



CONTACT

June 1976

Chairman's New
Chair
(see page 119)

Electricity: The Future

—Speech by Sir Peter Menzies

THE CHAIRMAN of the Electricity Council, Sir Peter Menzies, hammered home the value of electricity to the domestic customer when speaking at the Electrical Contractors' Association's conference in Eastbourne recently.

"One trouble with electricity bills is that they come to ordinary customers once a quarter covering 13 weeks' consumption", he commented.

"This obscures from the user the fact that if he aggregated his other expenditures in the same way, spending on electricity would be seen to be a relatively small item.

"It is, in the basket of goods included in the retail price index, less than the spending on either alcohol or tobacco," said Sir Peter.

Another reason why customers begrudged paying for electricity is that they are unaware of all the uses they actually make of it.

"It is not easy for people to realise that for tuppence ha'penny they are able to enjoy colour television for the evening, and that is below the cost of just one potato at to-day's prices", pointed out Sir Peter.

"For that matter, just think of the cost of viewing television. Rental may be £70 to £80 a year, while the licence is £18, and buying the Radio Times and TV Times each week comes to over £10. Total, about £100. But the electricity you can get for only £10.

"People don't begrudge the money spent on television rentals so much as they do the money spent on the electricity to run the sets, even though without electricity television would not operate.

"One more domestic comparison: you can cook electrically for a family of four for the cost of a pint of milk a day."

Dependence on Electricity

Sir Peter added: "Neither is it easy to make people aware of their real dependence on electricity in modern living. Electric pumps ensure the arrival of tap water and the disposal of sewage: electricity is employed in the processing of virtually all food and in the manufacture of the containers for the weekly groceries."

Referring to the increases in the price of electricity in recent years, Sir Peter said the industry itself had made a substantial endeavour to contain both costs

and prices.

"Our record in increased efficiency of generation and operation is impressive. The decision by the Central Electricity Generating Board to standardise on 500MW sets (and later 660MW) has meant that 50 machines of this size are supplying about half the nation's electricity needs and, thereby, are making a significant contribution to the improvement of thermal efficiency.

"The most efficient stations in this group now achieve almost 36 per cent overall thermal efficiency, compared with an overall 21 per cent for all generation when the industry was nationalised in 1948. An increase of one per cent in thermal efficiency now saves about £50 million a year in fuel costs.

"Further, with the co-operation of the Trade Unions, we are continually seeking to improve the efficiency of our manpower. Despite the growth in our output our manpower over the past ten years has been reduced by about 50,000 individuals. It is now about 170,000 in all."

He pointed out that the electricity supply industry was entirely debt financed. It had no equity capital, and its funds were raised at market rates of interest mostly by means of 25-year instalment loans from the National Loans Fund, or by shorter-term loans from elsewhere.

"Together with new capital needs, the re-financing of old loans gives rise to a substantial requirement for funds each year at substantially higher rates of interest than the rates applicable to the old loans paid off. The prevailing rate of interest for 25-year money peaked at 17 per cent per annum in 1974/75, raising the average rate of interest on our outstanding borrowings to nine per cent last year compared with only five per cent 10 years earlier.

Interest Charges

"Our interest charges have risen to £430 million in 1975/76—most of it paid to the Government and all of it to be recovered from our customers in the price of electricity", said Sir Peter.

He also referred to the amount paid by the supply industry in local authority rates—in the last financial year £117 million.

"No other single ratepayer makes such a heavy contribution to local authority finances and no other industry is required to set aside such a large proportion of its income in this way. Our rate payment is now equivalent to £6 per customer per year", Sir Peter stated.

It was, however, right that electricity prices should reflect costs.

"I would not wish to be in charge of an industry that deliberately set out to under-price its product and to rely on the nation bailing it out by subsidies. I also believe that this is the view of the majority of the people in the country", Sir Peter added.



CONTACT

Vol. 28 No. 6

June 1976

On other
pages . . .

Chairman's visit to Mid-Cheshire District	116
Wrexham Factory Contract for Dee Valley	118
Talking Notes	119
MANWEB Break into Clubland	124
Long Service Awards - North Mersey, Liverpool and North Wirral	126
Mr. Dodds in Vienna	128
Shower Sales Success Story	129
Safe Drivers at Chester and Rhostyllen	130
Electric Living Trade Fair	132
Wallworks* Wanderings	133
Retirements	135
British Electricity International Limited	136
Obituary	136

Editorial

A Tricky Road

IT HAS often been said that it is difficult to be a motorist without becoming, at some time, also a criminal (usually undetected).

Most drivers of long experience would agree with that rather sweeping generalisation. There cannot be many of us—no doubt law-abiding citizens in every conscious respect—who have not, by error or oversight, strayed technically on the wrong side of the law when at the wheel.

This situation serves to drive home the extent to which the path of the modern driver, winding as it does through a jungle of heavy traffic and ever-changing regulations, is beset with pitfalls. It serves also to underline the achievements of those who maintain consistent accident-free records over many years—records earned by a vast amount of vigilance reinforced by a certain measure of good luck!

Traffic accidents are a costly business—costly in money terms, costly in material loss and reduced earning powers, and costly most of all in human suffering. This number of *Contact* contains reports of the presentation of Safe Driving Awards to members of the MANWEB staff—awards received from the hands of senior police officers who carry heavy responsibilities for traffic and road safety matters. The statistics quoted on one of these occasions make it abundantly clear why these officers are only too happy to leave their routine duties in order to underline the Road Safety message.

Editorial Staff

Phone H.O.

Keith Baldwin 2164
John F. Perry 2167
Sam Doughty 2166

Please let the Editorial staff know of any large-scale or unusual engineering schemes or commercial projects going on in your department. We are interested in people too! Contact us about your interesting personalities with a story to tell.

Chairman's Walk-around at Mid-Cheshire District Office

In the Consumer Accounts section, from left to right: Chairman Denis Dodds, Peter Falcon (District Admin. Officer), Bob Martin (principal assistant), Chris Clutton and Gilbert Blundell.



The most easterly in the Board's area, our Mid-Cheshire District covers an area of 415 square miles and serves approximately 103,000 customers, some with world famous names like Rolls Royce Motors and I.C.I.

The District Office is centred at Macon Way, Crewe, with a depot at Northwich. Shops are situated in Crewe, Knutsford, Middlewich, Nantwich, Northwich, Sandbach and Winsford.

In recent years, the District have had the attentions of three D.A.O's. and—with the arrival of Mr. Joe Winchester—five Group Managers. However, Mid-Cheshire is still a happy District with all staff working together!



A trio of engineering foremen pictured here with our Chairman, from left to right: Tom Jones, Denis Dodds Norman Woodall and Wilf Salmon.



A representative group from Mid-Cheshire's Local Advisory Committee, Admin/Clerical Staff Committee and Technical Staff Committee. From left to right: Dave Fisher, Bob Waddilove, Harold Allman, Alan Moore, Norman Walsh (District Commercial Engineer), Graham Zeiber (District Engineer), Arthur Elson, Jim Barraclough (Group Manager), Margaret Morse, Peter Falcon (District Admin. Officer), Denis Dodds (MANWEB Chairman), Chris Morrey, Howard Snape and John Allen.



