

CONTACT

June
1972



The Lynettes (see page 113)

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

• We offer our sincere congratulations to our two colleagues who recently received awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. •

Mr. H. EVANS, O.B.E., J.P.

A founder member and well-respected member of the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board, Mr. Henry Evans has been made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.



Mr. Evans became a part-time member of the Board just prior to Vesting Day in 1948. He was an official of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers and due to his vast experience, his appointment on the Board concerned industrial relations and joint consultation.

He represented the Board on all District Negotiating Councils and the District Joint Advisory Council as well as representing the Board and the Industry nationally on two National Councils. He continued this work until he resigned from these bodies in 1956.

In December 1949, he became the Chairman of the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Consultative Council and in that capacity he continued to serve on the Board.

As Chairman of the Consultative Council, he is also an ex-officio member of each of the six Local Consultative Committees, and he attends all their meetings as well as the regular Council meetings.

He was a Liverpool City Councillor for many years and a former Chairman of the Liverpool Corporation Health Committee. He is now a member of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board and serves on the Board of Governors of the United Liverpool Hospitals.

He has been a City magistrate for the past 26 years.

Mr. Evans considers his work on the Consultative Council to be a major part of his life today. He doesn't have much leisure time as he is actively engaged in quite a lot of voluntary and committee work.

However, on one occasion a short time ago, he did manage to snatch a little free time to play football with his grandson—and ended up with a broken ankle!

* * *

Mr. E. BENYON, B.E.M.

A foreman fitter mechanic in the Dee Valley District, Mr. Eric Benyon was awarded the British Empire Medal.

We had a certain amount of difficulty in getting hold of Mr. Benyon as he flitted between his base at New Crane Street and our Queensferry depot where he is



helping to set up a new garage and workshop.

When we did manage to pin him down, we found that he is what may be called a "24-hour worker," for in addition to his very exacting job with MANWEB, he is also a leading fireman in the Retained Fire Service at Chester. This means that he is 'on call' from the moment he arrives home after leaving work until he starts again with the Board on the following day.

Mr. Benyon started his working life in the electricity industry when he joined the Chester Corporation as an apprentice fitter in 1937. At the same time he joined the Chester Fire Service on the Retained list as a call boy.

During the last war he served in the Royal Navy as a Petty Officer with the Light Coastal Forces and gained the 1939/45 Atlantic and Italy Stars and the Victory Medal.

After the war he returned to his jobs with the Corporation (later MANWEB) and the Fire Service.

His father and grandfather too gave many years of their lives to the local Fire Service on the Retained list. Eric himself, received the Queen's Medal for duty in the Fire Service.

Now he has another in his collection!



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Editorial Staff
Keith Baldwin
John F. Perry
Sam Doughty

EDITORIAL

New Life for Dinorwic

LENGTHY speculation, including a good deal of controversy between those supporting and opposing developments impinging on the Snowdonia National Park area, have culminated in the Central Electricity Generating Board's proposals for a large new pumped storage installation in Caernarvonshire.

These proposals have received widespread publicity, and are fully described in this number of *Contact*.

Quite a few hurdles remain to be surmounted, but already influential sections of public opinion, including press comment, have come down in favour of the new proposal.

There is no doubt that in these economically-inclement times any plan which will give work to up to 1,000 men for seven years will be welcomed with open arms by the great majority of people living in the affected locality. At the same time, the great value of pumped storage capacity, contributing as it does so much to the flexibility of our national electricity system, presents a very strong argument for getting on with the job with the least possible delay.

Twenty years ago electricity generation in the Western part of North Wales was confined to a few small hydro stations, but since then the picture has changed with dramatic speed.

Pumped storage at Ffestiniog, hydro at the Rheidol, and huge modern nuclear stations at Trawsfynydd and Wylfa have turned North Wales into a major producer of power. Only the most rigid observer would claim that these developments have damaged the amenities of the area, and indeed, Ffestiniog and Rheidol are now major tourist attractions in their own right.

Without doubt opponents of development of this kind will continue to voice their objections to the Dinorwic plan, but the unemployed and the tradespeople of Caernarvonshire are certain to be looking forward to the prosperity which the proposed new work would bring to the community.

From the tourist's point of view, the natural reaction must surely be that any development which brings some good out of the desolate wasteland which dominates the Northern end of the Llanberis Pass must be welcomed—even at the possible cost of some temporary inconvenience.

Proposed New Power Station

Pumped-storage scheme at Dinorwic

THE Central Electricity Generating Board are proposing to seek Parliamentary approval for a hydro-electric pumped storage scheme with an underground power station beneath the disused Dinorwic slate quarry near Llanberis in Caernarvonshire.

To be called "Dinorwic," the station would be capable of supplying over 1,400,000-kilowatts to the national grid, and the entire scheme would involve an investment, on current estimates, of about £75 million.

The CEGB are applying to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for consent to promote a Private Bill in the 1972-73 Parliamentary Session for development of the scheme.

A pumped storage scheme requires two reservoirs, one being considerably higher than the other. Water is pumped from the lower to the upper reservoir

when the demand for electricity is low. Subsequently, the water is returned to the lower reservoir, driving water turbines and generating electricity.

Of the mountainous areas of England and Wales, which have the natural resources for pumped storage development, three sites in North Wales were selected for investigation. Dinorwic was one, and the others were at Bowydd, partly in Merioneth and partly in Caernarvonshire, and at Croesor in Merioneth.

The investigations, which included trial borings, aerial and ground surveys and hydrographic surveys of existing lakes, took nearly two years. They showed that pumped storage development was technically feasible at all three sites. The Generating Board, having taken into account environmental considerations, concluded that Dinorwic was the best choice. They do not foresee circumstances arising that would justify development at Croesor.

An aerial view of the Dinorwic scheme, looking North.





A cut-away model of the proposed Dinorwic scheme showing the water tunnel leading from the upper reservoir, *left*, to the power station and then to the lower reservoir.

The CEGB's only existing pumped storage installation is Ffestiniog in Merionethshire. This 360,000-kilowatt station came into service in the early 1960s and has proved invaluable. Its output however, now represents less than one per cent of the Generating Board's total generating capacity which consists almost entirely of thermal plant—coal, oil and nuclear stations and gas turbines.

