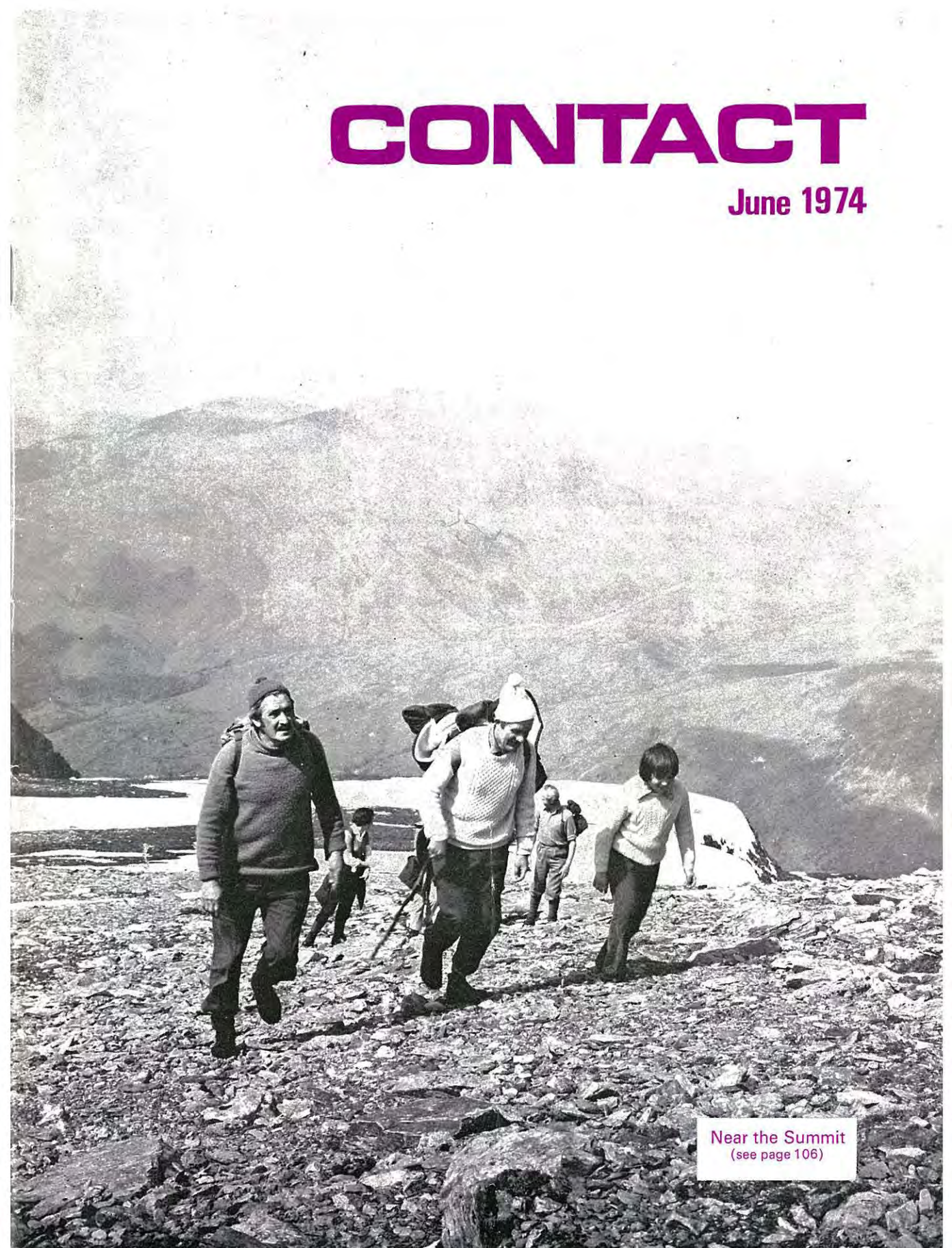


# CONTACT

June 1974



Near the Summit  
(see page 106)

## VALES and HILLS

One fine Sunday last month 35 members of Head Office Sports and Social Club spent an enjoyable and strenuous day in Snowdonia.

A small party, led by Chester Rambling Club member Mr. Percy Hughes, took a quite gentle course around Betws-y-coed and the Conway Falls, but the main party of 25, with Head Office draughtsman Roland George in charge, found their way to the summit of Snowdon itself.

Starting from the Pen-y-Pass youth hostel, they outflanked the formidable Crib Goch ridge, climbing steadily to the upland Cwm Glas and reaching the main ridge with a strenuous but less intimidating ascent of Crib-y-Dysgl. Easy work then to the summit of Snowdon itself, where odd snow pockets, clear skies and fine visibility helped create the Alpine atmosphere.

The sweating and the stumbling forgotten, the MANWEB mountaineers stand triumphant on Snowdon's summit—and its downhill all the way back!

The return trip was made along the PYG track, with care necessary due to wet greasy rocks on the upper sections. With lengthening strides they reached Llanberis Pass just in time to catch the bus back.

### OUR COVER PICTURE

shows the leaders, still going strong, as they press on towards their goal.

### HAPPY HIKERS

A couple of dozen members of the Dee Valley Sports and Social Club ended their season with a hike up Moel Siabod recently. Despite hail, rain and a flash of sun, they thoroughly enjoyed their day out.

## WEDDING

Miss Jeanette Hodgson, a clerk on the Consumer Liaison Section in our Liverpool District made a lovely and radiant bride a short



Mr. and Mrs. Collins

time ago when she married Mr. Brian Collins at St. Bartholemews Church, Roby.

Brian is a process worker with the Plessey Company.

We join with their friends in wishing them every happiness for their future together.





THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE MERSEYSIDE  
AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

# CONTACT

Vol. 26 No. 6

June 1974

## EDITORIAL

### *On other pages*

Electric Vehicles	108
The Chairman's Answer	109
Ceiling Heating	110
Deputy Chairman to Retire	111
First Aid Successes	112
'Contact' Correspondent	113
Commercial Catering	114
New Homes for Old	116
R. H. Owen Appeal	117
Dee Valley Operators	118
Golf Champion	119
On Course at Wallasey	120
Happy Brides from Head Office	121
Tricky Job	122
Retirement of Bob McMinn	123
Exchange and Mart	124

### Editorial Staff

Keith Baldwin	(2164)
John F. Perry	(2167)
Sam Doughty	(2166)

## *New Roots*

ALL MANWEB's people have one common link which joins (cynics might say 'binds') them together—work. To some lucky people work is a pleasure, to others a penance, to be grimly borne. To the majority, probably, work is something like the curate's egg—good in parts.

