

CONTACT

June 1971



"That's the place . . ."



On a civic visit, from left to right: Mr. D. G. Dodds (Chairman MANWEB), Sir Norman Elliott (Chairman of the Electricity Council), Alderman Lieut.-Col. J. M. V. Cotterell (Mayor of Chester) and Mr. D. M. Kermode (Chester Town Clerk).



Mr. R. H. Phillips (Marketing Adviser), left, with Mr. D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman, MANWEB).

MEMBERS OF THE ELECTRICITY COUNCIL VISIT CHESTER



Above: On tour of the offices, l. to r.—Mr. H. Foreman (Asst. Chief Engineer, Civil, MANWEB), and members of the Electricity Council, Mr. A. R. Wheatley (Public Relations Adviser), Sir Stanley Brown (Ch'man, CEGB), Mr. Owen Francis (Deputy Ch'man, CEGB) and partly hidden, Mr. A. N. Irens (Chairman, South Western Board).

Below: l. to r.—Mr. D. S. Webb-Jones (Senior Asst. Engineer, MANWEB) explains the heating system to Messrs. C. A. French (Financial Adviser), A. H. Norris (Chairman, North Eastern Board), E. Sinnot (Ch'man, South Eastern Board), H. J. Sheppard (Head of Engineering Branch) and Mr. R. D. Thomas (Assistant Secretary, MANWEB).



Mr. A. E. Addison (2nd assistant engineer, MANWEB), centre, chats with Mr. P. A. Lingard (Member), left and Mr. R. F. Richardson (Chairman, Norweb).

Mr. R. R. B. Brown (Ch'man Southern Board), left, and Mr. M. M. Parker (Secretary and Solicitor, MANWEB).





THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE MERSEYSIDE AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

CONTACT

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EDITORIAL

Keeping the Nest Clean

A FEW generations hence, our very wealthy descendants will be struggling to exist in surroundings poisoned and sterilised by our current efforts to extract and exploit the natural resources of our planet.

This is the warning of experts concerned in that very modern problem confronting us all—the pollution which stems from our failure to effectively dispose of the waste products of our industry.

The threat of pollution hangs over our environment in many ways, ranging from the air we breathe to the seas around us.

Water-sustained life is particularly sensitive to poisons and pollution, and it takes very little disturbance of the natural balance of water content to wipe out fish and allied life, as was made painfully obvious some time ago during labour disputes involving cleansing authority staffs.

Over the years the exploitation of power resources, and the burning of raw fuels in particular, has been a major source of pollution, and it has often been justly claimed that electricity is the cleanest of all power sources.

In taking precautions to protect the fish population of a Welsh mountain lake and river (reported elsewhere in this number of *Contact*), our construction colleagues set an example which can be usefully followed by every section of the community, both organisational and individual.

If the dire warnings of the anti-pollution campaigners are not to come to frightful fulfilment, then energetic action, involving probably both expenditure and legislation, will become increasingly urgent in the years to come.

No-one wants to see our environment turned into one gigantic noxious refuse tip, and most people would like to see the heritage of our great-grandchildren protected by vigorous action—now!

Protecting the Fish in Lake Ogwen

Part of the Overhead Line in Snowdonia Rebuilt



SPECIAL precautions to prevent the pollution of a newly-stocked trout-fishing lake in the heart of Snowdonia were among the problems faced by MANWEB construction staff who are engaged in re-constructing a 45-year-old high voltage line.

The original line, of 33,000-Volts, linked the power stations at Cwm Dyli, which nestles in a hollow at the foot of Snowdon, and Dolgarrog, in the Conway valley, with Bethesda, with a link-up at Capel Curig.

Under a modernisation and improvement scheme, the Cwm Dyli—Bethesda loop, which passes through, some of the most impressive scenery in North Wales is being re-constructed to modern standards at 11,000-Volts, while the link line with Dolgarrog, which originally ran straight up an exposed mountainside, has been dispensed with.

In rebuilding the Cwm Dyli line, great care has been taken to ensure that it obtrudes as little as possible into the scenery, and in places the line has been deviated from its original route to improve the outlook.

Where the A5 road rises through a pass between the Glyder range on one side and the Cardneddau on the other, it skirts the shore of Llyn Ogwen, a mile-long lake in a setting of wild grandeur at a height of nearly 1,000 feet.

The easy way would have been to take the line along the roadside, but planning considerations dictated that it must follow the route of the old line

on the distant side of the lake, lost to view against the back-cloth of a rocky mountain slope.

The outfall of the lake flows into the River Ogwen, which makes its way down the Nant Ffrancon towards Bethesda and Bangor, and not long ago the fish population was virtually wiped out by some kind of pollution in the water.

Local fishing interests have recently re-stocked with brown trout, and the job of getting the heavy poles into position on the other side of the lake presented quite a problem.

The ground was too rocky and boggy for any kind of vehicle, and the fresh creosote on the poles ruled out the obvious solution of floating the poles across the lake, in view of the danger of poisoning the new fish community.

Various solutions, including the use of a helicopter, were considered and discarded as impractical.

OUR COVER PICTURE

“and we can drop this one off just over there . . .”

