

Contact



Fund Raisers
(see page 125)

Appointments . . .

Personnel Manager

Assistant Chief Accountant

Mr. Bob Evans, our North Wirral District Administrative Officer for the past three years, has been appointed as Assistant Chief Accountant—Revenue in succession to Mr. Geoff Barnes, who recently became the Chief Accountant.

A Wallasey man, Mr. Evans qualified as an accountant with a Liverpool firm in 1953. After Army service he joined MANWEB in 1958 at the former Head Office in Liverpool, later moving to the Board's Area Office at Chester.

In 1963 he went on secondment to Ghana to help develop the accountancy department of that country's electrical undertaking, returning to MANWEB in 1966. He became assistant internal auditor a year later, followed by a period as District Administrative Officer in our Mid-Cheshire District before moving to Birkenhead in 1975.

Mr. Evans, is 48, is married with three sons.

Dee Valley District Engineer

Mr. John Parry, MANWEB's District Engineer at Aberystwyth, has been appointed District Engineer for Dee Valley District. He succeeds Mr. Stan Roberts who was recently appointed an Assistant Chief Engineer at Head Office.

Mr. Parry began his career as a draughtsman with the South Wales Board, joining MANWEB as a construction engineer in 1954. Engineering posts in Anglesey and Aberystwyth Districts followed, and he was appointed District Engineer at Aberystwyth in 1975.

He enjoys stamp collecting, gardening and badminton, and takes an active interest in the affairs of his home village of Borth, managing the accounts of the village hall, badminton club, and sports and social club. He is married, with two sons and two daughters.

Dr. Jim McLennan, Head of Management Services for the Electricity Council in London, has been appointed MANWEB's Personnel Manager. He will be responsible for all personnel matters and will also deputise for the Board's Secretary.

Born in Paris and brought up in Scotland, Dr. McLennan gained a Ph.D. in chemistry at Edinburgh University. He worked for Crossfields at Warrington for four years, becoming a plant manager, and then served with a firm of management consultants before joining the staff of the Electricity Council four years ago in the Industrial Relations department.

Dr. McLennan, who is 42, is a keen sportsman, enjoying golf, squash and tennis, and formerly played rugby. He has been active in local affairs, serving as a Parish councillor and on his church committee.

His wife, Lorna, is a part-time speech therapist and hopes to continue this work when the family moves to the Chester area. They have one son and three daughters.



Bob Evans



John Parry



Jim McLennan

Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE
OF THE
MERSEYSIDE AND
NORTH WALES
ELECTRICITY BOARD

Vol. 30 No. 6

June 1978

On other
pages . . .

Safety Representatives	120
Management Conference	121
People	122
Talking Notes	123
Trade Fair	128
Long Service Dee Valley District	129
MANWEB's Kitchen Plan	130
Long Service on Merseyside	132
EAW Branch at Colwyn Bay	134
Long Service Clwyd District	135
Retirements	136

A CEASELESS QUEST

THE development of the Industrial Revolution created a whole host of new dangers for the workpeople of Britain. The world in which they earned their living quickly became full of objects which were hot, heavy, sharp or fast-moving, while new raw materials and working environments brought with them the threat of a wide range of industrial diseases.

The growth of these problems inevitably led to efforts by trade unions, Governments, and the more enlightened employers, to reduce or eliminate the hazards created by the new order.

This battle has been fought without pause ever since, and the *Health and Safety at Work Act* is but the latest milestone on the long road towards the best possible working conditions from the health and safety point of view.

The electricity supply industry has always been in the forefront in the search for such conditions. Indeed, our industry could fairly be described as a pacemaker in this field of effort, with the duty to promote health and safety written into the terms of reference of our consultative machinery.

The Act's regulations, which place considerable responsibility on those of our colleagues nominated as Safety Representatives—will be accepted and implemented in letter and spirit. The new Safety Representatives merit the support and assistance of us all.

Editorial Staff

Phone H.O.

Keith Baldwin 2164
John F. Perry 2167
Sam Doughty 2166

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

Safety Representatives Appointed

Joint venture by MANWEB and Trade Unions

A series of courses providing basic training for our newly-appointed 'Safety Representatives' under the provisions of the *Health and Safety at Work Act* was recently launched as a joint venture by MANWEB and our trade unions.

Regulations under the Act—operative from October 1st—provide for the nomination of the new 'Safety Reps' by the unions, responsible to the unions for the implementation of the Act's provisions.

The first course. From left to right, standing: Messrs. Eric Richardson (2nd engineer, Systems, North Mersey), Joe Rohan (chargehand mechanical fitter, Liverpool), Gordon Kirkham (energy sales representative, Mid-Mersey), Mike Jones (electrician, Clwyd), Brian Owen (3rd engineer—Production, Gwynedd), Chris Goff (Electricity Council, Capenhurst), Ray Pugh (linesman, Aberystwyth) and guest speaker Harry Shorrocks (EPEA representative and 1st engineer—Production, North Wirral). Seated: Messrs. Malcolm Baker (Electricity Council, Capenhurst), Bill Foster (jointer, Clwyd), John Evans (1st engineer—Systems, Clwyd), Brian Williams (linesman, Aberystwyth), Gerald Clarke (Administrative assistant, Mid-Cheshire), Paul McHugh (meter reader/collector, Clwyd) and Mrs. Vicki Roberts (engineering clerical assistant, Liverpool).

The week-long courses cover many aspects of the duties of the Safety Reps, including understanding of the Act itself, the responsibilities of employers and staff in working towards increased safety, the study of potential hazards, workplace inspection, accident investigation, and other related topics.

The first course was introduced to those taking part by Group Manager Jim Barraclough. Speakers during the busy week which followed included Board legal and safety specialists, and representatives of the unions (NALGO, TGWU, GMWU, and EPEA). Those attending included Safety Reps from seven MANWEB Districts and from the Electricity Council's research establishment at Capenhurst.

Among those representing her colleagues in Liverpool District was Vicki Roberts, our *Contact* correspondent at Lister Drive. Vicki told us that the course—and all the hard work put in by the speakers—was much appreciated by the Safety Reps, who felt it had been of great value in helping them to understand their new responsibilities.

