

Contact

June 1980

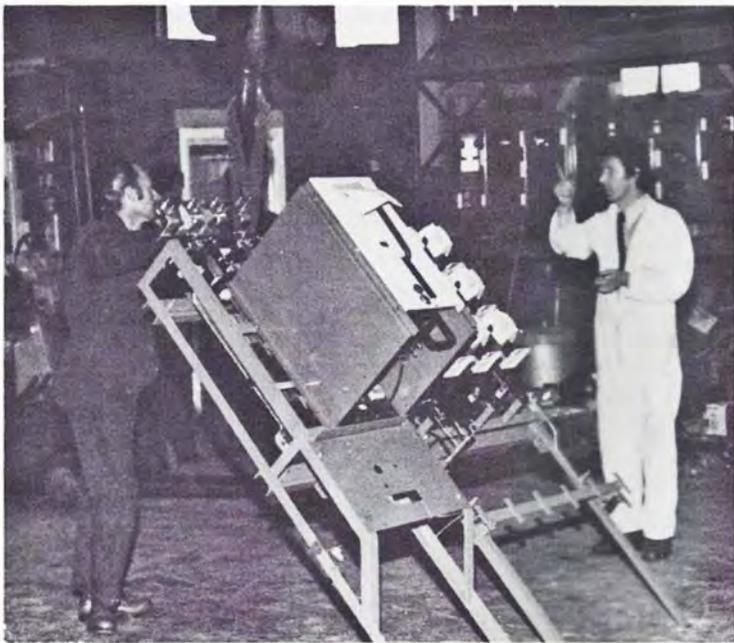
Taking supply to TV Tower
(see page 115)



Mechanical Handling Course

A two-day course was held recently at Queensferry, to give a wider knowledge and understanding of mechanical lifting equipment and aids. The 16 workshop and stores staff heard from C.E.G.B. experts the theory and then practical aspects of mechanical lifting.

Day 1 dealt with the theory, legislation, stresses, aids to lifting and types of equipment. The second day was devoted to practical work with mechanical equipment. The C.E.G.B. men were shown the problems the course delegates met in their work, and discussed alternative ways, using different slings, knots or hitches to move difficult loads. The course was arranged by Education and Training's Dick Storer.



Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE
OF THE
MERSEYSIDE AND
NORTH WALES
ELECTRICITY BOARD

Vol. 32 No. 6

June 1980

SEARCHING FOR SAFETY

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Editorial

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MOST OF us, on our way through life, acquire a collection of marks and scars to remind us of the occasions when we were involved in what are commonly called accidents.

“*Accidents will happen*” runs the old adage. It may be true that a small proportion of the mishaps which befall us are completely unavoidable, but we could certainly escape most of them with a blend of greater vigilance and proper training.

This number of *Contact* refers in particular to two fields of activity where accidents are all too common—the workplace and the highway. The right approach to dealing with things which are hot, heavy or sharp can reduce the incidence of the former category, while excessive speed and alcohol are probably responsible for most of the latter.

Accidents are almost always painful, and are often tragic. They are also extremely expensive in terms of lost working time, medical treatment and the demands they make on our public services.

It is right that society in general, and employers in particular, should do everything possible to help us avoid them. Hard hats and seat belts may mitigate their consequences, but only correct procedures and human judgement can stop them from happening.

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.

PROMOTIONS IN OUR MID-CHESHIRE DISTRICT

... at Crewe ...

An 'Energy Exhibition' was the challenging project staged by students of the South Cheshire College in Crewe recently. Under the guidance of their lecturers, many organisations were invited to participate and our Mid-Cheshire District team went in to fly the MANWEB flag.

David Fisher and Robin Sharvin (*2nd engineer—Energy sales*) organised our exhibit, which featured details of new houses being introduced by Price Homes of Congleton.

This Company have joined with the Board in providing homes with roof and wall insulation of a very high standard, double-glazing and weather-sealing of all external doors and modern controllable electric heating systems . . . all designed to produce lower running costs.

On the MANWEB stand at South Cheshire College Energy Exhibition at Crewe. From left to right: Malcolm Cooper (*energy sales engineer*), Eve Townley ('*Girl from MANWEB*') and College lecturers Ken Jones (*Liberal Studies*), Peter Cuthbert (*Business and Management*) and Suresh Keswani (*Liberal Studies*).



Linfood's manager, Mr. Mike Perrie, tastes a sample of Judith McIntyre's cooking, as our 'Girl from MANWEB', Eve Townley, waits for his comments.

... and Northwich ...

After a successful venture at Williams' Cash and Carry store in Crewe, when over £1,000-worth of electric catering equipment was sold, Judith McIntyre, our Mid-Cheshire District demonstrator, 'set up shop' for a week to promote MANWEB's Five Star Catering Service at the Linfood Cash and Carry warehouse in Northwich.

Direct mail shots were sent to many of our own prospects in the area in pubs, clubs, restaurants, hotels and cafes, as well as to all Linfood's trade customers.

The effort proved worthwhile, as many enquiries were made during the week, which resulted in a number of very good sales.

Talking Notes

NAUGHTY — BUT NICE!

THIS was the noisiest and most unruly class I have ever taught," was the comment made by **Nurse Dorothy Davis** when asked about the recent North Mersey District first-aid group. "But they were so keen," she went on.

When the results of the final tests were announced, **Dr. Kenneth Turner**, the Board's Medical Adviser, said that the pass standard was exceptionally high, with two members of the class particularly outstanding.

This was the first class that Nurse Davis can remember where NJIC staff — 12 — outnumbered NJB and NJC staff—two.