—the MANWEB raft, plus motor boat, with rowing boat in tow, crossing the Llyn Ogwen with an extra-long pole. In the picture, standing, are Messrs. S. Davies (linesman), W. D. Brown (foreman) and T. A. Jones (driver), with, seated, R. Roberts (driver), W. P. Kirkby (linesman, in bobcap), P. J. T. Lewis (linesman, nursing pole) and R. Williams (labourer, nearest camera).

Left:

Lowering a pole down a handy rock slipway, with restraining ropes and a couple of duckboards to guide it into position on the raft.

Right:

Safely on board the oil-drum raft, the pole is fastened down ready for the choppy journey across the lake.



Eventually a dozen empty 40-gallon oil drums, encased in a framework of planks, was made into a raft.

Pushed by a small boat with a tiny outboard motor, the poles were ferried across the lake two at a time, and then manhandled by a team of MANWEB workers using rope slings to the spots where they were to be erected.

To cope with the job of boring and blasting holes in the rock, a compressor was also ferried across, and the raft used as a floating platform.

No-one is quite sure how the old-timers got the original poles into position. They may have been floated across, but they certainly had no power to help them make the pole-holes. The old line is a monument to the toil and sweat of the North Wales

The long haul begins as men strain on the ropes to off-load the poles on the farther bank. With the aid of rollers and a steady heave, the poles are carefully and slowly moved into position.





The raft being used as a floating platform for the compressor which supplied the power for the pneumatic drill. The man responsible for keeping the machine going is Mr. S. Vagnarelli (*driver*).

electricity pioneers, as the poles were sunk about seven feet into the rocky hillside in holes which could only have been made with picks and crowbars. Just to make certain, several tons of boulders were then piled round the base of each pole!

The thorough way in which the work was done is testified to by the fact that the line has survived nearly half a century of some of the wildest weather in Britain. Indeed, the poles were still in remarkably

good condition, though unsuited for use in the modernised line.

As a by-product of the work, about a dozen isolated farms and climbers' huts—a handful of the last few properties without mains power—are being connected to the new line, and the whole job will probably be finished in the Autumn.

In charge is Mr. G. S. Jones, of engineering production control, while the team of MANWEB



This picture shows clearly the difficult nature of the ground on which the line is being built, and explains why the raft idea was used to deliver the equipment!

Here we see some of the gang laying the compressed air lines to power the pneumatic drill.

construction workers from Llandudno and Rhyl is under the day-to-day supervision of foreman Mr. Bill Brown.

This work represents one of the dwindling number of pioneering jobs which MANWEB construction workers are called on to cope with, recalling the heyday of this kind of work at the height of our rural electrification programme.

Right:
Linesmen T. E. Moores and D. D. Jones talk over a problem during the operation.



Above:

At the sharp end of the power train, Mr. J. D. Holmes (*labourer*) stops wrestling with the pneumatic drill for a moment—but the 'bangers' are lying handy for use when the drill holes have been bored in the rock!

Right:
The end of the road for one of the poles erected by the pioneers of 45 years ago.





Chairman Presents Awards for Long Service in the Electricity Supply Industry

*From left to right: Messrs. H. Bunn (45 years),
D. G. Dodds (Chairman), W. A. Gibson (45 years),
J. W. Trimble (Group Manager) and H. T.
Williams (45 years).*



Some of the recipients of Long Service Awards for 35 Years (above), and for 25 Years (below).



MANWEB Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds made the presentations of Long Service Awards to Head Office and former Area 2/3 employees who had qualified during last year. The ceremony took place in the restaurant at Sealand Road recently and awards were as follows:

45 Years

Head Office : Mr. W. A. Gibson (*Establishments Officer*). **Chester** : Mr. H. Bunn (*foreman, now retired*). **North Wirral** : Messrs. S. H. Kempton (*substation attendant, now retired*) and H. T. Williams (*foreman, Meter Test*).

35 Years

Head Office : Miss E. D. Fern (*Personal Assistant*), Messrs. J. Pilkington (*Executive Officer, Secretarial*), H. Sharples (*general assistant engineer*) and R. Slack (*principal assistant, E. & T.*). **Former Area 2/3 Office** : Mr. S. A. Cox (*principal assistant engineer, now retired*). **Chester** : Messrs. H. Furness (*shop supervisor*), C. D. Houlbrook (*Admin. assistant*), C. G. Martin (*jointer*), F. Newell (*mains foreman*), L. A. Peers (*chargehand driver*) and C. G. Smith (*installation inspector*). **Northwich** : Mrs. M. M. Le Voi (*shorthand typist*), Messrs. J. W. Foster (*linesman*), J. Goulding (*storekeeper*), S. Goulding (*meter repairer*), F. Green (*contracting engineer*) and F. Webb (*substation attendant*). **North Wirral** : Messrs. W. F. Crossley (*meter reader*), J. Dowker (*consumers' engineer*), T. A. Maguire (*System Engineer*) and J. H. Woodhouse (*4th assistant engineer*). **St. Helens** : Mr. E. G. Barrett (*elec-*

trician). **Warrington** : Mr. F. Pemberton (*senior clerical assistant*).