A happy occasion when our Chairman meets Colin Barrow (chargehand storekeeper) who recently won £35,000. In the background is Peter Falcon.



NEW TO THE DISTRICT . . .

Mr. Dodds meets the recently appointed energy sales engineer Mal Cooper, above left, and commercial supply engineer Mike Potts, above right.

. . . AND OLD HANDS!

Len Young (2nd energy sales engineer) who retires this month after more than 40 years' service, below left, and Tom Cash (Production Engineer) below right, who has spent many years in the District.



Steve Davies (service electrician) shows the Chairman his Suggestion Scheme idea which won an award.



Left: In the workshops at Macon Way, Mr. Dodds chats with chargehand electrical fitter Gerald Newbrook

Right: Gerald Clarke, a prominent first-aider, shares a joke with our Chairman and Peter Falcon.



Below right: Jim Barraclough and Denis Dodds talk with Norman Walsh (District Commercial Engineer) and Jim Bird (Installation engineer) while Margaret Ollier presses on with her work.

Below, Mr. Dodds meets Wilf Salmon (engineering foreman), centre, and Brian Johnson (chargehand fitter) in the garage.



Dee Valley Win Factory Contract

Story by Mike James

"FRANKLY, we initially chose MANWEB because they are the cheapest—but we are delighted with the way the work has been carried out."

So said Mr. Dennis Fallows, works manager of F. Francis and Sons Ltd. after the Board had provided factory and office lighting (including 130 twin 6ft. fluorescent fittings in the factory area), internal security lighting, fire alarms and power to the machines which, when the Wrexham factory becomes fully operational, will make ten million containers a year.

MANWEB won the contract on a competitive tender after laying on a supply to the 150 kW factory. Said Doug Barnes, assis-

tant installation engineer at Dee Valley District: "It was a fairly simple operation but the installation consumed a lot of man hours."

It was over a year ago that Francis and Sons first opened the doors of the £500,000 factory at Wrexham. A new production line was installed to manufacture round and rectangular cans primarily for the oil producers, which now sees the plant enjoying a £1½ million turnover.

The method of production commences with the arrival of sheets of tin plate transported by lorry from London, each lorry carrying enough tin plate to make 30,000 containers.

The tin plate is cut into seven main sizes and shaped to form the

containers using a variety of bodymakers. The seams are then soldered or welded and the bottoms, lids and handles are pressed out and fitted.

The success of MANWEB's involvement now ensures that the Company, which has another factory at Greenwich and is part of the Francis Industries Group, will again be consulting the Board when they expand at Wrexham shortly.

"We have additional space available to house other production lines," said Mr. Fallows, "and we have an option on the adjoining land. We envisage expanding sizeably during the next five years when we hope to provide jobs for 200 people."

The expansion is eagerly awaited in Wrexham which suffers an unemployment rate, far higher than the national average.

MANWEB, too, will be waiting—to again offer the service and competitive prices which first attracted Francis and Sons.



Amid the hundreds of round and rectangular cans made at the Wrexham factory of F. Francis and Sons Ltd., we see Messrs. Dennis Fallows, left, and Doug Barnes.



Talking Notes

ABERYSTWYTH FISHERMEN

ABERYSTWYTH District fishermen have been in the news recently, making prize-winning catches in both fresh and salt water.

Ted Edwards ("Ted Bala"), a public lighting attendant in the District, landed a 9lb 7oz rainbow trout to take the Fire Service Benevolent Fund's trout championship crown. This was just one pound below the Welsh record.

The championships were held at the beautiful Tan-y-Grisiau lake at Ffestiniog, which is owned and run by the CEGB. Up to a few minutes before the end of the two day event, Ted was resigning himself to a rather poor catch. Then the monster trout took the spinner that he had just started to flick about, and the subsequent battle resulted in the "Best Trout (open)" award going to our delighted fisherman.

Just imagine all those trout steaks reposing in your freezer — what a mouth watering thought! The fish also gained for him a brand new fishing rod and £86 "pool" money.

The other fisherman, this time in salt water (to prove that all the big ones do not get away), was **Tom Bird**, a joiner's mate at Aberystwyth. He was presented with the Monkfish Specimen Shield at the recent Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers AGM, for his monkfish of 44 lb. 8 oz. This fish also secured for him an ABU gold medal.

A second monkfish of 38 lb.

8 oz., caught on the same day, enabled Tom to claim an ABU silver medal. Yet a third fish, 25 lb. in weight would have secured for him the grand slam of gold, silver and bronze medals all in one day, but as Tom is a very modest kind of man he threw this third fish back to give someone else a chance! (*How's that for a fishing story?*)

OUR COVER PICTURE shows MANWEB Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds after his recent installation as the new Chairman of the Merseyside Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He is being congratulated by Mr. J. G. Parkes, the retiring Chairman.

Token-operated Meters

The Electricity Council stated last December that the idea of token-operated prepayment meters merited study, although there was a range of questions to be answered before acceptability to consumers could be established, and important problems to be overcome before widespread application could be envisaged.

Several Area Electricity Boards (but not MANWEB) are now to take part in field trials, on behalf of the Electricity Council, to help determine possible consumer reaction to the use of token-operated prepayment meters.

These limited trials, using standard prepayment meters adapted for operation by plastic tokens, are expected to last a



Fishermen of Aberystwyth. *Left*, salt water man Tom Bird with his Monkfish Specimen Shield, and *below*, fresh water man Ted Edwards proves his catch with the trout which landed him the championship crown.



couple of years, and are part of a wider investigation being undertaken in England and Wales by the Council.

This wider investigation will involve initial discussions with consumers and subsequent interviews with some 2,000 households, including people who find difficulty in payment.

Car Rally

In torrential rain, over 66 competitors recently took part in a car rally organised by **Wyn Thomas** and **Bill Tubey** for the North Mersey District

Sports and Social Club.

In this, the Club's second rally, the winner was **Charlie Warbis** driving a *Cortina*.

Close behind was our 'Contact' Correspondent, **Edna Courtney** in a *Marina* while the 'wooden spoon' went to **Shiela Schofield** in a *Mini*.

The rally ended at the Black Bull hotel in Mawdesley where everyone enjoyed a supper of chicken and chips.

Pensioners Trip

The first social event for the newly-formed Mid-Mersey Pensioners' Association was a trip, recently, to Trawsfynydd power station.

Members from St. Helens, Warrington, Runcorn and Frodsham were picked up by coach and had a very pleasant run through North Wales. The day started rather chilly and dull but later the bright sunshine broke through.

On arrival at the power station, an excellent lunch was enjoyed followed by a tour of the station—with the lady members showing keen interest.

After tea and biscuits, the party boarded their coach for the ride back home. And so ended a very successful first outing.

Incidentally, if you are a pensioner who worked for the Board in our Mid-Mersey District—or a MANWEB pensioner now living within the boundaries of the Mid-Mersey District—and would like to join the Pensioners' Association, then get in touch with **George Wheeler** at the Board's St. Helens depot in Carlton Street.

WANTED

Tops of 'Persil' packets (any size) to buy a wheelchair for a handicapped child. Send them to Nurse Dorothy Davis at Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester.

Line-lifting at Bangor

The movement by road of high loads to such sites as the new Dinorwic Pumped Storage project has made it necessary for MANWEB to temporarily raise the clearance height of



Rally winner **Charlie Warbis**, right, receives his prize from organisers **Wyn Thomas**, left, and **Bill Tubey**.

