



# CONTACT

June 1977

Film Fan  
(see page 136)



**Pictured holding their Silver Jubilee Medals, *l/ft*, Mr. Fallows, *above*, Mr. Davies and *right*, Mrs. Cooper.**

## Jubilee Medals

Mrs. Sybil Cooper, an administrative assistant in the Head Office Accounts Department was away on holiday during Jubilee week. She found a postcard on her doormat when she returned asking her to collect a registered package from the GPO, which contained the Citation and a Silver Jubilee Medal.

For 18 years she has been a member of the Chester Ladies first aid team, and is currently their captain. The team has won the District Competition for the Electricity Industry 10 times and the national contest on five occasions. They came near to clinching the most coveted prize in first aid when they finished second in the Grand Prior competition.

Installation Engineer Mr. Joseph W. Forester, was one of two members of Dee Valley District to be awarded a Jubilee Medal. He joined the industry back in 1936 coming to MANWEB from the North Western Electricity Board in 1951. He has been involved with the negotiating machinery in the electricity industry for the past 24 years and is currently chairman of the No. 9 District Joint Board. He has also been a member of the Electrical Power Engineers Association since 1952 and is a past President of the Association.

The other member of the Dee Valley District to receive a medal is Mr. John A. G. Harris, who is an installation inspector. He has completed 32 years

service in the industry and for the last nine years has been a trustee of the British Power and Light Staff Pension Schemes.

Another installation inspector has also been chosen for this jubilee award. He is Mr. Roy Fallows who works in the North Mersey District. He has been involved as a member of various negotiating and advisory bodies for 24 years. He has also carried out much work on behalf of the Manual Workers Benevolent Fund of which he has held office for many years as vice-chairman and chairman.

Former Clwyd District linesman, Mr. E. Emlyn Davies, who retired in 1974 is also a recipient of the medal commemorating the Queen's 25th Accession to the throne. Emlyn James has not been one to sit with his feet up in his retirement, he has taken an active role in the Welsh TUC.

**Dee Valley's medal recipients Messrs. Harris and Forester.**





# CONTACT

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## Editorial

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## ENCOURAGING INDUSTRY

AS UNEMPLOYMENT figures continue their depressing climb those areas of Britain which are hardest-hit can be expected to intensify their efforts to attract new industries and the job opportunities which accompany them.

It is a sad fact that several areas within the MANWEB boundary have more than their share of jobless people, and several substantial employers have made big cutbacks in their workforces during the past year or two.

A number of Local Authorities are straining every nerve to take advantage of the incentives to industrialists provided by the designation of their localities as Special Development Areas, by making industrial sites available and by going out of their way to attract the interest of potential employers of labour.

One essential pre-requisite for any form of industrial development is an adequate and reliable supply of electricity, while an impartial and expert industrial advisory service, such as that offered by MANWEB, represents an invaluable aid to existing and potential enterprises.

This number of *Contact* reports on a recent MANWEB Industrial Exhibition staged at Ellesmere Port by our Dee Valley District colleagues—a venture which is typical of the efforts of our Commercial Department to improve the economic health of Merseyside and North Wales for the common benefit of us all.

### Editorial Staff

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### A Thought for the Month

Electricity provides steaming hot baths for four people—not at the same time mind—for the cost of a bottle of shampoo

## OTHER PEOPLES HOBBIES

# Home Movies in the Grand Manner

MANY people build extensions on to their homes to make extra room in the kitchen or dining area or to add a play room or nursery for the children. Not many people to go the trouble of building a 24-foot extension to their semi-detached to house an intimate nine-seater cinema—but Clive Garner did!

Clive, a senior salesman in our North Wirral District, is also the owner, manager and projectionist at the cinema behind his home in Wallasey. He regularly screens pre-war and wartime films for his family and friends.

Main feature films in recent months have included "Doctor X," a 1932 thriller starring Lionel Atwell, Fay Wray and Preston Foster, and "A Fire has been Arranged," a comedy with Flanagan and Allen. The supporting film was "Hurricane Express," a 1932 serial starring a young chap called John Wayne.

Clive's interest in the cinema started way back when he used to visit the old Winter Gardens at New Brighton. He has a fabulous memory for old films and for former Merseyside and North Wales cinemas.

"It is very sad to see so many of the cosy local cinemas closing down to become bingo halls, supermarkets or just empty shells," said Clive. "It is also regrettable that in the cinemas still functioning, they have taken away the beautiful trimmings, the lavish interiors and the mighty Wurlitzer organs with the white-coated organists.

"In my own little cinema, I have tried to re-create the atmosphere of the cinema of some 30 years ago. I may not have the Wurlitzer but I do have many records, and one or two films, of the great cinema organists of the past."

This is no idle boast for Clive has plenty of records to choose from. He started his collection when he was about ten years old

and he now has over 20,000 records—all 78's! This in itself should qualify for an entry in the *Guinness Book of Records!*

He specialises in popular music of the 1930's and now has one of the finest and most comprehensive collections in the country. In addition to the records made in this country, he collects German pop music of the same era and every year makes regular trips to the Continent to pick up even more records from the antique and bric-a-brac shops.

Incidentally, if any of our readers have old 78's in their lofts, attics, garages or odd junk corners and would like to donate them to a good home among many of their contemporaries, then get in touch with Clive at our Craven Street offices, Birkenhead.

His record library and his own knowledge of the cinema of the 30's comes in very handy from time to time for both BBC and ITV companies. Their librarians often come on to Clive for help.

A few months ago, Granada TV put on a special programme called "Red Roses Every Night." Red Roses was a wartime code name for air-raid alerts. Granada required a particular catchy tune which was played regularly during the intervals in almost all cinemas at that time.

