifts had made some roads almost impassable. The system engineer was snowed in at home, and had to be collected with a Landrover. Some of our Commercial colleagues managed to reach Treborth, and gave much needed relief in answering the telephones.

As the day wore on the picture became a little clearer, and the work of re-erecting the lines proceeded. By the end of the day some customers had been without electricity for 24 hours and messages were being received of cows needing milking, babies needing warm food and old people and invalids needing

warmth. There was also the lady who was crying as she reported her tropical fish were becoming most distressed as without electricity the aquarium heater was not working.

By about 2 a.m. on Sunday most of the staff had been sent home for a well-earned rest ready to start again first thing in the morning. 7 a.m. on Sunday saw things starting to buzz again as everyone started to get back into gear.

We had managed to get staff to report at the District Office to man the telephones and relieve some of the pressure on the reporting centre.

It fairly soon became clear that broken lines were being found faster than we could repair them with the District resources—probably about 50 lines were broken.

An S.O.S. to the Deputy Chief Engineer brought a quick response, and by early afternoon three of our former engineers and linesmen from Dee Valley, Oswestry and Aberystwyth Districts were reporting at Treborth. They were soon sent out into Anglesey and a light note was touched when an Anglesey linesman's voice came over the radio and said "Welcome back, Dave".

The support of these extra engineers and men was invaluable, and by the end of Sunday we could just see the end of the job although it was still about 24 hours away.

An early start again on Monday produced a schedule for the day's work and a few more men, including jointers, were available. It seemed possible that we should get clear before the end of the day, but this was not to be, as more broken lines were found. On finishing work it appeared that one more day would see it through.

Tuesday at 7 a.m. saw the plans for the day being drawn up and everything seemed to go right. By lunchtime we found that we had more teams of men than jobs. It was with great relief and as somewhat of an anti-climax that supply was restored to the last customer at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 19th March, some four days of at least 18 hours each after the first signs of the big freeze.

The work was not over, however, as we still had three 33kV lines totalling about 40 miles to be patrolled. The thought of sending linesmen walking this distance was not pleasant and another quick call to the Deputy Chief Engineer resulted in us carrying out the first helicopter patrols in MANWEB.

The final count indicated 33kV lines broken in five places and 11kV lines broken in 71 places, with innumerable transient faults. The mammoth task of locating and repairing the faults and restoring supplies was only achieved by the devotion to duty of the Gwynedd staff, and the support of our colleagues in other parts of the Board.

SPORTS & SOCIAL



John Scudamore (*Secretary, centre*), presents awards to the winning team, from right/left: Gareth Dodds, Dorothy Davis, Connie Jones and Jim Wilcock. On the extreme left is George Harrison, one of the organisers.

GOLF

MEMORIAL SHIELD

There were 46 golfers competing for the Bernie Green Memorial Shield at Wrexham Golf Club. The contest which commemorates one of the founder members of the MANWEB Golfing Society was won by Tom Mullins of Liverpool District, with a round of 87 less a 24 handicap giving him a nett score of 63.

Second was Derek Jones (*Head Office*) with a round of 77, less his 9 handicap giving him nett 68. Third with the same total was Dee Valley's Ieuan Evans, Derek winning second place due to his better first three holes.

Jack Baird (*executive officer, F and M Accounts*), second left, as Chairman of the Bowls Section, presents the prizes to, from left to right: Jim Pritchard, Idris Mackin and Tony Dawson



INTER-DISTRICT

A team of Mid-Mersey golfers won the MANWEB Annual Inter-District Golf Medal in a contest held at Helsby Golf Club.

With a total of 220 points, the Warrington men, Reg Bramhall (71), Les Butterworth (74), Glyn Norbury (75) and Roy Powell (80), beat their nearest rivals, North Wirral District, by four points.

In a series of lunchtime quiz competitions, eight teams of four people representing various departments at Head Office, were formed into a league.

The eventual winners—"Wise and Wherefores" from Secretarial section—were unbeaten throughout the competition.

Below: Runners-up, 'Boxall-comers', of our Statistic section, from left to right: Mike Boxall, Roger Critch, John Stephenson, Pat Jefferson, John Ashley and Ernie Hankin with Fred Owen (*joint organiser*).