Wherever people gather together to earn a living it is the most natural thing in the world that other subjects should be part and parcel of their lives together, and no power on earth could prevent Saturday's match from being Monday morning's conversation piece. A few bosses, relics of the Victorian era, may still regard attention to anything but work as a sign of moral degeneration and inefficiency, but most now recognise that more and better work is done by people who do not think of the workshop or office as a prison.

Throughout our own organisation there have sprung up sports and social committees, often linking specialised groups with common interests. In particular these groups have proliferated at Head Office, and it is doubtful whether a month goes by without some new hobby or interest drawing fellow-enthusiasts together. The pulling power of this side of MANWEB life can be gauged by the fact that Head Office Sports and Social Club has some 300 individual members who work in other parts of the Board's 'empire.' Within the re-organised Districts too, new and thriving social organisations are springing up, replacing those which faltered under the pressures of re-organisation, while pensioners' groups also grow in numbers and action.

The upheaval of re-organisation created problems and challenges for large numbers of people. It was inevitable that the old MANWEB family feeling should suffer to some extent—a situation made no easier by the crises to which our industry has been subjected in recent years.

Our sports and social activities, drawing us together as they do and continually introducing strangers to each other, are playing a vital part in building the spirit of a new MANWEB. A sensible management does all it can to help and encourage.

For *Contact*, such activities make interesting, human reading. Make sure we know what you are all doing!

# THE BIG BUS

**"I**F I were you I would concentrate initially on the bus, and especially the big bus. The bus will be the key element in public transport systems as they may be improved in the future. The big bus, with its noise and pollution is the most damaging vehicle on our roads from the environmental point of view. If you could tame the big bus, cutting off the noise and getting rid of the fumes, every city dweller in the country would be in your debt."

These words were addressed by Sir Colin Buchanan, guest speaker, to the 40th annual luncheon of the Electric Vehicle Association of Great Britain, held recently.

Sir Colin said that trolleybuses were the only clean, quiet vehicle

we had ever had on our roads (apart from bicycles) and we had got rid of them.

"Give us the equivalent of the trolleybus within, say, six to eight years . . . and the world will be yours," he added.

"There is a great deal of goodwill directed towards the electric

vehicle. The case is strengthened by the fact that there is already a great deal to show—all manner of electric vehicles in use in industry, many in use in commerce for delivery purposes such as milk and mail, and some in use for public transport," said Sir Colin.

"If, over a period of years, you could so influence affairs that a small but significant part of the national motor vehicle fleet had switched over to electric propulsion, you would have done the nation a tremendous service," he added.

## THE CITY SHOPPER

Nearer home, a small distinctive, yellow-coloured bus has brought the advantages of silence and cleanliness to Chester's city centre. On three months loan to the Department of the Environment, this 22-seater, battery-powered bus carries shoppers in the central shopping area at a flat charge of two pence (half price for children and pass-holders).

Its low top speed of 25 m.p.h. is no problem in the city centre, and it has a range of 35 miles between battery changes.

Mr. David Clark, city transport manager, told pressmen he felt the bus should be looked on as a social service, offering cleanliness and quiet operation. The five banks of lead-acid batteries which power it present the main drawback—that of weight. The bus weighs 9½ tons, compared with 8½ tons for a standard Corporation 73-seater-double-deck bus.

The discovery of a lighter battery, said Mr. Clark, would greatly enhance the prospects of the acceptance of electrically-powered vehicles. The 'City Shopper' is shown below in the Town Hall Square at Chester.



# THE CHAIRMAN'S ANSWER

The complaints of users of off-peak electricity, who feel that they have not had a fair deal in consequence of the application of the fuel cost adjustment to all units used by domestic consumers, have received a considerable amount of publicity in both national and local media.

The text of a letter, sent by the Chairman to all newspapers published in the MANWEB area, is published below:

Dear Sir,

## Electricity "Off-Peak Prices"

As a substantial user of "off-peak" electricity myself, paying the same price as any other consumer, I am in a position to understand the natural reaction of other consumers to the heavy increase in "off-peak" prices. This increase is substantial by any standard and its necessity is deeply regretted.

I cannot however accept the criticism that consumers have been deliberately "conned" by Electricity Boards into buying expensive equipment on the basis that the price of electricity in this inflationary world, would not need to reflect the cost of supplying it. The criticism is founded on statements that "on-peak" supplies have been estimated to increase in price by an average of 30% but, "off-peak" supplies, by up to 75%. The inference is that "off-peak" consumers have been subject to unreasonable discrimination. The percentage approach undoubtedly obscures the real position (*unpalatable though it remains in terms of hard cash*). What is the truth of the matter?

1. "Off-peak" electricity is lower in price because it is not charged with the capital cost of the power plant necessary for "on-peak" supplies. The cost to Electricity Boards of coal and oil burnt in power stations is however the same whether supplies are "on" or "off-peak."

2. Power station fuel accordingly represents more than half the cost of producing "on-peak" electricity but nearly nine-tenths the cost of producing the lower priced "off-peak" electricity.

3. The price of coal and oil supplied to power stations (*following the settlement of the miners'*

*strike and the Middle East oil crisis*) has effectively doubled since last autumn. This alone has increased the cost of producing electricity throughout the country by £600 million per annum.

4. Since these fuel costs apply in the same way to all units of electricity, the same cash increase (slightly over 0.3p per unit) has inevitably been applied to both "on-peak" and "off-peak" units.

5. The percentage calculation obscures both the powerful forces giving rise to the increase and the reality of the cash comparison. In cash terms both "on" and "off-peak" units will increase by the same amount and the cash difference will remain as before. That is, the cheapest "off-peak" night units will continue to cost 0.486p less than the cheapest "on-peak" day units.

It should be borne in mind that the Electricity Industry has only been authorised to apply the increased cost of fuel in these price increases. Other inflationary increases in cost (*such as those in plant and materials*) have not yet been reflected in prices—as a consequence, Electricity Boards will incur greater deficits this year than those incurred in the past year, despite the increased price to cover fuel costs. This is the horrifying reality of inflation and it is by no means limited to electricity. The cost of oil-fired central heating has been multiplied by nearly three times (175%) since last autumn. Coal prices to domestic consumers will be raised in the autumn of this year.