25 Years

Head Office : Messrs. A. A. Booth (*2nd assistant engineer*) and H. Shepherd (*administrative assistant, Revenue*). **Former Area 2/3 Office** : Miss M. Adamson (*senior clerical assistant—Financial*) and Mr. O. C. Cassidy (*higher clerical assistant—Financial*). **Chester** : Messrs. J. Ashbrook (*foreman electrician*), J. W. Astbury (*public lighting attendant*) and K. Edwards (*2nd assistant engineer*). **Northwich** : Messrs. M. L. Hunt (*foreman electrician*), R. Maddock (*electrician*), K. N. Millington (*meter reader/collector*) and L. Stenton (*chargehand installation inspector*). **North Wirral** : Mrs. S. F. Jackson (*shorthand typist*). Messrs. C. Baker (*jointer*), J. H. Davies (*electrical fitter's mate now retired*), E. Devon (*driver*), G. Diamond (*labourer, now retired*) T. A. Robertson (*labourer*), E. T. Smiles (*jointer, now retired*), J. K. Waring (*mains foreman*) and S. Woodcock (*labourer*). **Runcorn** : Messrs. J. W. Flanagan (*foreman-transport*), W. D. Garner (*jointer*), A. A. Perry (*chargehand electrician*), R. Vickerstaff (*foreman electrician*) and T. Whitney (*electrician*). **St. Helens** : Messrs. E. Briscoe (*substation attendant*), C. McEwen (*assistant consumer's engineer*), F. Morrison (*labourer*), A. Sutton (*electrician*) and H. Tunstall (*driver*). **Warrington** : Messrs. C. Antrobus (*electrician*), E. Appleton (*chargehand jointer*), H. S. Hayes (*meter reader/collector*), T. A. Knight (*messenger*), S. Morris (*meter reader/collector*) and A. Watkinson (*chargehand labourer*).

Obituary

MR. W. A. GIBSON

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. W. A. Gibson, MANWEB'S Establishments Officer (*top picture, opposite*), a week or two after he received his 45-year award.

Mr. Gibson collapsed and died while at work at Head Office on the evening of Monday, June 7th. He began his service with the industry as a junior clerk with Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department, and held administrative posts of increasing responsibility until the Department became part of MANWEB when the industry was nationalised in 1948. Soon afterwards he became assistant to the late Mr. E. A. Colter, (Establishments Officer), and succeeded to his position on Mr. Colter's retirement.

As an Establishments Officer, Mr. Gibson was responsible for negotiation with trade unions and the implementation of working agreements, but the fact that from time to time he had to do some tough bargaining on behalf of the Board did nothing to lessen his popularity among the MANWEB staff.

Over the years he had become a most well-known and respected figure, noted for his jovial disposition and his willingness to help and advise Board employees at all times over all kinds of problems.

Prizewinners and Solution

APRIL CROSSWORD

This crossword seemed to have stumped many of our regulars with quite a number missing out odd letters and others making careless mistakes like spelling 'aqueducts' with two 'a's'—aquaducts.

We managed to pull out three winners. The £2 prizes awarded to—

Mr. N. Jones, Drawing Office, Sealand Road.. **Mr. T. F. Bainbridge**, Computer Services, Sealand Road. **Mr. S. C. Murphy**, Drawing Office, Sealand Road. *How about it Districts?*

The solution is as follows:

Across: 1 & 5 Ancient Mariner. 9 First. 10 Estaminet. 11 Obligarchy. 12 Inset. 13 Thole. 15 Aqueducts. 18 Insulated. 19 Rilke. 21 Siren. 23 Overtures. 25 Penniless. 26 Rider. 27 Dryness. 28 Deep End.

Down: 1 Affront. 2 Corridors. 3 Extra. 4 Trenchant. 5 Mothy. 6 Remainder. 7 Nines. 8 Rotates. 14 Eglantine. 16 Undressed. 17 Coleridge. 18 Insipid. 20 Ensured. 22 Renny. 23 Ogees. 24 Three.



STILL GOING STRONG

WREXHAM'S leading citizen for the next twelve months will be **Councillor Gwilym Parry**, a native of Penygroes, Caernarvonshire—the Town's 89th Mayor. Many of our readers will have fond memories of Gwilym when he worked at Rhostyllen as Chief Cashier for Area 4 prior to his retirement way back in 1964 after serving the industry for some 37 years. He is proving how really active one can be in retirement for he now seems to be busier than ever.

While at Rhostyllen apart from the demands of his job, he found the time to devote himself unselfishly to work with many organisations connected with the welfare of people and for many years was the Honorary Treasurer of the Trydan Friendly Society.

He was in demand as an "M.C." and on many occasions was the mainstay in providing the entertainment at the annual party for children. He was also keenly interested in amateur dramatics and was at one time the producer of the MANWEB Welsh Drama Group.

In the field of public affairs, Coun-

cillor Parry has been a representative—as an Independent—for the Wats Dyke Ward on the Wrexham Borough Council since 1956. He became a County Councillor when he won the Denbighshire County Council seat for the same Ward. He now represents the County Council with the Governors of a number of schools and colleges as well as the National Theatre for Wales.

He is on the Board of Governors for the Morgan Lloyd Welsh Secondary School in Wrexham, Chairman of Managers and Correspondent for the Welsh Junior and Infant School in Park Avenue and the Borough Council representative on the Board of Governors of the University College of North Wales at Bangor.