Pumped storage plant fulfills a number of different operational roles and has the major advantage of being able to produce electricity within seconds of being started up. No other plant can match it for speed in regulating the balance between production and consumption of electricity. For example, it has great value in helping to meet sudden increases in demand which occur at the end of popular television programmes when millions of viewers simultaneously switch on electric kettles and other appliances. Pumped storage also plays an important part in meeting peak loads. As the Generating Board's power system grows, additional pumped storage is needed to ensure that efficient and economic operation is maintained.

The Dinorwic scheme would be a major civil engineering project taking six or seven years to complete and its capacity would be required no later than 1979. The construction labour force would reach a peak of about 1,000 men of whom most would be recruited locally, and a small permanent staff would be required to operate the station.

The Dinorwic scheme envisages the use of an existing lake and a reservoir—Llyn Peris as the lower reservoir and Marchlyn Mawr, 1,650 feet above it, as the upper reservoir. These would be connected by an underground water tunnel and the power station would be built in a vast cavern excavated beneath the workings of the old Dinorwic quarry.

Both reservoirs would have to be enlarged to provide for fluctuations in water level during pumping and generating operations. This would be

achieved by the construction of rockfill embankments made of local materials. The embankments at each end of the lower reservoir would be about 43 feet high and about 990 feet long. The upper reservoir would require one embankment, at the north-western end, about 130 feet high and about 1,980 feet long.

A small group of administrative buildings would be sited within the quarry area and an isolator compound (a simple type of switching station) would be largely concealed in a hollow close to the quarry. The power station would be connected via the compound to the existing substation at Pentir. Apart from this local 400,000-volt connection, some six miles long, no new transmission lines across Wales would be necessary for this development.

Two new roads would be needed to build the scheme. One would provide access round the southern end of Llyn Peris, over the quarry spoil heaps, to the tunnel leading to the power station. The other would lead from near the village of Deiniolen to the upper reservoir with a fork to a surge shaft at the top of the quarry. About half-a-mile of the main road at the south-easterly end of Llyn Peris would have to be realigned and other minor road improvements would be necessary.

The upper reservoir and two short lengths of access road would be the only surface features of the Dinorwic scheme inside Snowdonia National Park. The Generating Board, employing landscape architects and other specialists, are confident that the new work would be wholly compatible with their surroundings.

The Generating Board have already informed Caernarvonshire County Council and the Rural District Councils of Ogwen and Gwyrfa of the proposals. Consultations have also taken place with the Eryri Water Board about the public water supply from Marchlyn Mawr and with the Gwynedd River Authority about fishing interests. Consultations will continue with all whose interests would be affected by the proposed works.

Commercial Catering at Wrexham

Our Commercial colleagues in the Dee Valley District decided on a new venue for this year's Commercial Catering exhibition in Wrexham, and selected the Memorial Hall. This proved to be an excellent choice judging by the many visitors who went along to see and examine the wide range of equipment on show.

Well over £3,000-worth of business was done during the three day run of the exhibition and a great number of enquiries are being followed up.

Mr. Don Hinsley (energy sales engineer, Dee Valley) led the team who staged the exhibition and the opening by the Mayor of Wrexham, Councillor Gwilym Parry, who, prior to his retirement in 1964 was the Chief Cashier in the former Area 4.

After Councillor Parry had cut the tape to officially open the exhibition, a bell was sounded to



Mrs. Norma Preece, our energy sales demonstrator from Oswestry, prepares to serve the scampi and chips she has cooked to perfection in two-and-a-half minutes. Waiting to sample the tasty dish are the Mayor of Wrexham, Councillor Gwilym Parry and his wife, and our Girl from MANWEB, Miss Caroline Smith. (The cameraman from the local newspaper is getting another angle on the shot).

signal that our demonstrators would start cooking scampi and chips. The plan was for these to be ready for eating in three minutes flat. It actually took only two-and-a-half minutes for the tasty morsels to be cooked and sampled.

The opening ceremony was very well staged and in addition to the many local newsmen and cameramen present, a TV cameraman also took some footage for showing on 'the box' the same night.



Left: Three of our girls who put in so much hard work at the exhibition. From left to right: Gaynor Phillips (Dee Valley), Norma Preece (Oswestry) and Anne Renny-Smith (Dee Valley).

Below: Catering engineer, Joan Dittrich, right, talks to Margaret Corlett (demonstrator) and Godfrey Hughes (energy sales engineer) of our Mid-Cheshire District.



LIGHTING for LIVING

By
MR. GERRY WORTHINGTON
LIGHTING ENGINEER
ENERGY SALES



THIS is the theme of a promotional and advertising campaign launched this year by The Electricity Council, The Lighting Industry Federation and the Decorative Lighting Association, in collaboration with several leading manufacturers of lighting equipment and the major retail stores.

The campaign will culminate in a Home Lighting Fortnight from September 9th to 23rd, and although

there are signs that the public in general are becoming increasingly aware of, and even demanding, better lighting, we in this country still have a long way to go to match the standards of home lighting on the Continent and in America.

"*Lighting for Living*" has been specifically designed to intensify demand for higher standards, and the knowledge with which to achieve it.