**COVER PICTURE**  
Clive Garner laces up another film for his movieshow

© Mercury Press Agency

Clive was able to come up with the answer and even supplied them with the original record of "Pusztá," a German dance tune which happened to be one of the very first records he bought.

Even though the TV series is now finished—for the time being—Clive is still able to entertain his friends—and himself—as they settle in the cosy cinema seats, watch the house lights dim and the colourful satin curtains part to reveal the title splash of a vintage film on the five-foot screen.

Clive Garner, with daughter Christine, and his record collection.



# SERVICE TO INDUSTRY

## Districts Hold Exhibitions, Meetings and Seminars for Industrialists

A FOUR-POINT plan to help industry was announced by Ron Williams, our Dee Valley District Commercial Engineer at the three-day MANWEB Industrial exhibition and conference held at the Civic Hall, Ellesmere Port a short time ago.

The event, aimed at attracting further industry into the area, provided the perfect platform for the Board to inform customers and potential customers alike of the advantages of electricity in their production processes.

Unit sales to industry—"a barometer of production"—have increased in Dee Valley District by nine per-cent. "MANWEB will continue to make a constructive and useful contribution to industry's efforts to succeed," he commented.

Saying that he knew that customers thought the most important contribution Area Boards could make was to hold the price of electricity, Ron went on to explain that Board's were not immune from the effects of inflation and the rising cost of fossil fuels. "With generating costs being related to those of coal and oil, inevitably this will be reflected in our tariffs," he said.

### Trained Electrical Engineers

He went on to show how Area Boards were able to help industry in four ways.

"One, by ensuring that we are operating at maximum efficiency and economy," thanks to improvements in thermal efficiency at power stations, a trend likely to continue with the development of the

A view of the Ellesmere Port Exhibition.





Ellesmere Port Mayor Councillor Lally, the mayoress and party are greeted by Girl from MANWEB, Jackie Pemberton, *extreme right, above*. Two visitors from South American Consulates, *pictured right*.



nuclear energy programme.

"Two, Area Boards are able to help industry by making available the services of trained electrical engineers who have wide experience of industry and its various production techniques."

"Three, the advice of the Boards is backed up by the resources of the Electricity Council's Research Laboratories at Capenhurst. Four, we can help industry by providing a top quality electricity supply with a customer installation and plant maintenance service."

Mr. Maurice Gibbs (*Research Manager—Projects*) at the Electricity Council Research Laboratories gave a simplified and interesting insight into the work at Capenhurst.

Some 21 local companies together with the Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council and the Cheshire County Council supported the venture.

Special guests to the exhibition on the Wednesday lunchtime was a party of representatives from foreign trade missions and Consulates. They included visitors from Belgium, Bolivia, Columbia, Equador, France, Germany and Norway.

## Further Meetings

Industrialists in other districts have been invited and attended meetings. North Mersey have had successful talks to industrial managers and technical engineers on subjects such as tariffs, studies in electro-heating, high frequency annealing and dehumidification.

The chief executives or their deputies attended two meetings organised in the Liverpool District. Twelve companies were represented at the first and fifteen at the second, both held in Liverpool Hotels. Energy Sales Engineer Mr. Dave Chalmers and his colleagues made the industrialists fully aware of the services MANWEB had to offer.

The opinion of those invited was that the events were well worthwhile and the district plan to hold

further meetings, some of which will be of a more specialist nature. In addition they are planning lunch time seminars having specific subjects presented to, and discussed by a specially invited audience.

Morning, noon and night Mid-Mersey District were selling to industrialists. DCE Mr. Glyn Norbury and Energy Sales Engineer, Mr. Ken Appleton spoke to them at three meetings held in three of the district's towns, on the services other than supplying electricity that the Board offered. In Runcorn it was an 8 a.m. start with a working breakfast catching industrial executives on their way to the office.

## Across the River

At Warrington the meeting was held at noon and in St. Helens in the evening. The latter being held in an hotel near the MANWEB shop in the town, and a demonstration there kept the managers' wives interested in domestic uses of electricity while the men heard about the industrial services MANWEB offer. The pay-off of the three meetings has led to an upsurge in enquiries for industrial contracting work.

Over the River Mersey North Wirral District held two meetings. The first at the District Office helped make useful contacts while the second held more recently proved highly successful. A more specialist audience of larger user consumers were invited and Messrs. Doug Willacy and Ron Jones were able to concentrate on their needs. Tariffs were the major talking point with the MANWEB men advising on energy management and pointing out the services available from the Board.

Mr. Norman Walsh, Mid-Cheshire' DCE chaired the District's second meeting in Northwich. The fairly informal gathering of 28 industrialists heard Energy Sales Engineer Mr. Malcolm Cooper explain that MANWEB were available for advice on the efficient use of electricity and had a design and installation service for industry with the backing of



Energy Sales engineer Roger Glover, *left*, talks with Herr B. Malden of the German Consulate, *above*, *right*, with the ladies Energy Sales Engineer Don Hinsley, Mayoress Mrs. E. Lalley on his right and Jackie Pemberton on his left.



expert specialists in various processes. He introduced Mr. Mike Smith of the Jiffy Packaging Company at Winsford. He was a works manager who had benefitted by using MANWEB and endorsed the Board's services. He advised his fellow industrial executives to call in the experts from the electricity industry at an early stage in expansion plans.

Two meetings were held in the Clwyd District one in Llandudno and the other in Mold's new Theatr Clwyd. The Board's contracting service and the expertise available through the District were the main features of the meetings.

Capenhurst, the Electricity Council's Research Centre, provided a speaker, research manager Mr. Maurice Gibbs to give the Clwyd District customers an insight into the work carried out at the Centre with the industrialist in mind.