Third were Liverpool District, a further ten points behind.

There were 72 competitors in 18 teams of four representing all Districts and Head Office. The top individual performance was by Eric Clarke of North Wirral District, whose 17 handicap gave him a total of 67 for the round.

Kevin Gee and Frank Parkinson organised both competitions.

BOWLS

The lush bowling green at the West Cheshire Hospital was the scene of triumph for Tony Dawson (*student engineer*), Head Office, when he beat Idris Mackin (*meter reader*) New Crane Street by 21-16 in an exciting final to retain the Head Office Bowls Championship.

In the Plate Tournament—for those knocked out in the first round—Jim Pritchard (*principal assistant-Cashiers*) was the winner.



Bill Clarey shows the Mid-Mersey District young people round the Reporting Centre

Wider Horizons

FIFTEEN of the newer members of the staff at our Mid-Mersey District recently enjoyed what is now becoming an annual feature at Warrington—a one-day training seminar designed to give them a broader understanding of the electricity industry in general and of the District's work in particular.

The young people—mostly in their teens and with an average of a few months' service with MANWEB—were drawn mainly from customers' accounts, general admin and the drawing office.

After a welcome and introduction by DAO Dennis Hodgetts they heard brief talks on education and training opportunities (Lesley Smith, E and T, Head

Office), *Customer Care* (Keith Baldwin, Public Relations, Head Office), engineering matters (Bill Clarey, District system engineering) and the negotiating and advisory machinery (John Sherwen, principal assistant, general services).

Also included was a visit to the District Reporting Centre, with explanations by Bill, lunch at Fiddlers Ferry power station, and a tour of the station to see how electricity is produced.

Mr. Hodgetts told *Contact*. "Some time ago we embarked on a deliberate policy of recruiting school-leavers to try to help ease local unemployment among young people. There is no doubt that this opportunity to find out more about the industry helps them to take a greater interest in their work. The outcome is good for them, good for the District, and good for MANWEB."

Plenty to interest them during their tour of Fiddlers Ferry power station



≡ RETIREMENTS ≡

Electricity Council

Mr. R. MINNS

District Industrial Relations Officer in the Merseyside and North Wales District since 1971, Mr. Reg Minns retired at the end of June.

He began his career in 1933 with the former Chester Corporation Electricity Department where he held various posts. After war service in the Middle East he returned to Chester and later joined MANWEB to work in the Personnel section. He moved over to the then British Electricity Authority as assistant Labour Relations Officer in 1952 and eventually, after re-organisation and the establishment of The Electricity Council he served as an assistant District Industrial Relations Officer first in Liverpool and then in Manchester.

Reg has interests in gardening, writing and travel and feels that he can fill his new-found leisure adequately.

Head Office

Miss G. M. BERRY

A lady who has faithfully served our industry for the past 38 years, Miss G. M. 'Gee' Berry, recently retired from her job as secretary to Mr. Kenneth Leach (*Deputy Chief Accountant*).

At a presentation ceremony held at Head Office Mr. Leach said that it was a rather special occasion for him as he felt he was losing a good friend of many years standing.

'Gee' joined the industry in 1941 as secretary to the Managing Director of the former Mersey Power Company. Then she became secretary to the Chief Accountant of that Company, Mr. E. J. Lollar who later became Sub-Area Accountant with MANWEB.

"In 1954" said Mr. Leach, "I 'inherited' Miss Berry along with many other excellent members of the Sub-Area Accountant's staff. At that time she also controlled a very efficient secretarial pool which held together very happily for many years. I have always found her to be cheerful, efficient, knowledgeable, quietly determined and with an excellent memory."

As a good practising Christian, much of 'Gee's' free time is devoted to church work and activities. She is a Sunday School superintendent, a youth club leader, choir member and secretary of the Diocesan Council. She enjoys travel and has visited Israel.

After presenting her with a silver tea service and other parting gifts from her friends and colleagues, on their behalf Mr. Leach wished Miss Berry good health to enjoy many years of happy and active retirement.

