



Contact

June 1981

Making Bullets
(See page 114)

Nuclear Power Cuts Costs

"Electricity prices would have to rise between five and ten per cent if all the Central Electricity Generating Board's nuclear power stations in England and Wales were closed.

The increase in charges would be necessary to cover the extra cost of £350-£400-million this year of producing electricity from other sources. It was for this reason that the Board worked hard to keep its nuclear stations operating safely and efficiently."

This was stated recently by Mr. John Baker, Board Member, CEGB, at the opening in Ipswich, Suffolk, of the nuclear power exhibition "Atoms for Energy", which, he said, was designed to take the myths and mysteries out of nuclear power.

Mr. Baker pointed out that nuclear stations provided about 11 per cent of the electricity supplied by the Board, compared with 80 per cent from coal and nine per cent from oil. Apart from the fact that nuclear stations were cheaper to run than coal and oil stations, the CEGB were developing them because the Board's responsibilities were to tomorrow's electricity users as well as today's.

"As a country, we are blessed with hundreds of years of exploit-

able coal reserves, but our oil and natural gas reserves are measurable in years only, or—at best—decades. Coal, liquified coal and gasified coal will be in great demand, and simply to burn huge tonnages of coal in power station boilers will be both wasteful and expensive.

"I hope that renewable sources of energy will be making a useful contribution, and that conservation

techniques will reduce the demands on energy supply.

"But it is currently only the development of nuclear power which can provide the security of electricity supplies in the long-term and hold out the prospect of freeing the electricity consumer from the treadmill of ever-increasing coal prices," said Mr. Baker.

The "Atoms for Energy" exhibition has already visited 15 cities and towns—including Chester—since it opened in 1979. It is sponsored by the Nuclear Power Information Group.

GROWTH OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES

"The 185,000 electric vehicles now in service throughout the UK are using nearly 1,800 million units of electricity a year—an interesting comparison with British Rail's consumption of 2,400 million units," said Mr. Alan Plumpton, Deputy Chairman of the Electricity Council, speaking at the Electric Vehicle Association's annual lunch.

He said that the electricity supply industry's expenditure on the promotion of battery electric industrial trucks and road vehicles—excluding the purchase of advanced

vehicles by Boards and the Council's support for the Association—had risen during the past 12 months by 70 per cent "which gives some idea of our commitment to the development of electric transport.

MANWEB AND GPO GET-TOGETHER!

Our popular demonstrator in Mid-Mersey District, Miss Jane Fairclough, recently married Mr. David Hall, a GPO engineer, at St. James' Church, Prescot.

The happy couple spent a short honeymoon in the Cotswolds before settling in their brand-new home in Widnes. The lucky pair are off for yet another "break" in Greece later this month.

The happiness they are enjoying now we hope will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

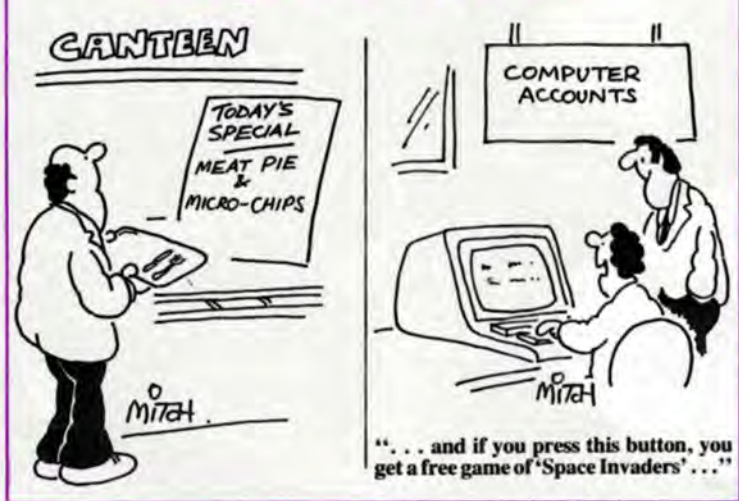
KNOCK, KNOCK!

A customer recently telephoned to our North Mersey District, requesting that a collector should call at his home.

Stating that he was confined to a wheelchair, he added: "Could you ask the collector to knock and wait, because my mother is in Scotland, and it will take quite a while to get to the door."

We are indebted to Dave Findley from the District Prepayment section for this little gem.

Laugh with Mitch . . .



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Editorial

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COMPROMISE AND COMMONSENSE

IT has been said that the demand for electricity is an accurate barometer of the industrial health of a developed nation. Everybody knows, of course, that the health of large sections of British industry has been growing increasingly grave for some time. Last year the plummeting demand for electricity proved it.

In such a situation it is inevitable that even so fundamental an industry as electricity supply should feel the backlash. Falling unit sales are mirrored by reduced need for network reinforcement. Millions on the dole means less demand for units, appliances and services on the domestic front.

This number of 'Contact' devotes a good deal of space to the recently-circulated Manpower Policy Statement, and to the 1981 management conference on the same theme. While nobody likes to see jobs go, the Board and its staff are faced with a situation in which the beleaguered customer can rightly demand that we take every possible step to keep our house in order. The Trade Unions will doubtless feel it their duty to resist job losses in principle, even though the Board have said that redundancy will be avoided by all possible means.

It is no good pretending that difficult times do not lie ahead for the Board, the staff, and the unions to which most of us belong. Compromise, commonsense and goodwill are going to be in considerable demand.