Both meetings in the Oswestry District have produced enquiries. The first in Newtown was attended

by thirteen local industrialists. The other meeting held in Oswestry had 18 interested executives attending, several of whom planned to expand their businesses in the next 12 to 18 months, and some very useful contacts were established. A further meeting is planned for a similar group in Whitchurch.

Gwynedd District invited the top brass from local industry to their offices to see for themselves the service the Board offered. In co-operation with the North Wales Association for Efficiency in Industry the district stated what the Board could do and explained the back up service available from Head Office and the Electricity Council.

Three further meetings have been planned in Bangor, and the subjects will be lighting, electro-heat and tariffs. There will be three districts co-operating with the North Wales Association, Gwynedd, Clwyd and Dee Valley, in providing speakers for these three Bangor events plus similar happenings in the other two districts.

*From left to right: Jackie Pemberton, the Mayor, Madame J. Dench, French Commercial Attache, DCE Ron Williams and clerical assistant Mrs. Ann Oliver, who acted as interpreter.*



# Talking Notes

## BY HOOK OR BY . . .

IN AN attempt to even the score after a recent heavy defeat by the men at five-a-side football, the girls of **Gwynedd District Office** challenged a combined male team from Llangefni and Caernarfon to a game of hockey.

A huge crowd gathered to watch the confrontation when the big night came, but those anticipating a thrashing for the men were in for something of a disappointment.

Although none of them had ever played hockey before they seemed to find a considerable reserve of unsuspected talent, and by half-time were leading by about ten goals to nil.

During the interval the girls had a tactical talk. As a result two of the meter readers were recruited to their side for the second session, and to even things up even more the referee was also given a stick! There were those who suspected that some of the ref's later decisions were questionable, but as only the girls knew the rules no-one could do much about it, and the second half scoring was 4—3 in the girls' favour.

After the match it seems that the girls decided that the first half didn't count, and awarded themselves the decision by four goals to three. Our correspondent suggests that they should now take up tiddly-winks!

### On the Spot

Our engineering colleagues seldom miss an opportunity to remind the rest of us that they never rest from their labours. While there are cynics who take this myth with a pinch of salt, we now have an authentic tale which lends some credence to the story.

It seems that, **Chris Tigwell**, 2nd engineer, Liverpool Dis-

trict, was driving home late night along the M62 near Winwick when he saw a flash from nearby fields.

Realising that it might have been due to an overhead line fault he contacted Mid-Mersey control centre as soon as he arrived home—much to the relief of **Peter Tharme**, 2nd engineer, Mid-Mersey, who had already been called from his bed and was preparing for a long night.

The fault—a shattered insulator—was quickly located, possibly saving hours of patrolling in pouring rain, and repaired without delay. Supplies were restored and everyone went back home hours earlier than might otherwise have been the case.

### Stories Behind Names

Liverpool colleagues—including Head Office personnel moved to Chester on re-organisation—will find the following historical notes on a couple of well-known Liverpool place-names fascinating. They are supplied by **Mr. George Keay**, a former fitter at Legacy garage who retired about five years ago.

Mr. Keay has been on the "historical trail" for 15 years, with interests in the Denbighshire Historical Society, the Wrexham Maelor Historical Society, and the Llangollen Civic Society.

He worked at Legacy for 17 years, after 13 years with Crosville, but his links with

Gwynedd hockey players, back row, left to right: Sharon, Susan, Edwina and Ann Jones, and Sandra Whiting. Front row, left to right: Janice Howell, Margaret Williams, Eirian Parry, Ann P. Jones and Janice Parry.





Liverpool go back before then to his days in the employment of Liverpool Corporation Passenger Transport Department at their Edge Lane garage.

His daughter, **Mrs. Gaynor Phillips**, was formerly a demonstrator with our Dee Valley District before she left to make George a grand-dad.

*Love Lane was once famous for its "Ladies Walk," with avenues of umbrageous elms, overlooking the River Mersey and commanding a splendid view of the Welsh hills. After going into a decline it became a brick yard and later a coal yard. Love Lane is still a shady avenue in some ways, but the shadows are cast by towering warehouses which took the place of the one-time stately elms.*

**Pumpfields**—way back in 1797 the Bootle Water Company was established. The reservoir and pumping station were built near the west side of Vauxhall Road, and the immediate locality acquired the name of "pumpfields." It was supposed by some to have been used as a place for boring and preparing the original wooden water pipes—the "pump trees." According to other accounts there was a spring well and a pump, from which the name was derived.

#### "200" Club

Winner of the monthly draw organised by the EEIBA 200 Club at Head Office was **Miss B. C. Pays**, of the Financial Department.

#### Pensioners Visit Wylfa ...

A tour of Wylfa Power Station formed the latest outing for members of the **Clwyd District Retired Staff Association**. The visit was preceded by a short tour of Anglesey, and the visitors found the trip to the power station interesting and the lunch provided by the CEGB canteen staff most enjoyable.

The Association's secretary,

**Mr. H. Evans**, asks us to remind any electricity industry pensioners living in Clwyd that they are assured of a warm welcome. He can be contacted at "Richmond," Earl Road, Mold.

#### ... and Yorkshire

First trip of the season for the **Mid-Mersey Pensioners' Association** was to Yorkshire, a coach-load from St. Helens, Runcorn, Frodsham and Warrington enjoying the trip across the Moors to the village of Haworth, of Bronte sisters fame, in glorious sunshine.

Later in the day they visited Huddersfield and Meltham village, for tea and a tour of the local woollen mill, prior to a leisurely run home.