Course Chairman was Eric Richardson, of the Education and Training section.

THE NEW SAFETY REPS

The main responsibility of the new Safety Representatives will be to protect the safety and health of their colleagues by a wide variety of activities, to keep their 'constituents' informed, and to encourage co-operation between management and staff in promoting health and safety measures.



“The Challenges Ahead”

—Guest Speaker

MAJOR challenges facing the electricity supply industry between now and the end of the Century were spelled out by Mr. Roy Berridge, Chairman of the South of Scotland Electricity Board, who was guest speaker at MANWEB's Management Conference, held recently at Head Office.

The Conference was attended by managerial staff from all Districts and Head Office departments.

Mr. Berridge said that the industry had a “vital and increasing role” to play in preventing the development of a crisis as the demand for energy outstripped the likely production of fossil fuels. It would be the responsibility of our industry—

- * To convince the country that the only practical way in which this gap could be bridged was by the generation of nuclear power.
- * To promote the efficient use of electricity as part of Britain's developing pattern of energy use.
- * To convince our customers that we were an efficient and caring industry.
- * To give a lead to employees and trade unions in all these areas.
- * To participate ‘constructively and with goodwill’ in the ‘inevitable development of worker participation.’

Analysing present and future energy use patterns in Britain, Mr. Berridge said that today we used the equivalent of 350 million tons of coal each year. By 2000 AD this figure would rise to somewhere between 450 and 550 million.

Forecasts of future availability of coal, oil, gas, and ‘renewable’ energy sources such as hydro, solar, tidal, wave and wind power left the inescapable conclusion that only the increased development of

nuclear electricity generation could guarantee that our future energy needs would be met.

“We may not be entirely happy about bequeathing nuclear waste to our descendants, but we cannot afford to bequeath them an energy shortage because we have used up all the fossil fuels,” commented Mr. Berridge.

The Conference theme was “*The Challenge of Social and Economic Change*,” and after welcoming the participants Board Chairman Ben Hastings looked back to last year's conference and hazarded some forecasts on likely developments during the year ahead.

On the thorny question of debt collection he said that the past year had brought ‘very encouraging results,’ while the adoption of the industry's ‘*Code of Practice*’ had been of great help in dealing with customers suffering genuine hardship.

‘Units unaccounted for’ continued to be a major headache for MANWEB, and there was little doubt that the theft of electricity was responsible for a significant part of these losses. Electricity ‘fiddlers’ might be making off with anything between £3 million and £6 million a year. A great deal of effort was being put into stamping out the theft of electricity, and this would continue to be a prime target during 1978/79.

Other possible future developments touched on by the Chairman included—

- * The need for closer scrutiny of expenditure on materials and services.
- * A probable increase of training activity and work experience training for young people as our contribution towards reducing the problem of unemployment.
- * The possibility of a shorter working week for the industry.
- * Hopes for even more competitive Off-Peak tariffs.
- * A national initiative on the theme of ‘*Customer Care*.’
- * Joint consultation of a more fundamental nature than ever before.
- * The industry's own efforts to achieve unity of purpose, despite Parliament's failure to legislate towards this end.

The conference participants split for two sessions into six syndicates, discussing between them the three related topics of ‘*Communications*,’ ‘*The Management of Change*,’ and ‘*Consumer and Public Relations*.’

During the closing session, under the guidance of Deputy Chairman Richard Gales, spokesmen for each syndicate summarised their discussions and conclusions. Their written recommendations will be the subject of close study by senior management.

People . . .

TOWN MAYOR

Recently installed as the Town Mayor of Oswestry is a man from MANWEB, Mr. W. Owen Jones, a meter reader/collector with the Board and based at our Maesbury Road District Office.

Keeping alive a family tradition—his father being a Councillor—he followed in his footsteps when five years ago, Owen was elected on to Oswestry Borough Council and the Oswestry Town Council. He is the present Vice-Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee on the Borough Council.

As the Town Mayor, one of his first commitments was to agree to start a sponsored ten-mile walk in aid of the Town's Senior Citizens Club. He tells us that not only will he start the walk but will take an active part in it—and complete it—at no little cost to his MANWEB sponsor colleagues.

Mr. Jones joined the Board in 1950 as an electrician, and stayed with us until 1963 when he



Mr. Mayor, Councillor W. Owen Jones

left to go into business on his own account.

Twelve years later he came back to us on the meter reading section.

Away from MANWEB and Council work, Mr. Jones spends his leisure time reading, gardening or listening to music.

He is married to Gwen and they have three children, Robert, Deborah and Christine.

We join with friends and colleagues in wishing Owen and Gwen a happy, healthy and very successful year of office.

MERGER

With effect from 1st August, our Head Office Computer Service Unit (at present part of the Financial Department), and the Management Services Unit, will be integrated under the direction of Mr. Colin Leonard, who will assume the designation of Management Services Controller. The new unit will be known as the Management Services Department.

No major implications in staffing are envisaged, but minor changes in methods of working may become desirable. Staff will be fully consulted in such circumstances.

DEPUTY MAYOR



Wrexham Maelor's new Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress, Councillor John J. Myers and Mrs. Glensy Myers.

(Photo: Mr. Tom Hunter, Wrexham)

Service to the public seems to be the complete life style of Mr. John J. Myers, for in addition to his sterling work in the electricity supply industry for over 40 years, he has, under his title Councillor Myers, now been installed as Wrexham Maelor's Deputy Mayor.

As a Councillor, John has represented the Wat's Dyke Ward on Wrexham Maelor Council since 1970. He is a member of the executive committee of Wrexham Conservative Association and a past chairman of the Wat's Dyke Conservative committee. His special interests are in youth work and Community centres. He is a former chairman of the Wales Home Safety committee.

His brother, Philip, is the Chief Constable of North Wales.

The Deputy Mayoress serves on local committees for the blind, the Conservative Association and has an active interest in the Girl Guide Movement.