Having said that, many people would probably agree that the Policy Statement could have been a great deal worse. The indispensable nature of our industry protects us in large measure from the shock announcements of factory closures and mass redundancies which make such depressing news with such depressing frequency. The circumstances in which we find ourselves have been forced upon us by factors completely beyond our control, and we have to adjust to them as best we can.

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.



"The greatest challenge of all facing the Board today is two-way communication with our staff."—Board Chairman Ben Hastings.

THE RECESSION HITS AT MANWEB —

Streamlining Our Workforce

— BOARD'S MANPOWER POLICY STATEMENT

AS the shock waves of the recession spread from our battered manufacturing industries, through widespread unemployment and lowered levels of commercial activity, their impact is inevitably being felt in the electricity supply industry.

MANWEB is probably the hardest-hit of all Electricity Boards. Sales of electricity, together with most aspects of our work, are down. As a result, the Board is looking for ways and means to reduce and redeploy staff to match the falling workload.

The Board's objectives are spelled out in a "Manpower Policy Statement", presented to the District Joint Advisory Council on 10th April. Copies have been distributed to all members of the staff.

In this somewhat depressing climate, it was no surprise that the subject of Manpower Plans should be the theme of the MANWEB Management Conference, held at Head Office on 12th May, and attended by all available management staff from Head Office and Districts.

Chairman for the day was Board Deputy Chairman **Richard Gales**, and there was a guest speaker in the person of **Mr. Tom Rutherford**, Chairman of the North Eastern Electricity Board—the Board most comparable to MANWEB in terms of staff, customers and business.

Gloomy Picture

Setting the scene, Mr. Gales outlined the extent to which the recession had affected MANWEB during 1980/81. Overall electricity sales were down by more than nine per cent, compared with a country-wide figure of four per cent. Sales to industry had slumped disastrously—by more than 15 per cent. Some of these losses, such as those caused by the end of steel-making at Shotton and the closure of the Bowater paper plant would probably never return.

Domestic sales had fallen by 1.7 per cent, as people did their best to cut down, and there had been a "no growth" situation in commercial sales.

Our average unit price had risen by 28 per cent, and

Some of our management colleagues who attended the conference.



the domestic user had faced a 30 per cent increase as energy prices rose faster than the rate of inflation.

"In total, it is a very gloomy picture," said the Deputy Chairman.

Guest speaker Tom Rutherford, of NEEB, then outlined the problems which had confronted his Board—problems very similar to those of MANWEB. As a result of falling demand and reduced levels of commercial activity, NEEB's salary and salary-related costs had accounted for an increasing proportion of the costs over which his Board had a substantial measure of control.



NEEB Chairman Tom Rutherford makes an expressive point.

"We found ourselves entering a new phase of public criticism as the domestic price increased by 30 per cent—a phase where the old stand-by of pointing a finger at the wicked miners would no longer suffice as an explanation," said Mr. Rutherford.

Streamlining NEEB

"A substantial 'streamlining' programme had been embarked on," added the speaker. NEEB's seven Districts were being condensed into five, and the Board's main departments were being reduced from five to four. There had been big reductions in the amount of overtime worked, and the Board staff last year had been reduced by a total of 269—two-thirds of them "white-collar" jobs and the other third "blue collar".

Efforts had been made to eliminate bureaucratic parts of the system and to give people more individual responsibility for getting things done, thus increasing both efficiency and job satisfaction.

Introducing the afternoon session, Mr. Gales said that the Board was in full consultation with the trade unions over future manpower plans. The policy statement had been authorised by the Board itself.

"Three-quarters of MANWEB's 'controllable costs' were related to salaries," he said. "This was the main area in which effective savings could be made."

Staff Support Essential

The Board's policy was to reduce staff by "natural wastage" and there could be some relaxation of policy on early retirement, where such a course would

THE MANPOWER POLICY STATEMENT

THE MAIN POINTS

- ☆ MANWEB is suffering badly from the recession. Energy prices rose steeply last year. Our customers expect us to be efficient.
- ☆ The Board is aiming for reductions in costs—including manpower costs. Wherever possible, vacancies arising through natural wastage will not be filled. Redundancy will be avoided by all possible means.
- ☆ The present structure (Head Office and ten Districts) will be retained. Managerial staff will be reduced with the appointment of Customer Service Managers in Districts to replace District Commercial Engineers and District Administrative Officers (again by natural wastage). Head Office management will be streamlined.
- ☆ Every attempt will be made to retain surplus trainees and apprentices, by extension of training or temporary redeployment if necessary.
- ☆ Attempts will be made to further reduce the costs of materials and transport, to increase the wise use of electricity and to ensure that our appliance sales and contracting activities are profitable.
- ☆ There will be discussion with staff and trade unions over non-replacement of people who leave or retire.
- ☆ *"The Board will be prepared to consider all constructive suggestions which will help to take us smoothly through these difficult times. With mutual goodwill, the Board is confident that its twin objectives of significant cost reductions and security of employment for its staff can be achieved."*



Above, left to right: Jim Fisher (Chief Engineer), Peter Hopkins (CCO) and Geoff Barnes (Chief Accountant).

Left: Deputy Chairman Richard Gales.

Chief Officers **Jim Fisher**, **Geoff Barnes** and **Peter Hopkins** then contributed to the discussion, referring to areas of their departments' activities where it was anticipated that manning levels might be reduced. They were followed to the microphone by Board Chairman **Ben Hastings**, who wound up the day's discussions on the theme of "*Challenges and Opportunities for the Year Ahead*".

During the past six months, said Mr. Hastings, the total MANWEB labour force had decreased by 90. This trend would continue during the coming year with the introduction of new technology and the reduction of non-essential workload.