In case any of your readers should attribute any of this to inefficiency on our part, I should like to make it clear that while our miles of distribution mains have increased from 9,000 to 24,000 since 1948 and our capital invested has increased from £25m to £200m, MANWEB has, in the same period, reduced the number of staff employed per 100,000 consumers, from 1016 to 579.

Yours faithfully,

DENIS DODDS,

(*Chairman, Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board*)

## INDUSTRIAL HEATING

About 80 representatives from various branches of industry in the MANWEB area attended a seminar arranged by our Commercial Department, and held at two separate venues in Chester and Liverpool last month.

The subject under discussion was the use of electricity for heating solids, liquids, and gases, with emphasis on solution heating in metal finishing, heating of high viscosity petroleum products, paint

stoving and plastic curing, and platen and barrel heating.

Stress was laid on electricity's ability to offer lower production costs, increased productivity, better quality products, and improved working conditions.

The speakers included Mr. Bill Dobie of the Electricity Council (*who will be remembered by many MANWEB friends*), and in the chair was Mr. Ernie Redman, our principal industrial development engineer.



The party from St. Helens Borough Council on their visit to a "Shelter" accommodation unit at Warrington.

## CEILING HEATING EXPLAINED

### COUNCILLORS SEE FOR THEMSELVES

**YOU WALK** into a room which is comfortably warm. You look around for the source of heat. No open fire, no radiators, no pipes, ducts or grills. So, where is the heat coming from? Look up, and get your answer, for the heat comes from the ceiling!

It was this novel form of electric central heating which prompted the recent visit of a party of St. Helens Borough councillors and officials to a "Shelter Home" run by their neighbours Warrington Borough Council.

The tour was arranged by our South Lancashire District energy sales engineer Mr. Ken Appleton after he had learned that St. Helens Borough Council were planning to build a similar "Shelter" accommodation with 36 unit homes, some specifically designed for the disabled. The only point on which members of the Housing and Social Services Committees had reservations was the method of ceiling heating proposed by their architect Mr. William G. Burrows.

With the kind co-operation of Mr. G. Hancell, Housing Manager of the Warrington Borough Council, Mr. Appleton arranged for a visit to Sankey Manor "Shelter Home," where the group

*Mr. Appleton, left, and Mr. Roger Monk (District Commercial Engineer) chat with Councillor Miss Peggy McNamara (Chairman of the Social Services Committee).*



saw a short film featuring ceiling heating by the Flexel method, invented, produced and marketed by ICI. Instead of pipes and radiators round the room, taking up valuable space, the heat is radiated from the whole ceiling area at low temperature. After the explanatory film, Mr. Campbell Ward of ICI answered a number of questions from the councillors.

Warrington Borough Council have four "Shelter Homes"—inherited from the former Warrington Rural District Council—in use at the moment. The one chosen for the visit, Sankey Manor, has 22 one-bedroom type apartments each with 3.785kW of ceiling heating, and 10, two-bedroom flats, each with a heating load of 4.65kW. The warden's flat and communal lounge account for 60kW of load, and 35 three-kilowatt immersion heaters provide hot water throughout the building. There are 34 electric cookers (5kW) and 34 refrigerators (500 watt). Laundry equipment amounting to 10kW brings the total load in the complex to nearly 500 kilowatts.

**The average running cost for heating, cooking and lighting in the individual flats works out at £47 per annum.**

Speaking of the St. Helens project with its 36 separate flats linked by a covered walkway to a communal centre, Mr. Burrows said that the running cost of the proposed method of ceiling heating would compare most favourably with gas. He quoted figures for a 32-week heating season with electricity

*During a tour of the flats, a tenant talks to Mr. W. J. Appleton (Deputy Housing Manager), Councillors G. R. Parr and K. W. Bingham (Social Services Committee) and Mr. David Tinsley (3rd assistant engineer, South Lancashire District).*



working out at £51 a year against gas at £76. "This," he said, "represents a considerable saving of between 30 to 40 per cent." He commented that he thought ceiling heating was easy to install and was an economical and efficient way in which to heat this purpose-designed building, despite the fact of the recently announced increases in the price of electricity.

Then, Mr. Appleton in pointing out some of the many advantages of this form of electric central heating said that for old people and disabled people there was absolutely no dangers and the system was so simple to operate. Even the thermostat settings had been simplified and instead of the 'temperature' settings in degrees fahrenheit, a simple 1 to 5 gauge marking was now used.

The visitors then split into small parties to tour



Mr. Campbell Ward, left, with Mr. Burrows and Mr. E. Wood (Chief Architect, Warrington Borough Council).

the building, taking the opportunity to talk to many of the tenants who were enjoying the comforts of electric living.

## DEPUTY CHAIRMAN TO RETIRE

MR. D. G. GWYN, Deputy Chairman of the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board since 1962, is to retire on June 28th after 41 years' service in the Electricity Supply Industry. He plans to go and live in Nova Scotia, where his son is Professor in Neuro-anatomy at the University of Dalhousie. His daughter—an educational psychologist—also intends to emigrate to Canada.

Mr. Gwyn's lifetime of distinguished service to the Electricity Supply Industry was recognised by the award of the O.B.E. in the 1972 New Year's Honours.

Before joining MANWEB, he spent his entire career in South

Wales, joining the Neath Electricity Undertaking 41 years ago. In 1937, he became Deputy Chief Engineer, and in 1945 was appointed Borough Electrical Engineer and Manager at Barry, Glamorgan.

On the nationalisation of the Industry, he joined the South

### SUPERANNUATION

Copies of the Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting of the members of the Electricity Supply (Staff) Superannuation Scheme, held at the offices of the Electricity Council in London on December 11th, 1973 are available to all members (including

Wales Electricity Board, serving successively as Assistant Chief Commercial Officer, Area Manager (West Wales), Area Manager (Monmouth and Mid-Wales), and Chief Commercial Engineer. He was also a Member of the Board.

In 1972/73, he was Chairman of the Merseyside and North Wales Centre of the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

pensioners) upon request.

If you are interested, please contact the Assistant Secretary (Personnel), MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CHI 4LR.

The 25th Annual General Meeting will be held at the same venue on December 9th, 1974 at 2.30 p.m.