Our wish for John and Glensy is that they both continue to enjoy good health and that they will be able to draw on reserves of stamina, especially over the next twelve months.

Talking Notes

SPRACHEN SIE DEUTSCH

BUSILY brushing up on German phrases—with the aid of a book—and intellectual friends—are three members of our Dee Valley District staff. Their hard study is not because they are preparing for a holiday—well not exactly—nor have they seen an advertisement for well paid jobs with die Deutsche Elektrizitats-behorde!

No, it is simply that our trio of **Emyr James, Janet Evans** and **Margaret Luckock** will be packing their bags and boarding a coach on 30th August to travel to West Germany where they will take part in "Europa Tagge 1978"—an annual festival of Music and the Arts.

Both girls, Janet who works in the typing pool and Margaret from the Drawing Office, are singers with the very popular Wrexham choral group "The James-Lambert Singers".

Emyr, however, the District records draughtsman, has more

on his mind than German phrases for he has the demanding role as musical director of this talented group.

The past six months has been an extremely busy time for Emyr and his singers who have sung at seventeen professional engagements.

The group's repertoire has a highly commercial sound with a very infectious rhythm. This will be vouched for by members of our Clwyd District staff who recently went along to a club in Rhyl to hear a performance.

Their programme carries many memorable songs featured by a host of famous artists—Neil Sedaka, Michel Legrande, James Last, The Stylistics, Abba and the Brotherhood of Man.

"The James-Lambert Singers" have also shared the same bill as Ken Dodd, Tom O'Connor, Semprini, Mecca's Miss World and lots of other well-known personalities from stage and TV.

It is nice to know that the "Singers" have their grass roots in MANWEB for it was at Rhostyllen in the days of our former Area 4 that it all began with a modest ensemble of vocalists who performed at concerts for various charities. In those days they were known as "The MANWEB Glee Club".

Emyr looks back with nostalgia to those happy days. "Then," he commented, "the pressures were minimal. The singers derived so much enjoyment from what they did, even when things went all wrong, for theirs was the world of the true amateur.

"Now," he went on, "the pressures are ever increasing. Standards are higher, presentation has to be impeccable and each performance geared to meet the demands of an audience listening to and watching a professional performance."

The "Singers" are now putting in plenty of practice and rehearsals in preparation for their German tour which takes them to Markisher Kries, an area of Westphalia. At the famous

Preparing for their trip to West Germany we see, from left to right: Margaret Luckock, Janet Evans and Emyr James.



Castle of Altena, they will sing their own special kind of music in a programme with the more conventional choral sounds by choirs from Belgium, France, Holland, Sweden and Yugoslavia.

"The James-Lambert Singers", together with Emyr's second group, the "Maletones", will carry the flag for Wales.

Our very best wishes go with them all on what must surely prove to be a most rewarding and memorable experience.

And girls—judging by what we see in the picture—the first German word you should learn is "Nein"!

New President

The former chairman of the Chester and North Wales Branch of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants, **Mr. Jim Barraclough** (Group Manager) was recently installed as the new President of the Merseyside Branch.



Jim Barraclough wearing his badge of office.

Born in the Wrexham area, Jim was educated at Ruabon Grammar School and University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

He has held various appointments with MANWEB prior to becoming the Group Manager responsible for our Dee Valley, Clwyd, Gwynedd and Aberystwyth Districts.

He is married and has three sons. He takes a keen interest in sport, especially golf, and enjoys the theatre and music.

Going and Coming

Since re-joining the Board some two-and-a-half years ago, **Menna Hughes Roberts** has made quite an impact with customers and staff while carrying out her duties as our Dee Valley District demonstrator.

Menna first joined us in 1957 as a trainee demonstrator at Caernarfon. Three years later she married Ifor and started a family—Tommy and Ffion.

Now, she has decided to leave her job in order to devote more time to her family and home.

Taking over as demonstrator is 22-year-old **Maureen Edwards**. After leaving Mold High School in 1974, she studied at the Birmingham College of Food and Domestic Arts.

About twelve months ago she started work as a freelance demonstrator, coupling this as a volunteer teacher in the Adult Literacy Scheme. She likes dressmaking and is keen on golf as a sport.

Within a matter of days after joining the Board, Maureen was enrolled as a member of a panel of experts at a gardeners evening. We hasten to add that it was not her green fingers which got her the invitation but her expert knowledge of deep freezing the produce from a successful vegetable garden!

Maureen's husband Ian is the talented striker playing for



Menna, left, hands over her work load to Maureen.

Chester Football Club, who was chosen for the Welsh team on their trip to Iran some time ago.

We wish Menna lots of happy hours in her very early retirement and to Maureen, we hope that she will enjoy her work in our Dee Valley District.

New Champ

This year's Liverpool District Ladies' Darts Championship was won by **Janet Metcalfe** when she beat reigning champion Marjorie Rowe in a best-of-three-games final. Marjorie had held the title for the past two years.

Janet, who works in pre-payments section, plays regularly for the Electric Supply team in the Old Swan and District Amateur Darts League.

Nalگو Golf Competition

Golfers who are members of Nalگو and who work for MANWEB or the Electricity Council at Capenhurst, are invited to compete for the "John Greenhalgh Memorial Trophy" at the Abergele and Pensarn Golf Club on Friday, 14th July 1978.

Including the major trophy, there will be four prizes to be won. Embedded in the tournament will be a "Two's" competition.

Cost of entry, which includes green fees, is £2.80.

The trophy has been donated by the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Branch of Nalگو in memory of a former member and official of the Union, **John Greenhalgh**.

John was an executive officer with MANWEB in the Personnel section at Head Office. His



Here with the new golf trophy—complete with champagne, are Ted Kelly, left, and Bob Blair.

untimely death at the age of 46, came whilst he was on holiday in Majorca in 1975.

He had a long-term interest in Nalگو affairs, locally and nationally. At the time of his death he was Chairman of the National Electricity Committee, a member of the Nalگو National Executive Council, the National Joint Council and the NJC Negotiating Committee.