Reasonable People

Every effort would have to be made to manage all our resources efficiently. Our customers expected us to do it, and he thought our staff expected us to do it as well. MANWEB employees were reasonable people who wanted us to be able to rebut any charge that we were an inefficient nationalised industry, run more

further the manpower policy.

"We cannot hope to be successful in our manpower policy unless we have the support of the great bulk of the staff," he added. "In all cases where it is not planned to replace people who leave, the staff affected should be consulted as far in advance as possible."



On his feet to make a point is Personnel Manager Jim McLennan.

And making another is Dennis Hodgetts, DAO, Mid-Mersey District.



for the benefit of our staff than our customers.

The greatest challenge of all, continued the Chairman, was two-way communication with the staff. He hoped that the new-style consultative machinery would enable staff representatives to make effective contributions in helping to determine Board policies.

"Nothing makes people behave more responsibly than the feeling that they really have some responsibilities. We must make the staff feel that they are

jointly responsible with us for the success of MANWEB. I am sure that they will rise to the occasion," added Mr. Hastings.

"The whole organisation is going to have to learn how to be consulted, as well as how to consult. The Manpower Policy Statement is just a start in trying to create a climate in which the overwhelming majority of our staff will help to form—and support—the Board's policies," he concluded.

We get letters

From a Liverpool couple to Liverpool District office:—

"We had our house re-wired by MANWEB, and feel we must say how pleased we are with the job, but most of all the electrician, who worked hard and was alone in the house most days. He is completely trustworthy and is a credit to MANWEB."

Pat on the back goes to electrician **Stephen Gibson**, aided by apprentice **Michael Toborne**.

To Gwynedd District from a Criccieth lady:—

"I am overwhelmed at your so very kind concern over my minor worry. The electrician has called this morning and completed both the conversion and lagging of the water tank. Please accept my most grateful thanks."

Our knight in shining armour was **Mr. Eric Phillips** (inst. inspector).

Note of appreciation from a Liverpool lady to North Mersey District:—

"I wish to commend your employee who called this morning to empty our meter. My husband and I were in doubt about the use of the supply and even asked him to return to check the meter once he had left to call elsewhere."

"This man's courtesy and civility were very much appreciated and I would be grateful if you would take the trouble to find out who he was and express our thanks. We meet so many rude and abrupt representatives of services that when one shows consideration and pleasantness it replaces one's faith in human nature!"

North Mersey did take the trouble to find out who it was—the gent who did the restoration job was collector **Norman Rugen**.

Speedy service in emergency conditions brought the following letter to Aberystwyth District:—

"I feel I must appreciate the service given by your Fairbourne staff when, following the gale on Friday night, it was discovered that a large fir tree had blown over and was being supported by my overhead cables.

"Within half an hour this was winched clear, and finally removed on Monday.

"Again, when the power failed, cutting off parts of Arthog at 1.15 a.m. today, a phone call brought assistance within half an hour. The supply was reconnected one and a half hours later, saving ourselves and neighbours great inconvenience. Your prompt attention is much appreciated in this day and age!"

Colleagues who earned this gratitude are **Meirion Rees** (chargehand linesman), **John Reed** (linesman) and **Alun Morris** (acting mate).

MEETING THE LADIES

— C. C. O. at
the E.A.W.
Conference



Pictured at the Conference we see, from left to right: Councillor Russell Gradwell (Mayor of Llandudno), Ann McMullen (EAW National Director), Mrs. Sheila Beese (Area Organiser), Mrs. Alice Robinson (President, Colwyn Bay Branch EAW) and Guest speaker Mr. Peter Hopkins.

The electricity industry needs the kind of support provided by the Electrical Association for Women, with their promotion of the benefits of electricity, improving the image of the industry and getting across to the public meaningful facts, Mr. Peter Hopkins, MANWEB Chief Commercial Officer, told the 200 delegates to the Area Annual EAW Conference at Llandudno recently.

He reviewed various aspects of the electricity industry's progress over the recent years, and, referring to the improving storage heater market, he said that the new heaters were of a slimline type and were more attractive, with improved controllability. He pointed to the success of the Economy 7 tariff and emphasised the competitiveness of this form of heating. The annual heating bill for one storage heater of 3.25 kW loading amounted to the equivalent of the cost of a pint of milk a day or five cigarettes a day over a year.

The electric shower, too, had proved value for money, with a hot shower costing approximately twopence—a fifth of the price of a bath. There were about 200,000 units a year being sold. Much work had gone into the energy-saving aspect of these and other domestic appliances. One such appliance was the microwave cooker, which was an important growing market.

A greater degree of controllability, better insulation and improved performance motors and compressors meant energy-saving in basic domestic appliances such as cookers, freezers, refrigerators and washing-machines. So too did newer appliances, such as slow cookers and sandwich-makers, which aided the convenience of food preparation.

Looking to the future, Mr. Hopkins stressed the importance of using electricity wisely. In industry it could help productivity and the country's competitiveness, and often the working environment. Low energy heat recovery techniques and applications were available in the commercial market, whilst, in the home, electricity would continue to become more competi-

tive and would help to provide a better life-style.

In conclusion, Mr. Hopkins wished the EAW continued success in their efforts to keep people better informed, and endorsed the slogan EAW director Mrs. Ann McMullen had given to conference delegates: "The three E's—Enjoyment, Enthusiasm and Electrical Interest".