### DRAWING OFFICE STAFF SAY FAREWELL

Popular Mrs. Margaret Phillips, a dyeline operator at Head Office, recently left the Board after 12 years' service. Margaret is married to a Dee Valley District engineer, Mr. Len Phillips. Our picture, below, shows Margaret receiving a Wedgewood bowl from Mr. Denis Hughes (Chief Draughtsman)—a farewell gift from her many friends.





#### PRIZEWINNING APPRENTICES

Our young men from Hoylake on their way to winning the Industry's First-Year Apprentice First-Aid Competition in Bristol recently. The team in action, from left to right: David Jacobson (captain), Kevin Owen, David Lloyd and John French.

## First-Aid Story

Mr. J. A. Winchester, Dee Valley D.C.E., has sent a note of congratulation to apprentice electrician David Lloyd, who recently had to put his first aid training to most testing use when he went to aid a man who had been struck by a train.

On behalf of David's future Dee Valley colleagues, Mr. Winchester said he hoped David's example would encourage others to volunteer for training.

## Ladies' Team in Action

Not to be outdone by the young man in our Hoylake Apprentices First-Aid team who recently rendered valuable help at the scene of an accident, our Chester Ladies team of first-aiders were able to put their training to the test when returning home after taking part in a competition.

Their real-life emergency occurred when they approached a car which suddenly swerved off the road and crashed. They pulled in immediately and found the driver suffering from shock and his wife with facial and leg injuries.

The team went into action with captain Sybil Cooper deploying her colleagues just as she does in the competitions. Within ten minutes the casualties were on their way by ambulance to the hospital having received the very best in on-the-spot first-aid.

With Sybil on this occasion were Ann Jones, Liz Jones and Sybil Timmins.

The incident occurred on a twisting Lake District road when the team was coming home after competing in the North Open at Barrow-in-Furness.

## Nuclear Energy Insurance

The increasing role which nuclear energy will play in the generation of electricity was especially significant for those considering the choice of energy for commercial buildings with life expectancies in excess of 60 years, said Sir Peter Menzies, Chairman of the Electricity Council, recently.

### ELECTED

Still leading a very active life after his retirement a couple of years ago, Mr. E. Emlyn James was recently elected to the Wales T.U.C. under the auspices of the Trades Union Congress.

At its inaugural meeting held in Cardiff, Emlyn was appointed to the Health, Welfare and Social and Civil Services Committee. He is also the Secretary of the Flint Branch of the Electrical, Electronic Telecommunications and Plumbing Union.

Emlyn was formerly based at Mold depot with the Clwyd District engineering section.

Opening Eastern Electricity's new district office in Bedford, he pointed out that whereas nuclear output at present accounted for only 10 per cent of electricity generated in this country, by 1990 its share could rise to a half and by the year 2000 to two-thirds.

"Electricity generated from nuclear energy provides an insurance policy against electricity shortage in the future and at a time when fossil fuels are expected to become increasingly scarce," Sir Peter added.

### Big District

The fame of the Men of MANWEB is spreading. Mr. Ken Rigby, assistant installation engineer, Liverpool District, recently received an air-mail letter from Nigeria requesting leaflets, books and information on electricity.

He might have to tell them that cable-laying, to meet the demand, may take a little time!



## 'Contact' Correspondent

THE FIRST member of the staff in our new team of 'Contact' Correspondents is Mrs. Veronica (Vicki) Roberts, a clerk in our Liverpool District office at Lister Drive.

Vicki started work for the Board at Whitechapel shop and was the first hire-purchase clerk ever in our showrooms. Later she spent three years at the Kensington shop before joining the clerical section of the Engineering department at Lister Drive.

Before coming to MANWEB, she worked with the G.P.O., T. J. Hughes and the Liverpool Edu-

cation Committee.

Vicki is married and husband George is manager for a Liverpool food company. They like to travel and up to date they have visited New Zealand, Cyprus, Singapore and Italy. Their daughter Valerie is chief stewardess in the languages department of British European Airways in London.

Vicki has already pushed a number of 'leads' and stories through, as you will see in issue of 'Contact.' For our colleagues in the Liverpool District her internal telephone number is 722.

VICKI ▶



### LAKE

More visitors to which had arrived  
Electrical Associ April issue. It was



Gill, Alan—and 'Contact'

A couple of days after publication the following reply was sent:—

"Single lady can only offer half a used ticket. How about half a hand in marriage? P.S. Had a lovely time wished you were there." Enclosed was a photograph—of the half ticket.

We brought these ardent Liver-

published an  
single man of his  
in exchange for  
Newcastle cup  
esting a photo-  
(t).

Twenty-two hopeful fishermen from Head Office set out on May 19th to hunt those man-eating trout which are supposed to lurk in the depths of Trawsfynydd Lake. Between them they were armed with every kind of attraction likely to encourage a trout to swallow a hook—artificial flies, spinners, worms . . . all that was missing was dynamite!

They should have taken the dynamite, because at the end of the day they were a sadder and wiser band—with one five-inch trout (between them) to show for their labours. And the trophy which the organiser of the outing, Dave Cousins of Head Office Commercial department, offered for the 'biggest weight of takeable trout,' went back into his bag for another day!

Not that there aren't any fish in the lake. There are—little perch by the thousand, if the numbers hooked during the course

pool fans together for a photograph. Both work at Craven Street, Birkenhead and did not know each other before our introduction.

He is Alan Smith a 32-years-old electrician and she is Gill Adams, who is 24 and a clerk in the North Wirral District Office.

### COARSE GAME

of the great trout-hunt were anything to go by. A couple of the anglers swore they landed more than fifty each.

It was universally felt that the day-fee paid was somewhat on the high side for the privilege of hauling perch ashore, and it was clear that those who manage the lake have an urgent problem if it is to maintain a reputation as a trout water.

Superb weather prevented the outing from being a disaster, and others in the coach enjoyed a visit to the power station. The fishermen, however (including your *Contact* reporter) left the scene resolved that in future they would seek their trout elsewhere!

### STORK VISIT

Congratulations to Mr. Tony White, senior clerical assistant, Work Control at Lister Drive, and to his wife Maureen on becoming Mum and Dad to a beautiful baby girl Claire Louise who weighed in at 8lb 13ozs.

# Commercial Catering Exhibitions

**AT  
CHESTER . .**



## *Around the Stands*

*Above:* North Wirral District Commercial Engineer, Mr. George Bowers is seen here demonstrating high-speed fryers to some of the special guests from his own District who attended at the opening of the Chester exhibition.