Application forms for entry in the golf competition are available from Nalگو Branch representatives or from **Mike Whitenburgh** or **Stuart Clark**, both at Head Office—telephone 2126 or 2318.

Completed entry forms should be returned by 28th June.

Back Home

Just returned from an international seminar held by IBM

at their Educational Centre at La Hulpe in Belgium, is **Charles A. Lynch**, our Computer Applications Engineer at Head Office.

He was one of a select group of specialist speakers coming from the United States of America, Austria, Great Britain and Italy, to address delegates to the seminar on "Public Utilities, Operations and Engineering".

An "old boy" of Sir John Deane's Grammar School at Northwich, Charles joined MANWEB about ten years ago after taking an Honours Degree in Engineering Science at Oxford University. Later he took an M.Sc. course, then went on to secure his Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Fund Raisers

During recent months, ladies from our Revenue section at Head Office have been busy raising funds for Leukaemia research. The main organisers have been **Pauline Dodd** and **Emily Worthington**.

Their efforts to raise money

OUR COVER PICTURE shows Chairman Ben Hastings pouring out the cash from the whisky bottle 'bank.' Looking on are, from left to right, Emily Worthington, Pauline Dodd and Hilary Holden

have included a sponsored slim, forfeits for breaking pledges made for Lent, raffles, cake-making sessions and a well-supported sponsored walk up Moel Famau.

A gallon whisky bottle was used as the money store and when this was filled, the only practical way to get at the cash was to break the bottle.

Our Chairman, **Ben Hastings** readily responded to the request for him to do the honours and with a deft stroke

of the mallet, the cash contents spilled out.

Then, on behalf of all who had subscribed to the fund, a total amount of £321.82 was handed over to Hilary Holden, the local representative of the Leukaemia Research Fund.

Near Miss

MANWEB representatives in the recent finals of the Electricity Council Public Speaking Competition came up against some very stiff opposition. Despite this, they came home with a third place.

This was won by **Alan Edwards**, our North Wirral District's Commercial Supply engineer. His trophy was a small replica of the winner's shield.

In the Women's section, **Pat Dando** (clerk, Revenue) at Head Office, at her first attempt, unfortunately suffered a last minute attack of nerves which prevented her from putting over a very good talk.

Public speaker, Alan Edwards, with his replica trophy shown here next to the winner's shield.



Wedding

Our heartiest congratulations go to the members of our staff who played the principal roles at a wedding which took place recently at the Morfa Hall in Rhyl.



Beautiful bride Janice Blazier seen here with the man she married, Raymond Gambell, right, and his best man, Mark Holland.

Bride and groom were Miss **Janice Blazier** (*Bonus section*), Clwyd District and **Raymond Gambell** (*power accounts*), Head Office.

Making up a MANWEB trio was **Mark Holland** (*quarterly accounts*), Head Office, who performed the duties as the Best Man.

The happy couple left Mark behind when they went off to Beaumaris for their honeymoon!

Celebration

Staff in the General Services section at Clwyd District had a surprise in store for their chief, **Errol Griffiths** (*principal assistant*) when he arrived at the office recently.

His desk was decorated with bunting, streamers, flags and

notices congratulating him on his birthday and on his 40 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

T.T. Champions

It's not only MANWEB footballers who can gain promotion to the top division for our table tennis team have also moved up to the First Division of the Chester and District League.

Our triumphant trio making up the team are **Pat Byrne** (*Printing and Stationery*), captain, **Nigel Crossley** (*Superannuation*) and **Neil Allmark** (*Drawing Office*).

They won the Division Two title in fine style by scoring 28 points out of a possible 36, losing only two of their 18 games.



The top team trio showing off their table tennis trophies are, from left to right, Neil Allmark, Pat Byrne and Nigel Crossley.

Co-Authors

In this month's issue of "Distribution Developments", a publication produced by the Electricity Council, there is an article on 11 kV overhead line fault detection. This is the joint effort from David Aubrey of the Electricity Council Research Centre and our own, **John L. Hughes**, System Engineer for Clwyd District.

The Way Up!

When colleagues at Lister Drive gathered to wish "Good Luck" to **Bob Jowett** (*District Commercial Engineer*) on the occasion of his move to Chester, the point was made that all members of the District's original management team have now 'moved up' to Head Office.

Former District Engineer, **Gerry Haughan** is now Deputy Chief Engineer, while District Administrative Officer, **Tom Hamilton** and Bob Jowett himself are now Assistant Chief Officers.

Nuts on Scouting!

One of the top awards of the Scouting movement, the Silver Acorn, has been presented to two MANWEB men, one retired and one still in harness.

They are **Ken Wynn**, 3rd engineer in the Head Office Technical Drawing Office, and **Bill MacLachlan** now retired, but formerly a material controller in the North Wirral District.

As recipients of this award for exceptional service to scouting, they both attended this year's St. Georges Day parade at Windsor Castle where her Majesty the Queen took the salute. One incident during the parade moved both the MANWEB men.

As the Queen moved along the line of disabled scouts, shaking each by the hand and chatting briefly, she reached one lad on crutches. He shook

her hand, chatted, and suddenly reached out with both hands, patted her arms, ran his fingers up her arms, shoulders, touched her hair and then her hat.

Bill said, "I watched amazed. Her Majesty didn't flinch, then it struck me, the lad's blind and he is building up a picture of the Queen. I had a lump in my throat the size of a cricket ball."

Bill, who retired from MANWEB in 1976 has been in Scouting for over 50 years, joining as a Boy Scout in the 32nd Birkenhead Group. He has held many positions in the organisation and is currently the Deputy Commissioner for Birkenhead.

His son David, a schoolmaster, is also in the movement, he is a Queens Scout and is presently the mountaineering adviser for Birkenhead.

Ken Wynn has two sons in the movement, David and Stephen, and coincidentally Stephen is the mountaineering adviser to his association.

With his brother Cyril, Ken started the 2nd Moreton Scouts in 1947. Cyril stayed a couple of years before moving house to another part of the country, leaving Ken to carry on. The group is now a 'family unit', Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies. Twenty years or so ago, it was the first such unit in the country.