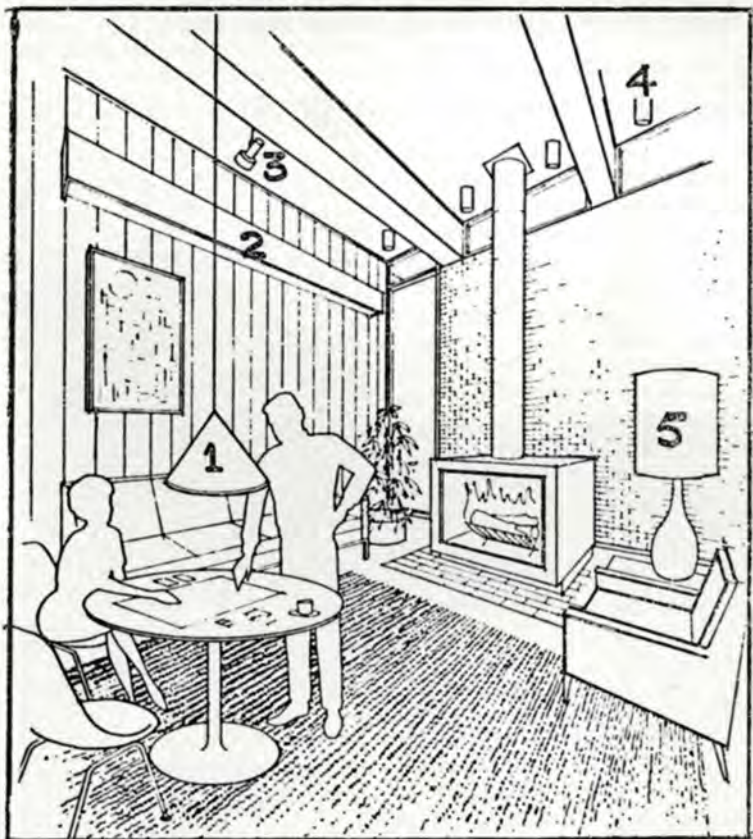
22.17.8.

These are vital statistics—not of course the type which any male normally associates with three-figure statistics—but nonetheless vital! They refer to the average number of lighting fittings in use per household in the U.S.A., in West Germany, and in the United Kingdom.

In comparison with other countries, it seems that we need to promote many more "lighting fortnights."

Surely we should not, and must not, be satisfied with things as they are. Our forefathers were perfectly satisfied with oil and gas lighting, but at least they can be

(Continued overleaf)



◀ Lighting in the home. 1. A rise-and-fall pendent lamp, ideal for over a dining table. 2. Strip lighting behind a pelmet, highlights drapes and gives subdued lighting effect in the room. 3. Spot-lights to highlight paintings or flower arrangements. 4. Downlights for "wall-washing" or to highlight potted plants etc. 5. Decorative table lamp, positioned close to easy chair for reading, knitting, etc.

excused on two counts—they really did not know better, and they had no alternative.

With our much higher standards of living, and in this modern electric age, light should be an ever-present servant in and around every house.

Lighting points are still scarce in some rooms and we still cling to the centre light fitting with the maximum wattage lamp. As most present day lighting fittings are only capable of using a maximum of 60W or 100W lamps most people are only tolerating second-best, and living in a world dominated by half-lit walls.

It is well worth the little extra expense involved for having light exactly where it is needed. Extra light can be provided on working surfaces by positioning fluorescent lamps under wall cupboards and by the subtle use of ceiling spotlights touches of light can transform the effect of flower vases and enhance pictures and furniture.

In following editions of *Contact* I hope to provide several ideas for "refurbishing by relighting," but in the meantime may I answer one question that is often posed—when is a home well lit?

Briefly the answer lies in three parts:

- * When sufficient light is available in all rooms to enable minor visual tasks to be performed without discomfort. This is called "general lighting."

- * When every room is so illuminated that it can serve its functional purpose in the best possible manner. This is usually in the form of accent lighting characterised by sharp beam definition and shadow patterns, and almost without exception such lighting needs additional general lighting for visual comfort. This is called "local lighting."

- * When the lighting is capable of affecting the mood and atmosphere of the interior living space. The combination of lighting fittings should be such that, in the evening, they provide the home with an atmosphere of relaxation and restfulness that marks the essential difference from daytime alertness and activity. This is called "mood lighting."

The importance of lighting as an environmental element can hardly be over-emphasised. Well planned lighting will contribute much to home happiness and comfort, and provide security, convenience and aesthetic appeal. Modern houses tend to be constructed from similar moulds. We begin to give it some identification when we furnish it, but only imaginative lighting can give it the final touch of extra dimension.

How can we afford not to re-light?

Photographic Competition 1972

Rules

1. Entry is free, but is restricted to MANWEB employees, pensioners and their families.
2. Each photograph or transparency submitted must be the original work and the copyright property of the person submitting it.
3. The Editor reserves the right to reproduce the winning pictures, but a reproduction fee will not be paid.
4. All photographs or transparencies must have been taken since **1st August, 1971**.
5. Any number of Black and White prints may be submitted, but only FIVE colour transparencies or prints in any one section from each competitor.
6. Competitors must enclose a note with their entries, clearly stating their name and address (*office, or if a pensioner, home*), the title of each picture (*this is important*) and the class entered.
7. The competition will be judged by an independent panel and their decision is final.
8. Entries should be sent to **The Editor, 'Contact,' MANWEB, Head Office, Sea-**

land Road, Chester CH1 4LR, and the envelope or package marked in the top left hand corner "Photographic Competition."

Closing Date—30th September, 1972.

9. Prizes will be awarded as follows:

COLOUR

Transparencies

1st Prize £10

2nd Prize £5

3rd Prize £3

Prints

Best Picture £5

BLACK AND WHITE

Portrait £5

General £5

Best Humorous picture in colour or black and white £2

Great care will be taken of entries, all of which will be returned. When submitting your photographs and/or transparencies, 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.

Talking Notes

INTRODUCING—"THE LYNETTES"

ONE OF OUR very pretty typists in the Dee Valley District at Rhosyllen, **Miss Janet Evans**, has interests outside her job with the Board which may soon take her away from us, for she is one of the trio of girls who are currently enjoying great success as the singing group known as "The Lynettes."

Her companions are **Miss Margaret Booth** from Rhosyllen, whose father **Owen** is a linesman at Legacy, and **Miss June Roberts** from Wrexham.

These three charmers are all members of the famous "Hylites"—formerly the MANWEB Glee Club—whose vocal director, **Mr. Emyr James** of the Dee Valley Drawing

Office, took over the training of the trio and helped bring out the beautiful blend of voices.

"The Lynettes" have appeared in cabaret and shows all over North Wales and the Wirral and earlier this year they made their first appearance in the big city when they put on a show at the Waldorf Hotel in London.

Janet enjoys her singing and her main ambition in life at the moment is to turn professional and, together

with Margaret and June, get around and see a bit more of the world.