*Right:* Mr. Trevor Edwards of our Dee Valley energy sales team, pours a coffee for guest Mr. Vince Clapton, the Social Amenities Officer at the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre, watched closely by Mr. Roy Stewart (*Energy Sales Manager*).



in  
outdone by the  
in our Hoylake  
First-Aid team who  
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After officially opening the exhibition, The Mayor of Chester, Councillor W. Mitchell visited all the stands and showed great interest in the equipment on display. Our cameraman caught him here sampling a portion of chicken cooked quickly by microwave. The trio of girls helping him are, from left to right, Miss Lynette Kemp, Mrs. Lesley Taylor (*The 'Girl from MANWEB'*) and Mrs. Alison James.



More civic dignitaries sample the delights of electric catering as the Mayor of Arfon, Councillor John Roberts, holds the dish as Bangor's Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Jean Christie prepares to serve Mrs. Roberts, Mayoress of Arfon. Looking on is Mrs. Lesley Taylor (*The 'Girl from MANWEB'*) and our own catering expert from Head Office, Mrs. Joan Dittrich.

## **... AND AT BANGOR**

More visitors to the Gwynedd District exhibition with Mrs. Meurig Roberts, the Area Organiser for the Electrical Association for Women complimenting energy sales demonstrators Lynette Kemp and Eirlys Hughes on their efforts.



# New Homes for Old

## *Conversions in Liverpool*

**T**AKE a dozen large, rambling old houses, which have long since outgrown their original purpose of serving as 'home' for the big families and domestic servants of Liverpool's wealthy businessmen of Victorian times.

Add more than 130 elderly ladies, all in need of a little 'place of their own,' small enough to manage but somewhere offering a real measure of privacy and independence.

This kind of situation is one of the problems which faces Merseyside Improved Houses, a non-profit-making housing association, whose aims include making the best possible use of large old properties, no longer suitable for modern-day family accommodation, by adapting them and converting them into flatlets for elderly people. And the Men from MANWEB are doing a most important job in helping the Association to modernise the flatlets, the all-electric way, for the benefit and convenience of the ladies in question.

During recent years a number of successful installations have been carried out, for the Association, by our energy sales colleagues in Liverpool District, so when they decided to modernise the 132 flatlets in the 12 houses in question it was natural enough that they should turn to Malcolm Cooper and Bill Roberts, our commercial and domestic development engineers at Lister Drive.

Each individual flatlet consists of a bed-sitting-room and kitchen, and when Barry Natton, Director, and Harry Hume, Assistant Director, (Sheltered Housing), decided to modernise them, the question of conversion to 'all-electric' living came in for serious consideration.

Nine of the 12 houses are located in Liverpool District, and three in North Mersey District, so close co-operation between the two MANWEB organisations was called for. Into the discussions came John Rigby and Colin Arnold, representing the energy sales and installation teams at Bridle Road, and with their help, and reference to standard price schedules, work went forward with such effect that the Association has now placed an order worth nearly £30,000!

The plans worked out by Messrs. Cooper and Roberts included the design of heating schemes, based on storage heating, for both 'individual' and 'communal' areas of accommodation; 'focal point' radiators for Summer use in the majority of

the flatlets (generally replacing existing gas fires); and an over-sink water heater, a small cooker, a refrigerator and two twin 13-amp sockets for each flatlet.

In addition, each of the houses will have a communal laundry, consisting of an automatic washer, a tumbler-dryer, a spin-dryer. Where the existing supply of gas-heated hot-water is inadequate, it will be replaced by supply from



Messrs. John McCormack, left, and Ken Rigby.

One of the 'Improved Homes' provides the background for this picture showing, from left to right: Messrs. Bill Roberts, Brian Young (architect), Malcolm Cooper and Harry Hume.



insulated electric-immersion hot-water cylinders.

One of the biggest problems which came to light during the site surveys was caused by the fact that most of the old ladies had apparently tried to pack as much of their furniture as possible into the flatlets, no doubt being anxious to be surrounded by 'old friends.'

In fact, on some occasions it was difficult to find vacant areas of wall, and considerable tact had to be employed to ensure that installation work could be effectively carried out, and that equipment could be properly positioned!

Work on the first property is now in progress, and it is expected that the whole project will be completed within the next month or so. Site operations are being co-ordinated by Ken Rigby, Liverpool's assistant installation engineer, and John McCormack, contracts manager for MIH.

Equipment so far ordered includes 185 storage radiators, 28 focal point fires, 33 high-level wall heaters, 94 over-sink water heaters, 13 hot water cylinders, 21 cookers, 75 refrigerators, 11 automatic washing machines and the same number of tumbler dryers and spin dryers, one shower unit, and about 550 circuits, services, sub-services, section boards, etc.

Total installed load will be 1,170 kilowatts, (605 kW off-peak, and 565 kW on-peak).

Running costs will be paid for by the Association, and energy consumption will be included in the individual rents paid by the tenants. To help the Association in making their decisions, a complete 'dossier' on typical appliance consumptions, and present-day running costs, was compiled by our two Liverpool development engineers.

### *Letter of Thanks . . .*

This very pleasant letter was sent to Malcolm Cooper by Mr. Peter Haigh, partner in the firm Stananought & Haigh, Chartered Surveyors.

Dear Malcolm,

re: Beacon House, Portland  
Place

I was very pleased to see you the other day at the handover of the final phase of Beacon House. As you know, this job was quite important to both this firm and Merseyside Improved Houses, and I was therefore very pleased with the way in which you have liaised with ourselves and Gardners Contractors in ensuring that all the deadlines were met for completing work and metering.

I am also very pleased with the system of following up on Merseyside Improved Houses tenants after the installation of electric central heating, as this will most certainly eliminate wastage and costs when they run the system. Perhaps you would report that fact to Bill Roberts.

Finally, thank you for your note on meter installations and service lines. As you know, we still seem to have problems from time to time in getting jobs either serviced or metered, and in this respect I found your note most instructive.

Once again, thank you for your continuing help.

Yours sincerely, P. S. HAIGH.

## Mr. R. H. OWEN — AN APPEAL

A public appeal to establish a fund to commemorate the late Alderman Robert Hugh Owen, a leading personality in local government and other public fields in Caernarfonshire, has been launched in his home village of Llanberis.

