

Merseyside and North Wales  
Electricity Board

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## LONDON BOUND

LIVERPOOL District entrants scooped the main honours in the finals of the MANWEB Area Public Speaking Competition, which was held recently at Head Office.

The two winners—who will go on to represent us in the National Finals in London—were 29-years-old Katrina Jack, a clerical assistant at Lister Drive, and 31-years-old Jeff Scott (*1st engineer, Industrial Development*).

The subject Katrina chose was "Domestic Repairs"—delivered to an imaginary audience of Women's Institute members—while Jeff spoke on the theme "Liverpool—A Tale of Two Cities" to an annual JCC meeting of District staff.

Second place in the ladies' section went to Christine Lyon, a computer project leader at Head Office, while Jeff was followed home in the honours stakes by John Duggan, a Commercial assistant at Mid-Mersey District. Because Jeff is a previous winner, and therefore ineligible for the cash prize that goes with the honour, it was necessary to choose a third-placed entrant in the men's section, in the person of Derek Edwards, our Widnes shop supervisor, also bringing distinction to Mid-Mersey District.

In the chair for the day was Board Secretary Colin Leonard, and the panel of judges consisted of his now-retired predecessor John Scudamore, Board Member Sheila Garston, and Norman Butterworth, a retired Wirral headmaster.

The event was organised by Bill Bartlett, a senior engineer in the Management Services section.

# FACELIFT AT FRODSHAM

## *Modern shop in period setting*

**WITH** business outstripping the capacity usable for the increasing number of customers at the Board's Frodsham shop premises, our Civil Engineering and Marketing sections got together to plan a re-design scheme to make the best possible use of the space available.

As a result, the ground floor area has been doubled and, after the first couple of weeks' trading, sales have nearly trebled compared with the same period last year.

MANWEB first ventured into Frodsham in 1955, when a house at 102 Main Street was converted into a shop. Four years later, the dwelling next door was bought and used, in the main, for office and stores accommodation.

Now, the new scheme has involved the levelling of the ground floor of the two premises to make one large sales area. Walls have been removed and a huge steel beam fitted to support the upper floor. Here, the area has been split into two sections. One part is retained by the Board as a store-room and the rest has been let to

the restaurant next door.

An innovation at the shop is the installation of a small electric hoist which will be of great help to the staff when transferring microwave ovens, vacuum cleaners and other bulky appliances between floors. This could be a forerunner for other locations.

To help the aged and disabled customers, a ramp rather than a step leads from the street directly into the shop.

Local contractor Williams Tarr Limited carried out the conversion work under the supervision of our Head Office Civil section. The whole job from start to finish took just eight weeks.

The shop is sited in a conservation area and the Planning Department for the Vale Royal District Council were insistent that any alterations to 102

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Loading a fairly weighty vacuum cleaner in the new electric hoist at Frodsham shop is Lynn McKean

Adjudicators and winners in the MANWEB Area Public Speaking Competition. From left to right: Colin Leonard, Christine Lyon, John Scudamore, Katrina Jack, Norman Butterworth, Jeff Scott, Sheila Garston, John Duggan and Derek Edwards



**GUEST of honour at a recent meeting of the North Wirral Retired Staff Association was a very special MANWEB pensioner, in the person of Bill Grice, a meter reader prior to his retirement 30 years ago, who had celebrated his 90th birthday a few days previously!**

After cutting a huge birthday cake, Bill answered all kinds of questions about his long and active life, ranging from his experiences during the First World War (when wounded in the Dardanelles landing) to the reasons why he gave up riding his bike at the age of 89!

He was able to offer some sound advice to those who follow in his meter-reading footsteps today. It would seem that it was Bill's custom always to carry a "brew" of tea, sugar and condensed milk, wrapped in a piece of brown paper, when he was working "out of town". It seems that his request for a "drop of hot water" always produced a pot of tea and something to eat—even the odd lunch!

## NINETY NOT OUT

Nonagenarian Bill Grice cuts his cake, flanked by Lil Martland and Ken Corfield (Picture: Wirral News)



# KNOWSLEY CONFERENCE

## Industry in the 90s

IN the next 15 years, industry would need about 1,000 graduate engineers a year, trained in electrical utilisation, to introduce and manage electricity-based substitution projects. Chairman of the Electricity Council Philip Jones posed the question: "Where were these graduates to come from?"

He was addressing the "Knowsley Conference" at Prescot, Merseyside. The conference, aimed at taking industry into the 90s, was held over three days, with other notable speakers who included the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Reverend David Sheppard, Sir George Young, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, and the former Defence Minister Michael Heseltine.

"Energy Efficiency" was the subject of the second day of the conference, chaired by former Norweb Chairman Denis Bell.

Dr. Elliot Finer, Director of the Energy Efficiency Office of the Department of Energy, said that the UK energy bill was £35-billion and that his department's computer analysis of returns on energy savings measures showed, on average, a 21 per cent saving by companies who invested in energy saving projects.



Chairmen—Bryan Weston (MANWEB), left, and Philip Jones (Electricity Council)

It was personally depressing to Philip Jones that in Britain—the initiator of the Industrial Revolution—special campaigns are needed "to get our house in order", and he hoped that the "Industry Year" and "Energy Efficiency Year" campaigns would succeed.

The electricity industry was pursuing a wise use of energy policy and part of this was incorporated in the Electricity Council and Area Boards' Power for Efficiency and Productivity (PEP) Awards. In two years, the 56 winners of the awards had invested £5.4-million and saved £2-million on energy and a further £2-million in savings from other sources.

The ESI has been working closely with the academic community to ensure that electrical engineering tuition was in line with the future requirements of industry. This had been established at the centres of learning at Aston, Loughborough and Cambridge Universities.