She hopes that all future classes, wherever they may be, will be as noisy and as unruly as this one . . . providing they get the same excellent results!

Official first-aider in the

North Mersey District, **Margaret Davies** (senior records draughtswoman) said that everyone enjoyed the course and she was so pleased that her efforts in recruiting people to join the class had proved so successful.

"We now have 60 qualified first-aiders in the District," she told us. "This raises my hopes that we shall be able to enter at least one team in next year's District First-Aid Competition."

Another Bridge Story

Some time ago, we published a story of the work done by our

team of installation staff in the Gwynedd District when engaged on lighting the roadway across the Menai Bridge.

This brought an interesting letter from **George H. Currie**, a former Commercial Supply Engineer in our Mid-Cheshire District until his retirement in 1976, after 34 years' service.

Our story brought a touch of nostalgia to George for, as a Runcorn man, he could appreciate the 'bridge' work done by the Gwynedd lads.

He writes of the time when men from MANWEB worked on the road lighting and navigational and aerial warning lights on the then new Runcorn/Widnes bridge.

George sent along some pictures taken from the roof of a local warehouse on the occasion



Accidents looking for somewhere to happen! Our successful North Mersey District first-aiders, from left to right, back row: Ronnie Trish, Len Morris, John Lawes, Neil Taylor - Hayhurst, Derek Pierce, Ian Taylor, Bill Highton and Bob Edwards. Centre row: Margaret Davies (lay instructor), Nurse Dorothy Davis, Marion Wheatley, Tony Ward and Kevin Swarze. Front: Henry Sheils and Richard Sinnott. Class member Paul Fletcher kindly took the picture.

of the official opening of the bridge, but, as George admits, he is no David Bailey and his prints are not quite up to reproduction.

He informs us that his companions at that time were **John Drewe** (now 2nd engineer, Commercial at Mid-Mersey District), **Don Wade** (now energy sales engineer for Oswestry and Aberystwyth Districts) and **Jim Powdrell** (now with the Contracting section for Norweb at Preston).

George comments that one or two of the sodium lights at the Widnes end of the bridge clashed with the railway signals on the nearby track. This led to a late-evening trip on the footplate of a locomotive in order to pinpoint the offending lights.

The things those lads got up to in those carefree days!

The letter is brought to a close with George relating his fond memories of an apprenticeship served at Runcorn and of the many interesting jobs he was connected with during his many years with the industry.

Fund Raisers

Once again, members of our Liverpool District staff, and

their friends, rose to the occasion when asked to raise funds to send under-privileged children on holiday.

A buffet dance, organised by **Teresa Kelly** and **Cathy Joseph** (clerks, Material Control) and their willing aides, **Jill Smith** (clerk, Engineering) and her mother, was patronised by well over 100 people, who enjoyed good food and dancing to the music of **Ted Potter's** Space Odyssey Discotheque.

Among the guests was former member of the Liverpool District staff, Councillor Ruth Dean (Deputy Lord Mayor of Liverpool), who is the President of the Merseyside Children's Holiday Foundation.

At the end of a very happy evening, the organisers were able to send a £200 cheque to the Foundation.

Corporate Campaign

If you watch ITV, you must have seen one of the new 45-second commercials recently launched by the Electricity Council.

Each of four films carry the message "Think Electric—We Have the Power to Help You"—

and has a distinctive music theme.

The commercials aim to assure customers that the electricity they use is generated as efficiently and economically as possible. The viewers are reminded of the many different kinds of help and advice available from the staff of Electricity Boards.

The four current commercials—no pun intended—deal with a variety of subjects from tips on using electricity wisely and advice on easy payment schemes to teaching aids for schools.

STAMP OUTLET

From the beginning of this month, some sub-post offices throughout England and Wales will be able to sell electricity and gas savings stamps.

MANWEB stamps have been available from Board shops for a number of years, but this scheme should help our customers who live in rural areas where we may not have our own outlet.

Popular Singers

The talented Wrexham-based **James Lambert Singers**, whose musical director and founder, **Emyr James**, is our Dee Valley District records draughtsman, gave a concert of their music in the canteen at Rhostyllen a few weeks ago.

This was part of their fund-raising activities to finance their second tour of Markischer Kreis in Germany, an area with close associations with Wrexham. The Singers will give four concerts during August.

On their return home, they will embark on concentrated rehearsals in preparation for their first long-playing record which will be 'cut' in London during the autumn. Hopefully,



Saying it with flowers, **Bob Hodson** (District Commercial Engineer) presents bouquets to fund-raisers **Teresa Kelly**, left, and **Cathy Joseph**.

OUR COVER PICTURE shows an engineering team from Machynlleth depot who recently completed an excellent operation, in taking electricity supplies to a remote TV relay station. They erected 11 poles to take 855 metres of overhead line cross-country to a high point in the hills at Llanbryn-mair.

The whole project took a gang of five men only six working days to complete!

Now, about 500 viewers in the area will be able to receive 625-line television pictures, which may give them a clearer picture as to who shot J.R.!

Men from MANWEB in our cover picture are, from left to right: **David Williams** (3rd engineer—System), **John Parrot** (foreman), **Brindley Davies** and **Ray Pugh** (linesmen), **Dick Bryan** (driver) and contractor Gwyn Jones who drove the JCB. Completing the team but unfortunately missing our picture are **Alun Griffiths** (chargehand) and **Harold Jones** (linesman).

it will be released before Christmas.