Welsh speaking Councillor Parry takes an active part in Garden Village social life and he has been Chairman of the Local Community Council for many years. He is a keen gardener and angler.

Recently, Councillor Parry and his wife **Irene**, returned from a six-month holiday trip to Brazil where they visited his brother Captain Aled Parry and his family. We are hoping to publish an account of this very interesting trip in an early edition of 'Contact.'

A couple with a very full active life, the Mayor and Mayoress of Wrexham, Councillor Gwilym Parry and his wife Irene.



The Time and the Place.

When on his rounds recently, one of our Northwich meter readers was confronted with a message written on a piece of stiff cardboard and pinned to the door of the house. It read as follows :

"To MANWEB Meter Collector Key available at No. 7 between 9.0 a.m. and 9.50 a.m. 12.10 p.m. and 12.35 p.m. 1.0 p.m. and 2.15 p.m. and after 4.45 p.m. Unable to arrange other times on Friday owing to being out at work."

True to form, the meter was duly emptied during one of the appointed times by **Mr. Frank Gibb**, meter reader/collector.

Storm Damage

A few weeks ago, a violent thunderstorm broke out in the Mold area. Immediately, **Mr. John C. Bowen**, a 3rd assistant systems engineer from Mold office went to the Cefn-Mawr substation to re-energise a feeder which had been out on maintenance. He noticed that another feeder, the 33,000 volt line to Brymbo, had



Mr. Bowen and the storm-struck pole.

tripped after the protection equipment had been brought into operation.

John went through the necessary drill to put the circuit back on supply and then calmly went about his next job.

On the following evening, another storm broke out with lightning flashing and thunder crashing. A customer at Nercwys 'phoned in to see if we knew that a pole carrying overhead lines had been badly damaged by a lightning flash.

After examination, it was found

that the lightning had struck the previous evening and was the cause of the Cefn Mawr-Brymbo feeder tripping out.

The line itself had been erected in 1969 so naturally the pole had been in good condition until the lightning attack which had splintered the solid wood right down to its hard-core centre.

It is interesting to note that no damage was found on any of the insulators or iron work. Nevertheless all these items were replaced by the overhead line gang led by **Mr. Jack Dawson** when a new pole was erected.

Dinner Guests

A 'good night out' was the verdict of the members of our Aberystwyth District staff who went along and enjoyed the 19th Annual Dinner/Dance organised by the District Sports and Social Club.

Mr. Jack Colley, as Chairman of the Sports and Social Club, welcomed the guests of honour, **Alderman and Mrs. Sam Lewis** (the Mayor and Mayoress of the Town) and members and guests. Group Superintendent of the C.E.G.B., **Mr. W. Slater** replied on behalf of the guests.

£100 Brainwave

For an idea which was "so simple it was a wonder nobody had thought of doing it before," **Mr. H. Kirkwood**, a meter mechanic at the Meter Test Department at Lister Drive, Liverpool, has won an award of £100 under the Employees' Suggestion Scheme.

Mr. Kirkwood's brainwave concerns the salvaging of burned meter switch blocks. New blocks cost about 45p each, and a simple little device made by Mr. Kirkwood, with no thought of the Suggestion Scheme, enables old blocks to be re-faced, removing the pitting caused by arcing, and thus saving the cost of new blocks.

The invention consists basically of a sheet of emery cloth, glued to an adaptor plate, which is fitted in a lathe. The burned blocks are held in a simple jig, located by the same fixing holes used to mount them in the meter mechanism, and in this way can be re-faced in a very short time, after which they are burnished by rubbing with an emery stick, ready for re-use.

Mr. Kirkwood was putting his device to good use one day when his departmental head noticed what was going on, and suggested that it be sent to the District Joint Advisory Council for consideration under the Suggestion Scheme.

An award of £5 followed, and later re-assessment brought another minor award.



Man in the Money, Mr. Kirkwood.

Mr. Kirkwood would have been very happy with this result, but he was even happier some months later to receive a cheque for £100, awarded after further consideration had been given to the likely cash savings involved.

"When I devised this system I never had any thought of the Suggestion Scheme" Mr. Kirkwood told us. "It was just an obvious way of making the job easier, but this experience has convinced me that there must be many people working in the industry who have potential money-saving—and money-winning—ideas staring them in the face."

What is . . .

Grey and has four legs and a trunk?
A mouse going on holiday.

From the East

Sometime ago **Mr. F. J. Brown** (Chief Engineer) and **Mr. J. Fisher** (Deputy Chief Engineer) combined to present a paper at the International Conference on Electrical Distribution held in Liege, Belgium. The paper dealt with the development of interconnected networks in and around the City of Liverpool.

It obviously aroused a great deal of interest with the delegation from Japan. With a show of Western hospitality, the men from the land of the rising sun were invited to visit

our Head Office block in Chester for further discussions with the Men from MANWEB.

Our photographer was on hand to get the delightful oriental smiles on film.

Incidentally, two of the Japanese delegates work for the same company, namely The Kinki Electrical Construction Company Inc, of Osaka!