With the bottom falling out of the oil market, this should force all fuel prices down. Mr. Jones was determined that the benefits from lower prices would be passed on to the customer and not the Exchequer. He stressed the need to invest in nuclear power to bring down the cost of electricity, and he cited the French experience.

Finally, he commented that a prosperous industry was good for Britain, and that it had the total and uncompromising backing of the electricity supply industry.

## Board support for Enterprise Agencies

THE twin objectives of the Warrington Business Promotion Bureau are to encourage local people to set up their own businesses and to assist existing small firms to become established and grow.

More business in the area is good for the community and for MANWEB.

Our picture on the right shows Mid-Mersey District Manager Glyn Norbury, left, on behalf of the Board, handing over a cheque for £1,000 in support of the Bureau, to its Manager, Brian Rick.



## ENERGY EXHIBIT

THE efficient use of electricity for profit was the theme of the MANWEB stand at a three-day energy exhibition staged at St. Helens Town Hall recently, organised by the Borough Council and Pilkington Insulation Ltd. to promote "Energy Efficiency Year" and "Industry Year". The stand, presented by Mid-Mersey District, was supported by several of our allied manufacturers.

In support of the exhibition we invited our industrial customers to a meeting to discuss the use of our new tariffs, and Head Office Principal Economist Terry Brookshaw was there to explain things. There was also representation from the Department of Trade and Industry, outlining Government aid to industry.

Forty local industrialists attended—clear demonstration of MANWEB's role in encouraging the efficient and effective use of electricity in industry.

To consolidate the goodwill

generated, local councillors and officials were invited to a dinner, when the guest speaker was Bryan Ogden, our Energy Marketing Manager. He outlined the industry's fuel policies, and the way in which we are encouraging the efficient use of energy by such measures as the "PEP" Awards in industry and the Civic Shield Awards in public sector housing.

Our colleagues at Mid-Mersey were left in no doubt that these functions had created a very favourable impression among local industrialists and councillors, paving the way for further solid progress in the future.

## Industry and commerce at Crewe

THE industrial and commercial services afforded by the Mid-Cheshire District of MANWEB were put on show at an exhibition staged in the Victoria Oakley Centre and sponsored by local Borough Councils.

Many aspects of the Board's aids to industry were displayed, and staff from the District were on hand to answer questions raised by the visitors.

Doug Barnes (1st engineer, Industrial), who organised our exhibit, commented: "The effort was well worthwhile. Despite the seemingly low attendance, those who did come along to our stand were definitely interested in what we had to offer. No doubt this type of presentation has long-term effects."

## FACELIFT AT FRODSHAM

• From page 1

At the entrance to the newly-fronted and redesigned MANWEB shop in Main Street, Frodsham, we see Syd Farrimond, left, and District Sales Supervisor Julian Jenkins



Main Street should be in keeping with the Victorian/Edwardian character of the town centre.

With the work completed, Frodsham Parish Council congratulated MANWEB on its investment in the town and for the fine effort made in retaining the image of the locality. They also appreciate that, at the same time, we have provided residents in the area with a much-improved modern shop with a wide range of domestic electrical appliances on display and with advice and service always available.

We are now awaiting Vale Royal District's clearance for the Board's new image to be displayed on the shop fascia panels.

With the interior building work and decorating completed and the hoardings removed, the refurbished shop was ready for its first customer. It was a hectic time for shop supervisor Syd Farrimond, who, as he made some last-minute

adjustments, received a telephone call informing him that his wife Janet was about to deliver their first child. Daughter Victoria arrived on the following day, weighing in at a healthy 7 lb. 14 ozs.

To help Syd cope with the increasing business, an extra full-time sales assistant has been appointed to complement the three part-time assistants. In addition, the "Focus" franchise stand has a part-time sales demonstrator available.

Sales Controller Bill Wakelin told us: "I am delighted with the way in which sales are going at our Frodsham shop. We really needed larger premises, as the potential for business in that area is pretty good. I expect the shop staff to do well."

And a final report from shop supervisor Syd Farrimond: "Mother and daughter are doing fine... sales are good too!"

Our Frodsham shop sales team, from left to right: Louise Blackburn (sales assistant), Lynne McKean, Sheila Rothwell and Jean Antrobus (part-time sales assistants)





Lyn Price, left, presents the first of three "Civic Shield" Awards to Heber Fearnall. Also pictured is Elizabeth Webb, Estates Manageress for the Muir Housing Association

## "Civic's" at Chester

TWENTY-FOUR flats for the elderly and disabled at Blacon, near Chester, were the subject of a "Civic Shield" Award presentation by Dee Valley District Commercial Manager Lyn Price to Heber Fearnall, Director of the Muir Housing Association.

At the same time, two more Awards for older properties refurbished to "Civic Shield" standards by the Association—12 flats at St. Mary's Hill and 41 bungalows at Blacon Point—were also handed over.

## WATER HEATING MONEY SAVERS

A SAVING of over £80 a year on an electricity bill would be good news for any family. Economies on this scale are now possible using the new domestic hot water cylinders on Economy 7 tariff. The purpose-made hot water cylinders were shown at the Domestic Heating and Plumbing Exhibition along with other money saving ideas using this low cost, night hours tariff.

There are an estimated 5½ million homes in Great Britain that could make significant cost savings on the electricity they use to heat water. A family of two adults and two children changing to the Economy 7 tariff and fitting a proper lagging jacket and an Economy 7 Controller would save about £32 a year on the cost of an immersion heater on the standard domestic tariff. Changing the immersion heater for a dual model would save a further £35 a year.

Even better savings are possible with the replacement of the old hot water system with the new Economy 7 cylinder. This has a capacity of 46 gallons, has factory fitted insulation, twin side entry immersion heaters and has been given the BS Kitemark BS49E. Estimated running costs would be only about £85 a year supplying 200 gallons of hot water a week. This hot water cost is less than half the use of an immersion heater on the normal tariff and one of the cheapest hot water systems offered by any fuel.