It is just 25 years ago last March that the MANWEB Glee Club was formed at Rhostyllen. The now well-known James Lambert Singers grew from those beginnings.

After ten happy and active years with the Singers, members of our Dee Valley staff, **Margaret Lucock** (Drawing Office assistant) leaves to start a family and **Janet Evans** (typist) is leaving to get married.

However, **Helen Parry** (clerk, Engineering), who joined Emyr 12 months ago, will be making the trip to Germany.

Engagement

We offer our congratulations for future happiness to **David Wilcox** (supervisor), Warrington shop, and to **Carol Howard** (receptionist), Mid-Mersey District office, who announced their engagement on Dave's birthday on 3rd June.

Darts

The second annual Darts Competition for members of Clwyd District Sports and Social Club attracted many com-

petitors.

All set off with high hopes of becoming the overall champion and, during a very pleasant evening, the score of 'one hundred' was called on numerous occasions.

The eventual winner was **Derek Robinson** (2nd engineer—System), with **Ivor Humphries** (substation attendant) as runner-up.

Winner in the Ladies Section was **Eurlys Lewis** (cleaner). The awards were presented by **Maria Howes** (draughtswoman) in her capacity as Chairperson of the Sports and Social Club.

Trophy winners in the Clwyd District Darts Tournament. From left to right: **Ivor Humphries**, **Eurlys Lewis** and runner-up **Derek Robinson**.



Golden Years

Our congratulations go to a Knutsford couple who recently celebrated their fifty golden years of marriage.

Mr. Fred. E. Kingham and **Verna**, his wife, were married in Toddington, Bedfordshire, in 1930 and came to live in Knutsford some 45 years ago.

Until he retired in 1971, Fred was a foreman, having worked for 37 years with the former Mid-Cheshire Electric Supply Company and MANWEB.

Inspired Donors

Shortly after a blood donor session held at Head Office a short time ago, the Regional Organiser for the National Blood Transfusion Service wrote the following letter to **Tom Hamilton** (Assistant Secretary—Admin.).

"No doubt you will be very pleased to learn that our recent blood donor sessions were extremely successful once again. A solid number of 242 donors attended to be bled and this was an extremely valuable contribution towards our blood stocks.

"There were a few inspired lines of page 85 of 'Contact' from a Mr. Bill Boylin, who presumably is a blood donor, and no doubt this helped to publicise our event. I

would be very grateful therefore if you could pass on my appreciation to him; also to Sister Davis, who once again organised the appointments so successfully and assisted our team so ably on the two days."

Prize for Bryn

A bright young man in his fourth and final year as an apprentice electrician, **Bryn Morris**, aged 20, working from our Chester depot in Dee Valley District, has just been awarded the Ken Pendry Memorial Prize for obtaining the best examination results among all the electrical students at the Chester College of Further Education.

At an informal ceremony held at the College recently, Bryn was presented with his prize by the Vice-Principal, Mr. Brian Bracegirdle.



Bryn Morris, left, receives his award from Brian Bracegirdle, in the presence of Albert Stewart and Mary Ellwood from Chester College.

Bryn commenced his apprenticeship at Hoylake in 1976 and was selected from his course to go to an Outward Bound School.

Last year, he was chosen for yet another trip, this time as a MANWEB apprentice representative on a visit to France for a couple of weeks as a guest of Electricite de France.

He is a forward-looking young man. On the day that he received his prize from the Chester College Staff Associa-

tion, he also took over the keys of the house he is buying, much to the delight of a young lady, Valerie Roberts, a solicitor's secretary, who is engaged to Bryn.

Civic Shield

To encourage local authorities to make the best use of public money by providing well-built and economic new and rehabilitated housing designed for low-cost heating, while making the most efficient use of energy, the electricity supply industry has introduced a *Civic Shield Award*.

To qualify, the project has to satisfy specific minimum requirements beginning with electric space and water heating in all the dwellings. Storage heating operating on the Economy 7 tariff should achieve a designed 80 per cent. night energy usage.

High standards of thermal and under-floor insulation and the weather-stripping of doors are also required, together with flue restrictors for chimneys in existing dwellings.

Board Appointments

The Secretary of State for Energy, Mr. David Howells, has appointed **Lord Sefton of Garston** a part-time member of our Board for one year and **Mr. J. G. Parkes** has been re-appointed a part-time member for three years.

Lord Sefton was created a life peer in 1978. He is chairman of Runcorn New Town Development Corporation.

Mr. Parkes is a member of the Northern Board of the National Westminster Bank and a board member of the Merseyside Docks and Harbour Company.

One Degree More

One of the most prominent nationalised industry leaders, Sir Francis Tombs, Chairman of the Electricity Council, is no

stranger to academic honours.

In recent years, the Universities of Strathclyde, Aston and Loughborough have all conferred honorary degrees on him in recognition of his services to industry, engineering and learning.

Now, a foreign university has added its tribute to his work. The Technical University of Lodz, in Poland, has conferred on him an honorary degree of Doctor Honoris Causa.

New Handbook for Farmers

A new grain store is often the largest single investment made by many farmers and a wise choice, based on sound background knowledge cannot be over-emphasised.

The Electricity Council have just published a new handbook "*Grain Drying and Storage*". This will be of great assistance to all farmers looking for the best possible installations to suit their own requirements.

Single copies of this 80-page illustrated publication are free from Electricity Boards.

