

## MANWEB GAZETTE

**Welcome to . . .** the following employees:

**Head Office:** Mrs. A. C. Long (telephone operator), Mrs. M. Taylor (shorthand typist), Messrs. J. D. Bennion (senior systems analyst) and T. H. Garmory (2nd assistant engineer).

**Area 1 Office:** Miss I. Avison (typist), Miss P. A. Dawe (machine operator), Miss S. Evans, Miss M. Henesy, Miss E. M. Morton, Mrs. B. M. Gray and Mrs. J. E. Parsons (clerks). **Central District:** Messrs. T. Coppack and F. G. Mallon (labourers). **North District:** Messrs. D. Brogan (labourer), K. Hibbert (consumers' engineer), P. J. Judge, R. McCarthy and F. Maguire (labourers) and F. Sparks (driver).

**Area 2/3 Office:** Miss A. S. Morris (clerk) Miss S. E. Shaw (shorthand typist), Mrs. A. J. Cliffe, Mrs. V. P. Downes, Mrs. L. M. Littlewood (clerks), Mrs. E. Bird and Mrs. M. Stokes (cleaners), and Mr. J. D. Woolley (clerk). **Northwich District:** Miss M. E. Ainsworth (typist), Messrs. G. A. Booker (labourer) and R. E. Collins (salesman). **Chester District:** Mrs. M. Roberts (clerk), Messrs. M. H. Chilton (labourer), C. B. Owens (messenger), R. A. Price (public lighting attendant) and D. C. Viney (meter reader). **North Wirral District:** Mrs. V. Barker (cleaner), Messrs. D. W. Armitage (electrician), R. W. Jones and J. C. Wall (meter readers).

**Area 4 Office:** Miss A. V. Bullock (junior typist) Miss C. J. Milnes, Miss J. M. Valentine (clerks), Messrs. D. Holmes and D. A. Smith (Drawing Office assistants). **Crewe District:** Messrs. C. Barrow (storekeeper) and W. A. Holdway (assistant consumer's engineer). **Clwyd District:** Mrs. C. H. Parkin (meter reader). **Wrexham District:** Mrs. E. M. L. Jones (part-time trainee saleswoman), Messrs. D. Rutter and D. Stealey (labourers).

**Congratulations to . . .** the following employees on their recent promotions:

**Area 1 Office:** Mr. A. Beanland (salesman). **South District:** Mr. C. P. McCormack (foreman installation inspector).

**Area 2/3 Office:** Mrs. P. Barrow (assistant—comptometer supervisor), Mrs. J. M. Charlesworth (assistant—consumers' accounts), Messrs. J. A. Baker (display assistant) P. G. Gerrard (assistant—administration) and P. R. Harding (storekeepers' assistant). **Warrington District:** W. B. Blease (senior salesman), J. Cannon (labourer) and H. Worsley (foreman—Mains). **Runcorn District:** Messrs. P. M. King (electrician) J. L. Milne (assistant consumers' engineer), and D. Wright (electrician). **Chester District:** Messrs. B. L. Billingham (storekeeper), R. W. Buckley and P. Gleave (electricians), D. J. Cartwright and B. T. Price (jointers). **North Wirral District:**

G. L. Bevan (electrician) and D. Virgin (driver).

**Area 4 Office:** Miss K. M. Griffiths (machine operator—Class 1) and Mr. J. E. Davies (assistant—Revenue). **Crewe District:** Messrs. E. C. Jones (meter reader) and G. W. Purcell (meter reader/collector). **Clwyd District:** Messrs. G. Jones (linesman's mate) and L. M. Price (linesman). **Wrexham District:** Mr. A. Bailey (jointer's mate). **Oswestry District:** Messrs. J. A. T. Edge (jointer's mate) and C. J. Pountney (clerical assistant). **Conway Valley District:** Mr. A. E. Dobson (salesman). **Anglesey District:** Messrs. D. E. Jones (linesman's mate), R. A. Jones (driver) and A. Parry (jointer's mate). **Aberystwyth District:** Mr. L. A. Carr (salesman).

**Farewell to . . .** the following who have now left the service of the Board.

**Head Office:** Miss D. Beard (clerk) Miss A. G. Evans (machine operator) and Miss M. Redmond (shorthand typist).

**Area 1 Office:** Mr. F. P. Robinson (driver). **Central District:** Miss E. Drummond (senior sales demonstrator). **North District:** Mr. T. Garvey (assistant installation inspection engineer).

**Area 2/3:** **Northwich District:** Mr. T. E. Turner (jointer). **Chester District:** Messrs. W. Darlington (control room operator), J. Johnson (labourer) and C. Mole (meter fixer). **North Wirral District:** Messrs. W. H. Greasley (assembler) and A. N. Powell (engineering draughtsman).

**Area 4 Office:** Messrs. A. G. Bradley (principal assistant—Stores), A. E. Griffiths (assistant—Estates and Wayleaves), and R. J. Jones (clerk). **Crewe District:** Messrs. J. Latham (meter reader/collector) and H. T. McBride (District Senior Clerk). **Clwyd District:** Mr. W. E. Jones (painter). **Oswestry District:** Mr. F. W. Ince (clerical assistant). **Conway Valley District:** Mr. C. E. Carpenter (storekeeper). **Caernarvon District:** Messrs. R. I. Jones and W. M. Jones (labourers). **Anglesey District:** Mr. D. J. Edwards (labourer).