MID-MERSEY DISTRICT FIRST AIDERS

A class of first-aiders from our Mid-Mersey District recently faced up to a very exacting and probing examination of their first-aid knowledge from the Board's medical adviser, Dr. Kenneth Turner. He sets a very high standard and unfortunately two of the class failed to gain their Certificates. They are now working hard to prepare for their re-examination. Here we see the whole class, from left to right, seated: **Gisela Sutherland**, **Linda Clayton**, **Josie Galbraith**, **Carol Brown**, **John Darlington**, **Tony Evans**, **Ralph Peace**, **Colin Keam** and **Bryan Leyland**. Standing at the back are their instructors **Len Smith** and **Nurse Dorothy Davis**.





A variation of the 'Trident' line technique in use here to lift some 132 kV tower lines clear of a road at Llandegai, near Bangor.

overhead lines crossing main roads. While lower-voltage lines can be made "dead" to carry out this operation, the considerations of circuit loading usually make this impractical as far as 132kV lines are concerned.

A unique operation was recently carried out at Llandegai, near Bangor, by engineers from the construction and transport department at Head Office, which resulted in the raising of a 132kV tower line which crosses the road to give an extra metre's clearance.

The ingenious answer to the problem was a variation of the "Trident" line technique, introduced not long ago in the construction of a 132kV line supplying the Shell oil site at Rhosgoch, Anglesey.

Wooden poles, terminating in one of the recently-developed polymeric line post insulators, were inserted under the lower conductors of the line, clothes-prop fashion. These will remain in position for about six months until the conductors can be raised permanently by increasing the height of one of the supporting towers.

Leaves Mid-Cheshire

Congratulations go to former entrant in our 'Girl from MANWEB' competition, **Christine Carroll** from Mid-Cheshire District on the occasion of her recent marriage to Timothy

Clements.

To help get her off to a good start in her new home in Peterborough, colleagues subscribed to present her with a cookery book—and matching sheets and pillow cases.

On their behalf, the farewell gifts were handed over by **Peter Falcon** (District Administrative Officer) who wished Christine a long and happy married life.

Deva to Eboracum

The following report, chiselled on a slab of stone by Asterix the Gaul, was recently delivered to the 'Contact' Office by **John Shallcross** of the Drawing Office.

Following their April visit to Londinium, the Legionaires of the Chester Sports and Social Club went to Eboracum (York) last month. The party of 200 plus, members and their families, spent an interesting day in the City. Most people visited the Minster where in the Chapter House, minster vestments, including some from as early as the 17th century, were on exhibit.

The Undercroft below the Minster attracted many with one of our Head Office civil engineers studying the construction of a 13th century buttress with more than a passing interest. For future substations perhaps?

The Shambles attracted the bargain hunters while the more

energetic climbed to the top of Clifford's Tower to enjoy the splendid views around the City.

Visits to the National Railway Museum and the Folk Museum with its exhibition of early static electricity machines proved most interesting.

Returning home along the M62 one was reminded of the famous II and XX Legions who travelled the same route in A.D.70 to help a chap called Hadrian build a wall.

Wedding

Our best wishes for the future go to **Geraint Parry**, a service electrician at Rhyl depot



Mr. and Mrs. G. Parry.

and to **Linda Jean Rowlands**, who were married recently at St. Michael's Church, Abergale.

It Pays to Advertise

The pulling power of 'Contact' was proved once again when we received a letter from **Masie Elsworth**, the widow of a former member of our Liverpool District mains staff, **Bert Elsworth**.

Writing from Inगतistone in Essex where she lives with her married daughter, Masie thanks us for sending 'Contact' each month then comments on the Luxury Shower advertisement we recently carried. "It is just what I wanted", she writes.

She goes on to say that there is no friendly MANWEB where



Many members of the staff from Dee Valley District and other corners of our area gathered at the Memorial Hall, Wrexham recently to bid farewell to Joe Winchester who was leaving his job as District Commercial Engineer to take up his new appointment as Group Manager based at Head Office. A disco dance and buffet were laid on and a break was made in the festivities to present Joe and his wife Vi, *seen here to the right of the table, with a silver tea set.* His successor at Dee Valley, Ron Williams, former D.C.E. at Oswestry and Aberystwyth, is on the extreme left of the picture.

she now lives and asks for details of the shower installation.

We have now informed Masie of the very friendly Eastern Board and have sent her request to them.

Incidentally, Masie's father, who died over 60 years ago, was William Horne, a mains superintendent with the former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department.

Masie closes her very welcome letter by reminding us that she too once worked for the industry. She left in 1929 to marry Bert.

Now, she says that her pension gives her a sense of security for which she is most grateful.

Nice to hear from you Masie!

We, the willing, led by the unknowing, do the impossible for the ungrateful. We have done so much, for so long, with so little, we are now qualified to do anything with nothing.

Another Success

The most recent production by The New Electron Players—"A Letter from the General"—staged for two nights a few weeks ago at the Neptune Theatre in Liverpool, was very well received by audiences

which included our Board Chairman, **Mr. Denis Dodds** who was accompanied by Mrs. Dodds, and **Mr. Ben Hastings** (Deputy Chairman) with Mrs. Hastings and their family.

The Company, which is presented by the Liverpool Electricity Power and Lighting Sports and Welfare Club, is going from strength to strength. Their mainstay is **Sid Costin**, an administrative assistant at Lister Drive, who is the Chairman and Producer of the 'Players'.

Although Sid is to retire from the Board later this month after 40 years' service, he will carry on his work with his

very keen thespians.

Incidentally, if any member of the Board's staff is interested in joining the 'Players'—in any capacity, on stage or back stage—please get in touch with the Secretary, **Vicki Roberts** in engineering clerical at Lister Drive, Liverpool.

The next production for the New Electron Players will again be at the Neptune Theatre on Friday and Saturday, 26th and 27th November, 1976.

People Write . . .

To Dee Valley District Office, from an Upton (Chester) customer:

"One frequently reads in the

In a scene from "A Letter from the General" are some of the New Electron Players, from left to right: Eva Kirkwood, Gerry Smallwood, Denise Dillon, Vanessa Holliday, Kathy Norton, Eileen Smallwood, Mary Johnston, Jim Danby and Tom Saladine.



Press of failures in the nationalised industries. I thought therefore that I would like to go on record outlining my own recent experience.

"Yesterday morning at 11.15 a.m., when putting the Sunday joint into the oven of our electric cooker we discovered that it was not working. At 11.20 a.m. we telephoned Wrexham to report the fault and within 40 minutes the engineer was at our home and by 12.15 (mid-day) our Sunday dinner was cooking satisfactorily.

"May I thank you for this most excellent service."

The bouquet goes this time to electrician **Dave Lynch**, of our Chester depot.

Superannuation Scheme

The Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting of the members of the Electricity Supply (Staff) Superannuation Scheme, have now been printed and are on display on notice boards.

Additional copies are available and will be sent to any member (including pensioners) on request to the Assistant Secretary (Personnel), MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CHI 4LR.

"Contact" PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 1976

Open to all MANWEB employees, pensioners and their families.