House for Sale

Heswall. Excellent 7-year-old detached. Not overlooked. Gas fire plus full central heating. Double-glazed throughout. Porch/cloakroom, w.c. and washbasin. Featured entrance hall, 19 ft. lounge; 18 ft. dining-room/archway to study; 22 ft. kitchen/dining area. Fully fitted with units, split-level cooker, Italian ceramic wall tiles and floors. Three good-sized bedrooms (ample room for additional). Bathroom and separate w.c., fully tiled. Electric shower. Detached brick garage. Greenhouse. Front and rear gardens fully stocked. Inspection recommended to appreciate the many extras. £36,500. (Completion date any time until October.) To view, please 'phone 051-342 6027 or 342-2469.

SAFE DRIVERS IN OUR OSWESTRY DISTRICT

AT three separate ceremonies held to recognise the achievements of safe drivers in our Oswestry District, senior police officers presented the medals and certificates.

At Oswestry District offices was Superintendent Jack Lewis, and at Whitchurch depot, Chief Inspector David Ridgeway, both of West Mercia Constabulary.

Staff at the Newtown and Welshpool depots received their awards from Chief Inspector Ronald Thoroughgood, who was assisted by Inspector Ralph Ford from the Newtown Division of the Dyfed-Powys Constabulary.

Each of the officers stressed the enormous cost of road accidents and were astonished that some of the award recipients had completed as much as 25 and 20 years of accident-free driving.

OSWESTRY

Bar to 25-Year Cross: Mr. Cyril Wilkinson

Bar to 20-Year Brooch: Mr. Dennis Neaves

Bar to Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. Les Lovell, Norman Mason and Ivor Jones.

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Messrs. Eric Barrow, Albert Chandler, Hywel Ellis, Bill Ellis, Bob Hughes, Ray Owen, Sid Pugh, Rod Reville, Gwyn Roberts and John Williams.

Five-Year Medal: Messrs. Malcolm Cartwright, Tony Conde, Ron Entwistle, Tom Jones, John Pritchard and Glyn Thomas.

NEWTOWN and WELSHPOOL

Bar to 20-year Brooch: Messrs. Walter Jones and Cecil Lewis.

Bar to 15-year Brooch: Messrs. Clwyd Parry and Eluet Woosnam.

Bar to Ten-Year Medal: Mr. Keith Morris

Ten-Year Medal: Mr. Gareth Joseph

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Messrs. Harry Davies, Stan Holloway and Roy Evans.

Five-Year Medal: Messrs. Eurwyn Gittins, Lew Jones and Emrys Morris.

WHITCHURCH

25-Year Silver Cross: Mr. Harry Huxley

Bar to 20-Year Brooch: Mr. Arthur Boyling

Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Mr. Ted Large

Bar to Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. Eric Field, Jack Leach and Les Percell.

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Messrs. Len Brookfield, Charlie Taylor, Brain Johnson and Eric Wainwright.

Five-Year Medal: Mr. Terry Edge.

More photographs overleaf

Chief Inspector David Ridgeway presenting awards to safe drivers from the Whitchurch depot.





**SAFE
DRIVERS** *at*
(and District Officers)

OSWESTRY ▲▲▲
and
**NEWTOWN/
WELSHPOOL** ▼▼▼



THE SPEAKERS

From left to right: Mr. Ron Williams, Don Hinsley, Ceri Roberts and Mrs. Pam Mould.



DEE VALLEY DISTRICT SALES CONFERENCE

Forward into the 80's with Confidence

A REPRESENTATIVE 76 members of our Dee Valley staff enjoyed an excellent evening together at their District Sales Conference held a short time ago at Penyffordd.

The 'star turn' was Mr. Ceri Roberts (*street lighting supervisor*) who, dressed in gum boots, a kilt and vest and carrying a large Tilley lamp suspended on the end of a six-foot pole, entered a darkened hall to the strains of "Lead Kindly Light". In the place where the sporan normally hangs was a yellow flashing beacon as used by the street lighting department as a hazard warning!

Ceri's highly entertaining scheduled 15-minute talk lasted for a full 40 enjoyable minutes, with his audience roaring with laughter for most of this time.

He described in detail the humble beginnings of his own introduction to the street lighting section over 30 years ago. He spoke of bicycles with carriers holding cardboard boxes containing the tungsten lamps and of a special gadget used for removing and replacing the light bulbs. He also raised a laugh when telling the story of the collapsible handcart.

Although well-laced with humour, Ceri's talk gave everyone an insight into the growth of street lighting in the District. He stressed the need for efficient lighting as an aid to road safety and as a deterrent to

burglary and vandalism.

Earlier, Mr. Don Hinsley (*energy sales engineer*) opened the Conference and commented on the many changes which had taken place in our industry—and the country—over the past few years.

He went on to paint a very rosy picture of the future of the electricity supply industry as he confidently expressed his opinion that there would be lots of opportunity and many breakthroughs in the 1980's. He did add, however, that an organisation is only as good as the staff it employs.

Major Difficulties

Echoing Mr. Hinsley's comments regarding the faltering start to this new decade, Mr. Ron Williams (*District Commercial Engineer*) itemised some of the major difficulties facing our industry today.

"These are only reflections of the national problems," he said. "They have not appeared overnight, but have developed over the past 20 years or so."

He said that we had fast become a vast importer of cars (56 per cent.), machine tools (48 per cent.) and radios (96 per cent.). "It's little wonder that our balance of payments is in a mess and that unemployment is increasing at an alarming rate," he went on.

Making a brief reference to inflation, he said that

(continued on page 121)



CHESTER

—the largest shop in the District, efficiently run by Tony Owen, *right*, and his assistant Bryan McDonald, *second from left*, and their team of 'Sunshine Ladies', with the two representatives in our picture, Betty Harrison, *left*, and Ann Wait. The others were busy selling appliances! The staff have a large community to serve, but customers still get the red-carpet treatment.