### Obituary

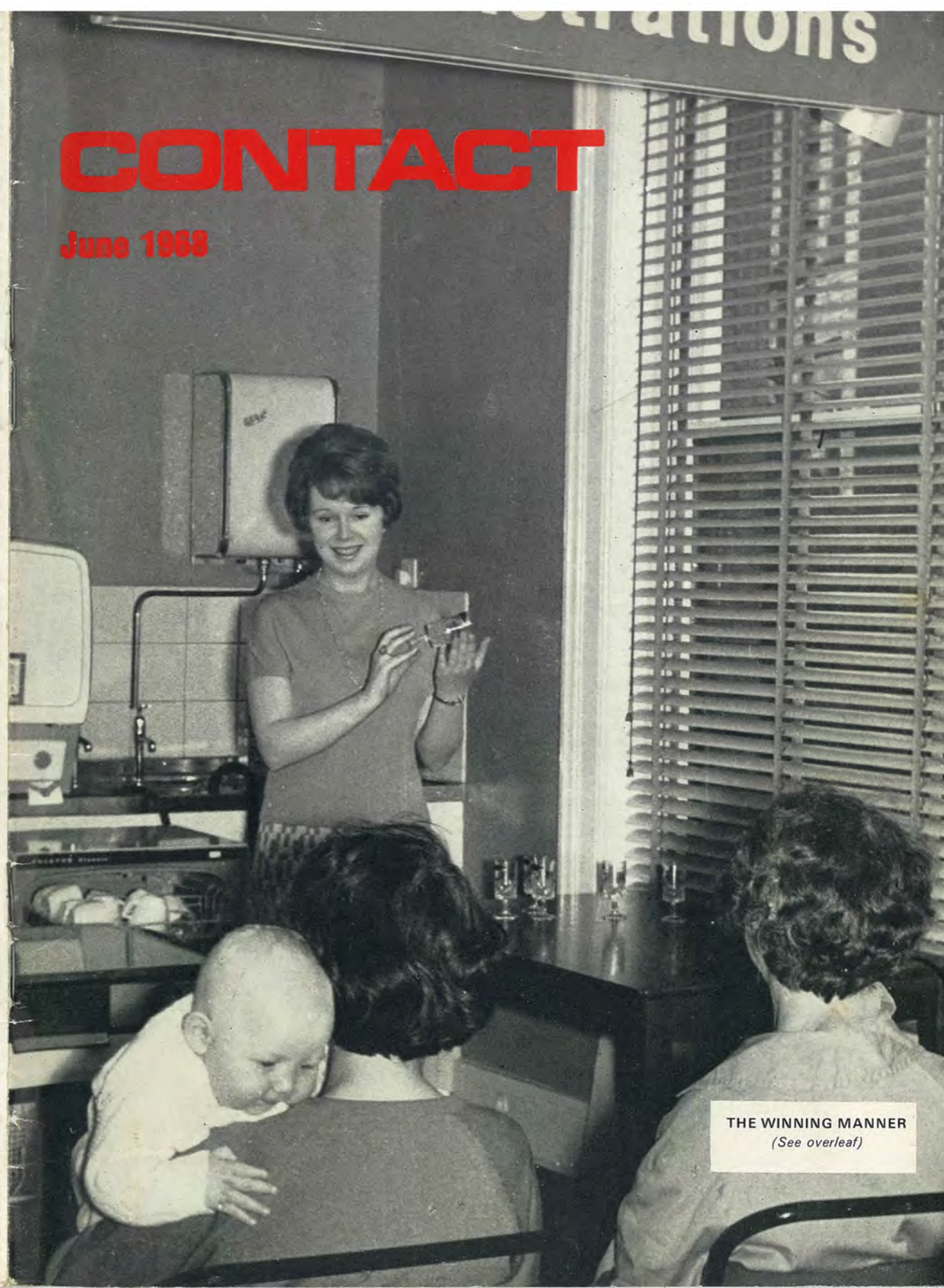
It is with deep regret we report the deaths of two of our former colleagues, and we extend our sincere sympathy to the bereaved.

Mr. H. Hughes who was retired from the Board but was formerly employed in Liverpool North District as an installation inspector.

Mr. A. Williams, a labourer employed in the Chester District of Area 2/3.

# CONTACT

June 1968



THE WINNING MANNER  
(See overleaf)

## Anne's a Winner

Miss Anne Semple, a demonstrator based at our Whitechapel Shop, was the winner of the women's national final of The Electricity Council's Public Speaking Competition held in London recently.

Ann, who is 24 years old, spoke on deep freezing. Congratulating her, Miss Mary George, O.B.E., Director of the Electrical Association for Women, and one of the judges of the competition, said "*Laughs punctuated her talk and one was left with the feeling that electricity was good value for money.*"

This year's competition, which was open to employees of the electricity supply industry who were under 35 years of age, attracted an entry of 384 speakers. The twelve women and twelve men

**OUR COVER PICTURE shows our winner, Miss Anne Semple captivating (or nearly) an audience during one of her demonstration sessions.**

finalists were invited to speak on subjects of their own choice connected with the use of electricity and a preference was expressed for subjects which were both topical and promotional in character.

Anne's success has brought a Faraday Shield, the competition's premier award, to MANWEB for the first time since 1959. The shields are held for one year by the Electricity Boards from which the winners come and the successful individuals receive a silver plaque.

Miss Anne Semple receives a commemorative plaque from Mr. Percy Briggs, a former member of the Electricity Council, after winning the Faraday Shield in the women's section of the Public Speaking Competition held in London recently.



## 1968 Photographic Competition

### RULES

1. Entries may be concerned with any subject.
2. Each photograph submitted must be the original work and the copyright property of the person submitting it.
3. All photographs must have been taken since June 1st, 1967.
4. Any number of Black and White prints may be submitted, but only FIVE colour transparencies in any one section from each competitor.
5. Competitors must enclose a note with entries, stating clearly their name and address (either office or home) and the title of each picture.
6. The competition will be judged by an independent panel.
7. Closing date for the receipt of entries which must be addressed to: *The Editor, Contact, MANWEB, Love Lane, Liverpool 3*, will be 30th September, 1968.

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

#### BLACK AND WHITE PICTURES

Best Picture—FIVE POUNDS.

#### COLOUR TRANSPARENCIES

1st—FIVE POUNDS.

2nd—THREE POUNDS.

3rd—TWO POUNDS.

#### BEST PICTURE DESCRIBING

"A Christmas Card Scene"

Colour: TWO POUNDS.

Black and White: TWO POUNDS.

Great care will be taken of entries, all of which will be returned. When submitting your photographs it is advisable to protect them during transmission by post by packing them with a piece of stout cardboard, slightly larger than the photographs themselves.

**So come on—get snapping—there's money in it for you!**



THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE MERSEYSIDE  
AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

# CONTACT

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## EDITORIAL

### Senior Citizens

AS MEDICAL science advances, living standards improve, and social and welfare services are strengthened and extended, so more and more people are living to enjoy robust health and long and active years of retirement. Everybody knows somebody who, although retired from full-time work, gives the lie to his years in every word and action.

MANWEB now has well over 1,000 retired employees of all grades, and only recently we heard of one former colleague who has travelled all over Europe and the Americas since his retirement just over three years ago (we hope to publish an account of his adventures in the near future).

Not everyone, of course, can emulate this kind of feat, but we are sure that among our former colleagues who are blessed with alert minds, active bodies, and time on their hands, there must be a vast store of interesting news.