Copies of rules from:
The Editor, 'Contact',
MANWEB Head Office,
Sealand Road, Chester.

Closing date—
1st October 1976

Holiday Accommodation

Six-berth caravan to let at Rhyl. Vacancies most weeks at £20 per week. 'Phone, Deeside 815300.

Enjoy a restful holiday in the country at The Spinney Alpine Gardens, Llandyrnog, Near Denbigh. Bed and breakfast and evening meal if required. 'Phone Mrs. A. Massey, Llandyrnog 325.

SAVE—DON'T SCRAP

The demonstration board, pictured below, is displayed at stores points in our Clwyd District, for the attention of all staff who handle and work with the materials. The whole thing is the brainchild of George Cooksley (District Administrative Officer) and Dennis Atkinson (admin. assistant, material control). Other Districts are welcome to copy this idea!

AVOID WASTE

THESE THINGS COST MONEY

COST PRICES	
STEEL BOX	1.41
JUNCTION BOX	3.41
MALE BRASS BUSH	2.81
EARTH CLIP	2.51
FEMALE BUSH	0.11
MOULDED BOX	1.51
FUSE CARRIER	3.41
BAR SADDLE	1.21
INSULATING TAPE	1.41
CONDUIT BOX	4.21

**DON'T LEAVE THEM ON SITE
RETURN SURPLUS TO STORES**

MANWEB went into show business recently when we presented a "Clubland Evening" at the Wilderspool Leisure Centre in Warrington.

The purpose of the venture was to open the door of opportunity to pub and club owners and managers as we presented a new face—the Stage Safety Unit.

This is a device, about the size of a small attache case, which will detect electrical faults and isolate the supply with incredible speed thus helping to prevent accidents, sometimes fatal.

All too frequently we read or hear of serious accidents happening to performers in clubs, halls and licensed premises caused by electrical faults in the equipment being used by the entertainers.

With a mass of trailing cables from microphones, musical instruments, amplifiers and speakers there is always danger. Even with a single hand microphone, fatal accidents can happen as experienced by a bingo caller at Great Sankey near Warrington who was electrocuted not so long ago.

Manweb BID TO KEEP LIVE STAGE ACTS

THE SPOTLIGHT'S ON SAFETY



Fred Crossley, installation engineer at Mid-Mersey District told us of an incident when a member of his staff demonstrated a stage safety unit at a local club. When the electronic organ was 'plugged-in' the circuit was immediately tripped. The instrument was incorrectly wired but no one had been aware of its danger.

"Most people do not realise that their wiring or stage equipment is dangerous until it is too late," he said.

Senior Installation Engineer at

Head Office, Mr. John Cheers hopes that some day in the near future, a stage safety unit will become a legal requirement in all places of entertainment as a safety regulation.

Following the Warrington Club-Night, a special demonstration was held for members of the local press in our Dee Valley District when some excellent reports were printed.

Mid-Mersey District's installation and contracting engineers check out the display unit before the show. They are, from left to right: Lew Carter, Fred Crossley, Tony Standing and Fred Houghton.

A section of the large audience enjoying the show.





It's chips with everything when a guest comes to MANWEB's catering counter to meet Sue Orrell and Frank Kelly.



Caught by the camera, from left to right: Messrs. Glyn Norbury (District Commercial Engineer), John Cheers (Senior Installation Engineer, H.O.) and P. D. Fourdrinier (Catering Trade Journal).

at MID MERSEY . . .

Explaining the safety cut-out to Mr. W. Medland, manager of the Lion Hotel in Warrington, centre, are Messrs. John Drewe, left, and Tony Standing.

. . . and DEE VALLEY

Below: At the Dee Valley press presentation, John Robinson demonstrates the equipment, while below right, installation engineer Joe Forrester, right, and John Myers in his capacity as Chairman of Wales Home Safety Council, try a 'live' test on the 'dolly' singer!

Shropshire Star photograph



Wrexham Leader photograph





MANWEB Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, congratulates one of the twenty-two members of our North Mersey District staff who qualified for Long Service Awards. Also in the picture are District officers, Messrs. A. W. Hawley (District Engineer), left, Glyn Dodd (District Administrative Officer), second from left, and Dennis Noad (District Commercial Engineer), fourth from left, partially hidden.

“You are the Board” – Chairman

Presentations of Long Service Awards

OVER 2,000 years of service to the electricity supply industry given by 80 members of the Board's staff was recognised and honoured recently when award recipients from our three northernmost Districts, North Mersey, Liverpool and North Wirral, gathered together at a ceremony held at Dovedale Towers in Liverpool.

In welcoming everyone, Mr. Sid Fairclough (Group Manager) said that this was a departure from the normal procedure of each District having its own ceremony. In saying that this new way was an obvious success, he congratulated his Liverpool District colleagues on the excellent arrangements

made for the presentations commenting, “*When Liverpool are at home, they can't be beaten!*”

He then called on the Chairman of MANWEB, Mr. Denis Dodds, who had taken time out of his very busy schedule, personally to make the presentations.

Mr. Dodds said that he was privileged to present the awards and congratulated all the recipients on their long service with the Board and the industry.

“I like to be at these presentations whenever I can,” he continued, “with different members of the staff all together in one place—all equal regardless of what job we hold.”

He likened the gathering to a large orchestra all working together with different parts to play or jobs to do but all co-operating to make music.

“What is MANWEB?”, he questioned. “We could think of it as a Board of nine people and in the constitutional sense that is correct. But in the real sense, you are MANWEB—that is what the public understand,” he told his listeners.

“All the various jobs and how they are presented

Mr. Jim Dowker, now retired after more than 40 years' service is congratulated by our Chairman after the award presentation ceremony. Other award recipients make up the picture together with Messrs. Ron Morley (District Engineer), left, George Bowers (District Commercial Engineer), third from left, Bob Evans (District Administrative Officer), fifth from right and Jack Bradley (principal assistant, Admin.) right.





Some of Liverpool District's forty-year men with our Chairman, *centre*, and Mr. Sid Fairclough (*Group Manager*), *fifth from right*. From the left we have, Messrs. J. Gonzales, E. W. McDonnell, E. A. Floyd, T. L. Bradley and A. O'Donovan. From the right, Messrs. A. F. Connor, R. H. C. Adams, R. Ellis and F. J. Carney.

to the customer—that's MANWEB. No matter who the Chairman is or who the Board members are—that is MANWEB. We are a collective personality and our actions count—that is most important," he said.

"You who are receiving long service awards have contributed more than anyone else to the character of MANWEB," he went on, "I am very grateful to you all because you underline the unity of the Board.

"In the present situation in the country," concluded Mr. Dodds, "the stability of the country and society rests on the stability of bodies and on institutions with high ethical standards such as MANWEB and those who serve in it."

The awards earned were as follows:

North Mersey District

40 Years: Mr. E. V. Harrison.

30 Years: Messrs. G. Hughes and S. Paul.

20 Years: Mrs. J. E. Jones and Mrs. R. Joy. Messrs. J. W. Beardwood, R. J. Beresford, R. S. Carter, K. Cooper, T. E. Cunningham, H. W. Hargreaves, R. S. Harper, G. A. Mathews, R. Reeves, J. F. Rimmer, H. Sandys, F. Sheehan, W. Turner, N. J. Wells, J. E. Williams, J. R. Williams and J. W. Wilson.

