



THE OFFICIAL GROUP OF DELEGATES AND GUESTS AT THE ONE-DAY L.A.C. CONFERENCE  
HELD AT NANTWICH CIVIC HALL:  
Principal officers of the Board, and the Sub-Areas, and guest speakers are included in front row.

# Contact



STUDY IN CONCENTRATION (see page 185)

*The Staff Magazine of the Merseyside  
and North Wales Electricity Board*

JUNE, 1957



THREEPENCE

Mr. J. McMinn hands over the McMinn Cup to Pat Quinn, skipper of the Marsh Lane team who defeated the Lister Drive in the final.



## Annual Meeting

### OF SPORTS AND WELFARE CLUB AT THINGWALL ROAD

Mr. J. McMinn (Chairman), speaking at the annual Meeting of the Liverpool Electric Power and Lighting Sports and Welfare Club at Thingwall Road on 26th April, referred to the value of *Contact* as a House Journal recording the day-to-day events of the Board's activities and said that all right thinking employees could not but recognise its worth in the field of public and human relations.

Mr. McMinn was welcoming the President of the Club, Alderman A. Critchley, and Vice-Presidents, Mr. M. M. Parker, Mr. A. Cassie, Mr. J. W. Smith and Mr. R. W. Stewart who were present at the meeting. Reporting a successful year's progress, he referred to the extensive alterations and improvements to the Club which had cost a considerable amount of money.

"This year will have to be devoted to the retrenchment and consolidation of our bank balance," said Mr. McMinn. "But we do feel that we have

provided something of a tangible nature for the money spent during the past year." Mr. McMinn also referred to the retirement after four years as Honorary Treasurer of the Club of Mr. K. Woodward (Derby House), and he welcomed Mr. H. R. Brooks (Derby House) as his successor at the financial reins.

Mr. McMinn was elected Chairman for the ninth consecutive year and Mr. R. H. C. Adams was re-elected Secretary for the fifth consecutive year.

### AUTOMATION?

A letter bearing the following references was received at Headquarters recently. It is hardly believable that the reference only took one line on the notepaper of the organisation concerned. Here it is: AKS/JL/TRN/BL/HR/DV/WCJ/142/43. This must have something to do with automation—if only that automation will spare us, we hope, too many similar agonies in the future!



# Contact

THE OFFICIAL STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE  
MERSEYSIDE AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

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No. 6

### EDITORIAL

## A Formidable Competitor

THE most formidable, and yet most friendly and natural competitor to the use of electricity is, of course, sunlight. The continuous radiation of light and heat from this glowing mass of hydrogen gas constitutes a permanent threat to the demand for the electricity we wish to meet in ever increasing quantities. Fortunately civilisation is on our side as many commercial and industrial buildings are now designed to rely more on the man-made (and probably more dependable) light and heat provided by electricity than on natural sunlight. On the other hand, the light and heat of the sun is available free of charge, a factor which seems to be less appreciated by people as time goes on. In the days of the Roman occupation, many events were

determined by the sun and the Ancient Britons' daily routine was based entirely on the sun's time-table. Now, it seems, modern civilisation is controlled more by the telly (according to *The Times* it is spelt 'telley') than the sundial. It would appear inevitable that the dictates of progress should decree universal floor-warming rather than the proper orientation of rooms to admit a greater quantity of the sun's heat; and miles of fluorescent tubing to replace the sunlight that could have streamed into the building had the windows been large enough or had there been any windows at all!

The sun's fickle temperament and unreliability in this country does tend to strengthen the need for a more dependable alternative form of lighting and heating,

Editorial—continued

and the most dependable source now available to the public is electricity. The fact that it is metered and charged for, whereas sunlight is not, is not such a burden as many care to believe. Electricity is still cheap—and amongst the few items in the domestic budget that has increased less than 10% since 1938.

This is the month when we expect to enjoy the maximum amount of sunlight—it has been called flaming June—so that one would expect this to be our most “competitive” month. But it is also the month when temperatures soar well into the sixties and the Board is now enjoying the warmth, commercially, by selling more immersion water heaters, refrigerators, fans and similar

appliances which are such a boon during summer months. Whilst the sun warms the human body it also encourages bacteriological activity and electric refrigerators are accepted as the best investment against food deterioration during storage in the home. What we lose on the electric fires we gain in many other ways; after all, it is an ill wind that blows no one any good.

\* \* \*

We are sorry to report the illness of Mr. P. d'E. Stowell, the Board's Chief Engineer, who has been away from the office for nearly a month. Mr. Stowell has been in hospital for observation and treatment and we hope to be able to record his early restoration to health.

**Power to Produce Power: Work in progress on erecting power lines to the Blaenau Ffestiniog Pump Storage Scheme. Left to right: J. R. Owen, Chargehand; O. W. Morris, E. W. Jones, D. H. Roberts, H. Williams, G. Owen; J. T. Jones, Foreman; A. M. Thomas, Section Engineer; and S. E. Jones.**



## COMMERCIAL COMMENTARY

By W. GILCHRIST (Chief Commercial Officer)



### Article 6: ELECTRICITY HELPS WITH THE HARVEST

*This article which refers to successful developments carried out by the Board to meet drying of crops requirements in the No. 2 Sub-area, is contributed by the joint authors Mr. Arthur R. Chorlton, Senior Assistant Commercial Engineer, No. 2 Sub-Area, and Mr. Adam Stewart, Northwich District Commercial Engineer, who have adequately described this valuable development.*

Over the past 18 years or so the farmers have been constantly exhorted to increase home production of stock feeding stuffs and, at the same time, have been faced with the problem of a labour force which has rapidly declined in size and increased in cost. To meet these adverse conditions, the use of mechanical aids has increased and the electricity supply industry has been pressed to provide a supply of electricity as quickly as possible to the maximum number of farms. The electricity industry has responded well and statistics show that the number of new farm connections has risen at a rate not thought possible by early pioneers. Never-the-less, the electricity consumption per individual farm remains quite low.

In order to speed rural development and encourage the existing consumer to make greater use of electricity much was done by Electricity Boards through exhibitions, talks to farming audiences, sales literature and similar media but it soon became evident that in the case of the farming industry (as in fact with many other industries) it requires more than exhortations or small scale demonstrations to get worthwhile results. The man on the job, the farmer, needed showing how the job should be done and why electricity does it so much better. Demonstrations were useful in a small way but full size practical applications would be more convincing.

#### BARN HAY DRYING

A typical example of this type of development is Barn Hay Drying by electricity. Since time immemorial farmers have cut grass, let it cure and dry in the sun and wind and then stored it for winter feed. This method is obviously very dependent upon the weather and, in a very good season, a fair proportion of the food value of the crop can be stored till winter but, alas, the really good seasons are few and far between. With a large increase in the number of cattle now on farms, a bad hay season means high prices for their food, which may be of doubtful value. Over a number of years various methods of accelerating drying have been tried but the physical difficulty in handling and drying a large mass of material remained. The grass cut from an acre of ground will average 1½ tons and will contain about 75% moisture. This moisture content must be reduced to about 20% to enable the hay to be kept safely in stacks or bales for the winter. Thus from every ton of grass cut, some 130 gallons of water will have to be removed, and this must be done soon after cutting.

The use of tractors, elevators and other machines would overcome the handling difficulty and it is, of course, possible to speedily remove the moisture by means of a large heating plant but the costs are high and the risk of damage to the food value of the crop during drying cannot be overlooked.

Electricity helps with the Harvest—continued.