It has been suggested that *Contact* should include a feature devoted to the news and activities of MANWEB pensioners, and we are only too willing to devote the necessary space to this idea. We need, however, an editor for this column—and he must be a retired employee himself, someone with a flair for presenting the news about his contemporaries in an interesting and readable way—interesting to both our pensioners and the main body of our readers, whose noses are still attached to the grindstone.

Will volunteers please drop the Editor a line?

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#### Editorial Staff

Keith Baldwin  
John F. Perry  
Sam Doughty

# On course at Wallasey



Members of the sales staff on their final week of Course 226. From left to right, standing: Messrs. Arthur Roberts (Holyhead), Kevin Barry (Liverpool North) and Frank Halliwell (St. Helens). Seated: Miss Margaret Kelly (Birkenhead) and Miss Irene Smith (Ruthin).

As Course 225 came to a close, our cameraman 'caught' these two groups discussing home laundry equipment. Above, from left to right: Mrs. Audrey Griffiths (Colwyn Bay), Mr. John Mercer (Prescot) and Miss Jacqueline Yeomans (Bangor).



Right, from left to right: Mrs. Marjorie Halsall (St. Helens), Mr. Philip Shaughnessey (Wallasey), Miss Jenny Blezzard (Chester) and Miss Linda Boylan (Birkenhead).

# Management Course

**M**OST of the Board's eighteen District Engineers and their first assistants have recently completed a new type of Management Course which has been run at Chester by the University of Liverpool School of Business Studies on behalf of MANWEB.

Our Chief Engineer, Mr. F. J. Brown, said that as far as the Board was concerned, this had been a management course with a difference and something in the nature of an experiment.

He pointed out that the supply industry runs centrally operated management courses at Horsley Towers and a relatively small number of our staff are selected from time to time to attend the Administrative College at Henley. These courses are concentrated, and in the case of Henley, cover the general management field. Neither of them are specifically geared to the administrative and management problems which confront senior staff in the Districts of the Board.

"We have felt for some time", writes Mr. Brown, "that this was a gap which ought to be filled and following discussions with management experts at Liverpool University, a course was organised."

It was decided to spread the course over the winter period, taking one day each month, rather than run it continuously for a week or two. This was done partly because it was felt undesirable to denude our Districts of their senior officers for a long period and partly to avoid the mental indigestion which can arise towards the end of a continuous course.

The various lectures and discussions covered general considerations relevant to our industry together with specific matters pertinent to the day-to-day working in the Districts.

The Course Director was Dr. Dennis Chapman, B.Sc. (Econ.), Ph.D., who is the Assistant Director for the School of Business Studies at the University of Liverpool. He explained that the genesis and development of the course was an interesting management study in itself, beginning with some preliminary suggestions which were closely examined by his staff. These ideas were later ventilated in detail and as a result, a

number of reports and technical papers illustrating the problems of MANWEB were discussed with senior officers of the Board's engineering department, who were directly concerned with the course.

At this stage, broad headings were settled and the University then assembled the team of lecturers from the Business School, colleagues within the University and specialists from elsewhere, all excellent speakers and experts in their particular field.

After each lecture, progress and syndicate results were studied so that the subsequent lectures were developed from their original scope to a new form appropriate to the standards set by the course members as they worked through the various problems.

In the syndicated reports and the discussions, the idealised theory was brought down to the level of the individual hole in the ground, or the particular joint, as well as to the overall problems of managing a District or planning the staffing of one unit of management.

Dr. Chapman summed up by saying that the performance of members of the course had been of a particularly high level, and this in turn, had been communicated to the lecturers who responded by raising the level of their contributions. This happy result was the consequence of the high level of co-operation between the staff of MANWEB and the Business School.

Liaison Officer for the course was Mr. J. S. Ekbery (Assistant Chief Engineer) and he told us that the first meeting began with a short address from the MANWEB Chairman, Mr. D. G. Dodds, and all the subsequent lectures covered cost effectiveness, both the national aspect and as far as MANWEB was concerned, manpower planning, industrial relations and operation research. The course concluded with a lecture and discussion on computer operation and then an Open Forum session at which the Board's Deputy Chairman, Mr. D. G. Gwyn, Chief Engineer, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chapman and Mr. Ekbery formed the panel.

Members of the "Open Forum" panel during the final session of the course. From left to right: Messrs. J. S. Ekbery, F. J. Brown, D. G. Gwyn and Dr. D. Chapman.



# People write . . . .

## First from a lady living in Liverpool

"I would like to place on record my appreciation of the very prompt and efficient service I received from your Department in a recent emergency.

It is usually extremely difficult for people living alone and out at work all day to get matters attended to, and I was most impressed by the helpfulness and courtesy of your (male) switchboard operator and especially of those in your Works (Repairs?) Section who very willingly dealt with my 8.30 a.m. calls although I think these ought properly to have been made later on in the day to the office.

Please convey my thanks to all concerned.

Yours faithfully (signed)."

## A Parish Council in Merioneth:

"At a meeting of the above Council held recently, it was unanimously resolved to convey the Council's appreciation and gratitude for the excellent service given by M.A.N.W.E.B. in the area in spite of stormy and boisterous weather. Even when an unavoidable breakdown happens, immediate service of rectification is experienced.

Yours faithfully (signed)."

## Praise from Rhos-on-Sea

Recently—as you know—I had my house rewired by MANWEB. When you called to see the house, preparatory to giving the estimate you promised to send "some good men" to do the job. How well you kept your promise!

This letter is to thank you (Mr. Shreene), and to put on record my appreciation of two

excellent employees of MANWEB, namely Mr. Howell Jones and Mr. Andrew Stewart, who completed the work to my entire satisfaction; and one or two alterations and additions to the original estimate were done so willingly. Nothing was too much trouble—even moving heavy furniture—and as one well knows it is a vastly different proposition rewiring a house when it is occupied and full of furniture.

It made such a welcome change to find workmen always arriving on time in the mornings. Mr. Jones, of course set the tone, doing a neat and efficient job briskly and so cheerfully. They worked with a purpose, all too rare nowadays. It was a pleasure to have Mr. Jones and Mr. Stewart in the house and they are a very good advertisement for MANWEB. Thank you very much for arranging it.

Yours faithfully (signed)."