Two free leaflets for the public explain how the savings are possible for every home. "It's cheaper to heat water overnight — Heatelectric with

Economy 7" explains how existing cylinders can be adapted. "Cut your water heating costs with an Economy 7 cylinder" describes the new tank. Both leaflets give running cost figures.

Copies of the leaflets are available from MANWEB shops or from Head Office Publicity section.



"Fred's contribution to energy efficiency is taking the battery out of the doorbell..."

"Who'd ever believe that you work in the energy industry?"

## The electric attraction

SIXTY businessmen—double the normal attendance—turned up recently at a meeting of the North Wales Industrial and Commercial Business Club at Holywell to hear what MANWEB can do to help them.

Staff from Clwyd District were there to explain MANWEB's service to industry, and its special relevance to "Industry Year '86". Erstwhile District Manager Bob Hodson set the ball rolling with a summary of MANWEB activities on a District and Board-wide basis.

Next on stage was Derek Roberts (2nd engineer), who presented a paper on "Industry Year '86". Terry Dunne (2nd engineer) then took over and explained the "Energy for Life" concept, placing particular emphasis on our service of free advice to industry.

The meeting closed with a buffet meal, over which MANWEB staff were able to give individual advice.

### Manager

FROM the beginning of July, Terry Brookshaw will take the title of Tariffs and Economics Manager with the Head Office Commercial Department.



Some of Liverpool District's important and commercial customers, seated left, at the Tariff Workshop session. On the other side of the table, from left to right, we see MANWEB men Peter Jones, Graham Houghton, Terry Brookshaw and Jeff Scott

## TARIFF WORKSHOP IN LIVERPOOL

MORE than 40 representatives of our big industrial and commercial customers in Liverpool District—those who take their electricity supplies direct from our high-voltage network between 6,000 and 11,000 volts—attended a Tariff Workshop held at a Huyton hotel recently, for the purpose of introducing them to changes in tariffs coming into operation this year.

The organisations concerned are being affected by the introduction of supply capacity charges, the equalisation of the Tariff 8 unit rate and the Tariff 8N day rate, and the introduction of a new "multi-rate" Tariff M8.

There were explanatory talks from Terry Brookshaw (Principal Economist, Head Office) and Peter Jones (3rd engineer, Head Office). Terry outlined tariff trends, changes for 1986/

87, cost messages and energy management concepts. Peter concentrated on the introduction of the new Sigmatic metering equipment, recently developed to enable our big customers to make the most effective use of our tariffs, depending on their needs.

The occasion was organised by Jeff Scott (1st engineer, Industrial Development, Liverpool District), and was chaired by Graham Houghton (Load Development Engineer). On hand to give advice were Roger Critch (1st engineer, Commercial Development) and other members of the District's Load Development staff.

After introductory talks, our colleagues joined in "workshop" discussions with their visitors, getting down to the "nitty-gritty" of individual circumstances and demonstrating the use of the Sigmatic equipment in a practical way.

Guests from our North Mersey, Mid-Mersey and Dee Valley District staffs were also in attendance, and this innovation by Liverpool District may well be followed by similar occasions in other places.

District Manager Gerry Haughan stated: "There is no doubt that this is a very worthwhile experiment. It was our first seminar aimed at a specific tariff group, and those who attended made it clear that they had found the experience a valuable one."

## UNDERSTANDING COMPUTERS

OVER 200 members of staff from all parts of the MANWEB organisation, ranging from senior clerical through to managerial grades, have attended a series of 18 courses held over the past 15 months and designed to give them a deeper understanding of the uses of computers within the Board.

The ground covered included MANWEB's computer services organisation, the hardware and software used and an introduction to the development of computer systems. The form taken by the courses included talks, video presentations, visits to the computer and demonstrations of systems in use.

The courses were organised from the Computer Users Support Group and Forward Planning Group, led by senior executive officer Joe Norris.

Commented Joe: "They were a great success, and questionnaires completed by those who had taken part indicated that they had found the courses really useful. We are delighted with the outcome, and we shall be more than happy to organise some more, if demand is there."

Staff taking part in the 18th and final course. Demonstrating at the keyboard is Carol Gorman, with Joe Norris standing by



### TASTES GOOD!

MANWEB Chairman Bryan Weston samples a fruit jelly prepared as part of a demonstration at the Electric Living Foundation one-day seminar held at Board Head Office a short time ago.

Also pictured are Norah Riddington, right, Director-designate of the Foundation, and Erica Mayhew (Senior Dietician, Countess of Chester Hospital)





A pretty waitress serving from the soup kettle in the highly-efficient all-electric catering area at Bangor's Castle Hotel

## Hotel's 300-year up-date

THE decision to "Caterelectric" by proprietors Max and Pat Aitken has brought today's tasty cuisine to customers at the 300-year-old Castle Hotel in Bangor.

Helping them to select the right equipment to do the job was Dilys Leighton-Jones, a Commercial assistant in our Gwynedd District office.

When the hotel opened in 1691, it was called the Mitre Tavern. This title has been revived in the new Buttery Bar. Among the many famous people who have stayed at the hotel was Michael Faraday, a pioneer of the electricity industry. His ghost will no doubt be delighted with the hotel's latest acquisitions.

Once through the doors of the Castle Hotel, the noise from the traffic and the rush of the people in the City outside disappears. The quiet, sedate and inviting interior holds the memory of a peaceful past.

Since taking over the premises a few months ago, Max and Pat Aitken have made many improvements to bring the hotel up to the standards demanded by the 20th Century, yet have still managed to keep the charm and elegance which marked the 1690s.