### RESEARCH INTO DRYING

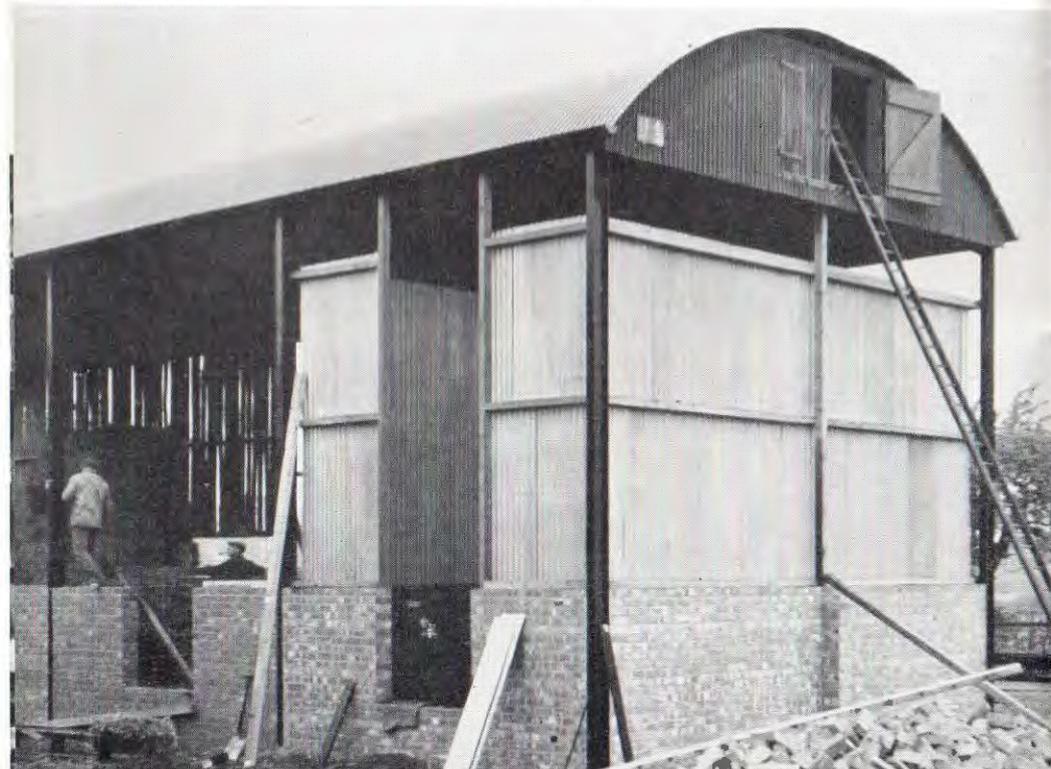
For the past ten years the Electrical Research Association, the Electricity Boards and other bodies have studied this drying problem and have developed by full scale trials a technique of drying the hay by alternative methods. These methods produce hay with more food value than the best hay made in the open in perfect weather. The first is by using fans blowing cold air only. The method is quite satisfactory and inexpensive in capital and running costs but it does involve a long drying period (9-12 days). A second method is to use cold air for one or two days and then finish the hay by applying warmed air for one day. Several plants of this type were successfully used in the last year or so and repaid the users and encouraged those engaged on the design and research.

### REMOVING GRAIN MOISTURE

One other problem which has faced the farmers is handling the grain harvest. In the past, corn was cut, arranged in stooks to dry, carted to stacks to await threshing out. The development of the combine harvester which cuts and threshes the corn in one operation at harvest time has proved a great time saver but the problem facing the combine user is that the moisture content of the grain must be reduced to about 14% before putting into storage.

When a consumer in the Northwich District of No. 2 Sub-Area became interested in hay drying and was also contemplating purchasing a grain dryer, it was suggested by MANWEB representatives that the two operations should be combined. The farm is of 400 acres, including 100 acres of grass land.

*Below: Conversion of Dutch barn into drying plant, using bricks to 6 ft. and corrugated sheeting above.*



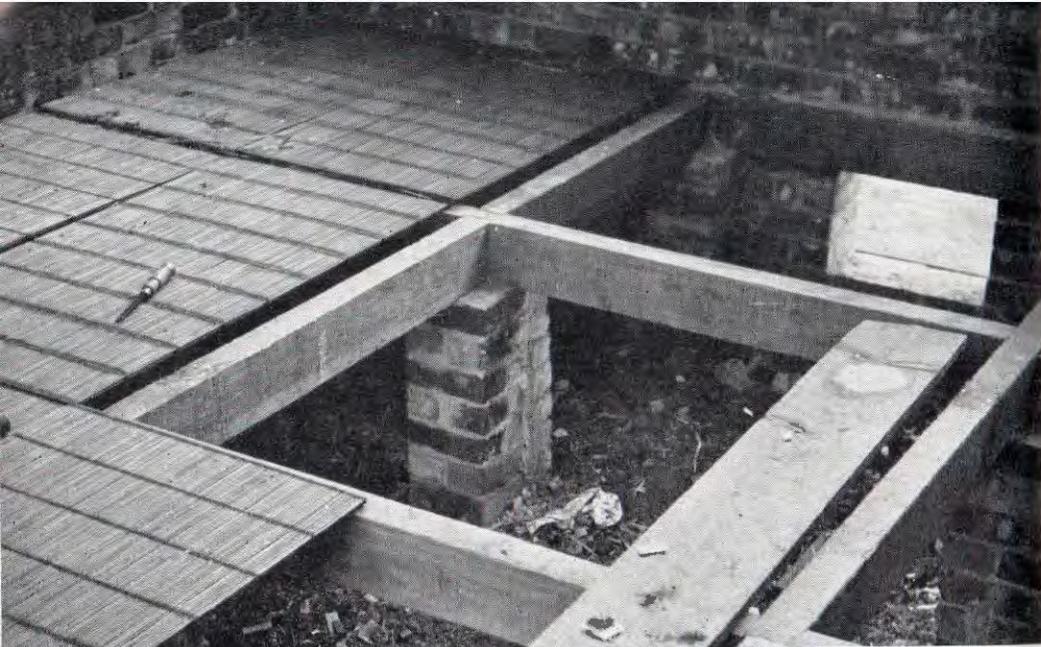
*Three electric fans arranged to blow air into the space under false floor, with switch distributor unit.*

A herd of 70 dairy shorthorn cattle is kept besides other stock. Already electricity was used fairly extensively and a 50 kW 3 phase transformer was situated in the stackyard. Each year a large proportion of the grass crop was made into silage and the farm was well equipped with mechanical aids for hay and grass handling. For the grain harvest (150-180 acres) a combine harvester was already in use.

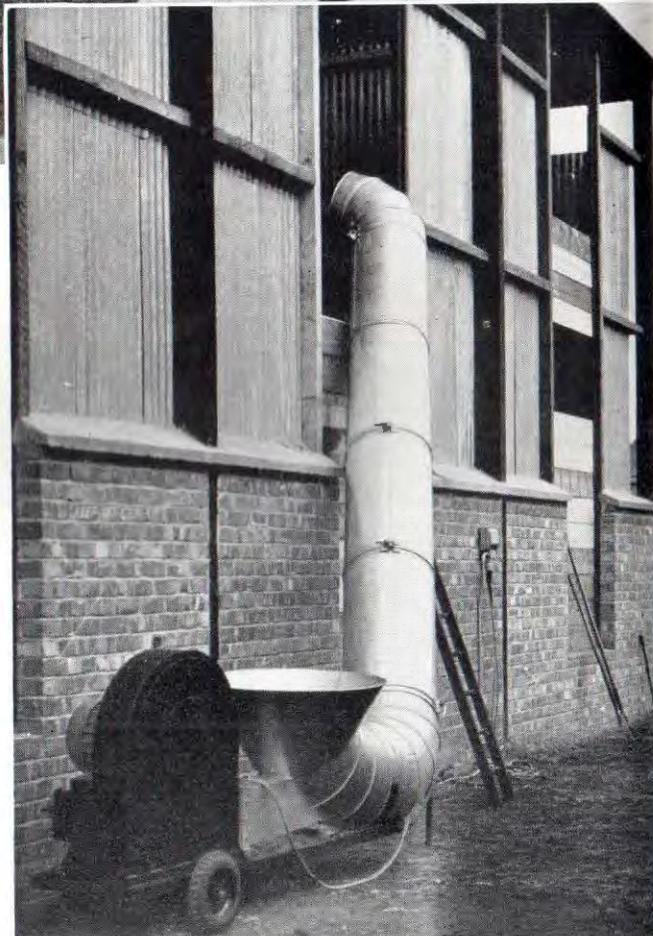
### EXPERIMENTAL DRYING PLANT

After careful consideration it was decided to adapt 3 bays of a dutch barn as a drying plant. The sides of the barn and dividing walls were built up with brickwork and corrugated iron sheeting to a height of 18 feet, thereby making three separate chambers. A false floor was constructed about 2 feet above the ground level and each floor was covered with a special screen made up from welded steel rods. These rods, which are about one-eighth of an inch in diameter, are supported at regular intervals by larger rods and all welded together into panels 4 ft. 6 in. x 2 ft. 3 in. for ease of handling.