THE ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN

Membership of the EAW is open to women, and there are 17 branches in the MANWEB area which meet regularly—usually once a month—either in the afternoon or the evening.

Meetings include talks, demonstrations, film shows and discussions on such topics as microwave cooking, food freezing, safety in the home, energy conservation, slow cooking, nuclear power, etc. At Christmas, Easter and holiday times, for instance, there may be special seasonal cookery demonstrations. Practical sessions include instruction on how to wire a plug, read your own meter and mend a fuse. New electrical appliances are constantly coming on to the market and branch members have an opportunity of hearing about these, discussing their merits and even suggesting improvements. Social events and visits to places of interest are also arranged, fostering a spirit of friendship.

Anyone interested in joining a branch, or wanting further information, should contact Mrs. Sheila Beese, Merseyside and North Wales Area Organiser, at 10 Wealstone Court, Plas Newton, Chester, Chester (0244) 43398.

MANWEB staff wishing to have more information may like to contact Mrs. Anne Reney-Smith, Head Office—telephone 2620.



Activity inside the new garage at Lister Drive.

Improved working environment for transport staff in Liverpool

Man in charge, Mr. Ron McShane (*Workshops Engineer*).



THE final move by staff from the old and inadequate Dickensian depot at Pumpfields in Liverpool has been made by members of our transport department, who now work at the recently-completed well-lit and spacious modern garage at Lister Drive.

This complex completes the second phase in the long-term development programme on the site of our Liverpool District office.

The garage was planned and designed by Messrs. Jack Hill (*Principal Engineer—Transport*), Ron McShane (*Workshop Engineer*), Ben Foster (*Senior Engineer—Civil*) and Bill Daniels (*1st engineer—Civil*).

It has a floor area of 1,600 square metres and houses 15 general servicing bays plus four vehicle lift bays. Situated centrally is a stores section and a two-storey office block.

The staff of 28 keep the wheels of half the Board's fleet turning for many thousands of miles each year. They service vehicles from Liverpool, North Mersey, Mid-Mersey, North Wirral and Mid-Cheshire Districts, ranging from 5-cwt. vans to 20-ton trucks.

The specially-designed paint-spraying section conforms to modern standards, with extractor fans and filters keeping working conditions comfortable and the atmosphere in the bay clean and dirt-free.

Having once worked at the Pumpfields depot, Mr. Jack Hill made the comment: "The new garage represents a great step forward in improved working conditions. I am sure that this move will be much appreciated by everyone concerned."

(More pictures overleaf)



Eric Macintosh
(motor mechanic).



Bernard O'Connor
(motor mechanic)



Jimmy Rooney
(chargehand motor mechanic)



Some of the staff who help to keep the wheels turning

◀ **Kevin Horne** *(apprentice)* and **Tommy Smith** *(motor mechanic).*

Eddie Gibson
(motor mechanic)



There is always administration and here we see Christine Bennett, a clerk on temporary loan from Head Office, and Joe Rohan *(workshop foreman).*





◀ Up and under
Fitting a new
exhaust
system is John
Turner
(motor
mechanic).



IN THE
STORES
Storekeeper
Reg Hill, left,
checks out an
item for Paul
Evans (motor
mechanic).



In amongst
the
replacement
parts are
Mike Mawson
(motor
mechanic),
left, and Mike
Hennessy
(chargehand
storekeeper).



◀ Apprentice
motor
mechanic
Tony Brown
works on the
springs of a
vehicle.

▼ Pictured in the paint shop, from left to right:
Frank Hudson, Tommy Foy (chargehand) and
Ted Howe.

▶ Jimmy Hampton,
who keeps the place
neat and tidy.





Mr. Bryan Ogden, left, Mrs. Joan Ditrlich and Mr. Eddie Carr.



Messrs. Gilbert Riley, left, and Bob Jowett.

Catering Teachers' Conference

—talks and demonstrations

A highly successful conference was held at Sealand Road for members of the Catering Teachers Association recently. Organised by Mrs. Joan Ditrlich, MANWEB Catering Development Engineer, the 76 delegates were welcomed by the chairman of the North West Branch, Mr. Gilbert Riley.

Mrs. Ditrlich outlined the day's agenda and introduced the speakers. First to speak was Liverpool District Commercial Engineer Bryan Ogden, who "did the electricity commercial" at the beginning of the conference instead of waiting for a "natural break".

He spoke about the power for the future and said that the world energy resources were limited—particularly with fossil fuels. He told his audience that the forecast energy gap at the end of the century could be met by the electricity industry if we were allowed to pursue a sensible nuclear policy and build new power stations.

A group of happy catering teachers at the conference, below, and right, Mr. Richard Wray demonstrates his company's pressurised deep-fat fryer.



He realised that many people had fears about nuclear power. The spent fuel rods from the present nuclear power station can be re-cycled and the uranium reclaimed for the new type of station based on a fast-breed reactor. The resulting waste was about two per cent of the original fuel rod, and the vitrification of this waste would appear to be a safe method of storing it, and intensive tests were being carried out to confirm that this was so.

Britain leads the world in safety standards in nuclear power stations, and every care was taken in the construction and operation of them. Not a single death had been caused by radiation in a nuclear power station in the 25 years or so of operation.

Much had been made of the alternative sources of power—the sun, sea, wind and geothermal energy. The electricity industry and the Government were carrying out research into these, but it was impractical



to expect them to provide some substantial source of new energy. They would be a marginal asset, but most had technical, practical or financial limitations. Nuclear power would be the only sure source to meet the country's energy needs over the next 40 or 50 years.