The girls have already been offered a professional career and there is a strong possibility of a tour of Germany in the Autumn.

We join with their many fans and friends in the Wrexham area in wishing the girls the great success they are working and singing so hard for.

And dear readers, when "The Lynettes" do become famous and are making regular appearances on TV, remember—you read about them first in 'Contact'!

Wedding Bells

We offer our congratulations and best wishes for a very happy future to our District Commercial Engineer at Clwyd, **Mr. David Mellor** and his new bride, **Miss Jennifer Cithbert** of Prestatyn.

They were married a short time ago at the Marble Church in Bodelwyddan.

Mr. Mellor's friends and colleagues in the District subscribed to present him with numerous gifts—mostly electric—naturally.

New Chairman

The newly-formed North Wales Association for Efficiency in Industry and Commerce are the successors to the Chester and North Wales Productivity Association which has been active for more than twenty years in the Wrexham and Chester region.

Now their scope is being expanded to take in North West Wales with Bangor and Wrexham as the twin centres.

The first Chairman of this new Association is **Mr. Norman Maden**, our District Commercial Engineer for the Gwynedd District.

First Aid Awards

Certificates to commemorate many years of service to the British Electricity Ambulance Centre were presented recently to two members of the Board's staff at Head Office.

OUR COVER PICTURE

shows the close harmony trio "The Lynettes" from left to right: Janet, Margaret and June.

And here, to the left, we see Janet at her typewriter in the Dee Valley District Office.





Mr. M. M. Parker (Secretary and Solicitor) presents a First-Aid Long Service Certificate to Miss Timmins as the other award recipient, Mr. Smith looks on.

Receiving an award for twenty years' service was **Mr. Leslie Smith**, one of our trio of sales controllers. Les first took up first aid in 1938 in his home town of Derby. During the last war he led a first aid team and for his efforts he received the Defence Medal. In 1949 he joined MANWEB and became a founder member of the Ambulance Centre and has been closely connected with the Electricity Supply Industry's first aid ever since. Currently he trains the highly successful MANWEB Ladies team from Head Office.

A member of that team since its formation in 1957 is **Miss Sybil N. Timmins**, an assistant in the Superannuation section at Head Office. Sybil was presented with a certificate to mark her 15 years' service with the Ambulance Centre. She became interested in first aid in the early years of the war when she did voluntary work for the Civil Defence. Other than her first aid interests, she likes music and reading.

Martians over Machynlleth?

What put the lights out at Cemmas Road, in the Aberystwyth District, early in the evening of Tuesday, May 23rd?

Any electrical engineer—practical hard-headed men that they tend to be—would almost certainly answer that it must have been lightning. But only one person actually saw the thing happen, and on the basis of his report the Direct Cause space on the Network Fault Report has been put down to "Unclassified (unidentified flying object)."

Witness of the incident was ten-years-old **David Gwyndas Pugh**, who later told his father, MANWEB linesman **Mr. David Raymond Pugh**, that while watching from the window of their Cemmas Road home he saw a "huge ball of green-coloured light" moving fast along the Dovey valley.

At the point where the 11kV overhead line crosses the valley the "fireball" lost height and disappeared. At the same time, out went the lights! "Ball lightning" was the verdict of the Head Office Engineers. This is apparently a known phenomenon but an uncommon one in this country. It occurs in dry climates. That day in the Machynlleth area the weather was fine although there was quite a bit of lightning about in North Wales.

It has been known for ball lightning to drift into a house through the window and out through the door.

Many country folk leave their windows and doors open when there is thunder about for this very reason. So just what did David Pugh see, was it ball lightning or was it visitors from outer space?

One of the Reds

We would think that the fittest pre-payment meter collector on our staff, working from Derby House in Liverpool, is **Mr. John Bennison**. His agility and stamina no doubt stems from the fact that in his spare time he is a coach with the Liverpool Football Club.

Over 20 years ago, John played for the club as an amateur but later turned professional and played for a host of well-known local clubs including South Liverpool, Rhyl and Flint Town. During his spell with Flint he won a Welsh Cup medal and played for North Wales in a representative match against the Scottish F.A.

He is a fully qualified F.A. coach and has been on the staff at Liverpool for the past 18 months. His main responsibility is the "B" team who play every Saturday in the Lancashire League. In the season he spends most nights of the week either coaching or training the Liverpool lads or scouting for new talent on the football fields around the City.

John is Chairman of the Liverpool Coaching Association and this year, for the first two weeks in June, he spent every evening in the local parks training youngsters in the art of



Mr. J. Bennison

football. Next month he will be doing a similar thing in Birkenhead during the Town's Festival.

During the past season, John was



Some of the girls from Head Office watch the make-up expert as she goes to work on one of their friends during the lunchtime "Lovelier You" session.

the trainer of the Liverpool F.C. Youth team (under 18's) and they managed to reach the final of the F.A. Youth Cup only to be beaten by Aston Villa—after extra time.

We hope that John will be able to spend many more years in the game which he obviously loves and we thank his workmate **Mr. Denis Metcalfe** for passing on the tip about John's most interesting and active spare time pursuit.

Off to Helsinki

One of the winners of bursaries offered by the Electrical Association for Women which enables two home economists in the electrical industry to attend the International Congress on Home Economics in Helsinki next month is **Miss Barbara Strange**, our energy sales demonstrator in the North Mersey District.

Barbara will spend a week attending the Congress and another week studying some of the domestic uses of electricity in Finland.

Applicants for the bursaries were required to submit, in writing, suggestions in connection with the design and marketing of electrical appliances and the education of the user.

After studying at the College of Crafts and Catering in Liverpool, Barbara joined MANWEB nine years ago. She is the daughter of **Mr. Harold Strange**, our former Deputy Chief Accountant until his retirement five years ago.

Barbara is looking forward to the trip to Finland and we in turn are hoping that she will be taking notes and getting hold of photographs

so that we can publish a report in 'Contact' later this year.

In the 'other interests' sector, Barbara tells us that she likes playing tennis and mountain walking.