While the food today is quickly prepared, utilising the very latest techniques afforded by electric catering equipment, it is served on wooden plates and dishes, in blissful memory of how the hotel's first customers would have dined.

One of the items of modern catering equip-

ment is a soup kettle. It is pure delight to see a pretty waitress in a black dress partially covered by a starched, white, frilly apron and headpiece, serving soup from the kettle into wooden bowls. Another memory of a bygone age is recalled with the bun-toaster.

Also installed is a convection oven, deep fryers, griddles, hot cupboards and a Bain Marie. With a 35-kilowatt load, the total cost of the "Caterelectric" equipment was just over £3,000.

At the Castle Hotel, a loved landmark in Bangor, where one can enjoy morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner, or simply a quiet drink in the bar, further work is planned. This includes opening up the beautiful ballroom to revive the age of the dinner dance.

"Mr. and Mrs. Aitken have done a tremendous job at the hotel," commented Dilys. "We have worked well together on the 'Caterelectric' project, and they know that MANWEB is always on hand and ready to help."

"I suggest to colleagues throughout the Board that, if they are in Bangor or passing through, they call in at the Castle Hotel and sample the atmosphere and the food for themselves."

# Gwynedd District team take league titles

THROUGHOUT our Gwynedd District, hotels, guest houses, restaurants, snack bars, pubs and other establishments where food is served, have been getting the "Caterelectric" message loud and clear.

Last year, the District's team came out on top of the Commercial Achievement league, with 125 per cent over target. They also led in the Domestic Load table with 206 per cent.

"Sales of catering and heavy-duty laundry equipment certainly helped," commented John Ellis (Load Development Engineer).

"Our success has been earned with a comparatively new team," he went on. "Since I was appointed in April last year, Brian Davies became a 2nd engineer in May and John Howard Hughes was appointed as Senior Commercial assistant a month later. In October, Len Dorr, a former Technical Trainee, took the other vacant post of 2nd engineer."

"Dilys Leighton-Jones was given the special task of pursuing the catering market with back-up from her colleagues. The results in this section of the market have been rewarding. In 1984/85, our total sales amounted to around £8,000. In the year just ended, we have achieved a remarkable £27,000 in commercial catering equipment sales."

In support of the campaign, the District took display stands at the Anglesey Show, Caernarfon and District Catering Exhibition and, with Harlech Frozen Foods, at Llangefni and Criccieth.

"We aim to show the Gwynedd caterers just what the Board has to offer in helping to make their businesses more profitable," continued John.

A MANWEB-manufacturer team, Dilys Leighton-Jones and Bruce Williams, pictured at the recent Commercial catering exhibition at Gwynedd District Office. They have worked together to supply heavy-duty laundry equipment to Gwynedd County Council. As Dilys says, "It's all load!"



Keeping up the pressure and setting their sights on the new targets, a week-long specialist exhibition was recently held at District Office, to which over 500 local catering establishments had been invited. A number of firm orders were taken, which amounted to sales worth nearly £2,000, and many new contacts made.

Dilys told our reporter that last year had seen a big increase in the sales of laundry equip-

ment. "The heavy-duty washing machines, dryers and rotary ironers are ideal for small hotels, guest houses and also for nursing homes," she added.

She has worked in close conjunction with Bruce Williams,

the Area Manager for Meile Commercial Equipment, and they have succeeded in landing the contract to supply laundry equipment to Gwynedd County Council for use in old people's homes, etc.

"Through the Board's consistent hard work in getting the 'Caterelectric' message across, C & C Catering now supply Gwynedd County Council with all their catering equipment."

"It's all load," she concluded.



Load Development Engineer John Ellis presents prizes to Gwyn Jones, left, and Jean Jones, right



## Successful exhibition

THE exhibition designed to encourage MANWEB staff to change to the Economy 7 tariff ended its tour of the Board's area at the Gwynedd District Office recently

In this widespread District, with outlying depots as far apart as Blaenau Ffestiniog, Llangefni and Pwllheli, of the 309 members of staff, 118 either visited the exhibition or sent in postal enquiries. This represented just over a 38 per cent response.

Of these, 14 elected for conversion to the Economy 7 tariff and a number of "bargain"

Economy 7 programmers and plug-in time switches were sold.

In the "Spot the Mistake" impromptu competition, Jean Jones, a clerk in Commercial section, won an Economy 7 programmer. The main prize of a tumbler dryer was won by craftsman electrician Gwyn Jones.

## NINE ON SEVEN

WITH every member of the Gwynedd District Load Development staff now Economy 7 customers, they are certainly proving that they believe in what they are promoting.

We wonder, has any other District got this 100 per cent record?

The nine wise folk from Gwynedd are, from

left to right, back row: Len Dorr (2nd engineer), Emyr Hughes (Commercial assistant), Barry Painter (2nd engineer), Bryan Williams (Commercial assistant), "R.J." Hughes and Brian Davies (2nd engineers). Front row: Dilys Leighton-Jones (Commercial assistant), John Ellis (Load Development Engineer) and John Howard Hughes (senior Commercial assistant).



# VIPs visit our Gwynedd District

FOLLOWING a recent Board Meeting held at Bodysgallen Hall, Llandudno, members took the opportunity to visit our Gwynedd District Offices.

They were joined by the Chief Officers at a buffet lunch, where they chatted with specially-invited guests. These included Alan Bain (*Director of Law and Administration, Anglesey Borough Council*), David Lloyd Jones (*Chief Executive, Arfon Borough Council*), Gwynne Morris-Jones (*Manager, Budenberg Gauge Company Limited*), Evan Roberts (*General Manager, Peboc Limited*), Owen Morris Roberts (*Chairman, Gwynedd County Council*) and Dafydd Wigley (*M.P. for Caernarfon*).