## From a flat dweller in Lee Park, Liverpool:

On Thursday last the 23rd, I had a fridge delivered to my home. Would you please thank on my behalf the two gentlemen who delivered it. I was not there at the time but it appears both lifts were out of order. They then carried it up for me. You will realise why I appreciate it so much when I tell you I live on the tenth floor, in a big block, and each floor has four flights of stairs.

I was very grateful to them.

Yours sincerely (signed)."

## Another satisfied customer from Chester

"Herewith cheque in accordance with instructions in your letter of the 6th May.

I would like to thank all concerned in MANWEB for

their co-operation, help and guidance in having the storage heaters fitted—I think they are the answer to our heating problems.

Yours faithfully (signed)."

## A tyre manufacturer at Wrexham sent this letter

"Firstly I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the wonderful help you gave us to provide a temporary supply when our transformer failed in the Power House.

With reference to our telephone conversation today. I would like to confirm that we shall issue a Purchase Order immediately covering the cost on a "Time and Material Basis" to provide this supply.

Yours faithfully (signed)."

## From a Council in Shropshire

"My Council has instructed me to write and express their appreciation of the excellent street-lighting system which you have installed in this village.

The Council feels you should know that they are continually receiving compliments on its effectiveness from not only our own parishioners but also visiting residents of other parishes.

Yours faithfully (signed)."

## . . . and finally . . .

## After removal of an old type fuse box from a wall which was restored by our North Wirral District, a New Brighton customer writes:

"I feel that I must write in appreciation of the beautifully rebuilt wall.

In these days of botched up and shoddy work, it is a pleasure to know that there are still craftsmen who take pride in completing a good job.

I should be glad if you would pass on my comment to the men concerned.

Yours sincerely (signed)."

# + FIRST AID +

## Caernarvon Presentations

A few weeks ago, Mr. N. Maden our Caernarvon District Manager presented some members of his staff with Certificates and Badges as awards for passing their first-aid examinations.

Mr. Maden congratulated Mr. O. F. Ellis (consumers' engineer) on the excellent work he had done in organising classes at Caernarvon and at Pwllheli. He also spoke of the great need for first-aiders and appealed for more members of the staff, especially the mains men and the electricians, to take up this interesting and worthwhile service. In conclusion, he commented on the possibility of a team being formed to enter local competitions.

The following members of the staff were successful in their examinations: Miss Joyce Deacon, Miss Pauline E. Jones, Miss Eirlys Roberts and Mrs. Blodwen Williams. Messrs. Owen F. Ellis, John H. Hughes, Owen J. Hughes, Edward D. Jones, Cyril Owen, Eric Phillips, Alwyn Pritchard, Maldwyn Roberts, Owain G. Roberts, Alexander

M. Tyler, Evan H. Williams and Owen C. Williams.

## . . . and some at Southport

At a meeting of the Southport District Local Advisory Committee held recently, Mr. L. J. Scudamore (District Manager) presented fourteen awards to employees who had successfully completed their first-aid course. On behalf of the Committee, he expressed sincere congratulations to each of them on their fine efforts.

The awards were presented to Mrs. E. Mawdesley and Messrs. R. Cook, O. J. Hughes, J. F. Lawson, F. Leeder, J. Mayers, R. Newsham, D. S. Rimmer, R. A. Schollick, H. Southwood, W. Sutton, W. Thornton, E. V. Tomlinson and T. Whitehead.

The happy picture, below, was taken on the occasion of the special luncheon given by the Board for the members of the Chester Ladies First-Aid team who were so successful in this year's National Competition. Each member of the team was presented with a Wedgwood Bowl as a memento. From left to right: are, Miss Marion Hughes, Miss Wendy Arrowsmith, Miss Jill Hatfield, Mr. and Mrs. Dodds, Miss Sybil Cooper (captain), Miss Sybil Timmins (trainer) and Miss Betty Jackson.



## DISTRICT AMBULANCE COMMITTEE

Members of the MANWEB staff who have been elected to serve on the District Ambulance Committee for the Merseyside and North Wales Branch of the Electricity Supply Ambulance Centre are as follows:

Appointed by MANWEB—

Mr. L. Smith (Area 2/3).

Elected as Members—

Messrs. J. E. Tierney

(Area 1), L. C. Hamp-

son (Area 2/3) and

W. R. Thomas (Area 4).

Dr. J. G. Fox, the

Board's Medical Advisor,

is a co-opted member

along with Messrs. A.

Anderson (Area 2/3), T.

Dutton (Head Office),

J. G. D. Greenhalgh (Area

4) and H. Turner (Area 1).

One of the Members

appointed by the District

Joint Advisory Council is

Mr. A. R. Train, now

retired, who was formerly

the District Commercial

Engineer for our Conway

Valley District.

All Members will serve

for two years from 1968 to

1970.

# Questions in the House

## Fuel Prices

**Mr. Lane** asked the Minister of Power what action he is taking in accordance with the Government policy to secure lower fuel prices for consumers.

**Mr. Freeson:** The White Paper on Fuel Policy (Cmnd 3438) sets out the Government's position on this.

**Mr. Lane:** Is the Government confident, after the recent increases in price of gas, electricity and coal, that consumers, including coal consumers, can now expect that there will be at least no further increases before the end of next year?

**Mr. Freeson:** That is a very general question following on from the previous one. No Minister is in a position to answer at any particular moment when there will be a price increase of any kind in the nationalised industries. I can give a general undertaking, as I have in the House before, that there is not likely to be a series of increases in these industries for some time to come.

## Underground lines

**Mr. Whitaker** asked the Minister of Power what approximate estimates he has of the annual increase in mileage of overhead and underground power lines, respectively, and what progress has been made in reducing the cost of putting them underground.

**Mr. Freeson:** During the three years 1967-68—1968-70 the Central Electricity Generating Board estimate that their overhead lines and underground

cables will increase by an average of about 460 route miles and 180 circuit miles a year respectively.

Similar information is not readily available for the Area Boards, but during the 12 months ending 31st March, 1967, the last date for which firm figures are available, their overhead lines and underground cables, over 650 volts, increased by 2,121 and 2,336 circuit miles respectively.

Table 18 of the Central Electricity Generating Board's Statistical Yearbook 1967 shows costs and paragraph 14 of the Board's Annual Report for 1966-67 states the immediate prospects on cost.

## New Housing Developments

### (Electricity Connection Charges)

**Mr. Silvester** asked the Minister of Power whether agreement has now been reached between the electricity industry and the Gas Council about electricity connection charges in new housing developments.