"R.H.," for many years a MANWEB linesman at Llanberis, rose from humble origins to play a vital role in many aspects of the life of his county, and indeed, of Wales as a whole. A J.P., and holder of the B.E.M., he was a member of Caernarfonshire County Council for more than 25

years, and was a former Chairman.

He collapsed and died at Llandudno on December 15th, and now some of those who so respected and admired him have launched an appeal, with the possible purpose of establishing a

Scholarship at Gwynedd Technical College.

Any former MANWEB colleagues who would like to be associated with the appeal are asked to send their contributions to Mr. Eurwyn Jones, Midland Bank, Llanberis. Cheques should be made payable to the "R.H. Owen Memorial Fund."

### Obituary

It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of former members of the Board's staff.

Mr. John Williamson, who was an electrician based at Lock Street Northwich.

Mr. Joseph Thomas Boote, aged 68, was a storekeeper in our South Lancashire District prior to his retirement.

We extend our deepest sympathy to their next of kin.

## DEE VALLEY DISTRICT

# "Hello" Girls

Faces to the voices, from left to right, Edna, Joyce and Carole.



### Aussie Choice

To most people, Australian football clubs mean the free-scoring outfits with names of Balkan origin which appear on their football coupons during the summer.

But to Mr. Jack Harding, foreman installation inspector at North Mersey District until his retirement after 47 years' service last October, they are more than that.

His 27-years'-old son David, who emigrated to Australia five years ago, is a striker with the Sydney club Pan Hellenic—and David has been chosen for a place in Australia's World Cup squad for Munich!

David's early soccer career in

this country was rather disappointing. He had a short spell with Everton before becoming a full-time professional with Wrexham, where his career was halted by a broken leg. But now it seems that his chance of making a lasting name for himself may be close at hand.

### ≡ ENGAGEMENT ≡

Congratulations to two members of our Oswestry District staff who have decided to tie the matrimonial knot. Miss Glenda Lloyd became engaged to Mr. W. J. 'Bill' Dixon a few weeks ago.

Glenda, aged 19, is general services clerk and 21 years old Bill is a clerk in the Revenue Section. The couple plan to marry in September 1975.

Edna Muriel Jones, joined us just about nine years ago when she came to work at Rhostyllen as a telephone operator. Prior to this she was with the Wrexham Borough Council, after four years as a control room officer with the Denbighshire Fire Service.

During the last war, Edna was a lieutenant in the Women's Royal Army Corps and served as a communications officer for six years.

She enjoys ballroom dancing and does a spot of gardening. She is married and has one daughter.

Joyce Robinson started work with the Board's former Wrexham District some 15 years ago. Previously she worked as a clerk with the Ministry of Supply at Marchweil, followed by ten years as a G.P.O. telephonist, and three years with a town centre firm in Wrexham.

Joyce is married and husband Len is cashier for a national building organisation. She enjoys driving and gardening.

Carole Jones has been with us for about six months, and operates the v.h.f. radio control equipment. She once worked as a secretary with the Probation Service and with the police. No doubt this is where she met her husband, policeman Cliff.

They live in Overton where Cliff plays for the local football team with Carole as their number one supporter.

She likes the occasional trip home to visit her parents and enjoys dinner dances.

#### LAUGH LINE

"Operator, the cord is too long on my telephone, pull it in a bit at your end!"

## GOLF CHAMPION

MR. J. D. T. WRIGHT of Head Office always has a ready smile, but recently the beam became broader after his success in winning for the second time the I.E.E. Benevolent Fund Golf Challenge Bowl for the Mersey and North Wales Centre.

The Stableford competition was played on the Southport and Ainsdale golf course a few weeks ago when 50 competitors from all sections of the electricity supply industry in this area took part.

Don, who plays off a 15 handicap said, "I had my best round ever," as he ran out as winner with 37 points.

Since the competition originated in 1927 very few men from MANWEB have had their names engraved on the Bowl. It was Don's ambition to get his name on and in 1970 he made it.

Then he decided that he must win it again and so go one better than our Chief Engineer, Mr. Frank Brown, who had won it in 1953. Don did it again this year and he now has yet another ambition and that is to beat Mr. Joe Eckbery's record of winning the Bowl prize four times!

Don hails from Edinburgh and



Don with the I.E.E. Challenge Bowl.

he joined the electricity industry when he went to work for the South East Scotland Division of the former B.E.A. in 1951. Two

years later he came down to Merseyside to join the Technical Department of what was to become the North West Region of the C.E.G.B.

Subsequently he was appointed as Transmission Construction Engineer and covered the North Wirral, Cheshire and North Wales areas. In December 1972 he transferred to MANWEB and is now 2nd assistant engineer with Special Projects in Production Control.

He is quite a handy golfer and a few days prior to his capturing the Bowl he was successful in winning the Murray Cup at his own Club, Upton-by-Chester. Here he has also won the Coronation Cup, twice, and the Upton Greensome.

He is now looking forward, in partnership with G. Purslow of Oswestry District, to winning the Gravett Cup, played for annually by MANWEB staff, and of course there is always the E. and E.I.B.A. competition!

The qualifying rounds for this are to be held at the Prenton Golf Course on July 24th.

### CONTACT

## Photographic Competition

#### SECTIONS AND PRIZES:

#### COLOUR

##### Transparencies:

1st Prize	..	..	..	..	£10
2nd Prize	..	..	..	..	£5
3rd Prize	..	..	..	..	£3

##### Prints:

Best Picture	..	..	..	..	£5
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#### BLACK AND WHITE

Best Picture	..	..	..	..	£5
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#### COLOUR OR BLACK AND WHITE

Best Human Portrait	..	..	..	..	£5
Best Animal Picture	..	..	..	..	£5
Best Humorous Picture	..	..	..	..	£5

A copy of the Rules may be obtained on request from The Editor, "Contact,"  
MANWEB Head Office, Sea'and Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

**Closing Date — 30th September, 1974**



The noise made and the dust raised by the structural alterations at our Wallasey premises a short time ago, caused our colleagues on Course 269 to retire to a local hotel in order to continue their sales training course in peace and quiet. They are, from left to right: Marion Dear (*St. Helens*), Phylis Watkinson (*Prescot*), Christine Jones (*Northwich*), Emyr Jones (*Corwen*), Terry Clarke (*Bootle*), Olive Irving (*Huyton*), Arthur Leigh (*Newtown*), Pat Cleary (*Norris Green*) and Iris Sage (*St. Johns*).