The restricted space between the top rods prevents grains of corn falling through. On one outside wall three fans are fixed, one for each bay, each fan having two separate 2½ h.p. electric motors. These fans blow air into the space below the false floor and up through the screens forming the floor. A 36 kW electric heater is also provided and by means of a flexible cable can be moved for fitting to any of the fans. Thus the plant can deliver large quantities of cold air or can be regulated to deliver a smaller quantity of warm air.



*Above:* False floor panels forming air grid. There are 30 panels per bay. Depth of grain 5 ft.



*Right:* Pneumatic conveyor for delivering cut grass to centre bay. The conveyor is mobile.

Electricity helps with the Harvest—*continued*

### **BLOWING HOT AND COLD**

When dealing with the hay crop the procedure is for the grass to be cut in the morning and turned once or twice in the field during the day. (This enables about a quarter of the moisture to be removed without loss of food value.) It is then carried to the dryer and loaded on to the drying floor and the fans switched on blowing cold air. After two days the heater is brought into use and the hay-making finished off, absolutely independent of the weather. Since there are three bays in the plant, successive loadings can be made and as soon as one load is ready another can be either placed on top of this (up to a height of 14-15 feet) or the hay can be removed and baled for storage. Last year some 60 tons of first class hay were produced with this plant at a time when many farmers abandoned all hope of saving hay.

With the same plant moisture is removed from the grain fresh from the harvest field to render it safe for storage. The grain collected from the combine harvester is unloaded from trucks and, with an electrically driven pneumatic conveyor, spread directly on to the floors. For the first day or so heat is applied and when the temperature and moisture content of the grain are satisfactory, cold air only is used to finish off the drying process. The 3 bay arrangement of the dryer enables different crops (i.e., wheat, oats, barley) to be harvested and dried at the same time, and thereby simplifies the farmer's job at this busy time.

### **SUCCESS ACKNOWLEDGED**

This combined plant has attracted considerable interest and has been visited by representatives of the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering, the County Agricultural Executive Committee, and the Rural Electrification Department of the C.E.A. but perhaps the most convincing comment is that of the user—"It's a grand job".

Although this dryer is dealing with the requirements of a fairly large farm, plants with even one or two bays can be used on the smaller farms. No special new buildings are needed and many existing barns can be readily adapted. The plants can be used on single or 3 phase electricity supplies and the smaller ones can work on about 20 kW of load.

In the first season approximately 20,000 units of electricity were used for the making of over 60 tons of hay and drying over 200 tons of grain. This proved a very economical proposition for the farmer. All the electricity was supplied from the existing transformer and service line during the four summer months when the rural networks are very lightly loaded.

Thus MANWEB makes hay while the sun does NOT shine and can make any day a good drying day!

- *The photographs illustrating this article were taken and produced by Mr. Eric Hillidge, of the Display Section, No. 2 Sub-Area.*

### **"CONTACT" PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

This amateur competition is open to all members of the staff. Details appeared in the May number of *Contact*. Independent judges will assess the merit of your entries. Prizes of Premium Bonds in two classes; the competition closes on 30th September 1957. Further particulars and rules will be published shortly.

## Opened with "Chinese Chew"

### New Service Centre in Sandbach

Manweb's latest Service Centre—in Congleton Road, Sandbach—had something of an Oriental opening on 2nd May, when there was a ceremonial christening with an excellent dish of "Chinese Chew",\* prepared, cooked (by electricity, of course) and served by Miss M. Boffey, Crewe's District Senior Demonstrator, in the presence of Mr. H. Neville (Crewe District Commercial Engineer), Mr. R. Stewart (Rhostyllen), Miss G. Baxendale, who will be in charge of the Centre, representatives of the Commercial Sales Staff, and an interested audience of the general public.

Replacing the existing centre in Crewe Road, Sandbach, the new building is strategically situated (from a business point of view) on a corner facing Sandbach's busy little market place which is a meeting ground for much of the shopping population of South Cheshire on market and other days. It has two large exterior windows, and a feature of the tastefully decorated interior is the concealed Venetian blinds which can be lowered to partition the interior of the window from the sales floor. Laid out in the form of an 'L', one arm of which may be used as a demonstration theatre, there are also facilities for the payment of accounts.

An attractive feature of the clever decorative scheme is a realistic window mural of a country scene which was painted by Mrs. E. M. Dutton, of Crewe, an artist who has exhibited in London and has had many successes.

In addition to Miss Baxendale, the staff comprises Mrs. M. Heathcote, Mr. A. Hughes, assisted temporarily by Miss J. Bimson from the Crewe Service Centre. Currently at the centre is a demonstration of Hoover appliances in charge of Mrs. M. Simms.

\*We should like to recommend the delicious recipe to all our lady readers and perhaps some of the gentlemen. Miss Boffey is obviously an expert, but we feel quite sure that the facility of electric cooking can bring this delightful pastry into other homes.

Here is the recipe and if you don't enjoy it the Editor may send a box of "Black Magic" choccs. or 20 cigarettes to any who write in and tell him reasonably why!

3 ozs. Flour; 3 ozs. Margarine;  
5 ozs. Sugar; 2 Eggs; 4 ozs.  
Chopped Walnuts; 10 ozs.  
Dates.

Cream fat and sugar. Beat in egg. Add flour, chopped dates and walnuts. Bake 400° F. for 20 minutes.

#### PHOTOGRAPHS OPPOSITE →

Top right: Mr. H. Neville hands round the "Chinese Chew" to members of the public who attended the opening ceremony. Centre: Miss M. Boffey at work in the small demonstration theatre presenting electricity through cookery. Below: Left to right. A group of the staff at the new Sandbach Service Centre, Mrs. M. Simms, Miss M. Boffey, Miss J. Bimson, and Miss G. Baxendale.



## The New Sandbach Service Centre

Mrs. M. Simms demonstrates a Hoover vacuum cleaner, with Miss J. Bimson (right) lending encouragement.



The main window at the Service Centre with a replica of Mr. Philip Harben in action.



A group of Manweb staff concerned with the Service Centre on the opening day. Left to right: Mr. K. Mason, Mr. H. Neville, Miss G. Baxendale, and Mr. R. Stewart.



Personnel of No. 3 Sub-Area who received awards for First Aid under the British Electricity Ambulance Centre scheme.

### FIRST AID CERTIFICATES

First Aid Certificates were presented to 21 employees of No. 3 Sub-Area Headquarters and Chester District by Mr. J. Kellett, Sub-Area, Manager on 11th April in the Princess Street Canteen, Chester.

The certificates were awarded following instruction of a class of 26, of whom 4 were re-examined successfully as follows: 1 Medallion and 3 Labels.

Appreciation of the services of Dr. C. K. Sconce who instructed the class were expressed by Mr. Kellett.

The list of recipients was: Mr. B. A. Allman, Mr. W. Allmark, Mr. J. B. Davies, Mr. F. Evans, Miss E. M. George, Mr. C. Holmes, Mr. H. Oldfield, Miss S. M. Timmins, Mr. W. L. Topping, Miss D. Townsend, Mr. L. Walters, Mr. J. Atkins, Mr. S. Shratt, Mr. W. R. Cox, Mr. J. E. McGovern, Mr. J. P. Warburton, Miss M. A. Holmes, Mr. Parkinson, Mrs. J. Gwyther, Mr. J. E. Hampton, Mr. K. S. Jones.

All of the above received First Aid Certificates except Mr. K. S. Jones who received a Voucher.

The following were successfully re-examined, but the awards are not yet to hand: Mr. L. C. Hampson—Label; Mr. J. S. Rodgers—Label; Mr. F. B. Whiteley—Label; Mr. G. F. Richards—Medallion.

### BRITISH LEGION HONOUR

Mr. Percy Hill, who is well known to readers as the Chairman's Chauffeur, has been honoured with one of the British Legion's highest awards.

At the Legion's annual Conference on the Isle of Man at Whitsuntide he was presented with the National Executive Council's Certificate of Appreciation for his services in the North Western Area.

Mr. Hill served in the 1914-18 war in the King's Regt. and last year completed 25 years' service in the electricity supply industry. He has a distinguished record of service to the British Legion movement both locally and nationally.

## *At the Sign of the Contented Cat*

Mrs. B. Bell and Blackie, "the cat with 999 lives",  
at the Southport District Office switchboard.