In reply, 'Gee' thanked everyone for her beautiful farewell gifts saying that she had enjoyed her working life, having made lots of lovely friends. Even though now ready for rest and retirement, she hoped that these friendships would continue for many years to come.

Mr. J. H. CHOWEN

Well known throughout his long career in the electricity supply industry as a very capable worker, a good colleague and an excellent raconteur of

Mr. Ken Leach, presents the staff's farewell gift to Miss 'Gee' Berry





Mr. Harry Chowen, left, receives a parting handshake from Mr. Fred Brooker

amusing stories, Mr. John Henry Chowen (1st engineer, Communications and Measurements—Technical)—Harry to his friends—retired recently.

He began his working life at the former Plas Power colliery at Wrexham. He stayed for only a short time and in August 1931 he joined the North Wales Power Company as an apprentice meter tester. He progressed through the department to become a foreman at Legacy depot under the famous 'Meter' Jones.

At the double departure ceremony in North Mersey District staff gather round as Mr. Bert Eyres (District Engineer) has a double handshake for Mr. Matti Twist, wearing glasses, and colleague, Mr. Bob Allen.



Harry then spent some time in uniform with REME during the last war. He returned to The Company for a couple of years then, on nationalisation, transferred to MANWEB. He became a member of Head Office staff and was in charge of the testing and assembling of meters for the Board's industrial and commercial customers. He is extremely knowledgeable on this type of metering and his expertise will be missed by many of his colleagues.

He is very active, on fund-raising, with the Wrexham Lions Club. He is also interested in industrial archaeology and repairs and rebuilds antique clocks.

At his farewell ceremony, Mr. Fred Brooker (Principal Engineer—Technical) formally presented Harry with numerous gifts from friends and colleagues throughout the Board. Obviously chosen to keep him busy and active in retirement, the gifts included power tools, jig-saw, sander, drill stand and a set of drills.

... North Mersey ...

Mr. R. ALLAN and Mr. M. TWIST

When two close colleagues, members of our North Mersey District staff, both retired recently, a dual presentation ceremony was organised by their colleagues at Bridle Road.

Robert Allan, a familiar figure around the depot, sporting his pork-pie hat, was the building foreman in the District. He had worked for the electricity supply industry for the past 32 years after serving in the Royal Engineers for a period. He is the

President of Richmond Bowls Club in Liverpool and he enjoys a spot of gardening. Colleagues subscribed to present him with an electric shaver as a parting gift.

Mr. Matthew (Matti) Twist has been with MANWEB for the past 17 years working as a joiner, first at the Pumpfields depot and more recently in North Mersey District. Friends and colleagues presented Matti with a retirement gift of a 'Hummel' figure and expressed their sincere wishes for his good health in the years to come.

Mr. T. J. SHAW

After five years' war service in the RAF, Mr. Tom Shaw joined the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department in January 1946. He worked as a joiner's mate based at the Pumpfields depot.

A couple of years later, after nationalisation, he became a meter reader/collector with MANWEB at Lister Drive. He later worked from Derby House and finally, from Bridle Road.

He became a familiar figure as, every day he travelled from his Wallasey home via the Mersey tunnel on his scooter with his collector's cash case strapped to the rear of his machine.

At a farewell ceremony, Mr. George Shoesmith (*District Administrative Officer*), on behalf of the staff, presented Tom with a cassette radio and other items. Tom's wife Jane, who was also at the ceremony, received a beautiful floral bouquet. George hoped that Tom would spend many happy hours watching his favourite football team, Liverpool, and then wished both Tom and Jane many happy years of retirement. Later, in the Bridle Road Clubhouse, Tom and his family entertained his many friends from North Mersey District.

A very quiet, unassuming and most helpful person, Tom will be very much missed.

Another happy group from North Mersey District give a good 'send-off' to Mr. Tom Shaw, *centre left*, seen here receiving one of their farewell gifts from Mr. George Shoesmith. Tom's wife Jane was also presented with a bouquet of flowers



Relaxing at home in their colourful and neat garden, Mr. and Mrs. Reg. Adams

... Liverpool ...