As a youngster of eight, Ken joined the movement as a cub and progressed to his position now as Group Scout Master. His group is now 200 strong with twenty helpers and as many more supporters who help in fund raising, etc. The Group have bought their own Headquarters, an 80 foot by 30 foot building, on land leased from the council.

Ken Wynn joined the electricity industry first as a 'boy' then as an apprentice engineer, serving his 'time' during the



MAN FROM MANWEB RECEIVES B.E.M. AWARD

Our photograph, above, shows a happy group at Liverpool Town Hall on the occasion of the presentation of the British Empire Medal awarded to Mr. William James (Jimmy) Owen, a foreman in our North Mersey District. We see, from left to right, Mr. Richard Gales (Deputy Chairman), Mr. Owen, Lord Lieutenant Brigadier Sir Douglas Crawford, who made the presentation, Mrs. Owen and Mr. Bert Eyres (District Engineer).

war years with Birkenhead Corporation. He worked as a fitter before becoming a draughtsman for MANWEB at the former Liverpool Head Office.

What is it in Scouting he enjoys so much? He says, "As a youngster I enjoyed every aspect of the movement. I believe it gives more to young

people than any other youth organisation. It teaches independence and self discipline. Now I enjoy the role of organiser and mediator, when various sections of the group have conflicting interests."

Bill says, "I enjoy working with youngsters, and I hope I am helping in some small way to turn out better citizens."

200 Club

In the monthly draw for the prize in the EEIBA '200 Club' lucky number was 196 held by **Bob Martin** (principal assist. Consumer Accounting) in our Mid-Mersey District.

FOR SALE

Photographic Equipment

2 1/4" Format. Mamiyaflex C330f 2.8 (Professional) camera £155.

CDS/magnifier hood for C330f £35.

180mm Sekor f4.5, including case £50.

Powerful flash with nic. cads charger and bar £25.

Lens hood, cases, all in makers boxes.

'Phone: Winifride 3580
(after 6 p.m.)



Scouters Ken Wynne, left, and the killed Bill MacLachlan.

IDEA TRADE FAIR

Variety and Novelty

IN ONE of the massive, high-roofed halls at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, some 144 exhibitors from 13 countries took space on the 128 stands at this year's International Domestic Appliance Trade Fair.

With MANWEB once again hosting a party of female journalists representing all the major local newspapers circulating in our area, many good stories from the "Fair" will no doubt appear in print for many months to come.

With plenty of goods to choose from, the emphasis was placed on energy saving, colour and design.

Micro-wave ovens, which have captured the imagination of the housewife, were there in abundance. When used in conjunction with conventional ovens and freezers, this new dimension in cookery combines convenience and economy in the preparation of a whole range of meals.

"Creda" have now entered this highly competitive field with their version, which is supplied with a browning grill. Other models on view were from "Beekay Bauknecht", "Moffat", "Sanyo", "Sharp", "Tappan" and "Toshiba".

STOP PRESS

For some time we have stocked and sold in increasing numbers, the popular Toshiba model microwave cooker. Now, our Commercial colleagues announce that we have added the magnificent MOFFAT to our range of microwave cookers.

However, the very popular conventional oven has not lost its place in the modern kitchen as proved by the many manufacturers who have added further refinements to their range of models. "Tricity" for instance, now introduce touch-control for their ovens.

Several manufacturers have turned their attention to the ceramic hob with new colours and designs and, in this electronic age, built-in logic and memory circuits take the uncertainty out of cooking.

Fitted kitchens were featured on many stands with the larger electrical appliances integrated into the furniture. In some cases, cookers, dishwashers and fridges were hidden behind matching door panels to give the complete "furniture" effect.

Two-door fridges currently account for practically half the sales of refrigerators in this country and it is interesting to note that 89 per cent of the homes in the UK have refrigerators of some description whereas 20 years ago, the figure was a mere eight per cent.

One of the largest models (from "Frigidaire") dispenses ice cubes and soft drinks ready mixed to the desired strength, through a sliding door compartment.

On the washing machine front, there was a wide range on show, each rivalling the other on spin speeds.

The ultimate in home cleaning must be the "Crayhurst Neovac" ducted system. No longer do you have to push or carry the vacuum cleaner around the house and, from time to time, empty the dust bag. Now, all you do is plug the hose lead in to a duct socket in the floor or skirting board and the dust and dirt is sucked out to the garage—or out-house—where the vacuum motor and dust bag is sited.

Many small electrical aids attracted the buyers—controlled-heat slow cookers, one with a removable stoneware pot and yet another with a double pot; attractive hostess trolleys for keeping food hot; food processors and mixers with leading UK brands facing stiff competition from European market leaders in the same field.

There was plenty to keep our press party interested with off-beat items like battery-operated scissors, hair crimpers for the modern Ms., electric bed-warmers (not blankets), buzz alarms which warn of power failures in fish tanks, electronic fly-killers, and for oral hygiene, a new appliance which send jets of water into the mouth to clean the teeth and gums.

Yes, there was certainly something to interest everyone at this year's International Domestic Appliance Trade Fair.

Off-Beat Items

This unique toaster from Russell Hobbs passes the toast out sideways—each slice toasted evenly with no white borders—two slices at a time.



Market leaders in electrical hair-care products—the BaByliss hair crimpers.



Traditions of Long Service with the Board

AT the annual presentation of long service certificates to staff covered by Dee Valley District Local Advisory Committee, and held recently at the Bryn Howel Hotel, Trevor, Mr. Jim Barraclough (*Group Manager*) expressed his pleasure at being present at a "family gathering" once again.

He said that he enjoyed the friendly atmosphere and believed that this was due to the industry we all worked in and the people we worked with.

"Our working relationships are very good", he went on. "Most of us are very happy with the people we work with, having respect for their good qualities—especially tolerance when things go wrong."

In speaking of the tradition of long service in our industry, Mr. Barraclough said that job satisfaction was a big factor in our lives.