The Lovelier You

The lunch time activities of Head Office staff vary quite considerably. Some take a walk in the fresh air,

others attend keep fit classes, or play table tennis, snooker or chess, and there is one body we know who gets his head down for half an hour.

The latest lunch time event was a make-up demonstration. This was given by two representatives of Holiday Magic Cosmetics. Some 80 to 90 female members of the staff

(continued overleaf)

Group Manager **Mr. H. Telfer** congratulates **Miss Strange** on her bursary award.





At the 1,000th Electricaire installation presentation ceremony. From left to right: Mr. C. Minshull (Engineer and Surveyor, Litherland U.D.C.), Mr. T. J. Breslin and daughter, Mrs. Breslin, Mr. D. St. C. Barrie (energy sales engineer), Councillor Mrs. C. Roberts (Vice Chairman of Litherland U.D.C. Housing Committee), Councillor C. F. Brady (Chairman of Litherland U.D.C.), Mr. R. Stewart (Energy Sales Manager), Miss B. J. Strange (energy sales demonstrator), Mr. D. E. Noad (District Commercial Engineer) and Mr. I. O'Brien (Housing Manager, Litherland U.D.C.).

attended the continuous demonstrations, spending about 20 minutes of their lunch period watching.

With all the lovely looking girls we have in this building it seemed a bit like teaching granny to suck eggs.

1000th Electricaire

North Mersey District recently became the first of our ten Districts to attain the magical figure of 1000 for the number of Electricaire units installed. The 7kW slimline model was installed in a Litherland Council tenant's home and to mark this milestone, leading members and officials of the Litherland Urban District Council joined MANWEB staff at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Breslin in Hapsford Road.

Here Mrs. Breslin was presented with a food mixer, handed over by Miss Barbara Strange, our energy sales demonstrator in the District.

Litherland Council have erected some 80 dwellings, all totally electric, over the past couple of years. The average running costs work out at £1.50 a week over the year for all purposes—lighting, TV, heating, cooking and water heating.

Double Celebration

A few weeks ago Miss Joan Carol Bennett, a machine operator at Head Office, had a happy double cele-

bration when on her 21st birthday she announced her engagement to another 21-year-old, Mr. Stephen Kendrick of Moreton.

A buffet and dance for the 100 guests was held at a New Brighton hotel to celebrate the events.

Joan is a former member of the Wallasey Swimming Club.

Off to South Africa

Emigrating to a land of sunshine is Mr. Rodney Burrows, an assistant on the North Wirral District energy sales team.

Rodney, who has been with us for the past 13 years is to take up his new appointment as an electrical engineer.

Barn Dance

By popular request, the Dee Valley Sports and Social Club staged another Barn Dance in the canteen at Rhosytllen a short time ago. Mr. R. H. Guy provided the music and did 'the calling' and ensured that the event went with a swing.

Treasure Hunt

Another activity for the lucky members of the Dee Valley Sports and Social Club was the Treasure Hunt held recently. Organised by Mr. Dennis Jones, senior salesman at

Chester, twenty-five cars entered with the eventual winners being Mr. John Job, a Work Study officer, and his crew. Taking the prize for the best lady driver with the highest number of points (she was third overall) was Miss Heather Pearson, a clerk in Production, with her crew.

The highly successful event was rounded off with a supper of chicken and chips at a hotel in Worthenbury.

Golf Date

The Electrical and Electronic Industries Benevolent Association's annual golf tournament will be held at the Prenton Golf Club, Birkenhead on Wednesday, 12th July.

A Good Job Well Done!

Dear Sir,

I wish to inform you of the excellent way in which your electrician, Mr. Griffiths installed our storage radiators last week.

He was clean, efficient and expert at his job.

I send him my congratulations on doing such a good job.

We are very pleased with the installation which is working satisfactory.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed).

Sales Staff in Training

Visits to . . .

Head Office
Display Section



Course 256

Above: From left to right: Mrs. Hilary Clucas (Shotton), Mrs. Kath Wilson (West Kirby), Mrs. Pat Harrington (Huyton), Miss Lesley Jones (North Mersey) and Mrs. Margaret Knapton (St. Helens).

Left: From left to right: Messrs. Robin Jones (Pwllheli), Jim O'Rourke (Knutsford), Peter Brady (Walton Vale) and Display Leader Mr. G. A. S. Lewer.

and to our

Training School
at Wallasey

Course 257

In this lovely group of charmers we see, from left to right, back row: Mrs. Sylvia Cheetham (Prescot), Mrs. Mary Jones (Johnstown), Mrs. Jill Barnard (Northwich) and Miss Dorothy Wheelwright (Barmouth). Front row: Mrs. Maureen Cunliffe (St. Helens), Mrs. Marion Prime (Prestatyn), Mrs. Heather Graham (Winsford) and Mrs. Margaret Jenkins (Southport).





Presentations to Prizewinners in MANWEB/Hoover promotions Three £100 Holiday Winners



at Liverpool . . .

Mrs. June Angus of Rainford, bought a washing machine from our St. Johns shop and entered MANWEB/Hoover competition. She won a £100 holiday, and was also presented with a bouquet of flowers from the shop staff. Our picture shows, *from left to right*: Mrs. J. Burns (*Hoover demonstrator*), Mr. J. Polding (*Hoover Ltd.*), Mrs. Angus, Mr. H. Walton (*regional sales controller*) and Mr. H. Davies (*shop supervisor*).

In another recent MANWEB/Hoover competition, run in conjunction with the *Liverpool Daily Post and Echo*, a massive total of 22,656 entries were received. From these ten lucky people won Hoover Senior vacuum cleaners.

. Wrexham . . .

Some time ago, petite Miss Myra Parker went into our Wrexham shop and bought a Hoover vacuum cleaner. She entered the competition and won a holiday prize. Our picture shows, *from left to right*: Mr. R. G. Jones (*shop supervisor*), Mr. C. Jones (*Hoover Ltd.*), Miss Parker, Mrs. G. Holywell (*Hoover demonstrator*) and Mr. C. S. Evans (*sales supervisor*).

and Moreton

A couple who are taking their first holiday abroad this year, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Steen of Moreton, won yet another holiday when they entered the MANWEB/Hoover promotion. Our picture shows, *from left to right*: Mr. C. Jones (*Hoover Ltd.*), Mr. G. Roberts (*shop supervisor, Moreton*), Mr. and Mrs. Steen, Mr. D. Wilmott (*sales supervisor*) and Mrs. M. Scregg (*saleswoman*).