**Mr. Freeson:** No. My right Hon. Friend has not yet completed his review of this question which he is conducting with the Gas and Electricity Councils.

**Mr. Silvester:** Is the Hon. Gentleman aware that this matter was raised originally in the 1965 fuel White Paper, and will he agree that it is undesirable for connection charges to be used as a weapon in the competition for securing central heating contracts on new housing estates?

**Mr. Freeson:** If the Hon. Gentleman has a special point in mind about the latter part of his supplementary Question, no doubt he will get in touch with my Department. This is a difficult subject to study within the industries. There are problems of relating charges to the actual capital expenditure in-

involved in establishing services on new housing estates and the like. There is also the question of trying to maintain freedom of choice to individual consumers buying houses.

## Electricity Industry (Structures)

**Mr. Lane** asked the Minister of Power whether he will make a statement about the progress of his consultations on the future structure of the electricity supply industry.

**Mr. Gunter:** I have at present nothing to say about this except that I am continuing the examination, begun by my predecessor, to see whether any changes in the organisation and structure of the electricity industry need to be made.

**Mr. Lane:** Does the Rt. Hon. Gentleman expect to make a statement before the Summer Recess, and in his examination will he keep very much in mind the view expressed by the Prices and Incomes Board that the generating side of the industry ought to be more exposed to market pressures?

**Mr. Gunter:** I am very much aware of the remark made by the Prices and Incomes Board. I cannot say that I will make a statement before the Summer Recess.

## Nationalised Industries (Board Members' Salaries)

**Sir B. Rhys Williams** asked the Minister of Power if he will take steps to rationalise the structure of salaries paid to board members of the coal, gas and electricity industries.

**Mr. Gunter:** The structure is kept under review but perhaps the Hon. Member will let me know if he has any specific proposals.

**Sir B. Rhys Williams:** Is the Minister satisfied that the present structure of salaries is attracting and retaining the services of men

of appropriate calibre, at the same time leaving room to give appropriate incentives to men at intermediate levels in these industries?

**Mr. Gunter:** We are able to attract the right men for these jobs. There is an argument about whether these salaries should be competitive with private industry. I do not attach all that importance to it. The large salaries paid in private industry are for prestige purposes, and they are not of very much greater value when my Rt. Hon. Friend the Chancellor has finished with them.

## Ministry of Power Hams Hall Power Stations (Natural Gas)

**Mr. Speed** asked the Minister of Power (1) what have been the results so far of experimental natural gas firing of boilers at Hams Hall power stations; (2) what plans he has for the extension of natural gas as a fuel to Hams Hall power stations.

**Mr. Freeson:** My Right Hon. Friend understands from the C.E.G.B. that the experimental use of natural gas for one boiler at Hams Hall "C" has established that there are no technical limitations on the use of natural gas in power stations. The success of the experiment has encouraged the Board to apply for my Right Hon. Friend's consent to convert the remaining five boilers at the station.

## Fuel Industries (Prices)

**Mr. Webster** asked the Minister of Power in what circumstances a price increase by one of the nationalised fuel industries will not be referred to the National Board for Prices and Incomes.

**Mr. Freeson:** A proposed price increase will not be referred to the N.B.P.I. when, in the Government's view, it is not

a major one and there are no other circumstances which make independent investigation by the National Board desirable.

## Consultative Councils

**Mr. Molloy** asked the Minister of Power if he will consider initiating measures to increase and improve the awareness of the general public of the existence and function of the various consultative councils for which his Department is concerned.

**Mr. Freeson:** I have initiated discussions on the Consumer Council's Report on Consultative Machinery in the Nationalised Industries with chairmen of the consultative councils and these will continue. Meanwhile the councils are already using a wide variety of measures to make themselves known, and they are now considering whether anything further can be done to increase public awareness of their work.

## Gas and Electricity (Joint Meter Readings)

**Sir B. Rhys Williams** asked the Minister of Power what are the conclusions of the Departmental study of joint meter reading and billing by the gas and electricity industries.

**Mr. Freeson:** Preliminary conclusions are that, although very big savings cannot be expected, it is worthwhile investigating the feasibility of joint meter reading by the gas and electricity industries. I hope that the two industries will soon carry out joint studies. Investigation of joint billing must await the outcome of this study and further development of data processing.

**Sir B. Rhys Williams:** May we have an assurance that progress on this matter is not being held up by any opposition to change in either the electricity or the gas industry?

**Mr. Freeson:** No. As a matter of fact, I have had a series of consultations up and down the country on the subject recently. I can assure the Hon. Gentleman that there is co-operation in this matter.

**Mr. Emery:** Does the Hon. Gentleman realise that Hon. Members on this side of the House have been pressing for this for over 3½ years? Now it appears that we have got to the stage when it is announced that a feasibility study is feasible. Is the Minister aware that European countries are already getting considerable savings from improved meter reading and billing methods. Cannot we get some speed on this matter?

**Mr. Freeson:** I wish that the Hon. Gentleman would not scream about a subject which is rather difficult and quite complicated. Studies are proceeding. There have been extensive consultations on the matter, and work on pilot schemes in two parts of the country will proceed as soon as possible.

## WHO'S WHO

- The Rt. Hon. Ray Gunter (Lab)** *Southwark*  
Minister of Power.
- Mr. R. Freeson (Lab)**  
*Willesden East*,  
Parliamentary Secretary,  
Ministry of Power.
- Mr. P. Emery (C)** *Honiton*
- Mr. D. Lane (C)** *Cambridge*
- Mr. W. Molloy (Lab)**  
*Ealing North*
- Mr. F. J. Silvester (C)**  
*Walthamstow West*
- Mr. H. K. Speed (C)**  
*Meriden, Warwick*
- Mr. D. W. E. Webster (C)**  
*Weston-super-Mare*
- Mr. B. Whitaker (Lab)**  
*Hampstead*
- Sir B. Rhys Williams (C)**  
*South Kensington*

Bringing in . . .

. . . the MAN from MANWEB

WHEN Mr. Norman Mason and his wife Tina took over some premises next to their ice-cream parlour in Neville Street, with the intention of extending their catering activities they decided that expert advice was needed so they called in the Man from MANWEB, who in this particular case, turned out to be Mr. Stan Holt of the Board's Southport District Office.