East meets West when our visitors from Japan come to Seaiand Road. From left to right: Messrs. Katsuji Itoh, Frank J. Brown, Akimasa Wakushima, Fumio Igaki, Jim Fisher, Seishi Miura [and Masaru Sagawa.

Engagement

We join with our friends down in Aberystwyth in wishing a very happy future to two members of their clerical staff, **Mr. Alan Galbraith** and **Miss Jennifer Pyemont**, who recently announced their engagement.

Tour of Inspection

Members of the Warrington New Town Development Corporation, headed by their Chairman The Rt. Hon. Lord Hamnett, were guests of the Board when they visited our Head Office block at Chester a few weeks ago. They were taken on a tour of the building by our expert guides.

Visitors from Warrington New Town Development Corporation, from left to right: Mr. D. J. Binns (General Manager), Rt. Hon. Lord Hamnett (Chairman) and Alderman W. L. Roberts (Deputy Chairman). Their guide and host, on the extreme right, Mr. R. G. Monk (District Commercial Engineer, South Lancs.)



Mr. Denis Webb-Jones (senior assistant engineer) and **Mr. Ernest Covington** (2nd assistant engineer).

Hunters

Colleagues in the Caernarvon District recently organised a car treasure hunt in which 17 vehicles started—and just about finished.

On a glorious evening, the route

took the competitors up above the Town to the village of Rhosgadfan for a panoramic view of the Anglesey and Caernarvon coastline. Then they made their way over un-classified roads to the 'Roman Road' just outside the village of Llanberis.

Everyone then pulled in at a local hotel and after an excellent meal, **Mr. Gwynfor Roberts** acted as disc jockey in addition to providing some vocal entertainment.

Later the first prize was awarded to **Mr. Stuart T. Smith** while the 'booby' prize went to **Mr. Alfie Morris-Jones** for his sensational driving and navigation.

Among the Winners Again

The Electricity Council's Public Speaking Competition was held in London recently and once again a member of MANWEB's female staff was among the prizewinners.

This year, **Mrs. Susan Kent**, an energy sales and appliance marketing demonstrator from Aberystwyth talked her way into third place with a speech entitled, "How to enjoy your garden."

Mrs. Kent was complimented on her success by Miss Christine Foyle, one of the four judges, who said that she had given a very good talk.



Prizewinner Susan Kent.

Born in Moreton-in-the-Marsh in Gloucestershire, 25-year-old Mrs. Kent was formerly a home service adviser with the South Western Gas Board (*Ugh!*). Her husband **Ivan**, is reading biochemistry at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

This was Susan's first attempt in the competition which is open to all employees in the electricity supply industry under the age of 35. This year nearly 400 entered the preliminary rounds.

In the three competitions prior

to this, MANWEB girls have gained high places each time. Last year **Mrs. Lillian Hughes** came first, in 1969 **Mrs. Wendy Baker** was second and in 1968, **Miss Ann Semple** was another winner who brought back the Faraday Shield.

They Gave a Pint

After the recent visit of the Blood Transfusion Unit to our Head Office at Chester it was announced that a total of 168 pints of blood had been given by members of the Board's staff.

The Liverpool Regional Hospital Board spokesman said that for a brief period they were completely solvent in their blood bank.

Correction

We wish to offer our apologies for the very grave error we made in our last issue when reporting on the retirement of **Mr. Hector Sergison** of Lister Drive. We said that he was 'an ardent Liverpool supporter' when in fact he is a true blue from the other side of the park. So, to you Hector—still unconverted—and to **Mr. Harry Catterick**, our apologies.

Jolly Roger

Every six weeks, leaders of our South Lancashire District Commercial Department get together for what is called a District Commercial Management Meeting. Here they have inquests on the activities of the past few weeks before going on to discuss the short-term and long-term campaigns to increase the District sales figures. Usually these meetings are held at District Office in Wilderspool Causeway, but on the last occasion, **Mr. Roger Monk** (District Commercial Engineer) decided to hold the

meeting on board his 40-foot long-boat 'Nevin'.

His shipmates who went along to join him at the British Waterways basin at Nantwich were **Messrs, Ken. Appleton** (Energy Sales), **Vernon Collard** (District Sales Supervisor), **Fred. Crossley** (Installation) and **Ron. Johnson** (Supply).

They were blessed with a beautiful afternoon and quickly got down to business amid the peace and solitude of the basin with only external sound being the gentle lapping of the water against the side of the boat.

After the meeting, the party was joined by **Mr. Albert Cooper** (South Lancashire District Engineer) and **Mr. Norman Walsh** (Mid-Cheshire District Commercial Engineer).

Then off for an evening's leisure cruise down the river—destination *The Jolly Tar*. After supper on board, the return journey was made to the moorings at Nantwich, ending a very successful venture.

Nalگو Honour

A member of our Head Office staff, **Mr. John Greenhalgh** (principal assistant, Personnel) has been elected Chairman of Nalگو's National Electricity Committee, following the death of the previous Chairman, Mr. E. E. Lloyd, of the South Wales Electricity Board.

The appointment carries with it a seat on the National Joint Council's Negotiating Committee, representing both staff and employers, which hammers out the details of salaries and conditions of service for clerical and administrative workers in the industry, for later ratification by the full N.J.C. He also takes up one of the 'nominated' seats on the Union's National Executive Council.