A few of the twenty-year award recipients from Liverpool District with Messrs. Bob Jowett (*District Commercial Engineer*), *fourth from left*, and Tom Hamilton (*District Administrative Officer*), *sixth from left*. Others are, *from left to right*: Messrs. F. Maher, V. K. Rigby, J. S. Mills, E. E. Bush, R. Holland, V. L. Barnwell, T. Quinn, E. Mallinson, E. Harvey, C. Oxer, D. Metcalfe and H. L. Walls.

Our apologies to Liverpool's thirty-year men—their picture did not turn out!



Liverpool District

40 Years: Messrs. R. H. C. Adams, W. J. Beare, T. L. Bradley, F. J. Carney, A. F. Connor, R. Ellis, E. A. Floyd, J. Gonzales, E. W. McDonnell and A. O'Donovan.

30 Years: Messrs. H. Andrews, H. Beesley, T. Bradshaw, G. Butter, R. Collins, R. E. D. Cumpstey, R. Davis, J. H. Duvall, R. W. Gilchrist, J. Kneen, G. Large, E. W. Owens and J. Sharp.

20 Years: Mrs. F. M. de Gaunza, Messrs. V. L. Barnwell, E. E. Bush, J. Crawford, G. A. Davies, H. Frost, E. Harvey, R. Holland, E. Holme, G. H. D. Jones, F. Maher, E. Mallinson, D. Metcalfe, J. S. Mills, C. Oxer, T. Quinn, V. K. Rigby, K. A. Sculthorpe, D. Stuthridge and H. L. Walls.

North Wirral District

40 Years: Mr. J. Dowker (*now retired*).

30 Years: Mrs. S. F. Jackson, Messrs. C. Baker, T. A. Robertson and J. K. Waring.

20 Years: Messrs. P. A. Ankers, K. Bull, A. Button, G. L. Jones, L. Lindfield, D. Needham, J. E. Pringle, L. Roberts (*now retired*), C. Scully and A. Smith.

Our Chairman in Vienna

Last month our Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, attended, as one of the British Electricity Supply Industry delegates, the 17th International UNIPEDE Congress, held in Vienna.

UNIPEDE (The initials are from the French equivalent of International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy), was formed in 1925. It is a Federation of organisations which, in their respective countries, represent the business of electricity generation, transmission and distribution. Its membership includes the electricity supply organisations of

some 19 European countries, including some Communist states. Additional affiliated members including the electricity supply organisations of Algeria, Australia, Chile, Iceland and Japan. The views of this immense Federation are, consequently, of considerable importance in the context of the organisation and functions of electricity supply authorities in the twentieth century.

The Chairman made the following submission to the Congress on the subject of Price Control and its effect on electricity finance.

Price Control and Management

—by Mr. Denis Dodds

The emphasis placed by UNIPEDE on the need for "the power industry to clarify its position about price control" and "inform Governments about its consequences," is greatly welcomed. Between March 1970 and 1975, the Electricity Supply Industry in England and Wales incurred an accumulated deficit of about £1,000 million (including inadequate depreciation), a deficit financed, not by corresponding tax increases, but by Government borrowings. This is the extent to which resources used up in delivering electricity to consumers in Britain have not been replaced. The consequent dislocation in the allocation of overall national resources cannot be hammered into the public mind too often.

✱ Excessive growth in domestic electricity sales in Britain led to uneconomic investment in new plant and a spiral of increasing financial losses has only been averted by the recent government decision to restore economic pricing. As infuriated consumers, faced with massive price increases, reduced their consumption, the surplus plant capacity has been exposed to its true extent. "Suppressed" inflation has been revealed as even more dangerous

than "unsuppressed" inflation. Nor should the impact of underpricing on the efficiency of management be under-estimated.

✱ In the case of a public trading organisation, general management is bound to be geared to financial viability, as well as to cost minimisation, if serious inflationary leakages are to be avoided. The extent to which all the normal initiatives in cost savings, sales promotion and improved production methods (which make a successful organisation) depend for their origin on the simple need to balance the books in the organisation as a whole, and in its constituent parts, is seriously under-estimated by Governments. The more local the measure of profit and loss, the more powerful this motivation.

✱ When the link between costs and prices is broken, this automatic management motivation is put in peril. Familiar management landmarks disappear when viability goes out of the window. Cost minimisation remains as a distinct objective, but tends to lose momentum when its relationship to profit or loss is obscured.

✱ The collective viability of any economy depends, in the end, on the individual viability of its constituent parts. Management objectives directed to the economic viability of a public trading concern are therefore necessary, not only for that concern but are, in addition, essential to the viability of the economy as a whole. In spite of the traumas caused by massive price increases, we therefore welcome the recent decision of the British Government to restore economic pricing, not only as a corrective to inflation and a move in support of sound economic management, but also a re-statement of the fundamental principle upon which the relationship between Governments and public industries in any country should come to rest.



Following up enquiries, testing water pressures then bringing in the sales, from left to right: **Stuart Gates** (energy sales representative), **Sue Orrel** (energy sales demonstrator) and **Jane Fairclough** (trainee demonstrator).



The **Rolls and Royce** of the campaign. **Frank Kelly** (senior sales representative), left, and **Eric Cockins** (service engineer)

MID-MERSEY SUCCESS STORY

THE combined enthusiasm cultivated in our Mid-Mersey District has yielded a bumper harvest in the MANWEB Shower Campaign.

A co-ordinated effort and careful planning by the energy sales and installation sections shot the campaign off to a flying start. Sales staff initiated snap canvass calls in selected areas. The resulting enquiries together with those from our shops and from advertisement and leaflet coupons from Head Office came 'showering' in.

Fred Crossley, installation engineer, organised training sessions for his electricians at Warrington. They were all happy to accept the advice given to them by **Reg. Bramhall** and **Joe Goode** and elected to carry out the complete installation work.

Service engineer, **Eric Cockins**, ensured that sufficient heaters and accessories were in stock to keep the tide of installations flowing. He also organised a crash training course for extra installation staff.

Mid-Mersey's shops, under the direction of District sales supervisor **Vernon Collard**, had plenty

of leaflets available for customers and potential sales were fed back to District Office.

The energy sales team, led by **Ken Appleton** are **Jane Fairclough**, **Stuart Gates**, **Frank Kelly**, **Gordon Kirkham** and **Sue Orrill**. They

tested water pressures, sketched bathrooms, sighted heaters and sold each deal.

This terrific co-operation in the various departments and sections in the District has led to over 250 package deals being sold to date.

The process continues. The pace gets brisker. The District is alive!

STARTING YOUNG

Mark, aged 11, Nigel (8) and Simon (6), the three lively sons of Ken Appleton, added their own contribution to the "Shower" success story.

For many nights they joined Dad in popping leaflets—with reply-paid coupons—through the letter boxes of local houses.

Their first customer was next door neighbour Mrs. Eva Moore who praises the Board's first-class installation workmanship.

"The unit itself is very good value compared with your competitors," she commented.



Sales trio, **Simon**, **Nigel** and **Mark** with customer **Mrs. Eva Moore**.