## *The Southport District Story*



*This month, "Contact's" roving reporter visited the bustling and prosperous Southport District, and in the following pages we see some of the staff and what has been achieved in its short history.*

It was in 1892 that the Municipality of Southport resolved to "Lay down plant and furnish a supply for those who wished to have the electric light". Since that date when the initial demand on the Southport Generating Station was no less than 5,000 8 c.p.

lamps, the demand has increased to just over 29 mega-watts in 1956 and is increasing year by year.

From a small area covering the town centre only, Southport Corporation increased the area of supply to take in Crossens, Churchtown and Ainsdale. In 1941 they acquired the Birkdale District Electric Supply Company and in 1948 the Formby Urban District Council undertaking was vested in the Board. The supply is taken from the North Western

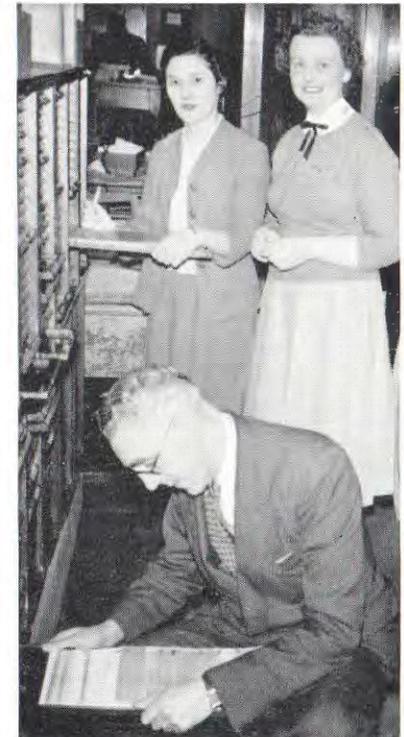


The Consumers' Records Section. Miss K. Mellor, in front, Miss P. Hartley and Mr. J. Robinson.

Board at Formby. The total number of consumers in the whole district is now 31,000.

The District Office previously situated on the site of the present District Office in picturesque Lord Street was demolished in 1951 and only the Demonstration Theatre built in 1938 remains.

The office, showroom and workshop buildings, which were formerly an ice skating rink known as the 'Glaciarium', failed to withstand the test of time and were considered dangerous. Overnight the District Office was transferred to a house overlooking Hesketh Park. Due to the demands of the Hospital Board, from whom this accommodation was rented, the District Office was uprooted once more and in September, 1955, the Staff returned to occupy the present temporary accommodation on the site of the original office.



Front: Mr. S. Marsh. Left: Miss N. B. Black. Right: Miss I. Leyland.

## *People Seen in the Southport District Offices*



Our photograph above shows a group of outdoor staff taking a breather from their job, laying street lighting cable. *Left to right:* Messrs. C. Ashley, P. James, H. Rothwell, J. Henighan, W. Sutton (Section Engineer), and W. Dawson.

## *Outside and Inside at Southport*

Below we catch the smiles of the District Office ladies of the clerical staff. *Front left:* Mrs. S. Pimblett, Mrs. I. Walmsley. *Front right:* Miss H. McKinnon, Mrs. B. J. Land, Miss A. Hurst, Miss D. Cooper.



In 1955, Mr. H. Davies took over from Mr. W. T. Gann as District Manager, with Mr. F. S. Boddington as District Engineer, Mr. Webb Jones as District Commercial Engineer, and Mr. T. Dutton as District Senior Clerk.

During 1956, three modern Service Centres were opened in the District at 171 Lord Street, 22 Liverpool Road, Birkenhead, and 2 Station Road, Ainsdale. These Service Centres are amongst the most up-to-date in the Board's area, Ainsdale and Southport being heated by means of electrical floor warming.



Miss M. Tunks, a trainee demonstrator, cooking Scotch Pancakes on a Creda "Carefree" automatic cooker.



Miss I. Waring, cashier in the new Southport Service Centre at 171 Lord Street.

The present staff consists of 52, which includes technical, clerical, administrative and showroom, together with 124 manual employees.

The district boasts of an extremely active Social Club run in conjunction with the Division which looks after the social affairs and welfare activities in the District.

\* \* \*

Miss Marjorie Allison, Headquarters, Duplicator Operator, has passed the Intermediate (Stage II) Examination of the Royal Society of Arts in typewriting.

### COVER PICTURE

Students at the Sales Training Centre, Wallasey. *Left to right (front):* Mrs. N. M. Rockett, Wallasey; Mr. R. Gerrard, Birkenhead; *(back)* Mrs. M. Bowen, Ruthin; Miss D. P. Jones, Twyn; and Mrs. F. M. Burrow, Garston.



## ***"Only Half the Story..."***

By PETER W. BLACKWELL

"Whenever I come into this Service Centre, no one seems to know anything!" complained one consumer . . . "That isn't the advice I received at your other Service Centre in Anytown!" said another . . . "Those people in the Service Centre make an awful lot of mistakes!" grumbled a member of the District Office Staff . . . And the D.C.E. thought—"I wish I could get my staff to sell as well as they seem to do in 'X' District!" . . .

All fair comment? I can well imagine half of you saying "yes"—and the other half protesting "no"! Yet, fair or otherwise, let us recognise them as typical of their kind—and as such, none of us who live and work for this important organisation can afford to ignore them. They are danger signals.

We who work in the Board's Service Centres are in the public eye all the time and that is one of the reasons why we attract comment. Are we really as bad as the examples quoted would suggest?

First of all let's regard them as generalisations. They ignore—and I hope our critics don't—the excellent job performed by the majority working under difficulties which have to be experienced to be fully appreciated. Almost by the minute, they are likely to meet a different consumer and a different problem. Complaints concerning themselves or any other section of the organisation—justified or otherwise, friendly or abusive—are frequently their lot. And despite all this, it is common to find a high degree of enthusiasm for their work!

### **Organised Training**

Imagine, John and Joan, if you have received training for your present job, just how difficult it would have been to tackle it without that initial training. Our job is a "specialist" one—the practice of human relations—and yet, in many cases, we have received comparatively little training in this or the many other fields for which we must possess a working knowledge!

Many of us, in an effort to get this training have taken the E.D.A. Salesmanship Correspondence Course and have attended evening meetings to learn more about the latest electrical appliances—all in our own time. Despite the frequently hectic nature of our work, we have attempted to learn from experience and from the example of others.

This represents the credit side—and one worth recording. However, without in the least decrying the advantages derived from the efforts mentioned, it is merely stating the obvious to say that a national industry such as ours with a vital role to play could not long afford to employ hit or miss tactics in the training of its sales staff. And so it was, after consideration at national level, that the Board promptly approved a scheme of training for sales staff and the provision of the essential facilities.

### **A Convenient Centre**

Accommodation was chosen for the Area Sales Training Centre over the Wallasey Service Centre. Alterations were carried out to the premises and basic equipment ordered. An Instructor—to be in charge of the Centre and, more specifically, to instruct on general and sales matters—was appointed and an initial training syllabus and programme of courses drawn up. The Centre and Course arrangements came under the direction of Mr. J. L. W. Ladner (Education and Training Officer). From the first guidance has been received from Mr. W. Gilchrist, the Chief Commercial Officer; and Mr. T. R. Smith, Assistant Chief Commercial Officer who have shown keen interest by making every effort to welcome each course personally and to visit the Centre as often as possible during training.

*"Only Half the Story..."—continued.*

### **Two Weeks' Training**

What does the initial training consist of? At present it consists of two weeks' instruction with an interval of approximately a month between each week. Whilst the introduction of new methods and features is not excluded, it is essentially a rapid "check-up" on the basic knowledge and practice of the 220 men and women who make up the Board's Service Centre staff.

In the first week, those attending the course, guided by the instructors, examine the background of the industry and study the technical aspects of their work, electric cooking, home laundry and water heating. They also receive a grounding in the understanding of sales promotion, and a resumé of the personal qualities and sales techniques demanded by this type of work. All take part in a practical selling exercise.

During the second week, storage type water heating, space heating, lighting, refrigerators, cleaners, polishers and minor appliances come under review. These, together with revision of the appliances dealt with in the first week, are examined—particularly in relation to competitive fuels and other "objections" to purchase—and this approach forms the basis of further practical selling exercises. The remaining time is devoted to consideration of the basic facts underlying a wide range of consumer problems and the right attitude to adopt in answering them.