## On Course at Wallasey

Course 268 also had a few moments of peace and quiet up on the roof of the Wallasey Sales Training Centre, following an intensive period of instruction from Mr. R. D. Evans (*Executive Officer, Revenue, Head Office*). Our picture shows, from left to right: Mr. Evans, Charles Gray (*Old Swan*), Richard Robinson (*Huyton*), Keith Hutchinson (*Bootle*), Pat Howard (*St. Helens*), Kathy Hughes (*St. Johns*), Thelma Kitcher (*St. Johns*), Joan McDonald (*Prescot*), Eileen Maddocks (*Norris Green*), Pat Partington (*Warrington*), Belinda Hatley (*Whitchurch*), Florence Sweeney (*North Wirral*), Norrie Maher (*Liverpool*) and Lynette Kemp (*Clwyd District*).





## WEDDINGS

### JONES—HOLMES

Miss Susan Holmes made a radiant bride as she became Mrs. Trevor Jones at All Saints Church, Hoole, in Chester. Susan, 21 this month, is the very popular Head



**Mr. and Mrs. Jones**

*Picture by Denis Perrin*

Office receptionist, and 22 years old Trevor, formerly a MANWEB apprentice, is an electrician at the Mold Depot in Clwyd District.

After the reception at a nearby hotel, the happy couple then left for a secret overnight destination before travelling on to the Lake District.

To the good wishes for their future from their many friends and colleagues may we add ours with our congratulations.

### HAYWARD—DAVIES

St. John's Parish Church, Rhosymedre, was the scene of the wedding of Miss Janet Davies and Mr. Colin Hayward recently. Janet who was a clerk at Head Office now works in the Dee Valley District at Rhostyllen. The groom is a process operator.



**Mr. and Mrs. Hayward**

*Picture by Howard Pearson*

Playing an important supporting role in the proceedings was the bride's father Mr. Merfyn Davies from Head Office.

Colin, 21, and Janet, 20, held their reception at a Llangollen hotel, and honeymooned in the Cotswolds. Our congratulations and best wishes for the future go to them both.

### CLAYTON—PRITCHARD

Our every good wish goes to Miss Fiona Pritchard and Mr.



**Mr. and Mrs. Clayton**

*Picture by Michael Hall*

Vincent Clayton for their future together. They were married at St. Ethelwolds Church, Shotton.

Fiona is a mailing clerk at Head Office and Vincent is a Shotton steel worker.

After the church ceremony the 19-year-old groom and his 17-year-old bride held their wedding reception at a Mold hotel.

### ECCLES—ROBERTS

The beauty of the Lake District in May was ideal for the honeymoon of Miss Medwin Roberts and Mr. John Eccles, who were joined in holy matrimony at St. John's Welsh Presbyterian Church, Chester.



**Mr. and Mrs. Eccles**

*Picture by Howard Pearson*

The bride and groom, who are both 21, held their wedding reception at Chester's Blossoms Hotel. Our good wishes go to Medwin, a clerk at Head Office and John, a storekeeper.

### ROBERTS—WILLIAMS

At St. James Church, Christleton, Miss Sheila Williams took Mr. Phillip Roberts as her lawful wedded husband. Sheila, a 20-year-old cost clerk, met Phillip, 22, at Head Office where he once worked in the Costs Section.

After the wedding service the happy couple held their reception at the Rowton Hall Hotel where they greeted their many well wishers. Sheila and Phillip spent their honeymoon in Llandudno.

### HAPPY COINCIDENCE

Two of our weddings reported, Susan and Trevor Jones and Sheila and Phillip Roberts, had some unusual coincidences. Both brides were 20 and both grooms were 22 on their wedding day. All were working for MANWEB when they met. They were married on the same day, and they have gone to live next door but one to each other. We understand that had the brides not confided in each other they would have spent the first night of their honeymoon in the same hotel!

## Conductors lifted to clear new road

Our engineers carried out a tricky operation recently when they were faced with the problem of raising three conductors of the 132,000-volt Wylva to Amwlch line where it crossed a new access road on the construction site for the Shell Tank Farm.

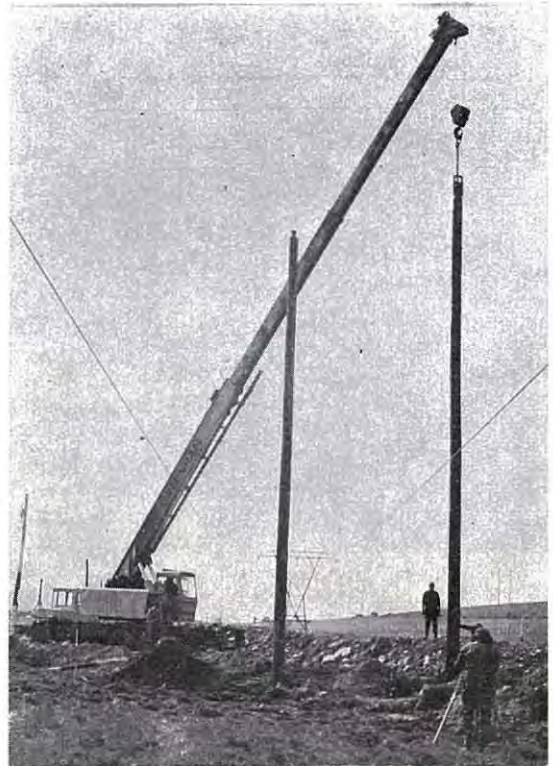
The job was well planned with new pole holes carefully dug to a measured depth as near to the road as possible in readiness for the new poles, 55 feet long allowing for a 28 feet clearance over the road.

At an arranged time, supplies were switched off and the conductors protectively earthed before a team from Murphy's gang got to work disconnecting the three conductors and their insulators and one by one lowering them gently to the ground. The steel cross-arm was then removed and the poles uprooted.

Then the new poles were craned into position and lined up before the cross arm was bolted on and the insulators and conductors re-connected on their new mountings.

This was the first time that MANWEB engineers have tried this method, and it was found to be quick and efficient with the minimum of inconvenience to our customers.

Our man on the spot was Mr. Ken Jones (*4th assistant engineer*) from Head Office.



The second new pole being lowered into the prepared hole near the new access road.

## PENSIONERS' OUTING

Senior Officers from the Mid-Cheshire District and Mr. H. Telfer (*Group Manager*), who was standing in for Mr. J. W. Trimble who is ill, were at Head Office recently to welcome a party of retired District staff with their wives.