Union man, **Mr. John Greenhalgh**

Mr. Greenhalgh began his active Nalگو life in 1950, when he was appointed to his local Branch Executive Committee. Some five years later he was elected to his District Joint Council, and about the same time he became his local Branch Secretary.

For the past ten years or so, he has served on the District Joint Advisory Council, and is currently vice-Chairman of this body—for the second time.

The longboat 'Nevin' complete with the Manweb logo, the 'Fridge 'n Freezer' headboard and the crew. At the sharp end Messrs. Crossley and Johnson while at the blunt end we see Messrs. Collard and Appleton with Captain Roger Monk.





Some of the electrical fitters and substation attendants at their farewell ceremony at Marsh Lane.

To a New Life

Another group of colleagues from our North Mersey District—this time electrical fitters and substation attendants—said their 'farewells' to workmates recently.

Several had opted for early retirement, and for one of them, **Mr. Tommy McGinn**, a substation attendant with 38 years' service, the move will mean that he will be able to devote himself to nursing his wife, who is ill. We earnestly hope that the attention Tommy can now give to his wife will help in her recovery so that they can both enjoy their new-found leisure.

Cheques were presented to the members of the staff at a ceremony held at Marsh Lane.

Mr. A. W. Hawley (*District Engineer*) commented on the high quality of the work done by all the men and thanked them for their past service. Other tributes were paid by

Mr. C. S. Shimmin (*System Engineer*) and **Mr. K. Crabtree** (*Production Engineer*).

Other voices in support were raised by **Mr. Arthur Johnson** (*foreman*) who spoke of the service and co-operation he had received from the men, and **Mr. Alan Connor** (*fitter*) who thanked them for their comradeship over the years.

Dave Mellor (*jointer*) also thanked his colleagues for their help and friendship and wished them all the very best of good luck in the future.

The Men from MANWEB who said their farewells in a most convivial and relaxed atmosphere were as follows: Messrs. **T. McGinn** and **H. Leadbetter** (*substation attendants*), **Mr. G. Neal** (*chargehand electrical fitter*), Messrs. **G. Harrison** and **J. Stead** (*electrical fitters*) and Messrs. **R. Arlow**, **J. Hamer**, **S. Hunter**, **J. Keelan**, **J. E. Goulborne** and **R. Spencer** (*mates*).

Going Home

Our first "Girl from MANWEB" back in 1968, **Miss Anne Hall**, who later married and became **Mrs. Anne Harding** has now left to devote more time to her husband and their home.

Anne, a very popular, attractive and efficient young lady, started work with the Board about eleven years ago as a junior clerk at Northgate Street, Chester. Later she moved over to Area Office, first as a clerk, then as a copy typist before becoming a shorthand typist.

Promotion followed and she was appointed as supervisor of the Area typing pool and when Head Office staff moved to Sealand Road, Anne became typing pool supervisor.

Her many friends and colleagues joined together to say their farewells and to wish Anne happiness in the future. On their behalf **Mr. Dennis Ellams** (*administrative assistant*), presented Anne with a parting gift.

The glamour gang at Head Office surround Mrs. Harding, in white boots, when she left her job with the Board to take up domestic chores.



Exhibition

The sheathed heating element can fairly be described as the work-horse of the electric heating world, offering as it does, tremendous versatility of use, with 100 per cent. efficiency in many kinds of heat application.

To demonstrate the enormous variety of ways in which sheathed heating elements can be put to use in industrial processes, an exhibition was recently staged by the Board in co-operation with eight leading manufacturers in the field.

Held at the MANWEB Industrial Development Centre in Paradise Street, Liverpool, the exhibition attracted many industrialists from all over the Board's area. Specialists from MANWEB and the manufacturers were on call to give the visitors the opportunity to discuss up-to-date heating techniques, running costs and installation details relating to their own particular type of work.

Induction

Over 50 members of the staff employed by MANWEB, the CEGB and the Electricity Council at Capenhurst—all having recently been elected to serve on Local Advisory Committees—had a one-day induction course at the Board's Head Office recently.

They heard various speakers dealing with the advisory and negotiating machinery and then a lively 'Open Forum' session brought the meeting to an end.

The Course was organised by the District Joint Advisory Council.



Above: MANWEB and manufacturers staff at the specialist exhibition in Liverpool.

Below: Some of the delegates who attended the Induction Course for L.A.C. members.



Sign of the Times

This interesting sign was spotted by our cameraman when covering the "Storm Damage" story in the



Nercwys area of Mold. Apparently it refers to the children of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Furse who took over and renovated Nercwys Hall in 1966.

One of the girls at our Mold office suggests that there should be some additional wording on the sign to read "Battery Operated."

Hall of Fame

A member of the Estates and Way-leaves Section at Head Office, **Mr. James E. Robbins** was delighted when he learned recently that his late father had been included among the first 22 'immortals' commemorated in the Soccer 'Hall of Fame' which forms part of the permanent exhibition at football's headquarters at Lancaster Gate in London.