Chester based drivers who received their awards from the City's Assistant Chief Constable, Mr. Bert Laugharne—the tall man in the middle. On the extreme right is Mr. E. T. Peters (*District Engineer*) and extreme left is Mr. Keith Griffiths (*principal assistant—Admin.*).

Safe Drivers at Chester . . .

Only a handful of the 60 safe drivers in the Chester area of our Dee Valley District were present to receive their awards from the Assistant Chief Constable of Chester, Mr. Bert. Laugharne at a ceremony held recently at Head Office.

Following the presentations, Mr. Laugharne said the number of road accidents nationally were getting lower and lower each year, with Chester having a very good record.

He spoke of the conjecture as to the reasons why, putting forward better road signs and improved design of cars as being of some help. He went on to express his opinion that we had better drivers on our roads today with improved driving techniques.

"But we must not be complacent," he urged, "especially you drivers who have such a good record."

As a parting comment, he said that since the motor vehicle had been invented, at least six million people had been killed on the roads and many millions more had been injured.

He then offered his very sincere thanks to all the drivers who had gained the awards "proving that you have habitually displayed skills which have showed a great public responsibility."

The awards were as follows:

Star Bar to 20-Year Brooch: Messrs. K. G. Burden and C. G. Smith.

Corresponding Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Messrs. W. J. Burton, C. R. Cotterell, R. J. Harrison, H. B. Powell and J. E. Taylor.

Oak Leaf Bar to Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. W. T. Allman, J. Ashbrook, C. T. Bentley, D. C. Hall, G. A. Johnson, A. R. Jonas, E. B. M. Jones and F. Newall.

Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. C. Bowyer and G. F. Grindley.

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Messrs. C. D. Birtles, G. Brown, W. G. Carlton, P. A. Elphee, B. Griffiths, R. F. Hood, D. T. Lally, G. C. Martin, F. Mealing, E. K. Salisbury, T. M. Shone, T. Taylor, G. Thomas, D. H. Williams and M. Williams.

Five-Year Medal: Messrs. W. H. Clegg, R. C. Lanceley and S. J. O'Brien.

Diploma: Messrs. C. F. Baker, G. B. Croft, R. Davies, B. E. Fawkes, F. Gerrard, T. F. Gulliver, L. D. Hughes, G. Howarth, J. Jones, R. Jones, J. Kelly, J. B. Lawson, D. J. Lynch, J. Lockley, G. A. Morgan, P. Newbrooke, R. Probert, L. Ridgeway, W. Roberts, K. Stokes, G. Swift, D. Williams, G. E. Williams, P. J. Windsor and S. Wright.

and Rhostyllen

A further 67 drivers based at Rhostyllen, Corwen and Legacy in our Dee Valley District qualified for their safe driving awards. Many of these were presented at a ceremony held recently at District Office by Chief Inspector David W. Williams of the Traffic Division, North Wales Constabulary.

A 'shut-down' operation in the area unfortunately prevented our Corwen based staff from attending.

Opening the proceedings, Mr. E. T. Peters (*District Engineer*) said that despite the rising cost of petrol, the number of vehicles on our roads seemed to be increasing.

He went on to speak about the element of luck required in driving today and of the conditions of the vehicles we drive. "We cannot eliminate accidents," he commented, "we can only hope to reduce them. We should remind ourselves of our responsibilities, one of which is to make sure that our vehicle is road-worthy."

He then praised the work done by the team of mechanics and transport foremen at the Board's

garages. He said that they all made their own contribution to road safety by providing our drivers with safe vehicles.

"But it always comes back to the man at the wheel," concluded Mr. Peters. "If he does find anything wrong, he should record it in the log book and report it immediately."

Then Chief Inspector Williams rose to say a few words before making the presentations.

"It is my pleasure to be here today," he began, "and I agree wholeheartedly with the comments made by Mr. Peters as far as vehicle maintenance and checks are concerned."

He said that the police used the code letters OBRT on their vehicle checks. The letters meant oil, battery, radiator and tyres. "The condition of the vehicle is just as important as the driving," he said.

He then presented some accident statistics for the Division he covered, mentioning that his was one of four in the area.

He informed his listeners that during the past year there had been 1,830 accidents—18 fatal, 226 serious, 645 slight and the rest with no injuries. He then explained how much this had cost us as taxpayers, exemplifying that even a slight accident meant an expenditure of £500. In his Division, 'slight accidents' had cost £322,500!

The total cost of accidents, purely monetary, in his Division amounted to £1,799,028—and he again offered the reminder that his was one of four Divisions in the North Wales Constabulary.

With a clever piece of mathematics, the Chief Inspector worked it out that with nearly 70 awards being made on this occasion, the Board drivers had saved the taxpayer something like £15,000 by avoiding even the slightest accident.

"You are all professionals," he concluded, "and we with the police need your help."

He went on to ask all drivers to report on any danger spots they may come across in their travels. He mentioned pot-holes in the road or overgrown hedges which restricted visibility as just two accident hazards. He appealed to one and all to pass on these danger spots to the 'Accident Intelligence' section at any police station—"even the man on the beat will take a report."

He also asked for any ideas from drivers for traffic schemes in areas in which they worked. "Send your suggestions in, no matter how wild it may seem to others," he said, "we may be able to use it—or part of it—and an accident could be prevented and possibly a life saved."

The awards earned were as follows:

Corresponding Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Mr. G. Parry.

15-Year Brooch: Messrs. F. Jones and T. C. Williams

Oak-Leaf Bar to Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. F. Cross, E. E. Davies, E. Edwards, J. A. G. Harris, E. Lloyd, R. Parry, E. N. Williams and H. Williams.

Ten-Year Medal: Mr. E. H. Webb.

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Messrs. L. Broadbent, E. Ellis, D. Foulkes, E. Gilpin, T. O. Jones, D. A. Roberts, D. J. Roberts and G. Williams.

Five-Year Medal: Mr. J. Millington.

Diploma: Miss M. Roberts, Messrs. G. Bennett, D. J. Burke, D. Challoner, F. Crump, G. Davies, Lloyd Davies, Leonard Davies, J. Devaney, A. Dodd, A. C. Edwards, G. Edwards, G. N. Edwards, C. Evans, G. Evans, K. Evans, M. Evans, P. Forreth, I. Green, A. Hughes, R. Hughes, W. L. Humphreys, R. James, C. Jones, E. Jones, W. Jones, G. Johnson, E. Johnston, J. Jordan, H. Lewis, J. A. Lloyd, A. Lovell, W. Mazur, R. McCluskey, I. Morris, J. J. Morris, P. Moris, R. A. Norfolk, T. Owen, E. Phillips, H. W. Price, D. Roberts, A. O. Simpson, A. Tonks, W. Woodall and R. Williams.

Chief Inspector Williams presents an award to Miss Margaret Roberts—the only lady on the list. Also in the picture are Messrs. T. P. Shell (*District Administrative Officer*), right, E. T. Peters second from right and Keith Griffiths, left.



Tricity's new development for 1976 . . . oven/freezer/fridge to give an unbroken line with matching height and styling. Brushed stainless steel or white finish.

The electricity industry's annual showpiece—the Electric Living Trade Fair, previously held either at Brighton or Harrogate—was replaced this year by the first International Home Electronics and Domestic Appliances Exhibition, staged at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from May 23rd—27th. This change sets the pattern for the future.