—also at Chester shop is Beryl Randles, seen here sorting out yet another customer enquiry. Ursula Ferguson, *right*, takes yet another electricity account!



AROUND DEE VALLEY SHOPS

with comments by
PAM MOULD

and photographs from colour
transparencies by **Tony Patrick**

ELLESMERE PORT

—long and narrow, making it difficult to display appliances and accommodate an accounts queue. However, Reg Barlow, seen here with his assistant Chris Winters, keep their customers happy. Maybe his home-made wine helps too!

NESTON

—a rather small shop run by two ladies, Joan Downey, *right*, and Margaret Jones, *at the counter*. Their shop is situated in a village-type community but they have plenty of competition from 'the big boys'. However, our ladies are still able to convince their customers that MANWEB is best.



SHOTTON

—in the heart of a local industrial area which, at this moment in time, is in a state of depression. Despite this, Dave Jones and his team manage to keep on selling. Possibly our longest-serving shop supervisor, Dave is part of the scenery in Shotton and, as our picture shows, can often be seen 'outside' the shop, chatting to friends—who are always MANWEB customers.





JOHNSTOWN

—one of our smaller shops where Sheila Davies, *left*, and Mary Jones, *on the telephone*, are both local lasses who know the majority of their customers. Everyone leaves the shop convinced that MANWEB will take care of them—before and after sales.



CORWEN

—a shop serving a large farming community. Man in charge, Emyr Jones, *right*, assures all his customers of MANWEB's excellent service, especially delivery to the many remote and isolated farms. In addition to wayleave queries, Emyr has many other rural area problems.

WREXHAM

—known to Pam as *'the stamp shop'*, as customers will stand in long queues to buy stamps or use them to pay their electricity accounts. Once the queue forms, there isn't much room left for demonstrating and selling the wide range of appliances on display. Yet, despite all the difficulties presented by an old shop, Tom Evans and his excellent staff do sell many goods and our services as well as answering customer questions. Our picture shows Tom breaking the queue to answer the telephone. We also get a glimpse of assistant Sonia Wills, *second from right*.



INTO THE 80's (continued)

it was quite neatly defined on a notice in a Chester shop which read: "Penny Whistles—only £1 each".

Mr. Williams continued by saying that despite the doom and gloom we seem to have around us today, we were living in a far better age than our ancestors and that despite its imperfections, our country had a very bright future.

Turning to our own industry's future, he said that there was an urgent need to accelerate the nuclear energy programme to help close the obvious energy gap which was fast approaching.

Bringing his inspiring remarks to a close, Mr. Williams commented, "You and I, working in this great industry, have a responsibility and a vital part to play in the future."

The fourth speaker at the Conference was Mrs.

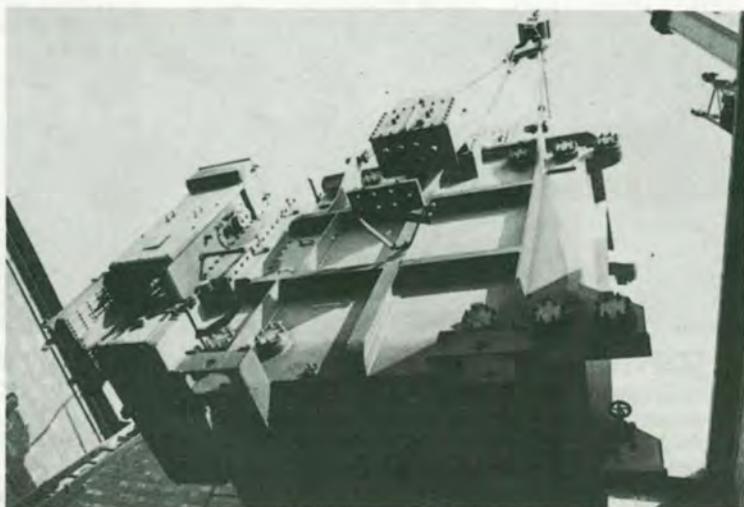
Pam Mould, who—prior to her recent marriage—was known as Pam Smith.

As sales representative covering the District's seven shops, she emphasised the importance of our customers. She went on to explain how our shop staff dealt with the variety of queries from a variety of customers and mentioned the half-million accounts taken each year at the counters.

She spoke of the competition we had to face and how we developed in spite of this. "We are able to hold our own," she stated.

After quoting some healthy statistics which went a long way to prove that our customers really like the way we do things, Mrs. Mould showed a series of slides as she gave a 'talk-through' to introduce some members of the Dee Valley District shop staff.

(Pictures and comments are featured on these pages.)



THE BIG LIFT



Our pictures show the 'big lift', taking a 32-ton 33-kVa transformer out through the roof of the Station View, Chester, sub-station, where it is no longer needed, for installation in the new Tranmere, Birkenhead, sub-station, where it will reinforce the local network.

Top left, preparing to remove the final roof spar. *Top right*, the start of the lift. *Bottom left*, the British Crane mechanical giant lifts the transformer through the roof and, finally, *right*, clear of the sub-station for loading on the Dentons vehicle standing by.

Our centre picture shows the men from MANWEB involved, *left to right*, Ron Edwards, 2nd Engineer, Head Office, with Chris Caton, fitter, and Steve Holmes, apprentice, from North Wirral District.