Together they went along to a special MANWEB Commercial Catering Exhibition, the largest of its kind ever to be held on Merseyside. Here they were able to see and inspect a very wide range of appliances and equipment for food preparation and cooking, and as they toured the stands they were accompanied by their Man from MANWEB who was able to offer them guidance and advice, in return for which he received a very large order.

In addition to the up-to-the-minute electric catering equipment now in the Miramar Grill, MANWEB has installed all the lighting and heating. Fluorescent tubes and tungsten fittings are used to produce a pleasing and decorative effect, and for quick response heating, six 3-kilowatt fan-heaters have been installed to ensure that at any time the 100 customers will be kept warm, even on the coldest days. In the summer months, the fans may be used to circulate cool air.

Mr. and Mrs. Mason are delighted with the help they received from the Man from MANWEB and sincerely advise anyone who is thinking of going into business or maybe planning extensions to an existing business, to call in the Man from MANWEB as early as possible.

The Miramar Grill—clean, comfortable, well lit, with good food cooked to perfection by electricity.

Photo: Stephenson Newspapers Ltd.



## Electric Power for Farmers

### A major challenge

The development of rural electrification in Britain, where the percentages of farms connected to public supply networks has grown from 30 per cent to 96 per cent since 1948, was described as a major challenge by Mr. Alic Gray of The Electricity Council, when recently addressing the C.I.G.R. international agricultural electrification conference, sponsored by The Electricity Council. The conference, was attended by 150 delegates from 15 countries and held at the National College of Agricultural Engineering, Silsoe.

"The electricity supply in any country," he said, "starts with the provision of supplies to domestic, commercial and industrial consumers in cities and towns, where the capital cost per consumer is comparatively low and revenue relatively high. In the rural areas the population is spread widely over the countryside with the result that capital cost per consumer is rather high and, at least in the beginning, revenue can be disappointingly low. It is against this background that rural electrification is developed in any country and in this we are no exception.

"In 1948, 93,000 farms in Great Britain (30.2 per cent of the total) were connected to the electricity supply. Today the position is that 296,000 farms, about 96 per cent of the total, are connected to the mains supply. That the rural population as a whole has been equally enthusiastic is shown by the fact that at this present time 98 per cent of all rural premises are taking a supply of electricity from the mains and, in consequence, enjoying every bit as much as their counterparts in the urban areas, the benefits that electricity can provide.

### Never Easy

Mr. Gray said the selling of 'farm electrification' as opposed to 'farm connection' was never easy—farmers and growers were hard-headed businessmen. As far as they were concerned it was a question of 'what will it do?' 'what will it cost?' and 'what is there in it for me?' and it was on the electricity supply industry's ability to answer these questions that hopes of success in attaining a significant increase in the use of electricity in agriculture and horticulture depended.

"It was realised from the first that, despite the inherent advantages of electricity for providing automatic controls, electricity for general use on the farm must compete on its own merits with the traditional and competing forms of energy," said Mr. Gray.

"It soon became clear that with the rapid advance in farming and horticultural techniques, the electrical answers to problems had to be found by experimental investigation.

"Changes in agricultural and horticultural production towards greater specialisation and intensification made the problems more diverse and complex. The scope for development is now so wide that it is necessary to be critically selective in our approach.

"In considering the lines which development shall follow priority is given to projects which will lead towards the development of techniques and the uses of electricity which are economically viable to the consumer and acceptable to the Electricity Boards. The aim is not only to meet the needs of existing farming practices, but also to initiate and develop the basis for new techniques resulting in an increasing use of electricity on farms and horticultural holdings."

## ELECTRIC GARDEN

### open to the public

A luxury garden with a beautifully kept lawn surrounded by flowering shrubs and perennials—all maintained with the very minimum of hard work. This is the Electricity Council's garden at the new Garden Centre at Syon House, Isleworth, Middlesex. Occupying 54 acres in the grounds of the Duke of Northumberland's 16th century stately home, Syon House, the Centre offers gardeners a living catalogue of plants and a permanent exhibition of growing aids. It is now open to the public for the first time.

Landscaped by Paul Temple, the "electric garden" has an 80 ft. frontage, but is easily managed with the help of labour saving electro-gardening appliances. The circular lawn is watered by two remotely controlled automatic pop-up sprinklers and cut effortlessly with an electric mowing machine whose batteries also power a long handled edge trimmer.

The gravel and Purbeck stone crazy-paved path around the lawn and the garden's special features, including a waterfall, pool and flowering shrubs, are flood-lit in the evening. A summer-house is furnished as a garden living room.

Shrub and heather borders provide continuous colour throughout the year and plants specially selected as ground cover smother the weeds. The ground has been mulched with peat between the

(Continued overleaf)

perennial and herbaceous plants and under the trees and smaller shrubs—again with the object of smothering weeds.

### Automatic Greenhouse

A 16 ft. greenhouse is fully equipped with the latest automatic controls which enable an amateur gardening enthusiast to grow his favourite plants and exotic fruits out of season without the close attention previously required. The greenhouse controls include standard systems for the automatic regulation of heating, ventilation and watering and provide complete environmental control.

Mist propagation, widely used commercially for rooting cuttings by keeping them continually moist in a soil-warmed bed, is shown on a scale suitable for amateur use. Pests are controlled by the continuous evaporation of a pesticide from a small electrically heated and thermostatically controlled volatizer. Besides such pests as thrips, white fly, aphids, earwigs and leaf miner, it also effectively suppresses mildew on both chrysanthemums and carnations.

Warmer climates for more exotic plants are provided by enclosing the bench with glass and warming the soil and air by thermostatically controlled heating cables.

Electrically heated propagating cases with room for up to four seedboxes and a few pots are shown for more modest gardeners. They are complete with plastic domes, seed boxes, sand and peat. Best results are obtained when they are used in greenhouses but these propagators can be used by gardeners with little more facilities than a convenient window ledge.

## 70-mile line

The commissioning has just taken place of the Central Electricity Generating Board's recently completed 400,000 volt overhead transmission line linking Wylfa substation on Anglesey with Deeside Grid substation at Connah's Quay in Flintshire.

The route passed through areas of high amenity value and two Public Inquiries were held on the proposed route before consent was granted to the Generating Board for the erection of the transmission line.

The new line is seventy miles long and its route lies through Pentir, near Bangor, the Conway Valley, Abergele and Flint.

## Bits and Pieces

### FURTHER OUTLOOK DRY AND HOT

Following the sensational success of our MANWEB washer (over 900 sold to date) we now introduce a baby brother! This is the **Manweb Spin-Dryer Pump Model**. Made at the same works as the washer, this attractively styled spinner is competitively priced at **only £26**.