During the afternoon, Board Members, Chief Officers and the guests toured the offices and met members of the District staff at their work.

As usual, our man from 'CONTACT' was there too!



Board Member Sheila Garston, right, visits the Engineering Work Control section and has a chat with clerks Elizabeth Humphries, left, and Rosalind Parry.



Board Chairman Bryan Weston, left, seen here with Dafydd Wigley (M.P. for Caernarfon), centre, and Dick Owen, the recently-appointed Manager for Gwynedd District.



Left: Deputy Chairman Richard Gales, standing, talks with District Sales Supervisor Keith Leonard.



Right: Board Secretary Colin Leonard shows interest in the work being done by Pauline Jones (administrative assistant) in the Engineering section.

Malcolm Donaldson (principal assistant, General Services), standing right, explains the work being carried out in his section to Board Members Duncan McAuslan and Sheila Garston. Hard at work are, from left to right: clerical assistants Joyce Morris, Linda Owen and Sheila Jones.



While visiting the Commercial section, it was discovered that all the people in our picture enjoyed the benefits of "Economy 7" tariff. They are, from left to right: Brian Davies (2nd engineer), Dick Owen (Manager), Len Dorr (2nd engineer), Colin Leonard (Board Secretary), Bryan Weston (Chairman), John Ellis (Load Development Engineer) and Owen Morris Roberts (Chairman, Gwynedd County Council).

Emlyn Roberts (clerical assistant) explains his work on the computer to, from left to right: John Hooson (Board Member), Keith Jones (principal assistant, Accounts), Richard Gales (Deputy Chairman), David Boulton (Board Member), Doug Willacy (former Gwynedd District Manager, now in charge at Clwyd) and David Lloyd Jones (Chief Executive, Arfon Borough Council).



## SAFETY SCENE

**WITH the abysmal weather conditions during the past few weeks, work in our gardens has suffered. No doubt, however, between the showers, the keen were out with their lawnmowers—electric of course—and possibly, in haste, forgetting the golden rules of safe mowing.**

So to remind you . . .

If you use an extension cable, make sure the connector is wired correctly. Be certain that the half of the connector with the protruding pins is attached to the mower lead, and the socket half without the pins is on the mains side.

If your mower stops working, disconnect the electricity supply before looking for the fault.

Keep your eye on where the trailing cable lies. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for mowing up and down the lawn, moving away from the cable at all times.

Should you accidentally cut or entangle the trailing cable, disconnect the mains supply before making a repair.

Wear strong shoes—prefer-

ably "Totectors". Never mow your lawn while wearing slippers, sandals or loose-fitting footwear. Some people have been known to mow the lawn in their bare feet! It feels nice, but it's very dangerous.

If your neighbour, or your wife/husband calls you away from your mower, always switch off and unplug at the mains switch.

Keep young children and pets out of the way and never let the very young try using the mower.

Remember that the fuse in the plug gives no personal protection against electric shock. By utilising an appropriate Residual Current Device (which

is sometimes called an RCCB and/or ELCB), protection will be greatly enhanced. Fit these circuit-breakers in the mains socket supplying your lawnmower.

Always read carefully the manufacturer's safety instructions which accompany every electric lawn-mower sold of UK manufacture. Follow these and you will avoid accidents.

Last year, eight people in Great Britain were electrocuted while mowing their lawns. Many more received shocks which did not have fatal consequences.

Electric lawn-mowers are safe to use. **Very safe** if you follow the simple golden rules.

## More help for Damion

THE generous folk of North Mersey District responded to our story about little Damion Brady, the two-year-old son of Cathy, from North Wirral Customer Accounts section.

Roy Roughley has sent £253 to the appeal raised by his colleagues at Bootle. A charity bottle in the clubhouse, a session of Easter Bingo and a raffle, plus a collection around the office, raised the cash. In addition to Roy, Edna Courtney and

Jim Kelly were instrumental in arranging for the money to be raised.

Edna Holroyd of North Wirral tells us that the appeal is going well and there has been a response from several Districts. At the time of going to press, the fund had passed the £1,000 mark.

Damion suffers from muscular dystrophy and needs a motorised wheelchair to help him to get about. The cost is over £3,000 for the chair alone and, with a third of the money raised, the chair has been ordered. Edna tells us that they still need help to raise the cash and, if there is anything you can do, ring her on North Wirral 201.



District Manager Des Lock, centre, presents the awards to the captains of the winning teams, watched by Dennis Western, President of Hoylake Rugby Football Club, second from left. The youngsters are, from left to right: Hywel Williams (aged 12), Colin Ellis (aged 11), Stephen Jones (aged 9), Nicholas Hercules (aged 13) and Guy Roberts (aged 9)

## 'Economy 7' rugby tournament

FORTY teams of rugby players, aged between nine and 13 and drawn from places as far apart as Ruthin, Whitchurch, Northwich and Warrington, gathered at the ground of Hoylake Rugby Club a short time ago to take part in a MANWEB-sponsored "Economy 7 Mini-Sevens Tournament".

The young sportsmen (divided into teams by age groups) fought for honours throughout the afternoon. Each team comprised seven players—three forwards and four backs — and tremendous enthusiasm was the

order of the day.

The occasion was organised by the Hoylake Club, and we sponsored it to highlight the merits of "Economy 7" electricity, available during seven night hours at less than half price. Invited guests included builders, architects and representatives of local authorities who were likely to be interested in "Economy 7" installations in Medallion Homes and Civic Shield housing.

At the close of the afternoon, trophies and certificates were presented to the winners by North Wirral District Manager Des Lock.

An all-action shot taken at the tournament by Mike Hall from Head Office



## CASH AWARD WINNER

THROUGH the Employees' Suggestion Scheme, a total MANWEB Area Award of £400 has gone to Norman Studdart (2nd engineer) from our Liverpool District Load Development section.