Mid-Cheshire District Sports and Social Club Inter-departmental Knockout Bowls Competition (mixed—no discrimination). 7 p.m., Monday, 25th July 1977, Sydney Arms, Sydney, Crewe.

Come along and watch the woods flow — tickets 50p. Supper and Social follows—childrens play area—Tickets from Doris Mansell, Colin Barrow and Malcolm Cooper.

#### Safety and Blankets

Two new leaflets in the "Electricity and You" series, published by the Electricity Council to provide customers with a greater understanding of electrical appliances in every day use in their homes, have just come out.

"*Safety in the Home*," written with the co-operation of ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents), provides simple rules for safety when fitting a flex to a plug and care of flexes generally. Safety "do's and don'ts" in the use of domestic electric appliances are spelled out in detail. For new wiring, householders

are particularly advised to call in an expert from an Electricity Board or another electrical contractor on the roll of the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting.

"*Electric Blankets*" explains the safety rules to be followed to obtain years of trouble free operation from both over and under blankets and gives useful advice on what to look for when buying them. Both leaflets are free, and available with eight others in the "Electricity and You" series from Electricity Board shops.

#### 1977 Bridge Championship

The third annual electricity supply industry **Bridge Championship** will be held on Saturday, 15th October, at the Generation Design & Construction Division of the Generating Board at Barnwood, Gloucester.

This will again be a Swiss teams-of-four event involving six 8-board matches, which has proved so popular in the past two years, and it is hoped that last year's entry of 22 teams will be exceeded.

Further details and entry forms may be obtained from: **H. M. Webber, Central Electricity Research Laboratories, Kelvin Avenue, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7SE. Tel. Leatherhead 74488 x 242.**

#### For Sale

Detached house—three bedrooms (one fitted wardrobe); central heating; cavity wall insulation; lounge/diner; kitchen; garage; gardens front and rear. £9,500 o.n.o. Tel. Wrexham 52350.

#### Holiday Accommodation

RHYL—holiday flatlets with TVs, adjoining prom. Clean, comfortable, convenient. Tel. Rhyl 53401.

# Special Contract

CARRYING out electrical contracting work in a school while the normal education activities continue is a situation which would appear to be fraught with danger. One imagines children falling down traps, tripping over cables and swinging on lighting flex. This, in a normal education establishment, presents problems, but how much more acute when the school is for mentally and physically handicapped children.

Dee Banks School, Sandy Lane, Chester, caters for 60 such pupils, and having had an extension built to house a special care unit, Mr. Neil Hayes, Dee Valley Installation Engineer won the contract for the wiring of the new construction. The unit consists of two large rooms, a therapy room and a small pool, which was partially paid for by the School's League of Friends.

The pool is proving a great asset to the teaching staff, and headmistress, Mrs. June Wilson—wife of Mr. Harold Wilson, Head Office Technical Section—says, "In the pool the children relax and we are finding that words and sentences are being used by children who normally have a problem over language development."

Sockets had to be out of the reach of the children and the wiring had to be fed into underground ducts



*Above:* the Man from MANWEB works in the background while for staff and pupils it is business as usual.

*Below:* Mr. Neil Hayes with headmistress Mrs. June Wilson, watch the children in their new pool.





Left: the first team squad with their shield, and above, Peter Jones, manager, receives a commemorative plaque from Hugh Farrow, chairman.

## Success and Disappointment for HO Footballers



Footballers of the year, elected by first team colleagues, left, Steve Addison, and for the second team, right, Edwin Davies.



After winning the Chester and District Football League (1st Div) by six clear points MANWEB (Chester) footballers saw three teams who were runners-up to them promoted ahead of them to the Premier League. The MANWEB team's facilities did not meet the Premier League requirements.

Negotiations for new facilities are under way so when MANWEB win the league next year there should be no doubt about their promotion.

*Continued from Page 142*

running along the corridors to the main distribution board. In addition an alarm system had to be wired and controls for the heating of the extension and the pool.

Taking the problems in his stride was MANWEB electrician Mr. John Stubbs. He enjoyed working in the happy environment created by the dedicated teaching staff, and particularly at Christmas-time, when the sound of the children singing carols provided excellent background music. He also saw the happy faces during their Christmas Party. He and apprentice Brian Forbes, who worked along with him, were complimented by Mrs. Wilson.

"Some of the work involved having dangerous holes down the corridor, but my fears for the children's safety were soon allayed when it became apparent that the electricians were aware our children were special and needed extra care. The men quickly adapted to working in a special school and soon knew a few of the children's names and were interested in what the pupils were doing," Mrs. Wilson told *'Contact'*.

As his year of office was drawing to a close one of the final duties of the Mayor of Chester Mr. John Arrowsmith, together with his wife the Mayoress,

was to open the new unit. It was a sight which must have pleased the teaching staff, having the builders and contractors finally out of their way.

Although the work must have disrupted to some extent the ordered tranquility of the school, Mrs. Wilson said, "I have now forgotten how difficult it was to try to answer the telephone while MANWEB electricians were drilling through the office wall. I just remember that the school has a few more friends.

MANWEB electrician Mr. John Stubbs.



# Liverpool District Exhibition

## ARTS AND CRAFTS AT THINGWALL ROAD



The ladies of the Drawing Office who produced the Certificates—left to right—Ann Crangle, Gillian Cook and Angela McCarthy.

**T**WO HUNDRED Liverpool District employees, and members of their families, turned up at the Thingwall Road clubhouse on Saturday, 30th April, for the first exhibition of Arts and Crafts to be organised by the District's Sports and Social Club.