Following Mr. Ogden, the National Sales Manager of Tolworth Fast Food Equipment Ltd., Mr. Richard Wray, gave a demonstration of two of his company's products. A pressurised fryer was used to produce some deep-fried chicken, creating an interest in the product and, thanks to the delicious aroma in the next item on the agenda—luncheon.

Already in the Head Office restaurant, Richard Wray had part of the luncheon under way in his newly-imported American Hickory Cooker. As delegates gathered round this "giant pressure-cooker on wheels", Mr. Wray explained how it worked. Inside were 45 lb. of spare ribs, part of the luncheon, cooked under pressure. There was a small container with an electric element which heated and made hickory shavings smoulder. The smoke then permeated the food and gave it a distinctive flavour.

Opening up the cooker revealed the spare-ribs done to perfection, ready for cutting up for the luncheon—and very tasty they were too!

Cook-Chill

Starting the afternoon session, Mr. Eddie Carr, Food Services Manager of the Michelin Tyre Company, gave a case history of how his organisation solved the problem of feeding their workforce at their Stoke factory.

Increasing cost, inconsistent quality and concern over hygiene control prompted a change of system. To feed their 8,000 shift workers on a 160-acre factory complex through their nine canteens, they selected the *Cook-Chill* system of food preparation and storage, as this best suited the type of menu they wished to present.

The food for the cook-chill operation is prepared and cooked in the normal way, then it is blast-cooled



A trio of catering conference delegates.

to reduce the temperature quickly—in under an hour to +3 degrees Centigrade, just above freezing-point. Blast-chilling seals the food-cells quickly, preserving colour, flavour and moisture, and passing through the danger temperature zone—where bacteria flourish—very quickly. The chilled food can then be stored in a holding-room for up to six days.

Mr. Carr explained how the cooked food at Michelin was cooled on trolleys, which were wheeled into the holding-rooms and then held there for two days. Each day's food was colour-coded and the items numbered to prevent repeated handling and examination. The food was then transported to the satellite canteens, where it was regenerated for an hour before it was needed.

The man from Michelin gave details on how the food was ordered and cooked, and showed samples of their coding and ordering system.

The meeting was then shown an Electricity Council film, *'Time and Temperature'*, which also covered the subject of cook-chill. After the film came the *Open Forum*, with a lively and interesting question-and-answer session.

Energy Sales Manager Mr. Bob Jowett had intended to give a small talk, but allowed the *Open Forum* to over-run to allow delegates to satisfy their enquiries. He briefly concluded the meeting by assuring delegates that the electricity industry would provide all the power that they needed in the future.

A section of the audience at the catering teachers' conference.



North Wirral sharp shooters

Crack shots on the range at Wallasey

A MAN with an extensive knowledge of—and a passion for—guns is Mr. Ken Sculthorpe, of Wallasey, who works as one of our electricians at Lister Drive, in Liverpool District. A founder member of the former Clarence Dock Rifle Club over 25 years ago, Ken also helped to organise, in 1972, the MANWEB Full-Bore Rifle and Pistol Club, based at Thingwall Road in Liverpool.

Equally enthusiastic about revolvers and rifles is Ken's son, Gary, an electrician in our North Wirral District.

About three years ago, they saw the possibility of some vacant premises at the Board's Seaview Road depot being ideal for conversion into an indoor shooting range. At the request of the North Wirral District Sports and Social Club, the Board agreed to let them use the building.

Interest spread rapidly and, today, the MANWEB Rifle and Pistol Club boasts about 40 active members and associates, who enjoy a very full programme.

Monday nights are for training and practice sessions at pistol combat shooting. Wednesdays and Fridays are for full and small-bore pistol sessions, with the last half-hour reserved for visitors and guests who wish to try a shot or two. Thursday nights are given over to small-bore rifle tuition, while most Sundays are spent on the Territorial Army range at Altcar, near Formby, where full-bore rifle and clay-pigeon shooting takes place.

The club has a fully-equipped loading room, with

OUR COVER PICTURE shows busy activity in the fully-equipped loading room, as club members cast bullets and reload ammunition. We see, from left to right: Adrian Pharaoh, Gary Sculthorpe, Arthur Potts and Club Chairman Ken Sculthorpe.



Pictured, from left to right, with a tableful of trophies, we see Committee-men Gary Sculthorpe, Arthur Potts, Ken Sculthorpe and Adrian Pharaoh.

facilities for casting bullets and reloading ammunition of most calibres. More experienced club members are always on hand to give advice and instruction to newcomers.

Every November, an all-male party of members go on a huntin', shootin' and fishin' expedition to Garry Gualach, near Invergarry, in the Scottish Highlands. Here, the members have their own premises which they use as a base when braving the elements to go deer-stalking or follow other outdoor activities.

During the winter months, club members compete in a number of indoor matches, while in the summer they go on outdoor shoots.

Outgunned

In a recent competition against the Riverside Pistol Club, the opposition was easily outgunned when "at home" the MANWEB team won by a massive 710 to 430 points and "away" they ran out winners by a clear 100 points. A beautiful silver trophy now adorns the bar at the Seaview Road Social Club.

Club Chairman and Secretary Mr. Ken Sculthorpe commented: "The success of our team is due to an intensive training programme under the guidance of our coach, Mr. Phil Allan, who also instructs police and army teams. The training sessions are frequently graced by a couple of international competitors, who pass on hints and suggestions to club members.

"Visitors are always welcome. We have entertained people from as far away as Australia and Zambia. The club has a couple of spare pistols available for guests who wish to try their aim, and anyone wanting to shoot with a small-bore rifle can usually find a member more than willing to loan their personal gun."