He told his listeners that despite the occasional knock we received from the media and from small pressure groups, our customers, by and large, really appreciated the service we give to them for twenty-four hours a day throughout the year.

"People can always find fault," he concluded, "but MANWEB has very few complainers among its nearly one-and-a-quarter million customers."

Before asking the District senior officers to call up their staff to receive the awards, Mr. Barraclough took the opportunity to thank all the recipients for their long and loyal service, which, he assured them, was well appreciated and recognised.

More congratulations from Jim Barraclough, this time to Lillian Billington and the staff who have completed 30 and 20 years' service.
(Our apologies for the fuzzy photo. Ed.).

Top award man, Eric Bennion, right, and Mrs. Bennion, are congratulated and thanked by Jim Barraclough



The awards were as follows:

40 Years Mr. Eric A. Bennion, BEM (*District transport supervisor*).

30 Years Mrs. Helen D. Gregory (*cashier, Chester and Ellesmere Port shops*), Messrs. Gilbert Davies (*meter reader/collector*), Benjamin Dawson (*3rd engineer—Installation, retired*), Stanley M. Harding (*Admin. assistant*), Douglas S. Hopwood (*labourer*), Thomas E. Matthews (*3rd engineer—Commercial Supply*) and G. Mildon Wyatt (*senior clerical, Queensferry*).

20 Years Mrs. Ethel M. Adamson (*cleaner, Chester shop*), Mrs. Lilian Billington (*cleaner, Wrexham shop*), Messrs. John H. Downward (*labourer*), Iorwerth Edwards (*electrical fitter—prematurely retired*), Gwynfryn Evans (*joiner*), Samuel G. Griffiths (*brick setter*), W. Llion Humphreys (*electrician*), Robin Jones (*chargehand painter*), K. Raymond Lee (*labourer*), James Lockley (*painter*), James B. Parry (*meter reader/collector*), Harry Smith (*storekeeper, Queensferry*) and Kenneth E. Williams (*public lighting attendant*).



Manweb's New 'Do-it-Yourself' Kitchen Plan

THE Board's "Kitchen Planning Service" has now been extended into the lucrative "do-it-yourself" market. Although we are still offering our successful service—"to do the whole job right"—for our customers who want us to completely plan and fit their kitchens, the "do-it-yourself" enthusiast may now obtain units from MANWEB to build up his own dream kitchen.

These quality units are made by Schreiber Limited, one of this country's leading furniture manufacturers, and are taken from their "Europa" and the budget-priced "Miracle" ranges.

All units are available in a choice of colours on the base and wall unit doors and on the worktops. They are delivered free direct from the factory to the home and at prices very competitive with other "do-it-yourself" style kitchen furniture.

Displays of the units are now installed in 20 of the Board's shops and in the foyer at Head Office. Specialist kitchen planning staff are always available to answer any enquiries.

One of the main features about the Schreiber units is their ease and simplicity of assembly. The only tool required is a screwdriver when following the clear and concise instructions contained in each flat-pack carton.

In addition, Board staff have made a short film which illustrates, step-by-step, the build-up of these "do-it-yourself" units. Giving the completed job a professional touch, special adjusters allow for perfect

£3 MILLION PROMOTION

No doubt you have already seen TV commercials and full-page advertisements for Schreiber units. This is all part of their massive campaign to promote their product during 1978-79. Hundreds of sites will display large colour posters, many National buses will carry the Schreiber advertising posters, and huge display boards on football sites, including Wembley, have already attracted the attention of millions of viewers.

Now that we are using Schreiber furniture, we should be able to take advantage of their massive advertising campaign.

alignment of the wall cupboards and nylon runners ensure the smooth and silent operation of the drawers.

Buyers of these units are also offered a number of "extras" at no extra charge. With the sink unit base goes a neat, removable waste-bin with pop-up lid, and with the sink unit itself, the waste outlet is all part of the package. Also free are cutlery trays, towel rails and wire baskets.

This is indeed an easy and comparatively inexpensive way to build a dream kitchen.



QUICK OFF THE MARK

Within three days of the displays being installed in our shops, three orders for Schreiber kitchen units were sealed.

Bangor shop got the first order, beating Head Office Kitchen Planning section by an hour or so.

Special congratulations go to the staff at Prescott shop. They clinched a sale and they hadn't even got a display on view!

Star from 'Star Wars,' Darth Vader and his companion take a look at the Schreiber unit at our Chester shop.

Chief Commercial Officer M. R. COWAN, B.Sc., C.Eng., F.I.E.E.

YOUR REF.

OUR REF. 11.73.1102
S.G. Griffiths

is dealing with the matter

MERSEYSIDE AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

HEAD OFFICE, SEALAND ROAD, CHESTER CH1 4LR

TELEPHONE CHESTER 40133

TELEX 61277 MANWEB CHESTER

Dear Retired Member,

I wanted you to be one of the first of our Retired Members to be told of the new Staff Purchase Terms - generally speaking 20% off Makers Price or 15% of the Manweb Selling Price whichever is the lower.

This makes Staff purchases very competitive in price and especially in connection with the new Schreiber range of Kitchen Units which are now available through any Manweb Shop.

A leaflet is enclosed and our Shop Supervisors will be pleased to give you help and advice on Schreiber or on any other appliance matter.

Yours sincerely,



for MARKETING MANAGER

P.S. As this letter is, for convenience, circulated with Contact Magazine, some Retired Members living outside our Area will receive it for which we apologise.

On this page we feature selected 'still' shots taken from the Board's short film which illustrates the ease of the 'do-it-yourself' method of constructing one of the beautiful Schreiber kitchen units.

All members of our staff associated with the selling of these units will have the opportunity of viewing the complete film as part of their training course.

Our mini film strip opens with the title frame linking Schreiber with MANWEB. This is followed by a shot of the compact flat packs which are delivered direct from the factory to the home. Then we see the simple screwdriver—the only tool required when assembling the units.



With the individual pieces laid out on the floor, the customer may have the "Where do I go from here?" expression. However, he is soon at work after reading the easy-to-follow instructions which come with the packs. The film goes on to feature a sink unit being assembled.