Entries submitted for all twelve classes were of such a high standard that the judges asked for extra Certificates to be awarded in several sections. First prizewinners received cash awards, while 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each section received Certificates. These were neatly and expertly produced by members of the District's Drawing Office staff—Angela McCarthy, Gillian Cook and Ann Crangle. On the day of the

exhibition itself Ann was in attendance, pen in hand, to enter the names of the winning entrants on the Certificates as the classes were judged.

### Pleasant Job!

Group Manager Mr. Sid Fairclough did the honours of presenting the prizes and certificates—a mostly enjoyable task as he got a kiss from each young lady who was among the winners.

## FIRST PRIZEWINNERS

First prizewinners were as follows: Photography (Colour)—Mr. G. W. Hill; Photography (Black and White)—Mr. P. Johnson; Woodwork—Mr. H. Robertson; Art (Open)—Mr. R. Holland; Art (Junior)—Mark Smith; Crocheting—Miss M. Mouncey; Embroidery—Suzanne Bush; Metalwork—Mr. K. A. Sculthorpe; Handwriting—Mrs. E. Freeman; Handwriting (Junior)—Kim Sands Cakemaking classes—Miss N. Draper and Mrs. E. Smeardon; Toymaking—Miss J. Ravenscroft; Toymaking (Junior)—Suzanne Bush; Knitting—Mrs. F. J. Mouncey; Knitting (Junior)—Suzanne Bush; Dressmaking—Suzanne Bush; Flower Arranging classes—Mrs. M. Kirby and Miss J. Needham.

★ ★ ★ ★

The task of checking and arranging all the high quality exhibits called for care and patience—here Eric Webb and Vicki Roberts sort out some of the handicrafts entries.



# Good Shows at Theatr Clwyd



Liz Hughes during her demonstration.

Nearly seven hundred ladies drawn from such groups as Women's Institute and Young Wives' branches over a wide area provided packed audiences on two successive nights at the Theatr Clwyd, Mold, recently, when selling demonstrations were presented by our Clwyd District commercial colleagues.

These highly successful functions began with an introductory talk by Ron Carter (*2nd engineer, energy sales*), followed by cookery demonstrations using ceramic hobs (Liz Hughes) and microwave ovens (Anne Reney Smith), talks on kitchen planning (Ivor Maddocks), appliance display and payment methods (Bob Hewitt) and contracting and service (Graham Monks). Open Forum discussions, a welcome coffee break, and a prize raffle all contributed to making up evenings of entertainment and information which were clearly much appreciated by the enthusiastic audiences.



Anne Reney Smith, *above*, talking about microwave cooking, to one of the packed houses pictured below. *Right*, with the 'goodies' cooked up by Liz Hughes, are Arthur Thompson, 'Girl from MANWEB' Jackie Pemberton, and Liz.



## PUB FOOD EXHIBITION

# Electricity, It's Magic!



Pictured at the MANWEB Stand, left to right, from Mid-Mersey District, Messrs. John Drew and Frank Kelly, Miss Jane Fairclough, Mr. Ken Appleton and Mrs. Anne Renny-Smith from Head Office.

In the crowded Daresbury Hotel, near Warrington Mid-Mersey District flew the MANWEB flag high at the recent Greenall Whitley Exhibition for the hotel trade.

In the tiny space allocated to the Board to stage their exhibit, an area of only seven feet square, Head Office exhibition designer Mr. Ron Sand managed to produce a stand with facilities for cookery demonstrations of back bar equipment, including the microwave oven.

The lack of space probably worked to our advantage because visitors who themselves have very little space available could see just what could be done

in such confined circumstances.

Demonstrators Anne Renny-Smith and Jane Fairclough kept their audiences intrigued as they produced pub meals like magicians. They showed how to cater efficiently and profitably with electricity. A few feet away was the Gas Board stand, and even though our installation team kindly lit up their stand, our demonstrators left them well in the shade.

Visitors were attracted to the exhibit by a cleverly placed headboard on the stand with the words 'Cater Electric' emblazoned on it, catching the eye of the hundreds of visitors to the exhibition as they walked through the door.

A view of the MANWEB stand at the Hotel Catering Exhibition in the Daresbury Hotel, Warrington.



# Fair Comment

## LADY JOURNALISTS GIVE THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF APPLIANCE FAIR

WITH EVERY year that passes there are new and exciting developments in the use of electricity in the home, and the women journalists who are responsible for the women's features in newspapers and on TV and radio programmes are always interested to have the opportunity to bring their knowledge of our industry up-to-date.

For many years the electricity industry has staged a Trade Fair, backed by appliance manufacturers at home and abroad, and hundreds of journalists made the trip to the National Exhibition Centre at Birmingham recently for the 1977 offering, sponsored by the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances.

As usual a party of our local women's page editors went along as guests of MANWEB, and we print below some brief impressions which some of the ladies were kind enough to pass on to us:

**Peggy Woodcock** (*Chester Chronicle*): "General impressions of the Fair left me feeling a little nervous. So far as the domestic market is concerned there was great emphasis on the latest computerised ovens, and washing machines with fearsome-looking controls. But no doubt the earliest automatic washing machines looked just as complicated at first, and they are now accepted as part of most women's lives. They certainly save considerable time and effort, especially for the working wife.

"I found the excellent small appliances of particular interest, perhaps because they are more within reach of the average pocket than, say, the microwave oven (strongly pushed at the Fair as the latest kitchen status symbol).

**Margaret Williams** (*Llandudno Advertiser*): "While appreciating that the International Domestic Appliances Trade Fair incorporated many new features one did not get the impression of impact as used to be the case. In most of the previous fairs there was a revolutionary new project which was launched with a bang and which provided a natural lead for our copy. Also, the fact that we

had a good Press briefing beforehand, often with films and demonstrations, gave us a good insight into what to expect when we actually toured the fair and cut our work somewhat in that we knew what were the most important features and where they were to be found.