Although a noisy and seemingly violent pastime, our reporter found these North Wirral gun-people are very friendly and helpful.

Getting down to it are rifleman Frank Mercer, left, and David Jones.



Shooting Costs

If you are thinking of taking up this exciting hobby, a pistol can be bought for around £60 to £80 second-hand. New it could cost between £100 and £150. Small-bore rifles go for about £50 to £70 in the second-hand market—about a third of the price of new models. A full-bore rifle, ex-Army but unused, could be picked up for about £40. A new one could cost about £200.

Ammunition works out at about twopence a round for .22 calibre, up to tenpence a round for .303 and .762 calibre, and 40 pence a round for hunting ammunition!



Checking their targets, from left to right: Ted Charnock, David Jones and Geoff Ingle.



Above: Taking careful aim at the "pop-up" targets are Phil Allen, left, and Ray Saunders.

Right: More pistol practice for these members, from left to right: Graham Roberts and husband and wife team Doreen and Mick Darnell.



With their ears protected from the noise of the explosion we see Caroline Ferguson and John Wright.



MANWEB HELP DISABLED

To mark the International Year of Disabled People, the electricity supply industry is making special efforts to extend and publicise the ways in which it can help the handicapped.

Outlining the special efforts MANWEB makes to help handicapped customers, Mr. Peter Hopkins, the Board's Chief Commercial Officer, said that they could be sure of receiving the extra care and advice they need from any MANWEB office or shop.

"Among the special services we offer to disabled people are the resiting of meters to make them more accessible, free visual safety checks of electric installations and appliances, and arrangements for meter readers to use specially-agreed passwords to enable blind or handicapped people to identify them," said Mr. Hopkins.

He added that a wide variety of special controls were available for electric appliances. These included purpose-designed cooker controls for blind people or those with weak grip; switches operated by foot and touch controls; and time-switches and automatic controls to reduce the number of journeys a disabled person needed to make around the home.

A descriptive leaflet—"Making Life Easier for Disabled People"—can be obtained from any MANWEB shop or office, and a portable display unit showing the special controls can be borrowed from

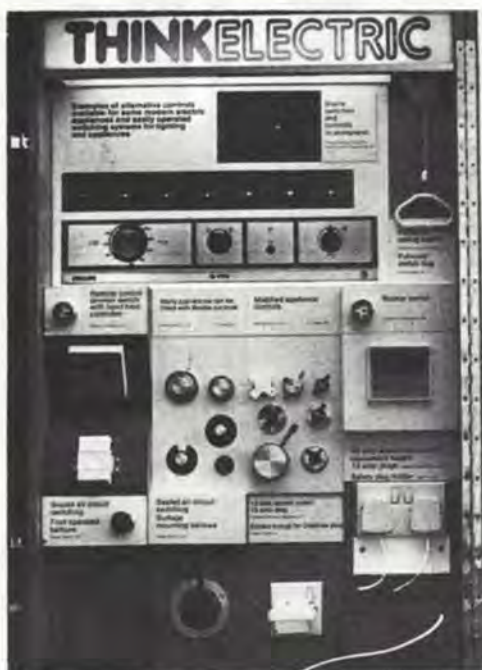
Head Office, Chester, by anyone organising exhibitions or similar events.

THANKS FOR THE DEM.

Our demonstrator in Mid-Mersey District, Mrs. Jane Hall, has been visiting Moss Brook Day School in Widnes, to give the youngsters a few tips on cooking and preparing dishes. This story, however, is different, because all the children at this school are handicapped in one way or another.

Despite this, they all enjoyed the visit and certainly learned a thing or two. Jane thought it all worth while when one little boy, whom, she was told, never responded to anything, started to jump up and down when he heard the "pinger" on the microwave oven signal that the food was ready to come out.

After one particular demonstration, the children and their teacher sent a card to Jane. The front was a montage of bits and pieces in the form of a floral design, and inside was a lovely "Thank You" message. The teacher wrote to tell Jane that the children had talked about her demonstration all the following day.



ELECTRICITY helps disabled people

Electric appliances can assist disabled people in their daily lives. Their convenience, cleanliness, in-built safety plus their automatic features help disabled people look after themselves and rely less on others.

"Making life easier for disabled people" shows how electricity helps with:

- Food storage, preparation and cooking
- Washing up and waste disposal
- Laundry
- Home cleaning
- Personal care
- Comfort



The portable display unit which is available for loan to interested organisations.



Chester Sports and Social Club members who rolled out the barrel to help the disabled. Teams of four were sponsored by their friends to push a barrel over a course. The barrel-pushers' aim to reach a £500 target to go to a charity which will help the disabled in the Chester area.

Rose Bowl Award

The Chester and District Branch of the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association have won the Frankland Moor Rose Bowl for their financial and practical support to BLESMA. The hard-working secretary and driving force in the branch is former MANWEB engineer Mr. Joe Bolton, who retired from the Board last year.

The area of the Chester and District Branch is roughly that of MANWEB south of the River Mersey, and is one of 90 or so branches throughout the country. The organisation raises money through flag-days, voluntary subscriptions and aid from rag days, etc.

The money is spent in helping the former military men in various ways, and—being run by people who suffer a similar sort of disability, the loss of one or more limbs—they know of the needs of the disabled.

BLESMA maintains two homes for its members—one in Scotland and the other in Blackpool. The Blackpool home can accommodate 40 and the Crieff home 30. Some of the occupants are residents, others attend for a holiday, and others to convalesce.