Certificates Presented to Clwyd District Long Service Staff

AT THE well-organised ceremony held recently at a St. Asaph hotel, presentations of long-service certificates were made to members of our Clwyd District staff by Mr. Glyn Dodd (*Group Manager*). He paid a special tribute to the ladies who were present—one was to receive her 20-year award—and others who had sustained and supported their husbands during their many years of service to the electricity supply industry.

Mr. Dodd said that some 750 years of long and loyal service was being recognised and he went on to remind the staff members who had reached the respective milestones of some of the many changes they had experienced in our industry over the years.

He spoke of the early years of nationalisation, leading to the creation of MANWEB. Of the wonderful work carried out in the North Wales Rural Development Programme, he said, "This alone did more to raise standards of living in the area than any other factor. You who worked on the scheme can be justly proud."

"Job security in this industry is second to none," he concluded, "for even with the silicone chip, the computer and all today's technological changes, we will always need electricity."

Certificates were then presented to the staff members who were introduced—with brief biographies—by the respective District Officers.

Group Manager Glyn Dodd, *centre*, with recipients of 30 and 20-year long-service certificates. Also in the picture, *on the left*, are Messrs. Alan Wadcock (*DAO*), Denis Atkinson (*p.a. Gen. Services*) and David Mellor (*DCE*) and, *extreme right*, Islwyn Morris (*Production Engineer*).



40-year man, Mr. Jack Pomeroy and his wife receive congratulations from Mr. Glyn Dodd, *left*, and Mr. Islwyn Morris, *right*.

THE AWARDS

40 Years: Mr. Jack H. Pomeroy (*switchboard attendant*).

30 Years: Messrs. William D. Brown (*engineering foreman*), John S. Evans (*1st engineer—System*), John L. Hughes (*System Engineer*), David A. L. Jones (*electrician*), Howell Jones (*switchboard attendant*), Robert B. Jones (*senior records draughtsman*), Robert T. Jones (*engineering foreman*), Walter Jones (*1st engineer—Installation*), Eric Lennard (*sales representative*), James H. Payne (*engineering foreman*), Raymond Valentine (*1st engineer—System*), Norman Whitworth (*engineering foreman*) and Derek E. Young (*administrative assistant—Cons. Accounts*).

20 Years: Messrs. Derek Blackledge (*linesman*), Daniel S. Collins (*electrician*), John A. Davies, William G. Foster and Thomas Hughes (*jointers*), John C. Lloyd (*linesman's mate*), Llewelyn M. Price (*linesman*), Goronwy W. Roberts (*driver*), Gerhard Schloegl (*electrician*), Anthony F. Standing (*Installation Engineer*), Frank Thomas (*electrician*), Charles H. S. Wheeler (*driver*), Alun Williams (*meter reader*), Henry Williams (*2nd engineer—System*), Joseph E. Williams (*meter reader*) and Mrs. Mefanwy L. Williams (*typist*).



electric living

New Fridge/Freezer

The early summer is the start of the refrigerator and freezer buying season. With the growing trend toward the space-saving fridge/freezers, a new model has recently been introduced into the MAN-WEB shops.

The new Electra 5/4 Fridge/Freezer is made for the Electricity Boards by Thorn Domestic Appliances Ltd., in Britain. It has a large five cubic feet refrigerator taking up the top half of the unit, which saves bending for the everyday items. The four cubic

feet of freezer space is housed in the bottom section—enough to take about 72 lb. of frozen food.

The whole unit measures 5 ft. 6 ins. high and slightly less than 2 ft. deep, and just under 20 ins. wide, so it is ideal to fit into the floor space of the normal-size fridge.

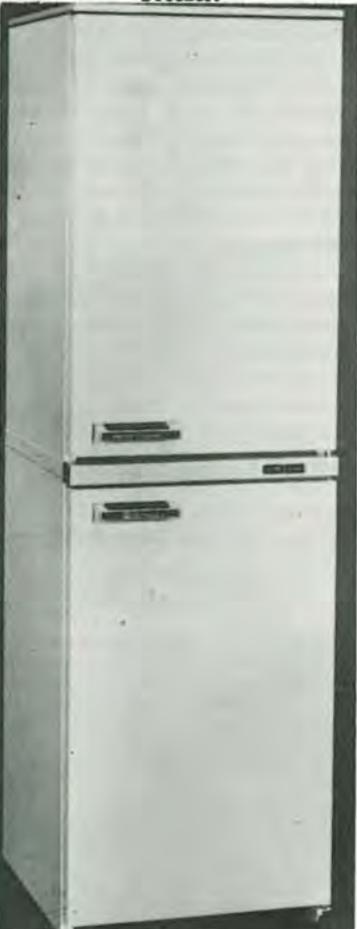
The brilliant white enamel cabinet has satin-finished handles set close together at waist level. The interior of both doors is finished in chocolate brown, the fridge door containing the usual moul-

ded compartments. The freezer door is used to give a printed frozen food storage guide.

The fridge section has three shelves and a glass half-shelf, with a salad drawer. It is automatically defrosting with automatic water disposal.

The freezer maintains temperatures down to -18 deg. C. and has a freezing capacity of 20 lb. in 24 hours.

The new Electra 5/4 Fridge/Freezer.



WHAT DO YOU WANT A FREEZER FOR?



GWEN
CONACHER
LOOKS AT
FREEZING

For 101 reasons! Everyone gets something special out of their freezer. They aren't simply for storing pre-packed frozen food, although that's the obvious way of saving shopping time. A freezer can help to accommodate a glut of home grown vegetables, or enable you to have special cooking sessions. And today's champion bargain-hunter just has to be a freezer-owner. The sheer convenience of having a stock of food always at hand is probably the most important reason of all.