As usual, there were adequate press releases on all the products plus photographs for everybody and this is well appreciated."

**Mona Smith** (*Cheshire Observer*): "There has never been a wider range to help save time and energy, the dishwasher, the cooker and other mechanical aids all seem to have gone into electronic press button space-age programming, and it is wise to look into after-sales service.

This year, more than ever, the microwave oven seems to be a star—it helps no end if you have a freezer, a late party or dinner guest to plan for and could be said to be such a boon that no freezer-owner should be without a microwave. Smaller and lighter to handle than of yore, they are also cheaper to buy for the home now, several being under £200."

**Vivien Tomlinson** (*Liverpool*

*Daily Post*): "It was my first visit either to the exhibition or to the Centre—and I was impressed.

I particularly enjoyed the kitchen side of things: the foreign competition on the split-level oven and hob units was fierce and I was pleased not to have to make an actual buyer's choice. I thought that the wording of some of the hand-out material was confusing: our little party rushed over to find an oven that had a built-in-fridge. It turned out, of course, to have a built-in fridge *alongside* in a fairly conventional manner."

**Mary Hinds** (*South Lancashire Newspapers*): "There was really only one thing lacking in my first visit to the IDEA exhibition—time to see everything.

Most of my attention was focussed on the larger items: the ovens, hobs and, of course, that unforgettable fridge in the William-and-Mary cabinet.

Doing justice to the full exhibition would probably take a good two days' concentrated effort.

At least the vast number of Press hand-outs will keep me well supplied with useful information until the next IDEA."

**Stella Parker** (*Warrington Guardian*): "The show this year was a bit of an electric let-down for me, with few new exhibits to excite the housewife, but I very much enjoyed the arrangements made by MANWEB. This proved an excellent opportunity to talk to both Mr. M. R. Cowan, Chief Commercial Officer, and Mr. John Perry, of the Public Relations Department, about electricity charges and ways of saving money in the home.

I very much missed the excellent synopsis of the Show provided by the Electricity Council in the past, and hope this may return next year—it made the tour of the Show a much more efficient operation."

# COMPUTER GRAPHICS

## Pioneering fast network design

MANWEB's interest in computer graphics dates back to 1970 when MANWEB engineers, in conjunction with IBM, investigated the possibility of using IBM computer graphics equipment for power system engineering. Three ideas were looked at: design of low voltage (*housing estate*) networks; information retrieval; and network analysis (*load flow and fault level*). Although the advantages of computer graphics were obvious, the necessary equipment was rather expensive, and the project went into 'cold storage' until cheaper alternatives became available.

In 1972 interest in computer graphics was revived when low cost storage tube displays became available. Work was done in conjunction with Liverpool University and a prototype interactive load flow program was implemented on the Board's IBM computer using a Tektronix 4010 terminal during 1974.

Subsequent to this, a more comprehensive system was developed in the Power System Laboratory at UMIST (University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology). This work was done by one of our own engineers, Mr. Charles Lynch, under the supervision of Dr. Alfred Brameller from UMIST. The result of this collaboration was the development of the Interactive Power System Analysis (IPSA) system, which has been in use at our Head Office since the beginning of 1976.

IPSA runs on the Board's IBM Computer and is

used by planning, operation and technical engineers for load flow and balanced/unbalanced fault level calculations. A Tektronix 4014 graphics terminal is used and a hard copy unit enables a paper copy of the screen display to be obtained within seconds.

Mr. Denis Farquhar (*Assistant Chief Engineer, System Management*), who pioneered the initial interest in the use of computer graphics for power networks, comments, "*The system has two important advantages over alternative design methods. The graphical display enables results to be displayed in a form that can be quickly interpreted by an engineer, and the speed of response ensures continuity in the design process. This means that a consistently high standard of design can be achieved within a relatively short time.*"

The IPSA system has been tailor made for use by electricity supply engineers. Conversational on-line programming techniques allow an easy access to the system by non-computing personnel.

The application of computer graphics to power system analysis has proved very successful. Following on from this further applications are now under development: the design of overhead lines, and the design of low voltage (*housing estate*) distribution networks.

Other Electricity Boards have also been attracted to using IPSA. The South Wales Electricity Board have now implemented the system on their IBM 370/145 computer. The North Western Electricity



Norweb first engineer, Mr. Vic Taylor, has drawn on his terminal screen in Manchester, via the MANWEB computer in Chester, a diagram of the 132 kV network in Lakeland. This picture was taken during an experimental link-up between our Boards. By using his Tektronix 4010 terminal he can plan alterations or extensions to the network and see the outcome in seconds.



Board recently undertook a trial as remote users into the MANWEB computer as the following story illustrates.

#### Linkup

A 38-mile 'phone call by Norweb engineers may help in the design of the complex electricity distribution system that covers the North West.

Using Post Office lines during the period of the experiment, a computer terminal at Cheetwood Road, Manchester, was linked with MANWEB's computer in Chester. The results were not only a series of speedy answers to network studies being carried out by Norweb engineers—they also had in front of them a computer-drawn diagram of whichever network they were considering.

*"This exercise gave MANWEB engineers operational experience of using a remote terminal and gave us a first-hand opportunity of evaluating its benefits for the future,"* said Mr. Grahame Hitchen, of the Engineering Department's Planning and Design section at Cheetwood Road.

Norweb's present computer program for use in network studies can only be run overnight so there is a lack of immediacy, as well as being a purely numerical form of output. Norweb's new computer, which is being installed in Linley House this year, is likely to provide a faster service for network studies but whether the MANWEB/UMIST package will be adopted has not yet been decided.