Mr. R. H. C. ADAMS

Even though he has now retired after 44 years' service in the electricity supply industry, popular Liverpool District colleague Mr. Reg Adams is still keeping up his connections with MANWEB by working on a part-time basis at the Liverpool Electric Supply Sports and Social Club at Thingwall Road. He can be found there every morning keeping things ship-shape for the members. He has been the Honorary Secretary for the Club since 1951.

Reg began his working life in 1935 with the meter section of Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply



Department. Shortly after this, with war looming on the horizon, he went to Lister Drive making gas masks! At this time, along with his friends, he joined the Territorials.

In August 1939 he was called-up to serve with the RASC and immediately went to France with the British Expeditionary Force, returning hurriedly a few months later via Dunkirk. He then shipped, on a six week voyage round the Cape, to Egypt, where he spent some time chasing the Italian Army across the desert only to be chased back by the Germans. For four months he was with a unit cut off in Tobruk and was eventually relieved by a Royal Navy destroyer—which was immediately torpedoed as it sailed into the Mediterranean!

Later, as a cypher operator with the Royal Corps of Signals, he served with the famous Desert Rats under Field Marshal Montgomery.

After a short period holed-up on Castel Horizon, an island off the coast of Turkey, Reg was repatriated

to England just in time to join the 15th Scottish Signals for the crossing of the Rhine and later, the army of occupation.

Following these seven years of excitement, travel, adventure and danger, Reg returned to the comparative peace of civilian life. He worked at various locations and in a number of sections to reach the job he was doing at the time of his retirement, that of principal assistant—outside control, Liverpool.

During his life, Reg has been active at many sports. In his younger days he played football, cricket and tennis mainly for Electric Supply and it was only recently that he reluctantly gave up playing table-tennis at league standard. He is now concentrating his efforts at bowls.

Opting for a quiet departure from Lister Drive, his colleagues bowed to his wishes but still made sure that his work and friendship was recognised by presenting him with many useful gifts for him to take into retirement.



At a special party-night in Wrexham, friends from Dee Valley District marked the occasion of the retirement of their popular colleague, Mr. Tom Kirby, seen here in the centre of our picture

Dee Valley

Mr. T. KIRBY

A lifetime of work in our industry was duly recognised recently when Mr. Tom Kirby retired from his job as administrative assistant in the Material Control section of Dee Valley District.

Friends at Rhostyllen arranged a big party night to honour Tom's retirement. Glowing tributes to his work and personality were paid by Messrs. Tony Shell (*Administrative Officer, Audit, at Head Office—formerly Dee Valley District Administrative Officer*), John Parry (*District Engineer*), Joe Forrester (*Installation Engineer*), Keith Griffiths (*principal assistant—Administration*)—who was Master of Ceremonies for the evening—and Arthur Ellinson (*District Administrative Officer*) who also made the

presentation.

A Londoner, Tom came North to work for MANWEB some 30 years ago as a stockchecker at our former Area 4 Office. He subsequently spent some time at the Queensferry Stores complex. Immediately prior to his retirement, he looked after the largest District stores within the Board.

He was a stickler for detail and very meticulous in his records. A hard worker who always expected similar efforts from his colleagues. He became a widower a few years ago and, caring for himself ever since, it is to his great credit that he was always immaculate in dress and in his appearance.

Friends at Dee Valley District and Queensferry subscribed to present Tom with a retirement gift of a Black and Decker workshop. When not using this present for his many 'do-it-yourself' activities, Tom will no doubt spend quite a lot of his spare time with his grandchildren.



Just a few of his many friends in our Gwynedd District gather to say their farewells to Mr. Roy Jones, pictured right, with colleague Mal Donaldson who made the official presentation

... Gwynedd ...

Mr. J. M. OWEN and Mr. G. HUGHES

A double presentation ceremony was held at our Llangefni depot in Gwynedd District a short time ago to mark the retirement of two colleagues.

Mr. J. Meredith Owen, a driver, who had completed 28 years' service with MANWEB, received a radio-alarm clock from his colleagues as a parting gift. This was presented on their behalf by Mr. Russell Shaw (*District Engineer*). Meredith also selected a 'Do-it-Yourself' book as his retirement gift from the LAC.