Initial training, as a whole, is receiving full support from the four Sub-Areas. Members of their staffs are loaned to the Centre to give additional technical instruction relative to a knowledge of appliances. Facilities for outside visits to Board installations are also kindly arranged.

**DEEP IN THOUGHT!** *Left to right: Mr. R. Strange, Chester; Mr. S. F. Gordon, Kirkby; Mr. B. Garrett, Shotton; Mrs. L. M. Winkler, Winsford; Mrs. N. Szostek, Northwich; and Miss M. Tomlinson, Northwich, at a lecture.*





**HOME LAUNDRY:** Miss Scott, Guest Demonstrator at the Course, explains a point to a questioner.

In an interview Mr. Blackwell, the Instructor finds out how he can help a student.

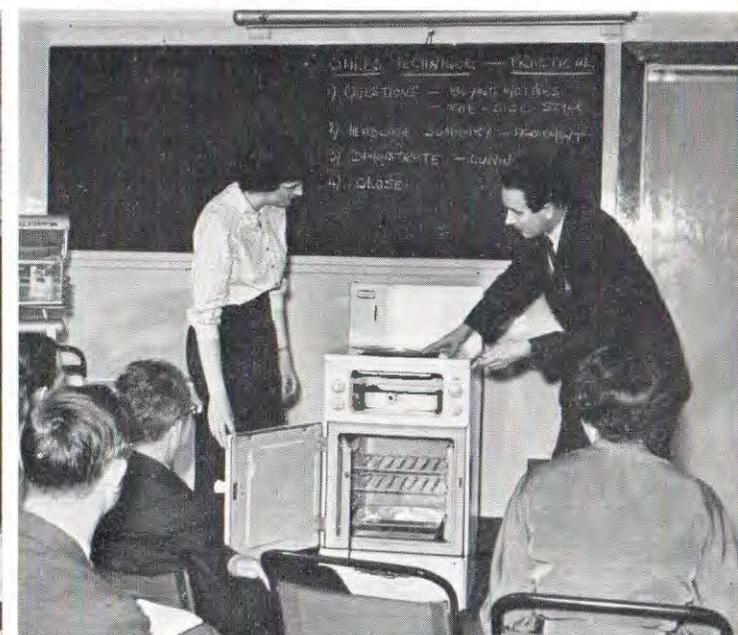
This group of students engaged in discussion, includes Mrs. Lemman, Miss Bimson, and Messrs. Holliday, Ambrose, Twiggs, Cussons, and Atkinson, with Mr. Blackwell, the Instructor.

## *The Sales Training Centre at Wallasey*

**TEA BREAK:** There is always something to look at and discuss to advantage.

Mr. Blackwell describes the chart to Mrs. Morton, and Mr. Ambrose.

**PRACTICAL SELLING:** Mr. Cussons (Whitechapel) explains to Miss Bimson (Crewe) why this modern cooker will meet all her needs.



"Only Half the Story . . ."—concluded.

#### Visual Aids Assist

Where practicable, films and film-strips are employed to supplement the spoken word. Manufacturers have co-operated by sending examples of equipment, sectionalised models and wall charts which, together with the Board's own material, are also made available for closer examination during tea and other breaks.

Perhaps the biggest single contribution made by the Course is the valuable facility for discussion. The presence in each Course of three members from each Sub-Area makes for friendly, intimate contact and for a free exchange of knowledge and views. The formal and informal discussions which take place provide real benefit and the Course has been more successful where full advantage has been taken of this. All who could arrange to stay at the excellent private hotel situated nearby have been encouraged to do so in order to make the best use of the opportunities for discussion.

By the end of May, nearly 60 of your Service Centre colleagues had completed both weeks' training. During the past four months, the course has undergone a process of modification and improvement and that process will be continued when training re-commences next Autumn after the holiday period.

#### Aims and Ambitions

In pursuing this aim of the best possible course, great assistance has been given by those who have already attended, and by the senior sales staff who have twice visited the Centre to make helpful suggestions. Future plans for the Centre are still under consideration but it augurs well when the greatest possible encouragement comes from those who receive the training and from those who have to bear the shortage of staff resulting from attendance at these courses.

As Instructor, I would like to add one thought. From the personal interviews that I have had and the contact with my colleagues throughout the courses, I have formed the impression that when all have attended the Centre for initial training, we shall be well on the way to eliminating those critical comments with which this article commenced. But we, the industry's "front-line troops", in turn look to *you* for constant understanding and support. When we fail to get this—and it happens sometimes—our task is ten times more difficult. So please, John and Joan, *pass* the "ammunition"—don't fire it at us!

*"Contact" costs you half-a-crown a year, mind you,  
so do not frown!*

*Three pence a month is all you pay, to read the  
news, and what they say*

*In Anglesey, and Oswestry; Widnes, Crewe and  
Wallasey.*

*All this for half-a-crown a year. Could you get it  
cheaper? No fear!*

**IS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION UP TO DATE?**



The delegates listen to a speaker in session, in a lecture theatre in the Technical College. In the front row are Mr. R. N. Pegg and Mr. M. M. Parker; in the second row are guest speakers and senior officers of the No. 4 Sub-Area.

## L.A.C. CONFERENCE at Wrexham

"Everybody out for the Group Photograph!" and here they are closely grouped—a mass of Manweb humanity outside the Technical College, Wrexham.





The group of delegates at the One Day Conference held at

## More L.A.C. Conferences

On March 23rd, No. 7b and 18 Local Advisory Committees held a One Day Conference at Glynllifon Farm Institute, Caernarvon.

Glynllifon is situated in beautiful grounds, which at this time of the year are ablaze with colour from spring flowers, rhododendrons and magnolias. The property was originally the family seat of Lord Newborough, but like so many of these old stately homes, upkeep proved such a burden that the house and grounds have now passed into the hands of the Caernarvonshire County Council, and it is in use as a Farm Institute, and many Welsh farmers of the future will no doubt receive their training there.

Mr. R. N. Pegg, the Sub-Area Manager, was Chairman for the day, and opened the Conference with a talk on "Sub-Area Activities". This is a subject in which we are all very interested and Mr. Pegg was listened to with great attention, made easy by the

attractive content of his talk.

After a break for coffee, Mr. P. Briggs, Deputy Controller, North West, Merseyside and North Wales Division, gave an extremely interesting talk, illustrated by films on "Calder Hall" and "Nuclear Power". Mr. Briggs is an old friend and his talk was as lively as we all expected it to be, but our interest was tinged with a considerable amount of regret, as it was realised that due to promotion, this would probably be the last occasion upon which Mr. Briggs would address us. Mr. Pegg, as Chairman, made some appropriate remarks on this subject at the conclusion of Mr. Briggs' address, to which the latter responded.

A good lunch was provided by the Canteen Staff at the Farm Institute, and as there had to be two sittings, an opportunity was afforded to those attending to stroll around the grounds. A group photograph was taken and is reproduced.



Glynllifon Farm Institute Caernarvon, including the guests.

After lunch Mr. Arthur Jones, Head of the Works Study Department, British Aluminium Corporation, gave an excellent talk illustrated by films on the subject of "Productivity". This was greatly appreciated.

After a break for tea, the Senior Sub-Area Officers, who were present, formed themselves into a panel and successfully coped with a number of questions which had been placed in the question box during the course of the day. These released some valuable information.

This was the third Conference to be held at Glynllifon, and the 130 members of the staff from Anglesey, Caernarvon and Merioneth (Board and Division) who were present were all agreed that it was the best held yet, and we now look forward to the next.

### AT WREXHAM

A successful L.A.C. Conference of employees was held at Wrexham in April. The total attendance this year was more than 150, of which 145 were members of the Board's

staff. This is the largest attendance recorded in this District for some time, and with such a large and enthusiastic assembly, the scene was set for a very happy and instructive day.

Owing to the indisposition of the appointed Chairman, Mr. R. M. Broadfoot, Mr. R. N. Pegg, Sub-Area Manager, took the Chair for the day.

The programme was similar to that presented on previous L.A.C. conferences successfully held in other parts of the Sub-Area. Mr. Blunt repeated his fascinating lecture "Matters Electrical". Mr. Pegg gave a fascinating round-up of Sub-Area activities which released a wealth of information which was of great benefit to the delegates, and Mr. D. F. Grant, of the C.E.A. Division, talked on "Building Calder Hall and Nuclear Power". Films were shown.