Norweb's 132kV and 33kV distribution systems are under constant study; to expand, reinforce and amend them to meet new requirements and to ensure security of supply to the Board's 1,900,000 consumers at minimum cost. There are 1,650 kilometres of 132kV, and 3,100 kilometres of 33kV cables and

overhead lines supplying 76 grid supply points and approximately 15,000 other substations—excluding pole-mounted substations.

Using the MANWEB program, Norweb engineers were able to draw on their screen the network being studied and instruct the computer to insert substations, transformers and generators to build up a comprehensive representation of the power system. To this it was a simple matter to make proposed amendments or additions. At any time a permanent print could be taken of the screen image and/or the computer could be instructed to store it on magnetic disc for future reference.

*"It is most important to be able to analyse and study the effects of various operational arrangements of generators, transformers, cables and overhead lines in order to optimise system running conditions and ensure security of supplies,"* said Mr. Hitchen.

During use, an engineer is given various options of routines available—listed on the screen. Load flow or short circuit studies are the most common—these are completed within seconds and the solutions presented graphically on the screen. The load or fault currents flowing in each section of the network being studied are shown alongside the appropriate circuits.

The capabilities or short-comings of a system can be more readily appreciated and consequential developments tested—via the computer. Circuits can be added or taken out at will and revised figures obtained within minutes. *"The engineer has a sense of contact with the problem and does not suffer the same feeling of remoteness as when presented with a lengthy numerical output which requires interpretation,"* said Mr. Hitchen.

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### Obituary

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It is with deep regret we report the deaths of several of our former colleagues.

Mr. J. A. Lott an executive officer in the Head Office Revenue Section after a long illness died at the age of 44. Alf joined MANWEB shortly after leaving school in 1949 and had been employed in most sections of the Accounts Department.

His many friends have expressed their sadness at the loss of such a young colleague. We express our sincere sympathy to his wife, Audrey and his two children.

Mr. J. Lonney, was a labourer at New Crane Street who col-

lapsed and died on 1st June 1977. John was 56 years of age and a bachelor, and we extend our sincere sympathy to members of his family.

Mr. J. W. Anderson, at the age of 71 was until his retirement the Industrial Relations Officer for the Merseyside and North Wales Area of the Electricity Council. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Jean, his son Wallace, an employee of the South of Scotland Electricity Board, and his family.

Mr. Thomas Richard Percival, of Maes Lygan, Pentre Halkyn, a linesman at Mold prior to his retirement in 1971 after 45 years' service to the industry. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family and friends.

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### Electricity Supply (Staff) Superannuation Scheme.

The minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Scheme held on the 16th December 1976 have now been printed and displayed on notice boards.

Additional copies are available and will be sent to members (including retired employees) on request.

Requests should be forwarded to the Assistant Secretary (Personnel), MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

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A farewell handshake for Peter Smallman, right centre, from Assistant Chief Engineer Mr. Denis Farquhar.

## RETIREMENTS

### Mr. P. D. SMALLMAN

After 43 years' service in the Electricity Supply Industry, Mr. Peter Smallman, a Senior Engineer in the Head Office System Management Section, retired from the Board.

'P.D.S.' as he is known, joined the electricity industry in 1934 after gaining a 1st class diploma in mechanical and electrical engineering at Faraday House. His first position was with the Yorkshire Electric Power Company in his native county, as a junior assistant district engineer.

He held a variety of engineering appointments, joining MANWEB in 1949 as District Engineer at Runcorn. He was promoted to Senior Assistant Engineer in the former Area 2, six years later retaining a similar post when Areas 2 and 3 were amalgamated. He joined Head Office Staff in 1970 as Senior Assistant Engineer—Maintenance becoming Senior Engineer three years ago.

Out of the office he enjoys music and is a keen hi-fi enthusiast. However much of his time is spent with boats and boating, and he has recently designed a single-handed sailing dinghy which can easily be assembled from a marine ply kit. The first prototype has been built and a second is currently under con-

struction by one of his colleagues.

He also makes sails and sells them through his own company, 'Kit Sails,' through which organisation he hopes to market his single-sailed 'fun-boat' kits.

P.D.S. is a widower and has a daughter who is a schoolteacher in London, and two sons, one single, working for the CEBG and the other married, a Regional Manager for a brewery.

### Mr. G. PARRY

After 44 years' service to the industry Mr. Gwynfryn Parry, foreman at Dee Valley District, retired recently.

Mr. Parry began his career as an electrician with the former North Wales Power Company in 1933, becoming a meter-reader/collector four years later. On the outbreak of war he joined the RAF, serving as an electrician in the Middle East. After rejoining the North Wales Power Company he was made foreman in 1969 at Willow Road, Wrexham.

For 25 years he was a member of the famous Rhos Male Voice Choir, having sung in the Royal Variety Show and also taking part in a tour of the USA and Canada.

On behalf of his colleagues he was presented with a cheque by Mr. Alan Bowers (*principal assistant, consumer accounts*). Mr. Keith Griffiths (*principal assistant, administration*) also expressed the good wishes of the staff for a long and happy retirement.

Alan Bower, with spectacles, bids farewell to Gwyn Parry.



Mrs. Ferguson, centre, receives a clock from Mr. Eddy Lunt on behalf of colleagues.



#### Mrs. J. FERGUSON

After an intermittent service with the Board totalling around 15 years Mrs. Joan Ferguson retired recently. She had worked in the former Area 3 Offices at New Crane Street before leaving to raise a family. She rejoined the Board at Head Office as a registry clerk.