The group had spent the afternoon at Ness Gardens before taking refreshments and a tour of the building at Sealand Road.

The retired members in the Mid-Cheshire District have just elected the following as their new Committee. *Chairman:* Mr. C. P. Booth. *Vice Chairman:* Mrs. M. M. LeVoi. *Secretary:* Mr. T. V. Walley, Clyde Cottage, Swanley Lane, Near Nantwich. *Treasurer:* Mr. A. T. Knott. *Members:* Miss G. Baxendale, Mr. S. Broadhurst and Mr. H. Thorn-dyke.

Mid-Cheshire District pensioners and their wives with Senior District Officers and Head Office hosts.



## He's a Champion!

### Bob McMinn Retires

It was a memorable occasion when Mr. R. A. McMinn of Liverpool District consumer accounting section recently retired from the Board after almost 42 years' service in the Industry. Bob, a most popular person, started work with the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department in 1932 as a temporary meter reader, and became a meter examiner a few years later. In 1950 he transferred from Hatton Garden to the former Liverpool South District where he was tariff surveyor.

In this job, his keen sense of humour helped him through many 'sticky' situations and he will be remembered by colleagues and customers for his very pleasant attitude even when faced with some very unpleasant people.

Bob was one of the founder members of the Liverpool Electric Power and Lighting Sports and Welfare Club in 1944, and from then onwards he has always taken an active part in the organisation of the Club. His valuable and ready help over the years has been immeasurable and as Chairman of the Football Section, he has served for many years on the Management Committee. Following his retirement from the Board, he has been elected as a Vice-Chairman of the Club.

In his younger days, Bob was a star player at centre forward (*that dates him*) with the Electric

Supply football team, and he was an outstanding 'bat' with the cricket eleven. Since hanging up his boots—both pairs—he has been Chairman of the Football Section of the Club and is well-known as "Mr. Football of Electric Supply." He lives, eats and sleeps football and has worked wonders with the Section.

Although for many years he has served as a member of the Management of the Liverpool Shipping League, Bob set his sights on the Liverpool County Combination. This year, his team in their second season in the Combination, have won promotion from the second to the first division with a record of having lost only two games all season. The Supply's Second XI managed to reach the semi-finals of the Shipping League Cup.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Football Section on May 28th, Bob was unanimously re-elected as Chairman. We sincerely hope that Bob's team will be like that other team in Liverpool and next season carry off the First Division Championship.

At a gathering attended by many of his friends and colleagues, Mr. T. D. Hamilton (*District Administrative Officer*), on their behalf, presented Bob with a transistor radio and a bouquet of flowers for his wife Anne, and expressed everyone's wish for a happy future for them both. Then, on to Thingwall Road Clubhouse for farewell drinks and a buffet provided by Bob and Anne.

Although he has left MANWEB, Bob has not really retired for he has started on a new job with his son Ian—running a sports goods business!

District Administrative Officer, Mr. Tom Hamilton, *centre*, presents the farewell gift to Mr. Bob McMinn, *left*, whose wife, Anne is on the extreme right.



## FOR SALE

### Houses

Pensby. Two-bedroomed semi bungalow. Hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, sun lounge, half-tiled bathroom. Full gas central heating. Garage. Gardens. £10,000 o.n.o. for quick sale. Phone 051-648 4511.

Ellesmere Port. Modern 3-bedroom detached house. Fitted kitchen, built-in wardrobes, etc., garage, gas central heating. £8,750. Phone: 051-355 8451.

Chester Town House. 3 bedrooms, entrance hall, through lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom w.c., brick garage, patio, gardens. Part central heating. £6,975 o.n.o. Mrs. L. Danbury, 3 Overwood Lane, Blacon, Chester.

Oxton village. 3 bedroom semi in quiet cul-de-sac. Through lounge, fitted kitchen, 'off-peak' heating, garage workshop, fitted carpets throughout, venetian blinds, secluded rear garden. Phone: 051-652 0245.

Great Sutton, seven miles north of Chester. Modern semi, 3 bedrooms, one complete with matching carpet, bed and curtains, 3 reception rooms, solid fuel part central heating,

private runway, brick garage. £8,650. Phone: 051-339 5564 or 051-334 2665.

### Cars

1970 (May) H Reg. Volkswagon 1600 Fastback. Immaculate diamond blue with black upholstery. Taxed Dec. 74, M.O.T. April 75. Undersealed, push button radio with twin speakers, heated rear window, sports gear shift and steering wheel, twin rear fog lights, cigar lighter, parcel shelf. Genuine 18,000 miles. Complete service history and personal guarantee for 3 months. £700. Telephone after 6 p.m. 051-220 6231.

### Miscellaneous

Terada 800 nylon strung guitar c/w Capo; cassette tape learning course; strap, carrying bag and instruction booklets. Altogether cost well over £30. Will sell for £20. All in excellent condition and hardly used. Chester 43491.

A pair of brown leather jodphur boots (elastic sides) size 6½. Very good condition. £5. Write to Carol A. Cunliffe, 62 Flag Lane, Crewe, Cheshire.

G.E.C. Carlton, electric cooker. 3 rings, auto-timer, clock, etc., excellent condition. £25. Buyer collects please. 051-645 8741.

Diana Milbro air rifle .22 bore. £6.50. Phone: 0978 841230.

Typewriter. Olivetti 82. Approx. four years old. In perfect condition. Silvery green in colour. Best offer accepted. Wrexham 52724 (after 5.30 p.m.).

## WANTED

Unfurnished house or flat in the Wrexham area. Long term prospect. Desperate. Phone Gresford 2050.

Self-contained furnished flat in Chester area to suit young engineer. Please write to John C. MacDonald. Flat 3, 43 Crosby Road South, Seaforth, Liverpool L21. 1EN

Mullard TDD 4—7-pin and top cap for vintage radio. Phone: Frodsham 33882.

If you sell your goods or manage to get what you advertise for, please let us know.

If unsuccessful and wish for your ad. to be repeated, please let us know.

## FOR CONTACT'S EXCHANGE AND MART

Just fill in the form below (or write your ad. on a plain piece of paper if you don't want to mutilate your magazine), and send it to "Contact," MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

Please write in block letters and keep the ads. brief. Include your name and home address and/or home telephone number. We regret that we cannot provide a box number service.

*Advertisements will be included in the first available number of our magazine.*

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