At the Open Forum which concluded the day's programme many questions were answered by the panel of speakers augmented by the principal officers of No. 4 Sub-Area.

## National Public Speaking Contest

Once again the North has been successful in winning the major awards in the E.D.A. Public Speaking Competition, held in London on May 8th and 9th. This year the Faraday Silver Challenge Shields have been won by the Merseyside and North Wales Board (women's section) and the North Western Board (men's section). Only on one occasion since the shields were first awarded in 1949, has an Electricity Board not situated in the North of England or Scotland won the shield.

We all extend hearty congratulations to Miss Joan M. Williams, who has won the women's contest. Second place went to Mrs. Irene Bird, a service centre assistant at Doncaster, Yorkshire Electricity Board, who spoke on "The Importance of Clean Air", and third place to Miss Pamela W.

Leith, demonstrator, Worcester District, Midlands Electricity Board, whose subject was "Is Electricity the Answer?"

Miss Joan Williams, of Ty Mawr, Bettws-yn-Rhos, near Abergele, is a demonstrator in the Conway Valley (Llandudno) District of the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board.

To reach this stage of the competition, Miss Williams had first to win her local area contest, and in the national final she competed against nine other area winners from all parts of the country. The subject of her prize winning speech was "So You Want to be a Demonstrator". Speaking in London is no new experience for Miss Williams as she also reached the national final last year, although on that occasion she was unplaced.

*Below: Mr. V. W. Dale, Vice-President of E.D.A., presents the Faraday Shield to the winner, Miss Joan M. Williams, Conway Valley District.*



## PRESENTATION to Miss Kathleen Hassall at Crewe



A representative gathering from the Sub-Districts of Nantwich, Sandbach and Woolstanwood, joined their colleagues at the District Office, Crewe, on the 29th March, to bid farewell to Miss Kathleen Hassall and to wish her happiness on her marriage on the 30th April.

Kathleen has completed seventeen years as Dictaphone typist with the Board and the pre-vesting Company.

On behalf of her colleagues Mr. H. Neville, District Commercial Engineer, presented her with a crystal glass fruit set, an electric kettle, and table standard. He also handed to her a script in copperplate, as follows:—

"To Kathleen Hassall, on the occasion of your leaving the employment of the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board (No. 1 District of No. 4 Sub-Area) on the 29th March, 1957.

Your colleagues wish you to accept the gifts we now proffer with every good wish for your forthcoming marriage on the 30th April, 1957, and with the wish that your memories of your association with old colleagues at Crewe, Nantwich, Sandbach and Woolstanwood, will be of the happiest.

On behalf of your well wishers, of which I am but one.

(Signed) H. Neville."

### Public Speaking—continued

The top award in this competition is the Faraday Silver Challenge Shield, which the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board will hold for one year. The last time they held the women's shield (there is also a men's section of the competition) was in 1955. Miss Williams which she retains.

Mr. Bryan H. Derbyshire, of the Warrington Service Centre, competed in the Men's Finals and was unfortunate to be only

a "runner-up" to the winner, Mr. Denis I. Wrigley, of the North Western Board.

Mr. V. W. Dale, Vice-President of the E.D.A., presented the awards to the winners. The Board also won the Shield in 1954 and 1955 (women) and in 1952 (men).

\* \* \*

On the 11th May, 1957 Mr. L. C. Jones, District Senior Clerk of the Anglesey District was, for the first time, a contestant for election to the Llangefni District Council. Though not successful Mr. Jones polled over 500 votes.

## WEDDING



The marriage took place on 30th March, 1957, at St. Peter's Church, Parr, St. Helens, between Miss Lily Dixon, Appliance Workshop, St. Helens District No. 2, and Mr. Charles Corden. The bride was given a hairdryer with the best wishes and congratulations of her colleagues at St. Helens.

## BREVITIES

Mr. Peter Rocke has become a *Contact* Correspondent for the Caernarvon District and will look after the interests of *Contact* in his locality in the future.

\* \* \*

We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to normal health to William Hill (Mains Department, St. Helens District), who has been off duty for several months due to ill-health.

We welcome Mr. S. Baldwin who has joined the St. Helens District, No. 2 Sub-Area, from the Yorkshire Electricity Board at Scunthorpe, as Installation Inspection Engineer.

\* \* \*

Mr. Elwyn Edwards, who is the Senior Service Centre Assistant at Menai Bridge, and his wife are congratulated on the birth of a daughter named Gwenfil on the 10th April.

\* \* \*

We are pleased to hear that Mr. A. C. Froude, Assistant Engineer (Operations), Anglesey District, who has been absent owing to a serious illness lasting several months, is now making a steady recovery.

\* \* \*

Best wishes to Mr. D. Howe, Assistant Section Engineer, St. Helens District, No. 2 Sub-Area, who left St. Helens District on 30th April, 1957, to take up an appointment with the North Eastern Electricity Board at Harrogate. Mr. H. C. Barr, District Engineer, presented Mr. Howe with a Brief Case on behalf of colleagues at St. Helens.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to Mr. W. H. Davies, Section Engineer, St. Helens District No. 2 Sub-Area, on the birth of a second son, Edward Peter. We wish mother and baby good health.

\* \* \*

Mr. Arthur Taylor (Love Lane) has won a *Daily Mirror* National Table Tennis Award—a miniature, inscribed bat for being amongst the finalists.

\* \* \*

Miss D. Edwards has been nominated a *Contact* Correspondent for Blaenau Ffestiniog.

## No. 4 Sub-Area Inter-Departmental Football Competition

This year's competition attracted entries from five departments: Vauxhall Construction, Drawing Office, Willow Road, Legacy, Costs and Revenue.

In the first round Legacy beat Willow Road by 4 goals to 1. In the semi-final Vauxhall beat Legacy 3-2 and Drawing Office and Costs and Revenue drew 3-3. Costs and Revenue later withdrew from the Competition, so Vauxhall met the Drawing Office in the final which was held on the Rhostyllen Sports Club Ground on 7th May. Drawing Office won

by 4 goals to 3, and so regained the trophy they last won in the 1949/50 season.

After the match, the trophy and medals were presented to the winning team by Mr. P. Blunt (Sub-Area Engineer and Chairman of the Sports and Social Club), who was introduced by Mr. J. L. Thomas, Welfare Officer.

Refreshments for the players and supporters were provided by three young ladies of the Sports Club—Miss D. Wakelin, Miss G. Williams and Miss M. E. Jones.



Mr. P. Blunt, No. 4 Sub-Area Engineer, presenting the Football Shield to the Drawing Office Captain E. I. Evans. Behind is Mr. J. L. Thomas, Welfare Officer for the No. 4 Sub-Area.

### "Contact" Files

Any member of the staff who is desirous of obtaining back numbers of *Contact* may obtain them free of charge on application to the Editor at Headquarters. Back numbers are available for the last six months, and there are odd copies of previous months available on enquiry.

### Champion Blood Donor

Congratulations to Miss R. V. Mooney, Head Typist at Headquarters, who is the champion blood donor for the Liverpool District, having given no less than 73 donations of blood during the last twenty years. This is an example to everyone in such an excellent cause.



**No. 4  
SUB-AREA  
FOOTBALL  
FINALISTS**

⊙

**THE TROPHY WINNERS FOR 1957**

**Drawing Office Team**—Back row, left to right: K. Pritchard, M. Cooksley, E. Lewis, H. Evans, R. Jones, J. R. Hughes. Front row: G. Jones, D. Evans, E. I. Evans, D. Davies, L. Roberts.

**Vauxhall Construction Team**—Back row, left to right: Messrs. J. Williams (Referee), G. Williams, D. Jones, C. Brown, H. Williams, D. R. Hughes, E. Cartwright, Front row: I. Green, V. Sear, D. M. P. Jones, O. Evans, B. Roberts.



⊙



***Nalgo Footballers***

The No. 4 Sub-Area Office Nalgo Football Team which met Anglesey County Council at Rhyl on 2nd March, in the Final of the North Wales Championship, Anglesey won by 4 goals to 2. Back row—left to right: T. Williams, E. Lewis, H. Richards, D. Fairhurst, R. Williams, K. Spencer. Front row: G. Sproston, D. F. W. Davies, G. Jones (Captn.), D. L. Evans, J. Hughes.