Dad, the late Mr. Ted Robbins,

was Secretary of the Football Associations of Wales for 35 years. It was largely through his personality that soccer gained ground in the rugby-dominated principality. He served well from the very humble beginnings until the Welsh national eleven were taking on the might of England, Scotland and Ireland, and beating them. It is a fact the Wales topped the International Soccer table on several occasions between the two wars.

Popularly known as Wales' Mr. Soccer, Ted joined Lloyd George and Billy Meredith as Wales' "Big Three."

He is now teamed up with other soccer greats in the "Hall of Fame"—Sir Matt Busby, Sir Alf Ramsey, Sir Stanley Matthews and of course his old colleague Billy Meredith—Wales' only other representative.

C.E.G.B. Prepares

During the lovely sunny days we are going to have it is very hard to turn our thoughts to Winter, but this is exactly what our colleagues in the C.E.G.B. have been doing.

In preparation for next Winter's demands for power, they have begun the largest annual programme of plant modifications, overhauls and repairs ever launched in England and Wales.

It involves 500 turbo-generators and 880 boilers—about three-quarters of the Board's total out-put capacity—and will cost about £40 million.

Silent Knight

We would like to thank **Mr. Tom Saladine** and members of the staff at Old Swan shop for the following story . . .

A lady and her husband came into the shop. The lady took up her position at the counter, her husband stood three paces behind her. The wife complained bitterly that the meter had not been changed as requested, her husband uttered not a word. It was established that the meter was in the wife's name and that she

had signed the necessary papers for the meter to be changed.

We got in touch with various departments trying to trace the missing paper work; the whole of this time the wife thumped the counter while her husband stood motionless and speechless. Eventually a date was given for the work to be done and as the lady left the counter, she jerked her thumb in the general direction of her husband and said, "I wouldn't mind so much, but he had to take a half-day off work to get this sorted out here today."

First-Aiders

Years of service in the field of First Aid brought recognition in the form of presentations of Badges and Certificates to 5 members of our staff.

Twenty-year men were **Mr. Reginald Tandy** (foreman meter repairer at Lister Drive—now retired) and **Mr. Herbert Williams** (electrical fitter at Legacy Depot).

Fifteen year awards were presented to **Messrs. Charles Kirkman** (electrician, Rhyl), **Peter de la Roche** (electrician, Crewe) and **John Shallcross** (Engineering Draughtsman, Head Office).

Everest Next

An ascent party of some 30-odd members of the MANWEB Chester Sports and Social Club with their friends made a successful climb to the top of Snowdon a few weeks ago.

Led by **Mr. Rowland George** of the Drawing Office, they braved the bad weather to press on to the summit only to be met with hailstones and sleet with visibility down to a few yards.

Although soaked to the skin, everyone was well pleased with this very successful expedition.

Stork Visit

Congratulations to **Mr. Alan Turner**, a meter reader in Aberystwyth, and his wife **Marion**, on the birth of a son, **Andrew Alan**.

The MANWEB mountaineers pause for a picture on the way up Snowdon.





Our Table Tennis Champions, from left to right, standing: Pat. Byrne, Eric Pearson, Margaret Kent, Mal. Thomas, Chris. Byrne, Geoff. Abel and Ray McDonald.
Seated: Reuben Perry, Dave Stevenson, Joan Whatling, Ed. Maxwell, Bob. Blair and Bill. Sleddon. The one face missing from the line up belongs to Tom Dutton.

Batmen — and Women

AMONG the many sporting activities catered for in the Head Office Sports and Social Club, table tennis has always been the most popular. In view of this, it was decided about twelve months ago, to enter two teams in the Chester and District Table Tennis League to take part in competitions during the Winter months of 1970-71.

Our first team was placed in the 5th Division and our second team went into the 6th Division. After the first few weeks, the high standard set by the players in both teams soon became apparent when the teams topped their respective divisions. Here they stayed, despite some very strong opposition, until the end of the season a few weeks ago. The MANWEB second team cut it a bit fine by leaving it to the final game before clinching the title.

The players making up our teams were : **1st Team**—Reuben Perry (*Registry*), Dave Stevenson (*System Management*) and Joan Whatling (*Commercial*). **2nd Team**—Bill Sleddon (*Maintenance*), Ed Maxwell (*Computers*) and Bob Blair (*Drawing Office*). Other members who have stood in as reserves and have played at one time or another are Geoff Abel

(*Management Services*), Pat Byrne (*Printing*), Tom Dutton (*Secretarial*), Ray McDonald (*Drawing Office*), Eric Pearson (*Engineering*) and Mal Thomas (*Computers*).

MANWEB also entered a Ladies team in the Curzon Park Cup Competition 'just for fun.' They had an excellent run to reach the final only to be pipped at the post. This team comprised Joan Whatling, Chris. Byrne (*Wages*) and Margaret Kent (*Revenue*).

The Chester and District Closed Championships, held this year in the MANWEB Ballroom at Sealand Road, was a huge success. This was the first time that the Competition had ever been completed in one day. Again our players did very well with Joan Whatling as runner-up in the Ladies Singles, after giving the champion a tough battle. Reuben Perry was runner-up in the Division 5 Championship and Bill Sleddon is the new champion of Division 6.

As more staff have now come to work at Head Office, the Sports and Social Club have entered four teams in the League for the coming season. We shall be fighting for honours in Divisions 3,4,5 and 6.