She was greatly amused recently on a visit to Windsor when she spotted a brass plate in an antique

shop, which gave instructions to a railway apprentice. As her family had close links with railways and the GWR, she bought it. She gave it to her nephew whose great grandfather was chief engineer on the Great Western at the time of the date on the plate.

Joan's consuming passion away from the office is golf. Co-incidental with her retirement she is moving house. Her new home is adjacent to the golf course—where else?

#### Mr. A. G. FRASER

Mr. Gordon Fraser retired from Head Office Estates and Way-leaves section recently.

He joined the Board in 1959 as a clerk in the former Area 4 Estates section, moved to Area 1 and Area 2/3 before transferring to Head Office in 1970.

During the war Gordon served in the RAOC in the Middle East, was commissioned in 1942, and returned to 'Civvy Street' in 1946, having reached the rank of Major.

He was self employed before becoming a merchandising officer for a large organisation.

Away from the office Gordon is a keen gardener. In his earlier years he was an accomplished car and motor cycle rally driver.

He and his wife Enid share an interest in their church's activities. They have a son and two daughters and five grandchildren.

Gordon has asked that we express his thanks to all those friends and colleagues he was unable to see on his recent visit to Head Office.

Gordon Fraser, centre, says goodbye to colleagues with a handshake for Assistant Secretary Frank Ward.

#### Mrs. Ferguson's Plate.

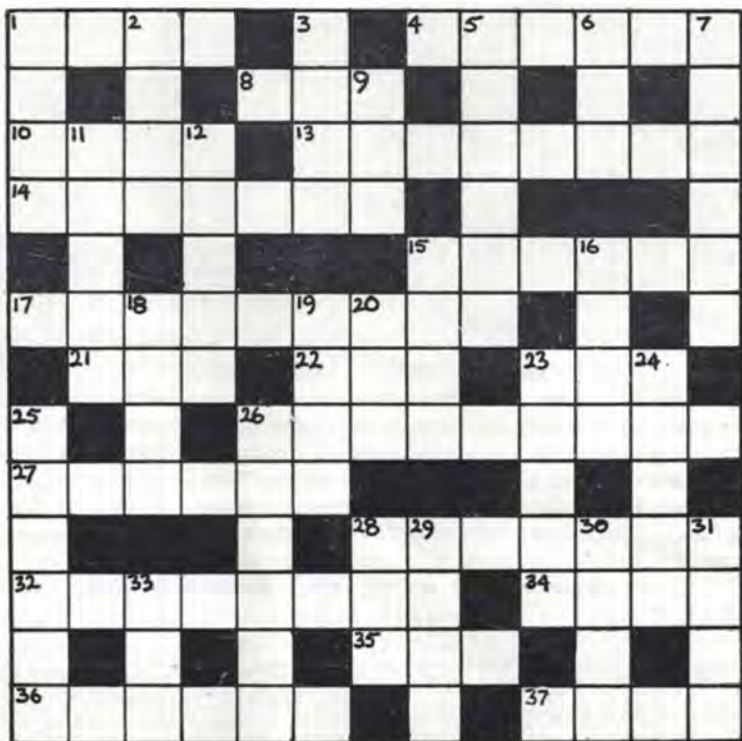


# PRIZE CROSSWORD

For our crossword enthusiasts, another little puzzler. Actually we should call it a "Mystery Crossword"—the mystery being that we seem to have lost the piece of paper which tells us who compiled it!

There will be three prizes of £2 each for the first all-correct solutions to come out of the hat on 18th July. Entries, on plain paper if you wish, are eligible from all MANWEB employees, pensioners and their families—but only one entry per person please!

Entries to *The Editor*, 'Contact', MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR—and we would like to hear also from the lady or gent who compiled the puzzle, so that due recognition can be given (internal telephone Head Office 2167).



## Clues Across

- 1 Through these, water went past.
- 4 When you go take the key.
- 8 Dubious but Spring will see it out.
- 10 Eager and with go.
- 13 Merge the tin soldiers together what a great body of men.
- 14 The girl got admirer in church.
- 15 Affix or make secure.
- 17 The poet marry, but it's not permanent.
- 21 O'Connor the comic one.
- 22 Sooner than or even before.
- 23 The first part of leave and we have a drink.
- 26 Re plus one of society I recall.
- 27 All with the design is sufficient to cause death.
- 28 Sin and rude with it, yes you are covered now.
- 32 Me and Tim are in the ark and in step.
- 34 Canute could not stop this diet.
- 35 An average rap.

- 36 Resign, he thinks he can croon too.
- 37 A sale, would you buy this coat.

## Clues Down

- 1 Mate, in this side, there are eleven.
- 2 The needy ones.
- 3 This ruse is a certainty.
- 5 Part of the week, sometime good.
- 6 A doe of style and tone.
- 7 Don't sit on this ant they have tremendous power.
- 9 Rest assured, it's part of the debutant.
- 11 Pad the edge, your mouth is open.
- 12 Prigs, they should be handled firmly.
- 15 This trade has no duty.
- 16 A story to tell, but it's late.
- 18 Converted from the solid to the liquid.
- 19 Leer at them, but could you dance it.

- 20 Take it out of the warm and use it to reach out.
- 23 The Aborigines enjoy this type of walk.
- 24 I may have made a mistake here or did I.
- 25 The M.P. in his seat with a plus over the economy.
- 26 The rat let loose, this snake will enjoy it.
- 28 Simple but remove Les and you have a little devil.
- 29 The arena is as close as part of it.
- 30 Dire trouble you have in a car.
- 31 A pack of cards, do this before you lead.
- 33 A batsman needs to get more than one of these.

## Thought for the month

Electricity provides steaming hot baths for four people—not at the same time mind—for the cost of a bottle of shampoo.