**E.D.A.  
SALESMANSHIP COURSE**

The annual E.D.A. Salesmanship Course oral examinations were held throughout the Board's Area during the fortnight which commenced on Tuesday, 21st May. There were 12 candidates from No. 1 Sub-Area; 12 from No. 2 Sub-Area; 6 from No. 3 Sub-Area and 41 from No. 4 Sub-Area.

They were examined by Mr. J. A. Stedman, E.D.A. Education Officer, who was assisted by Mr. W. H. Lee (for No. 1 Sub-Area);

Mr. G. E. Lowe (for No. 2 Sub-Area); Mr. S. E. Hunt (for No. 3 Sub-Area), and Mr. H. Greaves (for No. 4 Sub-Area). Out of the total number of 71 candidates, 12 were women. The examinations were conducted at Hatton Garden, Liverpool; Buttermarket Street (Warrington) Service Centre; Birkenhead Service Centre; Rhostyllen Sub-Area Office; and the District Office, Llandudno Junction.

The results are not yet available but will be published in due course.

## STILL GOING STRONG

Everyone at Caernarvon was most sorry on the 13th of April to have to say goodbye to Mr. R. Lloyd, Caretaker and Watchman at St. Helens Road, on the occasion of his retirement. As Mr. Lloyd retired the day before his 79th birthday, it is quite possible that he was the oldest Board's employee at this time, and although he had not been with the Board for a very long period, he had been associated with St. Helens Road for many years.

He was for a very long time with our next door neighbours, the Gas Board, and subsequently became gardener for Mr. Graham Bunn, the owner of the bungalow which is now the District Office. The gardens which Mr. Lloyd laid out were such that they attracted visitors from many miles around. Peaches, grapes and nectarines flourished and there were 14 different varieties of plum trees. Lawns and flowers abounded.

All this, unfortunately, has now had to give way to the needs of the Board and all that remains is one plum tree which spreads its branches over one of the office walls and still provides a good annual crop.

A good gathering of friends attended to say farewell to Mr. Lloyd and he was presented with a sum of money.

It is perhaps an indication of the type of man we have lost when, on being met a week after his retirement by one of the staff he said "I cannot stand this hanging about doing nothing, I shall have to get another job".



Mr. R. Lloyd

This, I think, at the age of 79 is something we can all ponder upon.

A photograph of Mr. Lloyd is reproduced above.

\* \* \*

It was with regret on the 27th April that we parted company with Miss Florence Edwards, shorthand-typist at the District Office, Caernarvon, who left us for other employment.

Miss Edwards had served the North Wales Power Company and Manweb for a total period of 18 years and over 80 of her friends and colleagues subscribed to present her with an electric toaster and a Parker pen set.

Miss Edwards has been a tower of strength on the Commercial side and will be very greatly missed by everyone.

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FOR SALE: "Coronet" 3½ x 2½ film camera in good condition; folding. 50/-, Box No. J.40.

# WIRES AND CABLES

FROM CORRESPONDENTS

Mr. F. O. Harber, the Engineer for Oswestry District, is an artist as well as an engineer. His principal relaxation is painting in oils and water colours and he has many fine canvasses to his credit. He has discovered an excellent way of "brushing" all his engineering cares aside as he settles down to a creative session with easel and brush.

\* \* \*

The Mold Service Centre always looks like a first-class target for the blasé motorist, as it is perched so precariously on a busy traffic junction where cars almost scrape its walls as they rush by. We hope the ginger cat we saw on the doorstep early the other morning did not pilfer the two bottles of milk!!

\* \* \*

The Whitechapel Service Centre at Liverpool is being given a "new look", having been equipped with a new shop front fascia which has completely transformed its outward appearance and, without much difficulty, enhanced its attractiveness.

The previous shop front of Victorian design had lost its public appeal many years ago. As this operation would seem to be akin to "putting new wine into old bottles" the next obvious step would seem to be the large-scale renovation of the interior.

\* \* \*

A welcome is extended to Miss Blodwen Roberts who has recently

been appointed shorthand-typist at Pool Street, Caernarvon.

\* \* \*

Mr. Emlyn Jones, Senior Service Centre Assistant at Bethesda, is a keen angler—and he has every opportunity of indulging in his healthy hobby by fishing in Lake Ogwen and in the River Ogwen which runs tantalisingly near at the back of the Service Centre premises in Ogwen Terrace. He tells of catching a 15 lb. salmon from the small bridge which crosses the river at the rear of the shop premises immediately after closing down the business one evening, and he is now looking forward to a good season commencing this month. Mr. Jones recalls the days when Manweb was initiated and when the Electricity Department left the Municipal premises in Bethesda to operate temporarily in an old draughty garage building on the hillside. This building had a counter in the middle of a vast floor and people paying their accounts would walk into the garage doorway which was 20 ft. wide, open all day and exposing the staff to all weathers so that overcoats and mufflers were worn throughout the day for several weeks! He is now grateful that the Service Centre is comfortably equipped.

\* \* \*

Have you decided to enter the Contact Photographic Competition? Details in the May issue.

“Wires and Cables”—continued.

Congratulations to Mr. Gwylm H. Jones on his marriage to Miss Dilys Jones of Anglesey. Mr. Jones is a member of the staff at Blaenau Ffestiniog Commercial Section, but is, at present, serving in H.M. Forces.

\* \* \*

We also wish to congratulate Mr. Austin Jones, Constructional Engineering Department at Blaenau, on his marriage to Miss Olwen Jones of Trawsfynydd.

\* \* \*

Mr. Cyril Bradley, who is an electrician at the Sub-District Office, Llangefni, has been elected Secretary of the M.A.N.W.E.B. Ambulance Class, Llangefni.

\* \* \*

Mr. Llew. Lewis, District Manager, Anglesey, is a popular vocal soloist in the island. He has taken leading solo parts in oratorios. He is widely acclaimed as a musician and his fame has spread even as far as Oswestry where the District Office had heard of his talent and ability. We wonder if he has ambitions at the “National” this year, as it is in his District.

\* \* \*

Mr. Lewis’ daughter, Miss Gwyneth Lewis, has achieved honours and distinctions as an athlete, especially in sprinting. She is an Olympic aspirant and is a probable runner in the Empire Games to be held at Cardiff next year.

\* \* \*

Mr. S. T. Williams, District Commercial Engineer, Anglesey, is busy now preparing for many important events due within the next three months, not least of which will be the wedding of his daughter at St. John’s Wood Church, London, at Whitsun.

Mr. T. Emlyn Hughes, of the Commercial Officer’s staff at Blaenau Ffestiniog, is one of the cluster of musicians which seem to flourish within MANWEB’s circle. He was the organist at a special Youth Goodwill Service broadcast on the 12th May from the Methodist Church, Llanrwst. ‘Blaenau’ is indeed a town that’s brimful of musical talent.

\* \* \*

Miss Dorothy Edwards, who is Mr. I. P. Jones’ Secretary at the busy Blaenau Ffestiniog Offices, can worthily append the letters L.R.A.M. and A.C.T.L. to her name. She is one of the musical “stars” of the town and district. Miss Edwards is the founder and conductor of the Blaenau Ffestiniog Ladies’ Choir which has achieved musical honours throughout Wales by competing successfully at many local eisteddfodau. Her choir will compete at Llangefni National Eisteddfod in August. In October the choir, of thirty ladies, celebrates its Jubilee. At a recent concert they collected £60 for the Cancer Campaign fund. We wish Miss Edwards and her choir many more successes.

\* \* \*

Due to reorganisation in the District, Mr. R. Vernon Jones of District Office, Caernarvon, has left us to take up an appointment in the sub-District at Bangor. This was not a very sad parting, as we shall probably be in almost daily communication with him, but all the same we shall miss his smiling, rotund face in Caernarvon, and we wish him well.

\* \* \*

Manweb Anglesey District will floodlight the Menai Bridge during Eisteddfod Week.

Mr. E. J. Jennings, being congratulated by Mr. P. Bregazzi, Manager, No. 1 Sub-Area, on his award of the British Empire Medal, which was presented to him by Lord Mills on 7th May.