Freezers for all

If your refrigerator is about to be retired it could be the perfect opportunity to move into the freezer world and a fridge-freezer could be ideal. It takes up the same amount of floor space as a fridge but is taller - and twice as useful. The two compartments are usually housed in one cabinet, one on top of the other, with

separate doors. The freezer part has shelves or pull-out baskets.

If you have more room you may prefer a separate upright model. One that matches your fridge gives a properly planned look to your kitchen.

Chest freezers are the third alternative. They use more floor space so need to be carefully sited. Even in unorthodox places - corridors, garages or spare bedrooms, providing the place is cool, dry and airy. This type is top-opening - so check that you can reach into the furthest corner. They are usually fitted with wire baskets to help you pack food efficiently and are good at coping with large and irregularly shaped items.

Whatever you choose, buy the biggest one you can possibly manage. First-time owners often find that they underestimate how big a freezer they need. When the pick-your-own raspberry season coincides with an unrepeatable offer on lamb, you'll see what we mean!



Auto-Cook Menu

The complete meal to be cooked in the automatically-controlled oven has been provided this month by Mrs. Judith MacIntyre, herself a busy housewife and our hard-working demonstrator in Mid-Cheshire District's Energy Sales section.

Menu

Lamb Casserole

Carrots and parsnips (1lb. each)

Baked potatoes (6)

Spicy baked pears

Set the oven for 200 deg. C. (400 deg. F.) and time the meal to cook for two hours.

Casserole ingredients for six
6 lamb chops (seasoned)

4oz. carrots (sliced)

4oz. onions (chopped)

Butter for frying

Half-pint thickened stock or
gravy

Melt the butter in a saucepan and sauté the seasoned chops and veg. Remove the meat and veg. and place in a casserole dish.

Add gravy or stock to the butter, meat and veg. juices, stir well over the heat and pour the mixture over the chops and veg. in the casserole dish. Cover with a lid or foil and place in the centre of the oven.

Dice a pound of carrots and a pound of parsnips and place together in an oven dish with half a

pint of stock; cover and place in the bottom of the oven.

Take six large scrubbed potatoes, prick them and place on a baking tray in the centre of the oven.

Spicy baked pears for six

6 cooking pears

3oz. demarara sugar

Half pint red wine

Half teaspoon cinnamon

2oz. mixed fruit (dried)

Peel the pears but leave the stalks on. Arrange in an oven-proof dish, sprinkle on the sugar, mixed fruit and cinnamon, then add the wine. Cover and place in the oven. Serve with custard or wine sauce.

A Cook's Tour — the Orient

With summer just around the corner, hopefully, we asked our roving cook to come up with something a little different. Something cold: a change from our traditional lettuce and tomatoes, spring onions, etc., of the normal English summer salad.

This dish is in fact a salad with a difference. It originates in the Orient and comes to us via Singapore, where the Indian, Malay, Chinese and Indonesian peoples came together to influence the old British Colonial's palate with this:—

ORIENTAL HAM SALAD

Ingredients for four

6 oz. cooked ham

½ lb. boiled rice

4oz. sultanas

2oz. peanuts

2—3 diced spring onions

1 teaspoon curry powder

1 small can pineapple pieces

1 small can tomato puree

4oz. cottage cheese

lettuce

a few prawns



Method

Cut the ham into strips and combine it with the rice, sultanas, nuts, onions, curry powder and pineapple.

Add the tomato puree to the cottage cheese and mix well; spoon the mixture over the ham mixture and toss.

Line a salad bowl with lettuce and pile the mixture in the centre. Garnish with a few prawns, chill in the refrigerator and serve. Any light white wine or a rosé such as a Moselle or Anjou Rosé should help this meal to go down well.

Recipe supplied by Dave Ollier,
Taylor Plan Catering.

Daffynitions ..



Mr. W. CATHERALL

The new extension to the Queensferry canteen was the setting for the presentation ceremony to Mr. Walter Catherall, to mark his retirement from the Board after 27 years' service.

Mr. Catherall joined MANWEB in 1953 as a driver, became a storekeeper and was soon made chargehand.

A well-respected Queensferry character, he had previously worked at a chemical works and had seen war service in North

Africa and Italy with the R.E.M.E.

Away from work, he enjoys tinkering with cars, driving them, visiting historic buildings and churches and gardening. He has just purchased an organ, so music-making will figure in his future plans.

Mr. Peter Falcon (*Assistant Chief Accountant*), making the presentation of a carriage clock on behalf of his colleagues, wished Walter and his wife Peggy a long and happy retirement.



Mr. Catherall, left, receives his colleagues' parting gift from Mr. Falcon.

RETIREMENTS

Mrs. GWYNETH THOMAS

Now that she has taken early retirement due to ill-health, the voice of Mrs. Gwyneth Thomas will be missed on the telephone calls going through the Dee Valley District switchboard.

She first worked for the former North Wales Power Company in 1944, doubling as a typist and switchboard operator. She left in 1955 to start a family, returning to work for MANWEB at Legacy about ten years ago and moved into District Office in 1977. Her husband Eric, now working in the garage at Legacy, was a former courier driver in the District.

Mrs. Thomas, an accomplished pianist and organist, is fondly remembered for her playing for the Christmas parties over the years. She is also passionately fond of "motoring with guts in it!"—which roughly translated means rallying.