In the 60-strong Chester and District Branch, they have a committee of ten, who meet regularly to discuss fund-raising activities and organise visits to members in need. The present Lord Kitchener is the President of the local branch and takes an active interest.

Joe Bolton, who does much of the visiting for the Association, explains the sort of problems they resolve for their members: "We recently found a 90-year-old ex-

serviceman who lost a leg in the First World War. We have been able to help him in several ways. He lives in a fairly remote spot in North Wales and could not manage to decorate his hallway. Our national HQ authorised us to pay a decorator to do the work. We also found that his wife needed a new cooker and HQ paid for that. In addition, we have found that he is not receiving as much pension as we believe he should, and we hope to help him there."

Joe understands the problem only too well, for he lost a leg in a motor-cycle accident when carrying dispatches at the beginning of World War II. He was in the RAF and continued to serve as an electrician until the end of hostilities. He is one person who makes no concessions to his handicap. He has carried out the decoration of his smart Chester home, and also does the garden and "do-it-yourself" projects.

His wife, Betty, adds: "You know what he was doing yesterday? He was outside in the garden, up a ladder, painting the edge of the garage roof."

The Boltons have two sons, Christopher, a computer leader at Cheshire's County Hall, and Michael, a stock controller, whose wife Liz works at Sealand Road in the Cash Office. Betty is a former schoolteacher, and often accompanies Joe, helping by taking notes. She is also the wardrobe mistress for Chester's Little Theatre, and Joe helps out with lighting and electrics. They both enjoy caravanning.

Finally, Joe Bolton makes an appeal to readers of 'Contact' to let him know if they know of any former ex-serviceman who has lost a limb, either in the forces or in civilian life, and who needs help. His home telephone number is Chester 676535—he will be glad to help.

Mr. Joe Bolton pictured with the Rose Bowl won by the Chester and District Branch of BLESMA





Yardman at our Mold Depot, Mr. Stanley Jones, *centre right*, receives a parting handshake from Mr. Alan Wadcock on the occasion of his recent retirement.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. W. S. JONES

After working for many years as a labourer with the engineering gang at our former depot in Flint, Mr. William Stanley Jones transferred to Mold, where he became a yardman and gained the reputation of having one of the best-kept depots in MANWEB.

Recently, many colleagues gathered together to honour Mr. Jones when he retired after more than 25 years' service in our industry.

They heard Mr. Alan Wadcock (*District Administrative Officer*) speak of Mr. Jones' early life and his work with a building company on the construction of Connahs Quay Power Station and Kelsterton Technical College, before he joined the Board's cable gang.

He went on to thank Mr. Jones for his devotion to his job at the depot and said that he had heard that there was a huge home-decorating programme awaiting his retirement. Mr. Jones was then presented with a portable radio, an electric shaver and some cash from his workmates.

Married and living in Bagillt, Mr. Jones has a daughter, Alma, and a son, Clifford, who works as a driver at our Queensferry depot.

Mr. R. R. McDONNELL

A quiet farewell was how meter tester Mr. Robert Raymond McDonnell wanted to leave his job at Lister Drive to what, we hope, will be a long and happy retirement.

Bob has served the electricity supply industry for 47 years, joining the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department in 1934. After the war, the department for meter testing was found temporary accommodation at Lister Drive and they have been there since.

The expertise that Bob has gained over the years and his knowledge of meters will be hard to replace, and 1st engineer in charge of the section, David Crangle, said that he was sorry to see Bob retire.

Bob is married, and he and his wife, Peggy, have three grown-up children—a son who is a fireman, another who is a schoolteacher and a married daughter. They also have two grandsons. A rather reluctant recruit to the ranks of the MANWEB retired employees, he joins his younger brother Eric McDonnell, who was a supervisor of Old Swan shop until his retirement last year.

Now that he has more time on his hands, Bob will be improving his game of bowls and doing a bit of reading. We also believe he likes studying form and following the horses.

The "one or two" friends who got together at the "quiet" farewell ceremony held for Mr. Bob McDonnell, *seen here right*, saying his goodbye to his chief—Mr. David Crangle.





Mr. Lyn Price, left, wishing Mr. Eddie Ambrose a long and happy



Mr. Glyn Edwards pictured with some of his admirers, from left to right: Ann Pugh, Jean Davies, Susan Williams, Stella Jones, Mina Rodgers and Hazel Rogers.

Mr. W. E. AMBROSE

Starting his working life as an apprentice miller in Liverpool, young "Eddie" Ambrose moved on to a variety of jobs and was managing a grocery store before joining MANWEB as a meter reader/collector in 1951.

Five years later, he became a shop assistant and, in 1958, a sales representative. Two years later, he obtained professional qualifications and was appointed as an assistant consumers' engineer—a post he held until 1971, when he became 3rd engineer responsible for street lighting in our Oswestry District.

On behalf of Mr. Ambrose's many friends and colleagues, Mr. Lyn Price (*District Commercial*

Engineer) presented him with their farewell gift and good wishes for a long and happy retirement.

To send him happily on his way, the inevitable ode to "Ever-Ready Eddie" was presented by Mr. Henry Blackwell (*foreman—Commercial*).

Mr. A. G. EDWARDS

Nearly 50 years' service in the electricity supply industry is the proud work record of Mr. A. Glyn Edwards, who recently retired from his post as 3rd engineer—Commercial Supply, in Oswestry District.

On leaving school, he joined the town's electricity department as a junior clerk and progressed, via an apprenticeship, to become a Commercial assistant.