Mr. Griff Hughes, a labourer for the past 24 years, received a radio-tape recorder from his colleagues. This time, Mr. Ariel Thomas (*Production Engineer*) journeyed from District Office at Caernarfon to make the presentation to Griff on behalf of all his workmates at Llangefni. The gift book choice from the LAC was a Welsh/English dictionary.

Mr. R. JONES

For all of his 45 years' service in the electricity supply industry, Mr. Roy Jones worked in Caernarfon, beginning his career at the former Electricity Works in Victoria Dock.

During the last war he was with the RASC for six years and after distinguished service, rose to

the rank of Warrant Officer. Among his decorations was the Croix de Guerre.

Roy claims to have worked on every clerical job possible and, on his recent retirement, was the administrative assistant in charge of the Personnel section in our Gwynedd District.

Friends and colleagues, past and present, went along to the farewell ceremony to pay their own tributes to his helpfulness, friendship and his work. Making the official presentation on behalf of staff in the District, Mr. Malcolm Donaldson (*principal assistant-Admin.*) wished Roy a long and happy retirement and good health in the years ahead.

Roy said that he fully intends to enjoy himself "in a leisurely manner." He will follow his interests which include reading, crown green bowls, following football and solving crosswords.

... and Mid-Mersey

Mrs. E. NORCROSS

The spick and span appearance of our Frodsham shop is the result of the conscientious work done by Mrs. Edith Norcross, a cleaner who has worked for the Board for the past eleven years. Recently, when Edith retired from her job, friends at Frodsham presented her with a parting gift coupled with their best wishes for her happiness in the future. She also chose a dictionary as her gift from the LAC.

Edith's husband, Clifford, still works for us in the engineering section at Frodsham depot.

One of the two retiring members of our staff at Llangefni depot, Mr. Griff Hughes, centre, seen here after being presented with his retirement gifts by Mr. Ariel Thomas

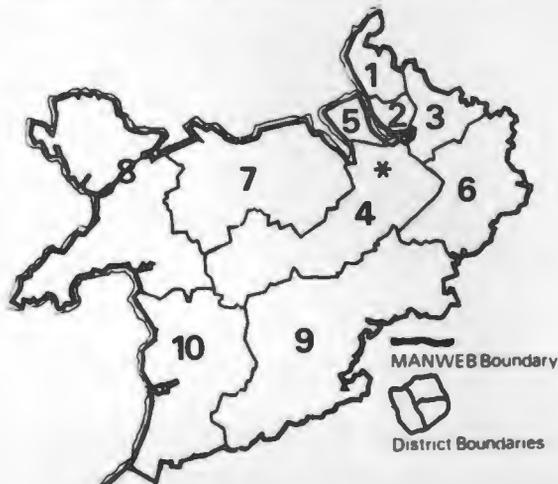




An up-to-date MANWEB shop in Birkenhead Shopping Precinct.

* HEAD OFFICE

Sealand Road, Chester, CH1 4LR.



DISTRICT OFFICES

1. **NORTH MERSEY**
Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside L30 4XA
2. **LIVERPOOL**
Lister Drive, Liverpool L13 7HJ.
3. **MID-MERSEY**
Wilderspool Causeway, Warrington WA4 6QD.
4. **DEE VALLEY**
Rhostyllen, Wrexham, Clwyd LL14 4DU.
5. **NORTH WIRRAL**
Craven Street, Birkenhead L41 4BT.
6. **MID-CHESHIRE**
Macon Way, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 1DQ.
7. **CLWYD**
Cefndy Road, Rhyl Clwyd LL18 2TT.
8. **GWYNEDD**
St. Helens Road, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 2YB.
9. **OSWESTRY**
Maesbury Road, Oswestry, Salop SY10 8JL.
10. **ABERYSTWYTH**
Lluest, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3UA.

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PROGRESS REPORT 1978/79

The Chairman says

When customers read that MANWEB made a profit of £11.8 million it is reasonable for them to ask whether this money will be used for their benefit and, in particular, to keep down the price of electricity.

In fact that is just what does happen to it. Our profit was entirely ploughed back into the business, helping to finance capital expenditure and to reduce our borrowings and interest payments. So profits help to keep our prices down in future years.