Mr. Hodgetts, *centre left*, wishes a happy retirement to Mr. Adams.

MR. C. ADAMS

A beautiful painting of a woodland scene was one of the farewell presents handed over to Mr. Cyril Adams when he retired a few weeks ago.

Mr. Adams was a substation attendant with the Mid-Cheshire Supply Company way back in 1928 and for the last ten years of his 42-year spell with the industry, he has been foreman meter reader at our Northwich depot.

His friends at Lock Street wished him many years of healthy and happy retirement as Mr. D. Hodgetts (*District Administrative Officer*) made the presentation.

MR. E. J. EVANS

We join with our colleagues at Aberystwyth and send our best wishes to Mr. Evan John Evans who retired recently due to ill health.

Evan, who was a labourer, had been with the Board for the past twenty years.

RETIREMENTS

MR. B. J. MAGUIRE

A man of many parts and interest, Mr. Bernard J. Maguire, recently retired from his work with the Board in Liverpool.

His interest in community welfare started many years ago when he was a Conservative Party member of the Wirral Urban District Council. Later he moved home to West Kirby and served as a Councillor on the Hoylake Urban District Council. He has also served on a number of political and social committees.

During his time with the Board at Derby House, Mr. Maguire has often been in demand for organising dances, trips and other social functions.

We wish him many years of happy and active retirement.

A happy group from Liverpool say their farewells to Mr. Maguire, *third from right on the front row*.





Mr. Carter, *centre right*, says goodbye to Mr. Evans and members of the Runcorn staff.

MR. A. K. OWENS

Two long-serving members of the MANWEB staff at Runcorn received gifts and the good wishes of their friends at separate presentations on the same day at Runcorn office recently.

To mark his retirement after 35 years' service with the industry, Mr. A. K. Owens, a senior clerical assistant, accepted gifts and best wishes for improved health to enable him to enjoy his main hobby of gardening, from Mr. G. H. Dodd (*District Administrative Officer*).

Mr. Owens began his career with the industry as an outside representative in 1936, and in 1939 took over the appliance repair shop, a role he filled until 1948 when he became Manager's clerk.

In the same year he was appointed supervisor in the consumer records section, a post he held until 1968 when he became contracting engineer's clerk.

MR. J. CARTER

The second departure, also marked by a presentation and expressions of goodwill from his colleagues was that of Mr. James Carter, a records draughtsman who joined MANWEB in 1948.

Mr. Carter's unusual hobby, calling for meticulous accuracy and great care, is that of collecting statistics on sport—particularly golf, cricket and rugby league. His records include every appearance made by every rugby league player, all points scored, transfer fees, etc., from the start to the finish of each player's career.

This mine of information stimulates requests for help from all parts of the country, and local newspaper sports columnists are often happy to turn to Mr. Carter for background information!

The presentation was made by Mr. W. Evans (*2nd assistant engineer*).

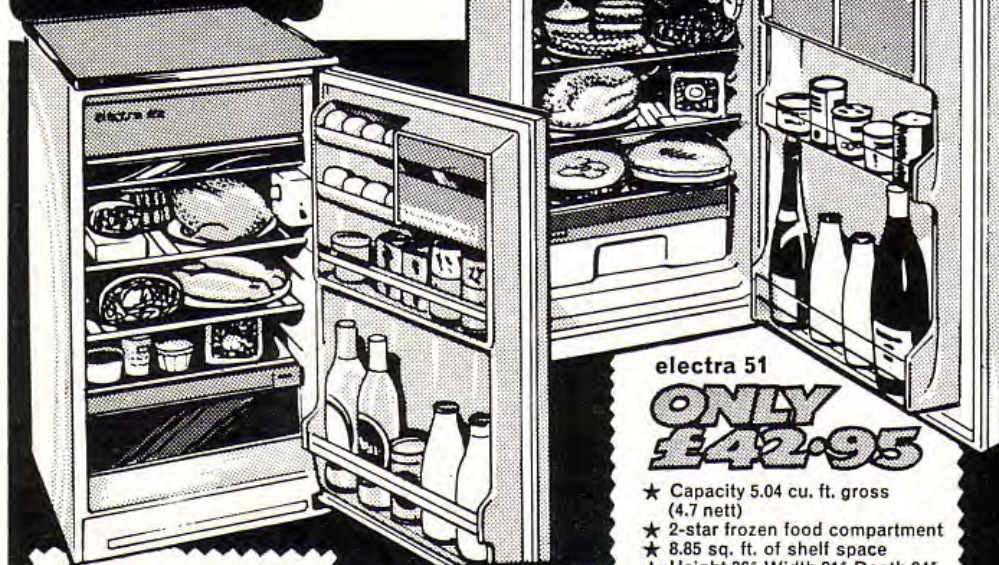
Mr. Owens, *front right*, has a farewell handshake for Mr. Dodds.



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Wales Electricity Board,
Head Office, Sealand Road,
Chester, CH1 4LR

Printed by
W. H. Evans & Sons Ltd.
Knutsford Way, Sealand Rd.
Trading Estate, Chester,
CH1 4LR

Converted to a .pdf
19/02/2014
John Bowen