For the first time the manufacturers of domestic

SHOWPIECE FAIR

electrical appliances went into full-scale partnership with the makers of radio, television and hi-fi equipment to present just about everything electrical for the home of today, simultaneously under one roof, at Britain's big new purpose designed National Centre.

The ever-widening trading partnership between Britain, Europe, and the rest of the world was very much in evidence at this year's Exhibition. In the domestic appliances section some 175 UK manufacturers were joined by more than 70 exhibitors from overseas countries. These included Germany, Ireland, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Denmark, France, Norway, Yugoslavia, Poland, Canada, the USA, and Japan.

"Press Day" was Monday, May 24th when scores of journalists from all over Britain (including a party of leading women journalists from the MANWEB area) made the trip to Birmingham to bring themselves up to date with another year's developments in the electrical and electronics field.

This year's Exhibition was bewildering in its complexity, with perhaps not so much emphasis as in the past on "new" developments (can there be many new domestic uses for electricity?), but with more stress placed on higher quality, increased reliability and efficiency, and longer life.

Noteworthy trends included the increasing popularity of colour in the finish of kitchen appliances, (the term 'white goods' looks as though it may soon have a very 'dated' sound), increasingly versatile ranges of refrigerators, freezers and cookers (with a noticeable trend towards split level hobs and ovens), and energy-saving developments brought about by increased efficiency.

The Moffat Fiesta . . . the first 21 inch standard family cooker with a ceramic hob. Twin ovens, eye-level grill and rotisserie. One sheet of ceramic glass incorporates four independent heating areas on the hob.



TRICITY ▲

MOFFAT ▼



Persian Passage

— PART TWO —

Leaving Shiram, MANWEB's own Phineas Fogg continues his round the world adventure journeying through the Persian kingdom of Iran.

Our next objective was Persepolis, again a visit to which we had been looking forward. We were not disappointed. Constructed by Darius in the 5th century B.C. and partially destroyed by Alexander two centuries later, it is said to have been the largest building in the ancient world. Built on an enormous plateau cut into the hillside, the only access is by means of a huge staircase divided into two sections which meet at the top. The steps are sufficiently deep for a horse to walk up. The great-Hall was 245 feet square with a roof 65 feet high held up by 36 huge columns with decorated capitals. Quite a number of the columns are still standing. The area of the site is 33 acres and it took a little time to grasp the pattern. But even if no other proof had been forthcoming, our feet and legs at the end of the day confirmed that Persepolis was a very large town.

We stayed the night on the car park immediately in front of Persepolis and it was exciting to see the ruins both by sunset and sunrise. A brief stop at Nakshi Rustum to see the tombs of four kings, of whom one was Darius, all carved into the solid rock 65 feet above ground level.

Our first call, back in Isfahan, was to see a most peculiar edifice—the Armenian Christian Church. From outside one would take it to be a mosque. Inside, every square inch of wall surface is covered with paintings, which to our non-artistic eyes seemed to be mediocre. The effect is of fussiness and clutter and gives one a feeling of being overwhelmed.

The starting point for all sightseeing in Isfahan was the Maidan-i-Shah (*The Royal Place*), claimed to be the largest public square in the world and it is easy to accept the claim. First to the Shaikh Lutfullah mosque on the east side of the square. It has a beautiful dome and portal in blue mosaic as well as very graceful lines but no minaret which is unusual. The interior is equally striking, the whole wall space being covered by similar blue mosaic. It was the private mosque of the Safavid royal family and is said to have been greatly admired by Lord Byron. Facing this mosque across the square is the Ali Qapu Palace, built by Shah Abbas primarily as a royal lodge from which he and his guests could watch the spectacles (including executions) in the square below. Certainly there is a wonderful view of the square and its buildings from the balcony.



(Copperphoto)
The Masjid-i-Shah (King's Mosque), commissioned by Shah Abbas in 1612. Built with 18 million bricks and nearly half-a-million tiles.

It is an odd building with many steps, some decaying paintings and cutout frescoes of musical instruments, none of which we found attractive. The principal building in the square is the Masjid-i-Shah (*King's Mosque*), so called because it too was commissioned by Shah Abbas but he did not live to see it completed. It is a most imposing as well as a gigantic monument and quite dominates the square. Its striking blue dome can be seen from most parts of Isfahan. Despite the enormous size, the whole of the walls in the smaller courtyards and sanctuaries as well as the surroundings of the main courtyard, which include four huge portals, are covered with mosaics in a series of beautiful colours and designs.

There is so much to photograph that making a choice of subject is difficult. Yet the building which impressed us most was a smaller one—the Madraseh-ye-Madar-i-Shah (*The School of the Shah's Mother*), now a residential college for theological students.

As at Eurenjestan one passes from the noisy, busy main thoroughfare through a vestibule and into a peaceful garden. There is a pool down the centre, many huge old trees to give shade and a profusion of colour from a series of flower beds. On the sanctuary side there is a large decorated arch with a minaret on either side and a superb blue dome behind. The cells of the students are round the four sides of the square. The arcades behind which the cells are situated are simple but most graceful in design and add to the general effect. When, at midday, a little man came to turn us out, it was with the greatest reluctance that we departed.

The caravanserai of the Nadrash has been transformed by the state into a five-star luxury hotel—the Shah Abbas, and the guide book advises going in to see the gardens and take tea there. We did just this and sampled the mod cons afterwards which were very luxurious. A most agreeable hour or so of high living, all for less than 50p. This hour of luxury so refreshed us that we found the energy to wander along the river-bank to see two of Isfahan's three attractive bridges—Khahu and Seosepol (*Bridge of 33 arches*). The river-banks are green, quiet and pleasant to walk along.

On leaving Isfahan, inevitably we compared it with Shiraz and in our view Isfahan is the more attractive town to visit. There is more open space, more of interest to see and less awareness of the prevailing dirt, smell and squalor.

The last 100 kilometres or so of the direct road to Tehran was a nightmare. To make the day complete, I ran out of petrol 30 kilometres short of the next pump. One pump we apparently missed due to the dense cloud of dust covering the village whilst at the next one, out in the countryside, the attendant refused to serve us and indicated that there was another pump 10 kilometres up the road! 50 kilometres later I ran out!

It could have been worse. I thumbed a lift (first time lucky) to the next pump and caught a decrepit old bus back. The bus driver agreed 20 rials and then when we got to the caravan demanded 50 but he didn't get them.

Three days in Tehran whilst we did our chores—money, travellers-cheques, Afghan visas, a bit of sightseeing and the highlight—collecting our mail.

It was a long, not very interesting drive of 900 kilometres to Mashad, first through the mountains, then a short stretch by the Caspian Sea and finally the inevitable desert plateau.

Mashad is the holiest city in Iran and an important

centre of pilgrimage. It was the month of Ramadan when Moslems fast from sunrise to sunset. One of the auxilliary effects of this is that shops, offices, restaurants, banks, museums, etc., close at about 2 p.m. for the rest of the day. Presumably it was for the same reason that at 2 p.m. each morning we were there, the mullahs at all the mosques severally and jointly made the most tremendous noise until about 4 p.m.

The major tourist attraction in Mashad is the mausoleum of Iman Reza who was contemporary with and an enemy of the Caliph of Bagdad in the 9th Century A.D. It is the place of pilgrimage and is a community in itself with prayer-halls, reception rooms, restaurants, hospital, library, offices and of course a treasury which deals with the gifts of the thousands of pilgrims.