In the closing shots we see some of the "extras" at no extra charge, as illustrated in the frame showing the waste-bin, complete with pop-up lid. Finally, we see a complete unit on display.

Film produced by Norman Kenyon
and filmed by Bill Griffiths



Group Manager, Sid Fairclough, 2nd left, with LAC Vice-Chairmen, from left to right: Harry Stanley (North Wirral), Con. Nolan (Liverpool) and Roy Fallows (North Mersey).



NORTH MERSEY award recipients, from left to right: Mr. R. Allen (30 years), Mrs. G. Clinton (20 years), Mr. S. F. Gordon (30 years) and Mr. K. Sproat (20 years).

20-and-30-year long service staff



Above: Recognition for 20 years' service for, from left to right: Messrs. K. R. Bush, S. Douglas, A. C. Davenport and D. Wilson.

Left: Staff completing 30 years' service. From left to right, standing: Messrs. J. F. Coyne, L. Hampson, G. W. Wells, J. Coslett and J. Stanley. Seated: Messrs. E. J. T. Beck and J. Stannard, Mrs. P. E. Chamberlain and Mr. J. A. Williams.

NORTH WIRRAL

A group of 20 years' service men. From left to right, standing: Messrs. F. L. Griffin, J. D. Swift, F. Nolan, A. Robertson and T. H. Hardy. Seated: Messrs. W. J. Egan, J. McAdam, D. Cloney and W. Curley.

Men with 30 years' service. From left to right, standing: Messrs. W. E. Davies, F. Letts, J. G. Watson, R. G. Marshall and S. Wilson. Seated: Messrs. N. Woodhouse, G. L. Sutton, K. J. Cambridge and E. James.



Long Service on Merseyside

Ceremonies for North Mersey, Liverpool and North Wirral Districts' Presentations

A COMBINED award presentation ceremony for the staff of three Merseyside Districts was held recently in Liverpool to give the 20 and 30 years Long Service Certificates to members of North Mersey, Liverpool and North Wirral District Staff.

The recipients of 40-year awards for the three Districts were invited to a separate luncheon attended by the MANWEB Chairman Mr. Ben Hastings.

At the meeting to present the 20 and 30-year awards, Mr. Sid Fairclough (*Group Manager*) thanked the recipients for their contribution to MANWEB's success. Economic and industrial problems on Merseyside had shaken the Board but thanks to the staff, MANWEB had emerged relatively unscathed.

In the more informal atmosphere of the luncheon, similar sentiments were expressed to the 40-year staff. Mr. Fairclough had a special word of thanks for the wives and families of the recipients, for their unselfish and sympathetic support of the MANWEB staff.

Liverpool District

40 Years Messrs. F. Cato, P. Horan, W. Kelly, J. A. Liggett, A. Molloy, N. Southern, J. E. Tierney and G. Tucker.

30 Years Mrs. P. E. Chamberlain, Messrs. E. J. T. Beck, M. Connor, J. S. Coslett, J. F. Coyne, E. Grimmant, H. Guy, L. Hampson, J. Murphy, S. Platt, J. Stanley, J. Stannard, G. W. Wells and J. A. Williams.

20 Years Messrs. W. N. Allen, J. Blair, K. R. Bush, A. C. Davenport, S. G. Douglas, J. Dreha, G. A. Johnston, J. McGlynn, H. Parratt, E. A. Quinn, W. Walsh, P. H. Wilkinson and D. Wilson.

North Mersey District

40 Years Messrs. W. Gibbs, L. H. G. Lloyd and W. Sutton.

30 Years Messrs. R. Allen, J. C. Cobb, S. F. Gordon, T. H. Hodge, E. Jones, A. T. Smith, M. H. V. Stubbs, and F. W. Thomas.

20 Years Mrs. G. Clinton, Messrs. H. Hogarth, W. Morton, P. Royden, K. Sproat, W. Stavely and T. Tague.

North Wirral District

40 Years Mr. J. Martin.

30 Years Messrs. K. J. Cambridge, W. E. Davies, E. James, W. V. James, F. Letts, E. Marshall, A. Richards, G. L. Sutton, J. G. Watson, S. Wilson and N. Woodhouse.

20 Years Mrs. E. Godwin, Messrs. F. E. Canner, D. Cloney, W. Curley, R. J. Duncan, W. J. Egan, F. L. Griffin, T. H. Hardy, J. McAdam, F. Nolan, A. Robertson, J. D. Swift.

Our Chairman, Mr. Ben Hastings and Group Manager Mr. Sid Fairclough with Liverpool and North Mersey District staff who recently received their 40-year long service certificates. Oat picture shows, from left to right: Messrs. S. Fairclough, W. Kelly, W. Gibbs, W. Sutton, L. H. G. Lloyd, J. E. Tierney, B. R. Hastings, G. Tucker, F. Cato, P. Horan, A. Molloy and J. A. Liggett.



COLWYN BAY EAW BRANCH —inaugural meeting



Above: MANWEB Chairman, Mr. Ben Hastings, stands by as his wife Mary, centre, cuts the special cake, assisted by Mrs. Alice Robinson.

Below: Mr. Jim Barraclough (Group Manager), with his wife Edwina, left, and Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Myra Lea, EAW Area Chairman.



Left: Clwyd's Bob Hodson with Mrs. Sheila Beese, EAW organiser. Below: Mr. Hastings addresses the meeting.

THE final engagement for Councillor Mrs. Alice Robinson in her year of office as the Mayor of Colwyn Bay, was to attend the inaugural meeting of the Town's newly-formed Branch of the Electrical Association for Women.

But as she concluded her duties in one office she was to take up responsibilities with another for, as one of the prime movers in the formation of the new EAW Branch, she was unanimously elected as its first Chairman.

Councillor Mrs. Robinson explained that as Mayor of Colwyn Bay, she had attended last year's Conferences for the EAW branches on Merseyside and in North Wales. At that time she knew very little about the EAW organisation, but at the Conference she gained a firm belief that there should be a branch in Colwyn Bay.