At a presentation ceremony attended by many of her friends, Mr. Des Lock (*District Administrative*

Officer) spoke of her loyal service and expressed everyone's wish for an improvement in her health. He then handed over a gift of cash which Gwyneth will use to buy a retirement gift. She also received a book of her choice from the Local Advisory Committee.

Mr. D. J. WILMOTT

January 1936 to May 1980 spanned the working life of our North Wirral District Sales Supervisor, Mr. Douglas J. Wilmott, who endured—and no doubt enjoyed—two special presentation ceremonies to mark his retirement.

At the first, members of the shop staff around the District, and one or two former colleagues, gathered to hear Mr. Bill Wakelin (*Sales Controller*) pay tribute to Mr. Wilmott's service and his ability in building up a good spirit among the sales staff. He then handed over a cassette recorder and a framed

Surrounded by friends at Dee Valley District, Mrs. Thomas, centre, receives a farewell handshake from Mr. Lock.





Sales staff gather at Wallasey shop to pay their tributes to Mr. Wilmott, centre right, on his retirement.

water-colour picture, farewell gifts from sales staff.

In reply, Mr. Wilmott expressed his sincere thanks to everyone who had come along to his presentation —“without claiming overtime”—and to those who had prepared the buffet. He was appreciative of everyone who had worked and helped him over the years and had a special ‘Thank You’ for his wife, Edith, for her patience and support.

Another ceremony followed at District Office, when members of the North Wirral Management team, led by Mr. George Bowers (*District Commercial Engineer*) made a presentation of a mantel clock on behalf of the District Office staff.

Mr. Wilmott began his career as a clerk with the former Birkenhead Corporation Electricity Department. He then joined the Royal Navy and served in many parts of the world during the war years. He rejoined the electricity supply industry and, in 1948, took over management of the new shop at Heswall. Later he worked in the Commercial section at the former Area 2/3 Office at Chester and was appointed to his present post in 1970.

In retirement, Mr. Wilmott, who is a keen ornithologist and talented artist in water-colours, informs us that he will be devoting his time to “golf, gardening and gadding about!”

All smiles from members of our Accounts staff on the occasion of their parting presentation to Mr. Pritchard, centre right.



Mr. J. C. S. PRITCHARD

A colleague who looked so young that a check had to be made to make sure he was the right age for retirement is Mr. James C. S. Pritchard (*principal assistant—Cash*) at Head Office. His retirement presentation was a little early, however, for he spent his actual retirement day, 11th June, on holiday in Yugoslavia . . . lucky man!

Although he seemed to have been with the Board for many years, Mr. Pritchard had only joined us in 1968, after working for the Crosville Company and war service with the Army. The popularity gained during his relatively short time with MANWEB was shown when over 200 people signed his farewell card.

In making a presentation of a radio cassette player on behalf of the staff, Mr. Peter Falcon (*Assistant Chief Accountant*) spoke of Mr. Pritchard's many qualities, not least of which was his ability to say ‘No’ nicely to people who thought he should have said ‘Yes’ to their claims!

When he returns from holiday, Mr. Pritchard hopes to become a member of the Wrexham Golf Club. While he waits for his name to come up, he will concentrate on his garden and on decorating—two jobs he enjoys.



Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, centre, with some of their MANWEB friends at their farewell party.

Finally, here are two rather belated reports:

Mr. G. A. JOHNSON

A man who spent many years ensuring that the streets of Chester were well-lit, Mr. George A. Johnson (*public lighting attendant*), of our Dee Valley District staff, retired a few weeks ago. In recent years he was re-deployed and looked after the depot premises at New Crane Street.

At a retirement party held at South View Road Community Centre, Mr. Johnson, with his wife, was presented with farewell gifts from his friends and colleagues, with their wishes for many years of happy retirement.

Mr. G. A. WILLIAMS

Popular member of our Aberystwyth meter reading team, Mr. George Arnold Williams retired some time ago, after completing 32 years' service.

He began his career with an electrical company in Wrexham and, during the war years, he was directed to work for the railways. At his farewell presentation, friends gathered round as Mr. Bob Lewis (*District Administrative Officer*) handed over a tankard and a clock on their behalf.

A keen member of his church choir, Mr. Williams hopes that regular use of his tankard will help him continue to hit the top notes!

LUMP SUM PAYMENTS

PUBLICITY has been given previously to the arrangements for reducing the risk of Capital Transfer Tax being assessed on the lump sum benefit payable on the death of a member.

Under these arrangements, a member in good health may at any time give notice that the lump sum due on death shall be paid to Trustees for them, in turn, to pay to relatives/dependants. Such payments, being dependent only on production of the death certificate, have the additional attraction of being made more promptly than would be the case if grant of probate or letters of administration had to be obtained before payments were made. Advice about these arrangements is available from your Board's Superannua-

tion Officer.

Members who have already taken advantage of the arrangements will be aware of the absolute discretion of the Trustees as to the person or persons to whom these lump sums may be paid. Nevertheless, although the Trustees must not be bound by the wishes of a member, a letter recording the names of the persons the member would like to receive payment helps the Trustees in deciding on the disposal of the monies.

It is important that members

who have lodged 'letters of expressed wishes' should bear in mind the need for these to be up-dated—for example, when a member's marital status changes, on the birth or adoption of children or merely because the member has different thoughts about disposal of the lump sum. The 'letter of expressed wishes' serves to assist the Trustees in their decision over the lump sum payment and secures for the member the advantage of the Trustees knowing his wishes.

Have you lodged a letter expressing your wishes and is it still up-to-date? Play safe and draft a letter to the Trustees and send it to your Board's Superannuation Officer without delay.