During the war years, Mr. Edwards served with the Royal Air Force and, on demobilisation in 1945, he returned to his job with the Corporation, later transferring to MANWEB.

Noted for his gentlemanly manner and his encyclopaedic knowledge of the District, Mr. Edwards will be greatly missed.

Tributes to his work and his friendship, including a special ode from Mr. Henry Blackwell (*foreman—Commercial*), preceded the presentation of a parting gift from his colleagues, handed over by Mr. Lyn Price (*District Commercial Engineer*), who wished Mr. and Mrs. Edwards many happy years of retirement together.

Liverpool Retired Group Visit

Connahs Quay was the destination for the retired employees who were members of the Liverpool Group. Their coach was met by the Station Manager, Mr. Keith Steward. A tour of the nature reserve, which is associated with the power station, had been arranged for members.

A wide variety of birds were spotted from the number of vantage points at which the group stopped. A jolly good time was had by all and our pictures show some of the ladies, *on the left*, and some of the gents, *on the right*, with Station Manager Keith Steward in the centre.



Blizzard Calls Appreciated

There are still echoes of the great April blizzard. Several of our Mersey colleagues have received personal letters from Mr. R. Lord, a Group Manager with the East Midlands Electricity Board, thanking them for the work they did in helping to restore supplies.

"You worked willingly in onerous conditions along with our own teams during this period, in complete harmony with each other and in good spirit," writes Mr. Lord.

"It was a magnificent effort and for this and your endeavours I and my Board are most grateful."

Mr. Michael Barnes, Chairman of the Electricity Consumers' Council, wrote in a letter to the Electricity Council:—

"There was clearly a great deal of movement of staff both within and between Boards, amounting to a national effort of considerable magnitude. We would be grateful if you would pass on our thanks to all those involved in this work (perhaps through the industry's own newspapers)." Only too happy to oblige!

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we report the deaths of the following former colleagues.

Mr. Arthur Boast (86), who was a former meter reader and later supervisor in the Dee Valley District, before his retirement.

Mr. John W. A. Casson (61), our former shop supervisor at Birkenhead until his early retirement in 1976.

Mr. Harry Ogden, a former meter reader in our Mid-Cheshire District prior to his ill-health retirement last year.

On other matters—a nice note from an Oswestry lady to the District engineering section:—

"I was delighted at the way some external wiring was carried out here. The men arrived at the time they stated (very rare nowadays) and worked without any fuss or time-wasting."

The bouquet goes to overhead linemen Messrs. **R. A. Conde** and **P. E. Gocher**.

And a touching letter of appreciation from a Borth (Dyfed) lady to Aberystwyth District:—

"The calamity was entirely my fault. I turned on the bath taps to soak some clothes . . . then the telephone rang . . . half an hour later I found water pouring through the ceiling and down the electric light wires. I knew this could be dangerous and phoned your office for advice."

"The lady telephonist gave me the reassurance I needed. Later that morning, one of your staff arrived and dealt most efficiently with the ceiling light. A week later, another electrician fitted a new ceiling rose and lampholder and all was well. I am most grateful to all concerned!"

The gratitude is due to electricians **Adrian Davies** and **Gordon Pugh**, and to the telephonist with the reassuring manner, **Mrs. Iona Stubbs**.

Mr. John Parry, a former clerk in our Clwyd District engineering section before his retirement in December 1972.

Mr. Joseph P. Pritchard (66), an electrician at Southport depot until his ill-health retirement in 1979.

Mr. William Shakespeare (83), a sub-station attendant in our Clwyd District prior to his retirement in December 1961.

Mr. Thomas M. Wilcock (82), an electrician at the St. Helens depot prior to ill-health retirement in 1951.

We extend our sincere sympathy to their families and friends.

FOR SALE

Cars

P Reg. Vauxhall Cavalier 1600L, white with black vinyl roof. Immaculate condition, one family owner from new. 43,000 miles, taxed until September, 12 months M.O.T., radio, anti-theft device, mud-flaps, new ignition lock and new exhaust system. £1,695 o.n.o. Telephone 051-489 4880.

Property

Southport—Semi-det. house in the Churchtown area of Southport, close to the Botanical Gardens. 3 bedrooms, L-shaped lounge/dining room, separate lounge, luxury fitted kitchen, luxury toilet/bathroom, toy room. Garage, car port, secluded gardens, with fruit trees. Patio doors to garden. £27,750. Telephone Southport 25737.

Torquay—Most attractive split-level modern semi-detached bungalow, enjoying panoramic views over Torbay and countryside. In good order throughout. Three beds, bath/wc, lounge, kitchen/diner, rec. hall, entrance porch, integral garage, good store room, night storage heating, double-glazing, well-stocked garden. £28,500 o.n.o. 'Phone 0803-311307 or write: Mrs. Anderson, 14 Audley Avenue, Torquay TQ2 7PB.

Frodsham—Modern semi-detached house in impeccable condition. Lounge, dining room, fully-fitted tiled kitchen, three bedrooms (one fully-fitted), fully-tiled pampas bathroom. £23,000. 'Phone Frodsham 35038.

Rhosnesni, Wrexham—Modern detached four-bedroomed house, lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, utility room. Garage, large gardens, corner plot in quiet cul-de-sac. £33,000 o.n.o. Telephone Wrexham 54755.

TO LET

Cornwall—Modern bungalow in delightful setting near Looe. Handy for South and West Coast. Sleeps 6—8 people. Children and pets welcome. 'Phone 0208-872804.