New Use for an old Office Block

Story by
Ken Wynne
(Drawing Office,
Head Office)



The familiar office block now on its new site. In the doorway is Mr. Ken Wynne.

REMEMBER THIS? Certainly staff from our former Area 2/3 Accounts shouldn't need a second guess. It is part of the building which provided temporary accommodation at Sealand Road, known to all concerned at that time as "the annexe." It was the self-contained office home of Mr. Hodgetts and his staff for five years until eventually, dwarfed by the new Administration Centre, it stood in the way of progress and had to go.

Whether or not it was a sad day for its occupants, I don't know, but it was a happy day for

a group of young people in the North Wirral, for a joint Scout and Guide Unit was successful in its tender for one third of the total buildings.

Of course, buying it was one thing. Moving it to its new home was another! Even though they employed the manufacturers to dismantle, transport and re-erect it, there was a tremendous amount of work to be done by the Dads and lads, leaders and helpers.

At this end it had to be stripped to a shell and at the other the site prepared, a concrete raft laid down, access road and

services laid on. Then when the shell was up it had to be rewired for light and heat, plumbing was required, walls and ceilings to provide office, toilet and kitchen accommodation, and, of course, painting and decorating inside and out.

If this wasn't enough in itself there was the problem of self financing (*a problem not unknown in other quarters!*). In our case it amounted to raising £4,000 to complete the project, with a further £200 a year running costs. Loans of £900 were made, but these had to be repaid in three years. The rest has been raised by a great deal of industry on the part of leaders, young people and a small body of willing parents and friends.

Their work came to an end when, on Saturday, April 15th, gleaming with new paint and suitably decked with flowers, its doors were officially opened and its new inhabitants, parents and friends joined to suitably celebrate the event.

All this adds up to an immense task but one which has brought its reward in extending the life of part of the MANWEB Annexe to provide a company of young people with a new Headquarters of which they can be very proud.

A view showing the spacious interior.²



STUDENT ENGINEERS VISIT WELSH POWER STATIONS



Our overseas students, from left to right: Messrs. Y. M. A. K. Al-Dulaimi (Kuwait), J. Koster (Germany), V. Johnson (Bahamas) and J. L. Arora (India).

An annual education trip to some of the Central Electricity Generating Board's power stations in North Wales is now a recognised part of the training for MANWEB's student engineers, and this year's party was lucky enough to be blessed with bright sunshine for the start of their journey.

The main points of interest were the Pumped Storage station at Blaenau Ffestiniog, now fully operational after the troubles over explosives stored nearby, and the Nuclear Station at Trawsfynydd.

Included in the party were a number of overseas students who are in training with MANWEB.

Ready to go! Some of our student engineers prior to their trip into Wales.



WANTED



GIRL FROM MANWEB 1973

SHE IS ATTRACTIVE, WELL SPOKEN
NICELY GROOMED AND SMARTLY
DRESSED - SHE ALSO HAS A
PLEASANT PERSONALITY.
IF YOU FIND HER THERE IS A CASH

REWARD

For further
details—
see next
month's
'Contact'

Ascent of Cader Idris

One Sunday, a few weeks ago, a party of members of the MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club, together with their partners and friends, took advantage of a warm and sunny day and journeyed by coach into Wales.

Here they split into two groups, one led by Mr. Rowland George made the ascent of Cader Idris (2927 feet). They started from Tal-y-Llyn and finished in Dolgellau.

The rest of the party, led by Mr. Percy Hughes, took the leisurely way as they rambled along Torrent Walk.

The weather remained fine—a complete change from last year when a similar party climbed Snowdon in a downpour.



Above: The intrepid climbers of Cader Idris.

Below: The group who took the ramble along Torrent Walk.



Questions in the— House of Lords . . .

Electrical Appliances and Safety Regulations

Lord Crook asked Her Majesty's Government: Whether advertisements of second-hand electrical appliances for sale, are in contravention of the Trade Descriptions Act if the wiring of the appliances is in the old and not the new approved wiring colours, as has been suggested by some local inspectors.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Trade and Industry (The Earl of Limerick): Whether a particular advertisement gives rise to an offence under the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 depends on its content. But the sale in the course of business of a second-hand electrical appliance with wrongly coloured flex is certainly contrary to the relevant regulations under the Consumer Protection Act 1961.

. . . and House of Commons

Electricity Boards (Resale Prices)

Dr. Marshall asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he will issue a direction to area electricity boards to revise the formula used for calculating maximum resale prices allowable under Section 29 of the Electricity Act, 1957.

Mr. Tom Boardman: No, Sir. Determining the formula is a matter for the boards themselves.

Dr. Marshall: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that the formula used for this purpose by all area boards in England and Wales allows landlords to make a legal profit during periods of heavy consumption of one-tenth of a new penny for each additional unit of electricity consumed? Will he make this practice illegal?

Mr. Boardman: The hon. Gentleman knows from correspondence which he has received that the overcharge that is made of .1p is over the minimum rate, which is to compensate for the higher rate that is charged on initial units. This is reckoned to be a fair average and does not amount to an illegal profit.

Generating Stations (Natural Gas)

Mr. Moyle asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many applications he has received for natural gas to be used to fuel generating stations.

Mr. Tom Boardman: Approval was given, in 1967 and 1970, for two power stations—Hams Hall C and West Thurrock—to be converted to dual coal/gas firing. Apart from an old application, now in abeyance, to convert the oil-fired station at South Denes, there are no outstanding applications from the CEGB.

Mr. Moyle: In considering any future application, will the hon. Gentleman be guided by the fact that it is an uneconomic use of natural gas, since there are heavy losses in transmission from electricity?

Mr. Boardman: It is for the Central Electricity Generating Board to decide whether to apply for construction or conversion of power stations to use natural gas, and all the factors will be considered on their merits in any application.