In our shops now, you can see a selection of MANWEB electric fires... all economically priced. These are very handy when occasional heating is required... as the evening gets a little chilly after a warm day.

### ON STAGE

Pretty little Miss Jean Burnett of the Head Office Accounts Department took to the stage a few weeks ago when as a member of Liverpool's Little Theatre, she was in the cast of "Maria Martin" which was presented at the Crane Theatre.

### MAIL FOR MR. WEB

We congratulate the G.P.O. staff at Llandudno for correctly routing a letter addressed to "Mr. A. N. Web, Llandudno" to our Conway Valley District Office.

### FOR EXPORT

An export order for two refrigerators and a cooker—value £200—was obtained

recently at our Walton Vale Shop. The destination of the goods—New South Wales, Australia!

### PILLOW LACE!

If you have any equipment lying around which is useful for doing pillow lace, would you please get in touch with Mrs. D. W. Jones of the Typing Office, Area 4, Rhostyllen?

### FOR SALE

Collector selling part collection and surplus auction items offers approval selections—G.B., Commonwealth and some foreign. Good bargains for new/medium collectors. For details drop a line to Mr. D. Land, "Lochinvar", Rossett, Wrexham, or ring Chester 24062.



A general view of the Mini Exhibition held in Liverpool. In front of the MANWEB stand is the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Mrs. Ethel M. Wormald.

## MINI EXHIBITION

With the renewed national emphasis on productivity, the Mini Exhibition organised by the Merseyside Engineering Group of the Engineering Industry Association and held recently at the Students Union, Liverpool University, was particularly appropriate in showing that the basis of industrial efficiency is largely dependent on increased investment in modern plant and machinery.

The theme of the MANWEB stand was to show

how industrialists within the Board's area had increased productivity by the adoption of electrical aids to production.

The newly formed Industrial Sales Service of the Board was also featured, together with general coverage on the technical information facilities which are available on all matters concerning the utilisation of electricity in industry and commerce.

## Electric Central Heating does well again

### MARKET ADVANCES

Electric central heating took 30% of the total of 666,000 central heating acquisitions during the year ending December 1967. Overall this placed electricity second in the central heating fuel league table.

In sales to existing homes, however, where 58% of the total business is done, electric central heating achieved 35% of sales and was easily the leader.

Electric central heating also continued to dominate the small installation market. Heating systems of under 28,000 Btu/h accounted for 56% of all installations and electricity's share was 44%. In the new homes market electric

central heating sold 23% of installations and was second in the sales table.

Of all homes now having a central heating system, 23% are electric.

An Electricity Council spokesman said, "It is clear that in existing homes and for smaller installations where families simply want to have added warmth at an economic cost, electricity continues to lead the market. In the new homes market off-peak Electricaire is making substantial progress. In all areas of central heating sales, electricity is getting either first or second place. An increasing number of customers are clearly finding that electricity is fully competitive with other systems and these figures are an indication of the future trend in heating in this country."



On his recent retirement from his post as Manager of the Board's Area 1, Mr. Joseph Taylor was given a good "send-off" by his staff when many of his friends and colleagues from Area Office and the Districts as well as those from Head Office (where he once worked as Purchasing Officer) gathered to say their farewells. We join with them in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Taylor many happy years of retirement.

Our picture, taken at the presentation ceremony, shows, from left to right: Mr. D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman), Mr. D. G. Dodds (Chairman), Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Taylor and Mr. H. Telfer, who is now the Manager of Area 1.

## RETIREMENTS

### Mr. T. GARVEY

Just over 46 years ago, Thomas Garvey started work as an office boy for the Liverpool Corporation Electricity Department at Hatton Garden. A couple of years later he started his apprenticeship as an electrician working on substations, generating stations and appliance repairs.

In 1932, Mr. Garvey was promoted as inspector of installations, a position he held until 1939 when he joined the Royal Engineers, serving with the B.E.F. and the Middle East Forces as a Warrant Officer.

After demobilisation, he returned to his job with the

Corporation and later transferred to MANWEB, from where he retired recently as an assistant installation inspection engineer.

His hobbies, to which he can now devote much more time, include rose growing, first aid work and caring for the aged and poor through his church organisation. He also has a keen interest in photography, and this was evident when a parting gift of a camera was presented to him by Mr. D. E. Noad (District Commercial Engineer) on behalf of his many friends at Marsh Lane.

Mr. Noad, centre left, wishes Mr. Garvey a long and happy retirement as he presents him with a farewell gift on behalf of his many friends and colleagues.



### Mr. J. LATHAM

After 22 years' service with the electricity supply industry, Mr. James Latham, a meter reader/collector in our Crewe District retired a short time ago. Unfortunately, during the past few years, he has not enjoyed very good health and has often worked under trying circumstances.

On behalf of his colleagues, Mr. H. T. McBride (District Senior Clerk) presented him with a transistor radio as a parting gift and commented on his devotion to duty being an example to others.

### Mr. W. TABERN

The canteen at our Warrington District Office was packed to capacity with people who wished to be present at the farewell ceremony for Mr. W. (Bill) Tabern who was retiring from his job as public lighting foreman after completing over 36 years' service in the supply industry.

In making the gift presentations, Mr. A. R. Cooper (District Engineer) paid tribute to Bill's long and loyal service. A number of colleagues also added their good wishes for a happy retirement as some recalled the days gone by when they played football with Bill who gained the reputation of taking a kick at anything above stocking-top height! Later he became a well-known referee.

At the farewell ceremony, Mrs. Tabern accompanied her husband and she was remembered as Mrs. Ena Harding (clerk) presented her with a bouquet of flowers.



Mr. Cooper, left, bids farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Tabern.

### Mr. F. ROBINSON

Friends and colleagues at Area 1 transport department subscribed to buy a transistor radio for Mr. Frank Robinson on the occasion of his recent retirement. The presentation, on their behalf, was made by Mr. J. Hill (4th assistant engineer, Transport) who spoke of Frank's popularity and gentleness and of his sincere desire to do a good job.

In his retirement, Frank will be able to devote all his time to his church activities (*St. James'*,

*West Derby*) and to the Boy Scout Movement. Having reached the age limit he has also retired from leadership in the Scout Movement, but will still continue to offer his services and his great knowledge.