The award was made for two suggestions submitted to introduce new technology by using computers for Heating Design and Electricity Tariff Comparisons.

The first program has now gone forward for consideration of a further award at National level.

Delighted with the recognition of his efforts, Norman told us: "Since completing these two programs, I have written a new 'Economy 7' comparison program, an improved version of the one circulated in our Districts last year. I have also devised a Home Energy Audit program. This is totally new and it takes

into account the initial costs of roof and cavity wall insulation, double glazing, draughtproofing and some other energy-saving measures.

"The computer is used to calculate annual savings on the electricity bill. It also estimates how long each energy-saving measure will take to pay for itself.

"In many instances, the results are quite startling," he concluded.

## LOOKING BACK

EACH week, the Wrexham Leader publishes a feature entitled "Headlines of the Past", detailing the events that made the news many years ago.

A recent edition in the "Thirty Years Ago" category reported on a vital soccer match, in which the Reds beat Bradford by one goal to nil at the Racecourse, thus pulling themselves clear of the relegation zone (there's nothing new in soccer!).

The vital goal, it seems, was scored by one Brian Griffiths, today a 1st engineer with the Load Development team at Clwyd District. Once the bug bites it seems that the enthusiasm stays—Brian still plays five-a-side football!

## HOTELIERS

NEW owners of the Branstone Hotel at Llandudno are Irene and Ted Shepherd, who will carry on the hotel's excellent reputation for good food and efficient service.

Irene, until recently, was a clerical assistant in the Engineering section in our Liverpool District. Her husband, Ted, has spent most of his working life in the catering trade.



## QUIZ CHAMPS

Head Office Sports and Social Club Secretary Gren Roberts, left, presents the awards to the winners of the Lunch-Time Quiz League who also won the "Knock-out" competition. The knowledgeable ones are, from left to right: Rob Jones, Rob Fallowfield, Paul Dolan and Mike Mole. On the right is Derek Taylor, the Quiz Section Secretary



A RECORD-BREAKER at Meadow Farm Fishery, Mickle Trafford, Chester, when he caught a 11¾-lb. rainbow trout, was Colin Bowyer, an installation inspector based at New Crane Street depot, in our Dee Valley District.

The previous best effort stood at 9½ lb.

We believe that there is no truth in the rumour that Colin has been approached by a colleague for private tuition.

## STORK VISITS DEE VALLEY

We offer congratulations to:—

Tony Peate (administrative assistant), of the Engineering section, and his wife Olive, on the birth of their third son, Scott.

Arlan Sing (2nd engineer, System) and his wife Li Huan, on the birth of their son, Alun.

## CHARITY JUMP

THE organiser of the successful fund-raising parachute jump by members of our Mid-Mersey District staff last year, Alan Davies, is at it again.

He is looking for participants

and sponsors for a parachute drop at Blackpool Airport on Saturday, 28th June.

Alan assures prospective skydivers that the experience is exhilarating and, after instruction, quite safe.

So come along—the fearless and the wealthy—get in touch with Alan at Mid-Mersey District on extension 238.

## Long Service

WE offer our congratulations to the following members of the Board's staff who have completed, during the month of May, 40, 30 or 20 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

40 YEARS—Clwyd District: **Malcolm I. Jones** (craftsman electrician).

30 YEARS—Liverpool District: **Roy Atkinson** and **Leslie Birmingham** (foremen, Engineering). Dee Valley District: **Thomas Emyr Jones** (chargehand storekeeper, Legacy). Head Office: **Jim Davies** (1st engineer, Transport).

20 YEARS—North Mersey District: **Jean Corrin** (clerk, General Services), **Gerry Hughes** (sub-station attendant), **Mick McBride** (meter operative) and **Bill Thornton** (craftsman joiner). Liverpool District: **Harry Kirkwood** and **William Stewart** (craftsmen, Metering). Mid-Mersey District: **William Crooks** (craftsman, overhead lines), **Arthur Cutts** (general duties assistant) and **Arthur Smith** (courier driver). Dee Valley District: **Margaret Haskey** (sales assistant, Wrexham shop), **Barry Price** (craftsman joiner), **David Williams** (craftsman electrician). Mid-Cheshire District: **John Ralphs** (craftsman joiner).

# RETIREMENTS

## Farewells to friends and colleagues

### Mr. G. A. THOMAS

AFTER 37 years' service with MANWEB, George Thomas (*principal assistant, Revenue*) at Head Office, has retired.

George began in 1949 in the former Sub-Area 3 office at Chester, serving successively in Costs and Stores and Nominal ledger sections. He joined the Internal Audit staff in 1968, moving into Revenue in 1974 as principal assistant in charge of monthly accounts and rechargeable debtors accounts.

At a gathering at Head Office he was presented with farewell gifts by Financial Director John Roberts.

George and his wife enjoy walking, but his biggest problem in retirement may be knowing which way to go, as he is equally fond of Cornwall and the more remote areas of Scotland.

### Mr. D. MORGAN

A HARD-WORKING fundraiser for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Duggie Morgan has now retired from his job in the Liverpool District Reporting Centre.

He joined the Board as a GPO-trained telephonist.

His interests include theatre, organ music and hi-fi. Funds were collected by colleagues to help towards turfing at Duggie's new home.

### Mrs. E. FITZGIBBON

STARTING work with the Board's Liverpool District, where she programmed work for the delivery teams, Eileen Fitzgibbon transferred to the North Mersey District in 1980 to work in the Electrical Inspection section.

She has now retired, and farewell gifts from colleagues included a slow cooker and jewellery.

Her hobby is learning languages and, at present, she is becoming quite fluent in German.

### Mr. G. MCCARTHY

ILL-HEALTH brought about early retirement for George McCarthy, a sub-station attendant in our Mid-Mersey District.