Mr. Skeet: Is my hon. Friend aware that in Europe natural gas is being used in vast quantities for power stations? If the Euro-

peans can do it, why cannot this be done here?

Mr. Boardman: The use of natural gas in Europe is well recognised. This is one of the factors which will be taken into account if the board makes the necessary application for conversion or construction.

Rating Assessment (Central Heating)

Mr. Roy Hughes asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list those local authorities who have objected to him about the increase in rating assessment of houses and flats after central heating has been installed.

Mr. Graham Page: I can trace only one such objection, from the Urban District Council of Felling.

Mr. Roy Hughes asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will seek power to prevent any increase in rating assessment when central heating has been installed in houses or flats.

Mr. Graham Page: I am considering this matter in the current review of local government finance.

Gas and Electricity Meter Readings

Rear-Admiral Morgan-Giles asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what consideration he has given to providing that gas and electricity meters should be read by the same official.

Mr. Emery: As my hon. and gallant Friend will realise this is a matter which has caused concern and considerable interest. Feasibility studies two years ago led to the conclusion that the organisational problems and the costs involved would outweigh the likely benefits. However in order to ensure that those decisions can still be justified, I am myself looking into this problem again.

RIVER DEE RAFT RACE

Men from MANWEB Winners

A NOVEL race was organised by the Wrexham Lions a few weeks ago as the main attraction in a local gymkhana and carnival. The course was down the River Dee at Bangor, and the mode of travel was by raft.

Our colleagues at Rhosyllen were invited by the Lions to provide a raft and crew to take part in the event, but so great was the enthusiasm of the MANWEB staff that rafts No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 were entered, complete with their brave crews.

The design of each model was left to the individuals concerned and the ingenuity and skill which went into their production proved in practice to be a credit to the craft of the raftsmen.

Unfortunately for the spectators, the race was run in torrential rain but this did not in any way deter the competitors.

The many hazards along the course caused a number of rafts to capsize, throwing the crews into the water. Some of the more cynical onlookers suggested that



MANWEB No. 1 raft, flashing past the winning post expertly propelled by Doug Barnes and John Robinson, both installation engineers from District Office.

this was a crafty way of keeping out of the rain!

The excitement of a very fine race ended with the MANWEB No. 1 raft flashing over the finishing line to take the first prize. Raft No. 2 was in second place.

Shortly afterwards eight saturated yet still cheerful crew members from our three rafts—

who all finished the right way up—came ashore to be welcomed by a strong contingent of supporters from the Dee Valley District.

Mr. J. A. Winchester, the District Commercial Engineer, himself an ex-naval man, knew exactly what was required in this situation and he produced a bottle of Scotch to warm the cockles of our mariners' hearts.



Panic stations on rafts No. 2 and 3 as they meet heavy currents on a bend in the river. The crews—raft No. 2, Colin Lloyd, Geoff Edwards and Tim King. Raft No. 3, Keith Buckley, Paul Forret and Chris Roberts, all electricians from Willow Road.

Southport Spring Social

Following a highly successful Christmas Social, our colleagues at Southport had another 'good do' recently when they put on a buffet dance at the Floral Hall. Photographs on these pages show some of the 150 people—including friends from Marsh Lane—who enjoyed a great night. Thanks go to the organisers Mrs. Betty Jackson and Mrs. Phyllis Lloyd.







Friends at Head Office raise their glasses to offer a toast to Mrs. Naylor, *extreme left*, as they wish her many years of good health in retirement.

RETIREMENTS

from Head Office . . .

Mrs. J. H. NAYLOR

A lady who has had a full and active career left us a few weeks ago to enjoy a well-earned retirement. Mrs. Joan Hall Naylor, private secretary to Group Manager Mr. K. Helliwell, started her working life with the Church of England Childrens' Society in Liverpool. Then she spent three years with a psychiatrist—*working for him that is*, before getting married just prior to the outbreak of war. Her husband went into the Forces and Joan went to work for the British Council in Liverpool until the end of hostilities. Then she took time out to be with her husband on his return from service life.

The call to work came again in 1951 when she was employed as a secretary with a firm of seedsmen at Llangollen. She joined the Board in 1955 at Rhosyllen working first for the former Area Commercial Officer Mr. O. L. Ritchie, and then for former Area Accountants, Messrs. J. W. Trimble and H. W. Hegarty before taking over as private secretary to Mr. Helliwell, who was then Area Manager . . . and she has been with him ever since.

As a constant reminder of her many friends in the Board, Joan was presented with a farewell gift of a portable radio—and one or two 'extras' from the girls.

. . . Mid-Cheshire . . .

A few weeks ago, many members of the District staff gathered at Macon Way, Crewe to bid farewell

to three of their colleagues who were retiring from their jobs.

Mr. Norman Griffin, a fitter's mate, started his work with the Board in 1950 when he was employed as a gardener based at Crewe Grid Substation.

Mr. Jack Ikin, a foreman fitter, has worked for the electricity supply industry for over 40 years. After service with B.I.C.C. as a linesman, he joined the North Wales Power Company's construction gang at Legacy in 1932. Ten years later he moved over to Crewe and became an electrical fitter.

Mr. Dai A. Jones, a substation attendant started work with the North Wales Power Company in 1936, and he too, was a member of the Legacy construction gang, working as a linesman. Three years ago he changed his job and moved into substations.



Mr. Zeiher, *left*, wishes Mr. Griffin a happy retirement as he presents him with a farewell gift.

On behalf of their colleagues at Crewe, Mr. G. Zeiher (*District Engineer*) presented each of them with retirement gifts after tributes to their long and loyal service had been spoken by Messrs. R. H. Woodall, T. W. Cash and A. S. Meeres.

.. Northwich ..

Four members of our staff based at the Northwich depot retired on the same day recently.

Mr. Sam Broadhurst, a substation attendant employed on maintenance duties, has been with the Board since 1950.

Mr. George A. Johnson, a fitter's mate, has worked for the industry since 1944.

Mr. Frank R. Ratcliffe and **Mr. Sam Sharps**, both employed as labourers joined us in 1946 and 1958 respectively.