Members of the No. 6 District Sports and Social Club, Caernarvon, from Llanberis and Caernarvon were guests at a St. David’s Day function held at Llandudno by No. 5 District Sports and Social Club, on March 1st. An evening of fun and games had been arranged, including the eating of leeks by six stalwart Welshmen. A thoroughly good time was had by all. The Caernarvon Club is now arranging a return function.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to Mr. B. O. Lloyd, Consumers Engineer at Towyn, on his unopposed election, with two retiring members, as a Member of Towyn Urban District Council whose district includes Aberdovey, Brynecrug and Cwrt (Pennal). This was his first attempt at becoming a local Councillor.

\* \* \*

Welcome back to Mr. D. C. Jones, Clerk at District Office, Caernarvon, who has returned to the office after a serious internal operation in December, and to

Mr. Lewis Morris, Chargehand-Storekeeper, Central Stores, Caernarvon, who has returned to duty after an absence of three months, which was due to bronchitis.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to Mr. Cecil Jones, Assistant Consumers’ Engineer, Pwllheli, on the birth of his second son on the 14th April, 1957—named Elfyn Gwynedd.

\* \* \*

Also our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr. R. C. Jones, Linesman, Pwllheli, who has been off work for some time due to a broken leg.

\* \* \*

On the 6th May, Miss H. Tomlinson retired from the service of the Board on reaching the age of 60. Miss Tomlinson was a clerk in the Stores Accounts Section of the Financial Department No. 3 Sub-Area, and prior to 1948 had been employed by the Chester Corporation. She was presented with a Parker Knoll armchair by Mr. R. Bennett in the presence of a large gathering of the staff.

# Gossip

## S-carred

It had been the custom of two of the staff at Caernarvon to travel to work by their own cars and to park the cars in the yard of the Board's premises at St. Helens Road.

This picture shows what happened when, due to circumstances beyond control, the wall separating our property from that of our friendly rivals, the Gas Board, suddenly collapsed.

The appearance of these vehicles gave everyone a laugh at first, but the laugh did not last long, as unfortunately the cars were only insured against Third Party risks and resulted in a total loss to their owners, with whom we sympathise.

The badly damaged cars under the rubble at St. Helens Road.



## Germania

Mr. D. H. Kendon, the Chairman, was invited to visit Western Germany in May as an official representative of the Electricity Supply Industry. He left Liverpool on the 13th May and flew from London to Frankfurt on the morning of the 14th.

The real purpose of the visit was to attend the Convention at Nuremberg where Mr. Kendon took part in the technical discussions. He also spent some time visiting Electricity Authorities and Undertakings in Munich, Dortmund, Essen, Dusseldorf and Hamburg. During the course of his visit Mr. Kendon met many principals of the German Electricity Supply Industry with whom he discussed matters of mutual interest. He also attended a reception of the Prime Minister for the North-Rhine-Westphalia District.

## Pump-Storage Work in Progress

Good progress is being made in taking the 6.6Kv power lines up the mountainside to the site of work on the construction of the pump-storage installation at Blaenau Ffestiniog. Poles are going up and soon the conductor lines will be erected and power will be "on". The men working on this job are taking a keen interest in the project, as also are the townspeople of the district.

\* \* \*

## British Industries Fair

A wide selection of examples of the use of electro-heat in industry, many in actual operation, were seen on the stand organised jointly by the British Electrical Development Association and the Midlands Electricity Board at the British Industries Fair at Castle Bromwich, 6th-7th May.

Some of the more interesting examples of the use of electric heating included resistance heating, dielectric heating and induction heating as applied to industrial processes, glass tube bending, ceramic tile drying, vitreous enamel paint drying, timber seasoning, die casting and metal melting. A very good "shop-window".

\* \* \*

## New Trading Estate

The Minister for Welsh Affairs the Rt. Hon. H. Brooks, opened the new Trading Estate at Llangefni on the 24th April.

The first firm to move into the Estate is Dennis Ferranti Ltd., which has been given a supply by the District. It is hoped that this new Trading Estate will soon rival others that are being developed, notably the one at Wrexham, to bring new opportunities of employment to North Wales.

## New Demonstration Theatre

The new MANWEB Demonstration Theatre in the District Office buildings at Garth Road, Bangor, has just been completed, and it is probably the finest Demonstration Theatre to be found anywhere in the Board's Area. Measuring about 80 feet by 40 feet, it is tastefully decorated in shades of pastel blue with contrasting curtains of flame red and primrose yellow design.

The spacious atmosphere—which is also pleasant and restful—will lull audiences into the right mood for sales, which should be easy in this perfect 'set-up'. We shall expect to hear of appliance sales booming in Bangor very shortly!

\* \* \*

## Manual Workers' Superannuation Scheme

Mr. H. M. Owen, of Manweb's Depot, Garth Road, Bangor, Caernarvonshire, is the elected representative of all members of the Manual Workers Superannuation Scheme who are employed by the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board and the South Wales Electricity Board on the Management Committee of the Scheme. Mr. Owen should be contacted on any relevant matter.

\* \* \*

## Christmas in May

Bethesda can boast one of the most luxurious holly trees which has been seen for some time. The tree, which is on the eastern edge of the town, is completely loaded with red berries, which presents a most colourful sight, that is unusual for holly trees, particularly in May.

## The Big Eisteddfodau, 1957

The season of Eisteddfodau is about to begin as far as the big open-air events are concerned. The International Musical Eisteddfod, which is held annually in Llangollen, will be held in July, when large marquees will be erected in the shadow of the sentinel ruins of Valle Crucis Abbey and which will attract visitors and general interest throughout the whole of Western civilization. This musical Eisteddfod will be the largest ever held.

The All-Welsh Eisteddfod, which is known amongst Welshmen as 'The National', is being held this year in Llangefni, and the huge portable pavilion—made of wood and steel—which is taken to each successive town year after year, is now standing nobly, yet silently, in a field on the north-eastern fringe of the town ready to receive the thousands of patriots who

will visit the town for this famous festival.

The District Engineer for Anglesey, Mr. A. R. Shaw, will take a prominent part in the week's activities, not because he is a musician or a poet (he may, of course, be both as far as we know) but his main responsibility will be to supply electricity to the field to illuminate the pavilion and all the ancillary buildings. The supply required is 100 kVA, and an 11,000 volt overhead line will be taken into a substation, which will be established on the field.

It is interesting to note that although the principal function will be to light the pavilion, this age-old festival—which relies on harpists and voices for its music—has adopted the electric organ to lead community singing. The presence of such an instrument would seem the perfect anachronism.

### OBITUARY

We regret to record the passing on the 18th April, 1957, of Mr. Frank Ollier, a retired employee of the former North Wales Power Company in the Crewe Area.

He had attained the good age of 82 years, and retired from the service of the former Company about eleven years ago.

Mr. Ollier was a very well-known character and colleague for a number of years, and his son, Mr. William Ollier, is at present serving with the Board in that area.

Condolences are extended to the family in their bereavement.

The funeral of Mr. W. Moore, age 59, Assistant (Meter Reading and Records) who died on the 8th May, took place on the 11th May at Upton-by-Chester Parish Church. Mr. Moore had been in the service of the Chester Corporation and subsequently the Board for the past 31 years.

\* \* \*

We regret to report the death of Mr. Tom Wright, Meter Fixer of the Southport District. Mr. Wright died at Southport Infirmary on the 29th April. He started in the industry in August, 1940, and was sixty years of age. We extend condolences to the widow and daughter.



The Liverpool Electric Power and Lighting Club team who were defeated in the final of the Concannon Cup. Standing left to right: Messrs. E. Kelly, D. Underhill, S. Melville, J. Robinson, H. Hughes, A. Boggan. Seated: A. McNiellis, W. Richardson, P. Quinn, G. Hughes, J. Williams.



Mr. P. Bregazzi, Manager, No. 1 Sub-Area, congratulating Mr. Eric Francis on the occasion of his retirement after 43 years service in the Electricity Supply Industry. At a presentation on behalf of his colleagues, Mr. Francis received two easy chairs which will, no doubt, comfort his retirement.



THE OFFICIAL GROUP OF DELEGATES AND GUESTS AT THE ONE-DAY L.A.C. CONFERENCE  
HELD AT NANTWICH CIVIC HALL:

Principal officers of the Board, and the Sub-Areas, and guest speakers are included in front row.



STUDY IN CONCENTRATION (see page 185)

**Contact**

*The Staff Magazine of the Merseyside  
and North Wales Electricity Board*

JUNE, 1957



THREEPENCE