In 1954, Frank was awarded the Scout Medal of Merit in recognition of his 25 years as a scout and seven years later, in further recognition of his outstanding service, he received a Bar to his Medal.

Mr. Robinson, third from left, says his goodbyes to Mr. Hill.







(Chester Chronicle picture)

We are the Champions... of Section "B" of the Chester Sunday League. From left to right, back row: Messrs. K. Denholme, T. Parkinson, D. Evans, M. Denholme, J. W. Trimble, D. Berry, K. Hughes, G. Roberts and R. F. Thomas. Front row: Messrs. T. Mole (Manager), B. Billingham, J. Bennett, S. Crawford, E. Gough, R. Coldrick and K. Parkinson (captain). Mr. Thomas, the League Secretary presented the team with the Chester Chronicle Shield and Mr. Trimble presented the individual trophies.

## TREASURE HUNT

Nineteen vehicles, including a Vintage Vauxhall driven by Mr. I. Nottingham (1st assistant District Engineer) set off from Caernarvon and Bangor in the first of this year's Car Treasure Hunts organised by the Caernarvon District Sports and Social Club.

Although the starter allowed several minutes between each car, ten teams soon congregated in one place as they searched for a non-existent clue. From this point onwards, some of the teams began to travel along a number of strange and seemingly unexplored routes, until they realised they were on the wrong track and made for the finishing point.

However, a good time was had by all, as they were blessed with a fine evening and the trail had been planned to top Bryn Bras where the competitors were able to admire the striking beauty of the surrounding mountains.

A hotel in Llanberis was where the "hunt" ended, and as all the teams gathered round, excitedly the judges totted up the marks and announced the winners to be Mr. O. G. Roberts and Mr. A. V. Owen, both employed as electricians at Caernarvon. The second prize went to Mr. A. Toplis, another electrician, and the 'Booby

prize' went to a very sporting team indeed who had come all the way from Blaenau Ffestiniog to compete, Mr. R. D. Jones, a meter reader, and his friends.

## TABLE TENNIS

The table tennis section of the Northwich District Sports and Social Club propose to organise a knock-out competition during the 1968-69 season.

If you already have a team in your office or section, or think you can get one organised, please get in touch with Mr. Roy Senior of the Meter Test Department at Northwich (Tel.: Northwich 4388). He will be able to give you details of the competition and first rate advice on the setting up of a team.

## GOLF

Our Area 2/3 Golfing Society held its second monthly meeting at the Upton-by-Chester golf course a few weeks ago, when a Par Competition was played.

This was won by Mr. C. Powell (2 down) who beat Mr. W. Thompson (3 down) into second place. Other good cards were returned by Messrs. H. Parsons, A. Jones and G. G. Barnes.

## CRICKET

Steady progress is being made in this year's MANWEB Knock-Out Cricket Competition, with two second round matches already decided, Northwich (97 for 8) beating Head Office (33 all out) and Warrington (102 for 9) beating North Wirral (33 all out).

Still to be played are the matches Anglesey v. St. Helens and Area 1 v. Area 4.

The draw for the semi-finals is as follows:

Northwich v. Anglesey or St. Helens  
Area 1 or Area 4 v. Warrington

## BADMINTON

For the second successive year, members of the Southport District Sports and Social Club enjoyed playing and watching the special Handicap Tournament for the "District Badminton Trophy" which was donated by the Club President, Mr. L. J. Scudamore.

An excellent entry of 16 pairs took part with handicaps from plus 4 to minus 23! Some exciting games were played in the early rounds which were pointers to some closely fought matches as the pairs reached the quarter and

semi-finals. In the latter, Alan Pleasant and Dave Fazakerly triumphed over Terry Briody and Mike Brown, and Doris Hamer and Ron Harper beat David Biggs and Ken Winrow who, incidentally put up a magnificent fight.

The final game turned out to be very keen and tense, both pairs being held to a draw at one stage. The close result was a two-point win for Doris and Ron, who then received the Trophy from Mr. Scudamore together with miniature replicas of the Trophy as keepsakes. In congratulating the winners, Mr. Scudamore also paid tribute to the gallant losers for the fine game they had played.

Among the first-timers in the competition were John Heaton and Eddie Capp, and even though they had never played the game before, their 'youthful zest' was a pleasure to watch. Other players who merit a mention were Terry Briody, Alan Rigby and Arnie Ormerod.

All the members who went along and enjoyed this most excellent evening passed a vote of thanks to the organisers of the event and to Elaine Corrin and Susan Tweddell who were on 'refreshments'.

Some of the competitors and spectators at this year's Badminton Tournament in the Southport District. Seated in the centre of the front row is Mr. L. J. Scudamore (District Manager) who presented the Trophy to Miss Doris Hamer (to his left) and Mr. Ron Harper (on his right).





The victors from Head Office. From left to right, back row: Messrs. P. Byrne, M. Cooper, E. Maxwell, N. Dickinson, B. Little, T. Dutton and H. Farrow. Front row: Messrs. P. Murray, D. Croston, J. Porter and C. Chorlton.

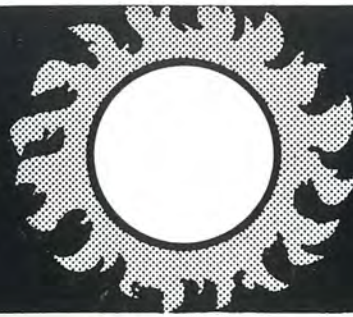
## Football Friendly

A very interesting and high scoring game was played a few weeks ago at Southport between the District team and a Head Office XI. Though the visitors ran out winners by six goals to two, the home team put up a very creditable performance.

And a smile from the sporting losers. From left to right, back row: Messrs. J. Colvin, E. Tomlinson, A. Rigby, E. C. Capp, M. Brown and T. Briody. Front row: Messrs. R. Pattison, S. Rimmer, J. A. Bell, R. Newsham and K. Winrow.



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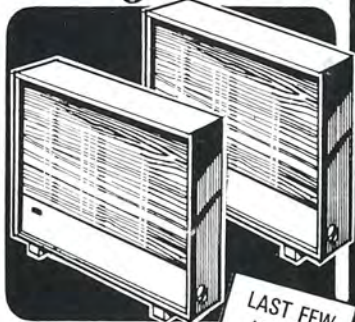
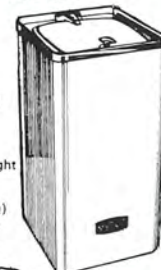
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