.. Hoylake ..

Mr. S. DUCKERS

An assistant jointing instructor at our Hoylake Training Centre, Mr. Sam Duckers, retired recently. He had worked at Hoylake for the past ten years and colleagues there presented him with a set of hand tools as a farewell gift. They were obviously making sure that he would continue to use his talents

.. Liverpool ..

Mr. C. F. HIGGINS

After 35 years' service in the industry, Mr. Charles F. Higgins of the engineering clerical section at Lister Drive, retired recently.

He started work with the Liverpool Corporation Electricity Department—in Meters—and during the war served in the R.A.F.

Friends in Liverpool gathered to wish Mr. Higgins and his wife many years of happy retirement and to present him with a parting gift.

and North Wirral

Mr. R. E. PARKINSON

Retiring recently after 48 years' service in the electricity supply industry was Mr. Roy E. Parkinson a general clerk with Systems Management at our North Wirral District Office.

Roy joined MANWEB in North Wirral in 1961 after working for 37 years with Norweb.

A picture painted by Mr. Eric Coley who works in the District as a distribution foreman, was presented to Roy on behalf of his colleagues by Mr. R. H. Morley (*District Engineer*).

Mr. Parkinson holds the painting presented to him by his colleagues at Craven Street on the occasion of his recent retirement. Artist Eric Coley is to the right of the picture.



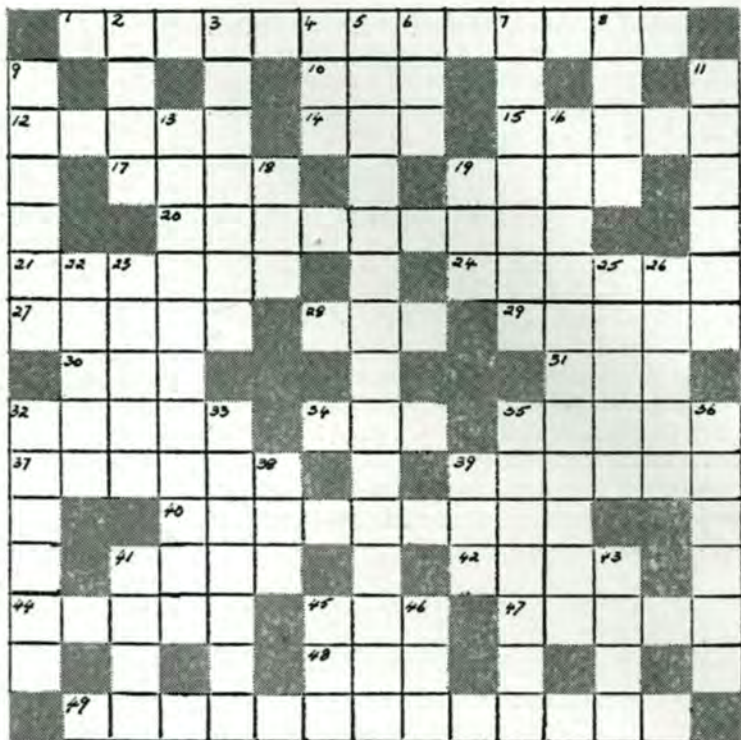
Prize Crossword

Our thanks to Mr. C. S. Shimmin, (system engineer, North Mersey) for this puzzle.

We offer prizes at £2 each to the senders of the first three all-correct solutions opened on July 10th. Send entries to *The Editor, 'Contact', MANWEB, Head Office, Chester CH1 4LR.*

CLUES ACROSS

1. You would not expect this sort of reply from an insurance agent when asking him for a policy! (3.2.4.4).
10. To this is human (3)
12. It's every man for himself when you do this in the style of the Netherlands! (5)
14. Stirred the tea and had a bite. (3)
15. Catkin. (5)
17. A truly rural way of conservation. (4)
19. These animals may be snug, but are disturbed. (4)
20. Supernatural intelligences may be described thus (9)
21. She's in charge, Mother! (6)
24. They come by invitation. (6)
27. Tom is this after a shower. (5)
28. Move away but not like the Modern Miss! (3)
29. Eskimo house—for camping? (5)
30. A computer can, but Father is upset. (3)
31. An island of "tripeds"? (3)
32. A hundred deer form a religious belief. (5)
34. You can have a this on the river, but you need not lose your temper! (3)
35. Outdoor roasting implements, expectorates. (5)
37. An unusual 31 might have this kind of headgear. (3.3)
39. Poetically not with it! (6)
40. How a Craftsman might refer to the man who helps him. (1.4.2.2)
41. Middle-Eastern country Boss? (4)



42. A main journey might finish here—and so could a villain! (4)
44. Slips may be vocal impediments. (5)
45. Junior's serviette? (3)
47. The wind changes. (5)
48. Mine Host's stock-in-trade. (3)
49. A criminal might say to himself "I hope the C.I.D. man doesn't do this." (4.2.2.5)

CLUES DOWN

2. Usually after 6 balls. (4)
3. Unclean! (7)
4. Ancient affirmative. (3)
5. Our grandfathers would have to use this instead of colour slides. (11.4)
6. Yorkshire river (3)
7. Incline incision for a tasty bit of meat! (4.3)
8. Battle opposition (4)
9. A short thoroughfare and pile of paper become wet (6)

11. A skirt is in danger! (2.4)
13. Military assistants. (5-2-4)
16. An obsolete gadget could be. (6.5)
18. Northern film title. (3)
19. Transport either way on land or sea. (3)
22. Wooden governing body. (5)
23. Procrastinated—maybe with reason! (5)
25. Where "il pleut" on the flat parts. (5)
26. Stint with a difference—you need a paint box (5)
32. Might describe a medieval wench! (6)
33. Flowered silk materials—a lady enquires. (7)
35. Ivan's tea pot? (7)
36. Emphasise strain. (6)
38. Pamela has no French article and is curtailed. (3)
39. Almighty idol (3)
41. Cats are curtailed in this of 31. (4)
43. Forage cap—flat top! (4)
45. — the Bomb? (3)
46. Another Middle-East boss (3)