Infidels are not allowed in the mausoleum but the view from outside is at once impressive and pleasing. It has a copper dome flanked by two minarets and the whole of the exterior is decorated with mosaics. The caravanserai, built in the form of a hollow square, is still as it was when it was in use. The courtyard was for the animals, the ground floor for the drivers and for stables, and the first floor for the merchants.

And so to Afghanistan after staying the night on a garage forecourt at Tayebat a few miles from the frontier. We left Iran with many less regrets than we left Turkey, a view coloured by the Iranians themselves, who in all too many cases were brusque to the point of rudeness. Our feelings as we approached the Afghan frontier were a little mixed, as we could not forget all we had read and heard about the country, especially as most of it was cautionary.

In our next instalment, Bill and Margaret Wallwork tell of their trek through the rugged terrain of Afghanistan and the crossing of the North West Frontier.



The ruins of the Palace of Xerxes in Persepolis, the former capital of the Archaemenian Dynasty.

(Popperfoto)

RETIREMENTS

Mr. H. BENNETT

After 28 years' service to the industry Mr. Bert Bennett, administrative assistant (meter records) at Liverpool District, retired recently.

Bert started his working life as a schoolteacher after qualifying at Chester College, and stayed in teaching, except for war service, until joining MANWEB shortly after Vesting Day in 1948. During the war he served in the RAF, mainly in the Middle East.

He joined the former Area 1 Accounts Department at Lister Drive in May, 1948. Two years later he moved to Derby House, and in 1970 took charge of the meter record section at Lister Drive, becoming responsible for the safe transfer of all the Board's single-phase meter records to Liverpool, remaining in charge of the section until his retirement. His knowledge and experience will be missed.

Bert was an active member of the Liverpool Sports and Social Club, being secretary of "Tennis" for 13 years and Chairman of "Badminton" for several years also. More recently he undertook the job of auditing the Club's accounts.

Many friends gathered at Lister Drive to see him presented with several gifts including a radio/cassette player, table lamp, tankard and a stainless steel spade (to make sure he is well occupied). He has now moved to live at Tideswell, near Buxton, but hopes to maintain links with his old friends.

Mr. J. O. JONES

A very quiet member on the clerical side of our Head Office transport section, Mr. John Owen Jones, did not want any 'fuss' made when his retirement day came round recently.

His friends however had other ideas and planned a surprise lunch when they presented him with a cheque—which he told them he will use to buy a



Meter Test Engineer Dave Crangle, right, bids farewell to Bert Bennett.

watch.

John served with the Ministry of Transport during the last war and came to work for the Board at Rhostyllen in 1952.

Mr. E. CALLEN

Friends and colleagues of North Mersey District's Mr. Ted 'Foo Foo' Callen gathered in the canteen at Bridle Road recently to mark his retirement. Ted's unusual nickname comes from when he was a leading performer in a local 'Comb and Paper' band.

He started work as a joiner's mate with the former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department way back in 1933. Seven years later he was in H.M. Forces. After the war he took on various jobs until he eventually returned to the industry, again as a joiner's mate, when he joined MANWEB in 1953.

His popularity was proved by the great number of people who contributed to his farewell gift and who turned up to see this presented to him by Mr. Ken Crabtree (*Production Engineer*).

We are fairly sure that it was not tea or coffee in the plastic cups held by friends and colleagues of Ted Callen, centre, wearing a tie, on the occasion of his retirement.



British Electricity International Limited

In a move to further strengthen its overseas consultancy service, the electricity supply industry in the U.K. recently announced the formation of British Electricity International Ltd. as a wholly-owned subsidiary company of the Electricity Council.

Chairman of the new company is Mr. Ronald Richardson, who is Deputy Chairman of the Electricity Council, and the Managing Director is Mr. David Fenton, whose electricity supply industry appointments have included the Chairmanships of the London, South Wales, and Uganda Electricity Boards, and the Deputy Chairmanship of the Central Electricity Generating Board.

The overseas consultancy service, which at present has about 200 people overseas on secondment, and which is working in some 35 different countries, was initially set up in 1970, and represents not only the electricity supply industry in England and Wales, but also, by agreement, the two Boards in Scotland and the Northern Ireland Electricity Service.

The aim of the service was to meet the varied and increasing number of requests for assistance from electricity undertakings and governments overseas by providing a fully comprehensive service covering all aspects of electricity supply.

As the British electricity supply industry is the second largest industry in Europe in terms of net assets, and among the top few in the whole of the Western world, the service has been able to call upon a vast pool of skills, expertise and know-how not only in the design and construction of power stations, cooling towers and transmission and distribution systems (both urban and rural), but also in providing advice on non-engineering matters such as tariff studies, finance and accounting, computers, legal aspects of supply, and even in such spheres as landscape architecture, fish pond culture and various other environmental matters.

Other functions covered are technical advice, documentation, specifications, work study, inspection, quality assurance, inspection testing and expediting, reactor systems, tunnelling, hydro-electric power schemes, grid control and telecommunications.

As part of this comprehensive "A to Z" service, O.C.S. has also provided back-up by seconding engineers and others abroad for various duties including operation and maintenance both for long and short term periods, and in addition has made its extensive training facilities available both in the U.K. and abroad.

The service, which is recognised by such international agencies as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, has always been conducted on fully commercial lines, with no burden to the taxpayers or electricity customers in the U.K.

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we record the following deaths:

Mr. John Campsall, aged 62, a mains foreman in our Liverpool District.

John started work in the industry in 1928 as a messenger boy. Later, after a spell in the cooker repair section at Lister Drive, he joined the cable gang, first as a labourer and then as jointer's mate.

During the war he served, with distinction, with the 8th Army and was demobilised as a staff sergeant.

He returned to civilian life, progressing to h.v. jointer until ten years ago when he was promoted to foreman.

A very keen bowler, John was vice-captain of the MANWEB Bowls team. He was also vice-

chairman of the Belle Vale British Legion.

Many members of the Liverpool District engineering staff were at his funeral which was held at Allerton cemetery.

Mr. Leonard Davies, aged 62, 1st assistant installation engineer in our Dee Valley District.

Len died on May 18th after a brief illness. He began his career as an apprentice electrician in 1928 with the former Hawarden Rural District Council. After a period as electrician he became an installation inspector and later Commercial assistant at Shotton.

In 1963 he was appointed as consumer's engineer in Wrexham District and for a time, he took over the responsibilities as contracting engineer at Chester.

On re-organisation in 1970, he received his appointment in Dee

Valley District.

A rare character, much loved and respected by all who knew him, Len was always a gentleman whose knowledge of the workings of our industry—and of human nature—made it possible for him to handle almost any situation. His loyalty to and endeavour for the Industry will be missed.

Friends and colleagues who will also miss Len's quiet and gentle manner and his humour, extend their deepest sympathy to his wife Lilly and daughter Rona.

Mr. Patrick O'Hara, aged 66, who retired from his job as a mains labourer at Warrington in June 1973.

Mr. T. C. McLachlan, aged 83, who prior to his retirement in 1959 worked for the Board as a mains chargehand based at St. Helens depot.