The long cold Winter means that the use of electricity, and our profit for the year, were higher than had been anticipated. Many people found that our new, low off-peak prices helped in providing home comfort during the Winter.

We were pleased to be able to keep electricity prices below the general level of inflation. We shall try hard to do the same in future years, but you all know that we live in an age of rising fuel prices and increasing fuel supply problems. The cost of coal and oil used in power stations will have a dominant influence on the price of electricity.

I would like to pay tribute to the unstinting efforts of our staff to maintain supplies, sometimes in blizzard conditions, and to improve our service to our customers.



MANWEB Chairman
Ben Hastings

THE MAIN POINTS

INCOME

£363 million

PROFIT

£11.8 million (3.2% of income)

CUSTOMERS

1,219,864 (up 15,707)

ELECTRICITY SALES

14,585 million units (up 2.7%)

AVERAGE DOMESTIC USE

3,998 units (up 2.25%)

APPLIANCE SALES

£8.98 million (up 23.8%)

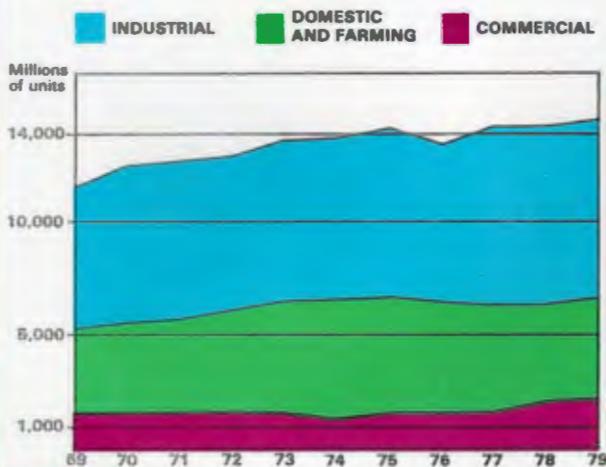
CONTRACTING SALES

£5.6 million (up 17.8%)

THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	1978/79
CUSTOMERS	1,160,294	1,174,506	1,186,904	1,204,157	1,219,864
ELECTRICITY SALES (millions of units)	14,185	13,561	14,278	14,206	14,585
PROFIT/LOSS	-£16.97m	-£9.05m	+£1.51m	+£7.63m	+£11.8m
NUMBER OF STAFF per 100,000 customers	553	532	505	489	483
AVERAGE DOMESTIC USE (units)	4,424	4,061	3,950	3,910	3,998

ELECTRICITY SALES



INDUSTRIAL SALES

	million units	%
CHEMICALS	3,204	40.8
IRON, STEEL AND MISCELLANEOUS METALS ...	1,144	14.6
GLASS, CEMENT AND BRICKS	582	7.4
FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO.....	494	6.3
VEHICLES	455	5.8
SHIPBUILDING AND ENGINEERING.....	412	5.3
COAL MINING AND QUARRYING.....	144	1.8
OIL REFINING	123	1.6
ALL OTHER INDUSTRIES	1,290	16.4

SALES OF ELECTRICITY

Sales to industry, the home, commerce, farms and public lighting authorities all increased, partly as a result of the severe Winter.

ELECTRICITY PRICES

Basic prices were increased by 6% in April 1978. The Fuel Cost Adjustment (which was abolished in the latter part of the year) added a further 1½% during the year. This meant that in real terms prices fell.

THE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

£12.6 million was spent on extending and strengthening the network, compared with £9.83 million the previous year. Particular attention was paid to renewing and modernising older parts of the network.

THE CODE OF PRACTICE

A simpler version of the "Code of Practice" was published during the year. The age of children protected by the provisions of the Code was raised from five to eleven.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Energy saving through the wise use of electricity was promoted in the national interest. Good standards of insulation and the building of low-energy housing was encouraged. Advice on energy-saving was made readily available to industry and commerce.

THEFT OF ELECTRICITY

Our counter-measures against the dishonest minority were stepped up. 1,300 cases were reported to the Police for prosecution (compared with 800 during the previous year).