George's first job in life was with the NCB, and lasted for 25 years. He then moved on to work for Fibreglass and, when his "life began" at 40 years of age, he joined MANWEB as a craft attendant.

He served his colleagues for many years on various committees and as the safety representative.

George's son, Barry, was an apprentice, but left us in 1974.

Parting gifts from colleagues included a lawn mower and a book on gardening. A bouquet of flowers was presented to his wife, Hetty.

### Mrs. O. GORE

ILL-HEALTH brought about premature retirement for Olive Gore, a machine operator in the Printing and Stationery section at Head Office.

Olive had completed 37 years' service with the Board and, for a time during this period, operated the Addressograph equipment. Before the computer age, Olive handled all the electricity bills, power accounts, clock cards and the 'CONTACT' mailing list.

Her late husband, Sid, worked for us in the Financial Department prior to his sudden death four years ago.

At her farewell ceremony, Olive received many gifts from her friends. An official presentation took place when she received a gold bracelet from the hands of by Eddie Lunt (*senior executive officer, Administration*).



### Mr. H. C. TRENT

AFTER a two-stage career—22 years as an officer in the Royal Air Force and 15 years with MANWEB—H. C. "Nick" Trent (*executive officer, Stores Accounts*) has finally retired.

Just a few of Nick Trent's many friends and colleagues who gathered to wish him a long and happy retirement

Nick, who first joined us at the former Area 4 office at Rhostyllen, hails originally from Kent and is a keen fan of that county's cricket team. His retirement coincided with that of his wife, Pamela, who worked

at Chester Cathedral. Both are members of the English Speaking Union and great supporters of the National Trust, and they have plans to travel abroad enjoying to the full their newfound leisure.



Printing and stationery section staff at Head Office pictured at the farewell presentation to Olive Gore, in white jacket, seen receiving their parting gift from Eddie Lunt



Engineering section staff congregate to say their farewells to Harold Wilson, centre left, as he has a parting handshake from Denis Farquhar

Mr. H. WILSON  
HEAD Office senior engineer Harold Wilson has taken advantage of early retirement.

Harold started way back in 1942 with Halifax Corporation, returning after his National Service to work as a junior mains assistant.

After nationalisation, he worked with the YEB until 1956,

when he moved to the MEB. Harold joined MANWEB in 1961 in Liverpool on the Protection side, later moving to Chester and finally retiring as a senior engineer in the Technical section.

On behalf of his many friends, he was presented with parting gifts by Technical Engineering Manager Denis Farquhar.

### Mr. W. JONES

IT was way back in 1938 that young Walter Jones joined the staff of the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department, and, apart from an interruption during the war years, when he was a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, he has spent his entire life with the Corporation and MANWEB.

Between 1948 and 1970 he worked in the Internal Audit section, moving on to Revenue, where he became a principal assistant in 1972. Now Walter has left us to enjoy a well-earned retirement, and at an informal gathering of colleagues at Head Office, he was presented with a clock and DIY tools by Financial Director John Roberts.

Financial section colleagues, past and present, at the retirement ceremony held for Walter Jones, centre right, as he says goodbye to John Roberts



Wally Atherton, right, is presented with his carriage clock parting gift by John Lee (*Production Engineer*)

### Mr. J. W. ATHERTON

AFTER 32 years with MANWEB, Joseph Walter ("Wally") Atherton, a craftsman joiner with Mid-Mersey District, has retired.

Wally's first introduction to our industry came shortly after completing his military service in 1946, working for a firm of contractors at Warrington Power Station. Later, he applied for a job with MANWEB, working as a member of a gang led by a colourful character named Frank Higginbottom. On his retirement, Wally has threatened to

write a book on his escapades with the gang.

In 1957, he became a joiner's mate, graduating to joiner in 1959.

His passion is sea-fishing, and a day spent in a small boat off the Anglesey coast (*preferably in a rough sea, with engineers hanging over the side!*) was his idea of perfect relaxation. Colleagues at Mid-Mersey will miss the treat of his fresh fish on a Monday morning.

Wally, who has two daughters and one son, was presented with a carriage clock as a retirement gift, and there were flowers for his wife, Barbara.

## CONTACT FREE ADS

**CARAVAN**—Bargain, must sell owing to illness. Lunar Clubman 617. Cosalt twin axle, six-berth, Carver heater, double-glazed, separate bedroom with attractive louvre doors, Paloma water heater, refrigerator, full oven and grill. Only two years old and in absolute prime condition. Will accept £3,250 o.n.o. Tel. Southport (0704) 33216

**DINGHY**—Small, roof-top, with outboard motor, £180. Tel. Mid-Cheshire Internal 239.

**HI-FI**—Mordaunt Short Festival II speakers. NAD 7020A receiver (amp and tuner), £155 o.n.o. Tel. Machynlleth depot (Phil Dumayne).

**LATHE**—Wood-turning, with face plate attachment. Can be powered by most Black and Decker drills (not included). Complete with assortment of five quality wood-turning chisels, £40. Tel. Head Office Internal 2507 (Richard Thompson).

**ROOF/BOAT RACK**—Extra large, over six feet by four

feet. Very substantial. Will fit large Peugeot, Volvo Estate or Mini-bus. Cost over £100. Used two seasons. Will accept £45. Tel. Head Office Internal 2383 or Wrexham 840408 (Dick Storer).

### HOUSES

**ASTON PARK**—Well-built semi. Two reception rooms, large kitchen with archway to dining room, with patio doors to garden. Three good-sized bedrooms, one with mirror wardrobes. Tiled coloured bathroom. Cavity wall insulation, fully double-glazed, gas central heating. Garage. Many extras. Greenhouse/conservatory. £29,500. Tel. Chester 49592.