And so to this inaugural meeting with over 180 people attending and the MANWEB delegates led by our Chairman Mr. Ben Hastings and his wife, Mary.

The present Director of the EAW, Mrs. Ann McMullen, was unable to attend because of illness. Standing in for her was Mrs. Ann Carson (*Chairman of the Executive Council of the EAW*). She presented the Certificate of Registration to the newly-elected Branch Chairman.

Following the official ceremony, the delegates enjoyed an excellent dinner which concluded with Mrs. Hastings cutting into a special cake made by our Clwyd District demonstrator, Christine Hughes.

The EAW was founded 52 years ago by Dame Caroline Haslett who became its first Director. She formed the Association with the object of teaching women the safe, sensible and economic uses of electricity.





Group Manager Jim Barraclough, centre, presents a 40-year long service certificate to George Perkins in the presence of other recipients and District Officers.

Long Service Staff at Clwyd

Before presenting long service certificates to members of our Clwyd District staff who had completed 40, 30 and 20-years' service in the industry, Mr. Jim Barraclough (*Group Manager*) spoke of the many good reasons why staff stayed with us for such long periods of time.

He stressed that many of the Board's employees were trusted to work throughout the day entirely on their own initiative. "This goes a long way to give our staff the feeling of job satisfaction," he commented.

Mr. Barraclough also praised the excellent working relationship which existed in individual Districts of the Board.

The presentation ceremony was held at an hotel in St. Asaph a short time ago. District Officers,

George Cooksley (*District Administration Officer*), Bob Hodson (*acting District Commercial Engineer*) and Islwyn Morris (*Production Engineer*), gave a review of the service of each member of their staff as they were called to receive the certificates.

The long service staff, who have received awards and certificates are as follows:

40 Years Mr. George Perkins (*chargehand meter reader/collector, Llandudno Junction*).

30 Years Messrs. Trevor Field (*installation inspector, Mold*), Leonard Pinder (*chargehand linesman, Rhyl*) and Alexander D. Stewart (*switchboard attendant, Rhyl*).

20 Years Messrs. William F. Adams (*linesman, Rhyl*), John Bernard (*draughtsman, Rhyl*), John D. Holmes (*labourer, Rhyl*), David T. Jones (*electrician, Llandudno Junction*), Robert E. Lloyd (*jointer's mate, Rhyl*), Edward A. Thomas (*chargehand electrician, Llandudno Junction*) and Mrs. Megan Williams (*clerk, Rhyl*).

Obituary

We deeply regret to record the deaths of the following retired employees:

Mr. Alec Garman, section engineer at Rhyl prior to his retirement in 1965 after 42 years in the industry. When the Clwyd District Retired Employees Association was formed in 1975 he became

Chairman—an office he held until his death.

Mr. James Griffiths, formerly assistant to the cashier at Derby House, Liverpool, prior to his retirement in 1970.

Mr. Fred Potter, who, until his retirement in 1964, worked at our Frodsham depot.

Mr. Harold Shingler (78), who

was employed in our Mid-Cheshire District as a foreman at Crewe depot before he retired in 1964.

Mr. Harold Worsley, an engineering foreman prior to his retirement in 1974 after 28 years' service in our industry.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of these former colleagues.

RETIREMENTS

On behalf of the host of friends he has made while serving the industry for nearly half a century in Birkenhead he was presented with a set of bowls by Mr. Elwyn Jones, Production Engineer, at a big gathering of colleagues and wellwishers.



Elwyn Jones, left, bids farewell to Ken 'Monty' Lea as colleagues Eric Coley (foreman) and John Foster (System Engineer) complete the picture.

MR. K. G. LEA

Another of MANWEB's extra-long-serving employees, in the person of Mr. Ken ("Monty") Lea, a foreman at North Wirral District, retired recently after 49 years in the industry.

Ken began as an apprentice shift engineer in 1929—and "shift" meant what it said in those days as he was working "nights" at the age of 16. He became a relief substation attendant in 1946, an electrical fitter in 1949, chargehand in 1965 and foreman a few months later.

His wife Myrra, a former chief reporter of the *Birkenhead News*, is now a freelance journalist and an active member of Wirral Borough Council. She has just had a book published on the history of Birkenhead from the 11th century to the present day.

A keen sportsman all his life, Ken was a former Cheshire county tennis player, and in recent years has found distinction as a tennis coach and umpire. In the latter capacity he now serves at many major tournaments, and his programme for the coming summer includes tournaments at Ilkley, Manchester, Bournemouth and Roehampton, with ten days at Wimbledon as the peak occasion. He did some umpiring at Wimbledon last year, but this year hopes for a spell on the centre court!

Surrounded by friends and colleagues from Head Office Financial departments is Maelor Griffiths, among the ladies, on the occasion of his retirement send-off.



SORRY ERIC!

Last month we reported the retirement of a Mr. Eric Jackson, chargehand labourer at our Southport depot. Eric's surname, as all his friends know, is JOHNSON. When a popular colleague retires we suppose the old principle of "What's in a name?" applies, but we are sorry for the slip!

Mr. E. L. DAVIES

A chargehand electrician based at our Llandudno Junction depot, Mr. Edward Lewis Davies, retired recently on health grounds after nearly 40 years with the industry. Eddie started as an electrician with the former North Wales Power Company at Llanrwst.

MR. J. M. GRIFFITHS

A quiet and informal farewell was the request of Mr. J. M. "Maelor" Griffiths to his many friends and colleagues in MANWEB on the occasion of his recent retirement.

"Maelor" joined the electricity supply industry over 42 years ago when he went to work for the North Wales Power Company. On nationalisation in 1948 he transferred to MANWEB at the Rhostyllen office. Most of his working life has been spent in the Revenue section and for the past few years he has been in charge of a prepayment accounts section.

In taking advantage of the early retirement scheme, "Maelor" will now be able to devote more time to his work for his local chapel, Capel Mawr, where he serves as a Deacon. He is a lay preacher, and was once involved in amateur dramatics.

We wish him good health and happiness in retirement.