**EWLOE**—Modern three-bedroom detached. Gas central heating, with en suite shower room, garage, neat private gardens, quiet cul-de-sac. £31,950, including carpets, curtains and many fittings. Tel. Head Office Internal 2476 (Carole Walker).

**PRESTATYN**—Large, double-fronted, four-bedroom detached bungalow. Gas central heat-

ing, large lounge, kitchen/diner, utility room, separate garage. Large lawns at rear. Garden shed, patio. Close to beach and all amenities. £35,000. Tel. Prestatyn shop (Susan Nuttall).

**RAINHILL**—Three-bedroom detached house in quiet cul-de-sac. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory/utility room. Garage, greenhouse, gardens front and rear. Easy access to Liverpool, Warrington, St. Helens and motorways. £32,000. Tel. 051-430 9947 (after 5.00 p.m.).

### CARS

**FORD**—Fiesta 1300 Ghia. "B" reg. Rosso red. Five-speed. Sunroof. All the Ghia refinements. Six months' tax. In excellent condition. £4,750 o.n.o. Tel. 051-520 2125 (B. Luther-Davies).

### BIKES

**HONDA**—250 cc "Super Dream". Taxed. MOT to October 1986. £200 o.n.o. Tel. Nantwich 628890.

**HONDA**—CX 500V. Good condition. Taxed and tested. Low mileage. £450 o.n.o. Tel. Blaenau Ffestiniog (0766) 830349.

## RETIREMENTS FROM LISTER DRIVE

Mr. J. LIGGETT

NEARLY half a century of service in the electricity supply industry was the proud work record of Jim Liggett when he recently retired from his post as 2nd engineer in the Load Development section at Lister Drive.

Jim started his working life as an office boy with the former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department in February 1937. A few months later, he became an apprentice electrician.

Shortly after the outbreak of war, he was "called up" to join the RAF, where he qualified as an electrician. He was demobilised with the rank of sergeant in 1946.

On his return to the Corporation, he worked as an installation inspector, and, shortly after

MANWEB took over, he was appointed as assistant consumers' engineer. With the amalgamation of the Central and South Districts, he became 2nd engineer in the new Liverpool District.

In his time, Jim has designed many of the electric heating schemes operating in the District. He is well known among architects, builders and electrical contractors and is respected for the very high standards of his work.

A keen gardener, Jim was presented with an electric lawnmower as a parting gift from his friends and colleagues. In retirement he will continue to devote time to his church and Scouting activities. A widower, Jim has a son at college and a daughter who is a teacher.

We join with his many friends in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

Mr. E. J. BRYANS

TWO years after starting work with the former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department in 1939 as an apprentice electrician, Eric Bryans joined the Royal Navy.

He served aboard the cruiser *HMS Orion*, and saw a great deal of action with the Eastern Mediterranean Fleet. However, he returned to base in time for the Normandy landings.

In 1946, he was back with the Corporation, later being transferred to MANWEB. He was employed in contracting, workshops and on deliveries, prior to joining the Meter Test Station, from where he recently retired from his job as craftsman, Metering.

Eric is married to Nan, and they have a son, who has helped make them grandparents, and a daughter—an actress who recently played the lead role in *Educating Rita* at the Theatre Royal in York.

In retirement, Eric will be devoting more time to hobbies of wood-carving and engraving.

District Manager Gerry Haughan, left, says farewell to Jim Liggett

David Crangle (Senior Engineer), right, presents Eric Bryans with a parting gift



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TV. Beach and shops 2 mins. Tel: 076671 2614 (Ann Tudor).

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**TALACRE BEACH**—Luxury eight-berth caravan. All mod. cons. Electricity and gas, colour TV, flush w.c. and shower. On site with clubhouse, with swimming pool, tennis, bowls, etc. Tel. North Mersey internal 172/174 (Sue Wilson).

**ABERYSTWYTH**—Six-berth caravans from £35 per week (ten per cent discount for e.s.i. staff). Mains electricity, cooker, fridge and private toilet. Site facilities include a clubhouse, swimming pool, shop, restaurant, sauna, children's play area. Within easy walking distance of beach and town centre. Tel. 0970 3596 (Tomos Davies) after 5.00 p.m.

**CHWILOG**—Near Pwllheli, self-catering modernised country house to let, in peaceful, quiet position. Near to beaches. Apply to Mrs. A. Roberts, "Derlwyn", Chwillog, Pwllheli, Gwynedd. Tel. Chwillog 558.

**CRICCIETH**—overlooking village green. Sleeps 6. Colour

**SOMERSET**—A modern and spacious ground-floor flat for four people in the village of Berrow, situated on the Somerset coast within easy reach of Weston-super-Mare, Cheddar Gorge and the beautiful Quantock countryside. Tel Alan and Jean Fear, 0278 786899.

**WAENFAWR**, Gwynedd—in Snowdonia National Park. Modern house, sleeps 4. May–Sept. Tel: Gwynedd internal 2182 (Miss E. Parry).

## Obituary

IT is with deep regret that we record the deaths of the following former colleagues.

**Mr. M. Cartwright-Jones**, aged 49, a chargehand driver at the New Crane Street depot in Chester. He leaves a wife and two children.

**Mr. Eric Roberts**, aged 74, a former installation inspector in the North Wirral District prior to his retirement in 1972.

**Mr. William Stafford**, aged 85, a transport foreman in the North Wirral District, who retired in 1965.

**Mr. William Steer**, aged 79, a former draughtsman at Head Office prior to his retirement in 1970.

**Mr. Harold Strange**, aged 82, our Deputy Chief Accountant, prior to his retirement in 1967.

**Mr. Christopher Wall**, aged 87, a former installation inspector at Lister Drive, prior to his retirement in 1963.

**Mr. William Wood**, aged 61, a craft attendant in the North Wirral District.