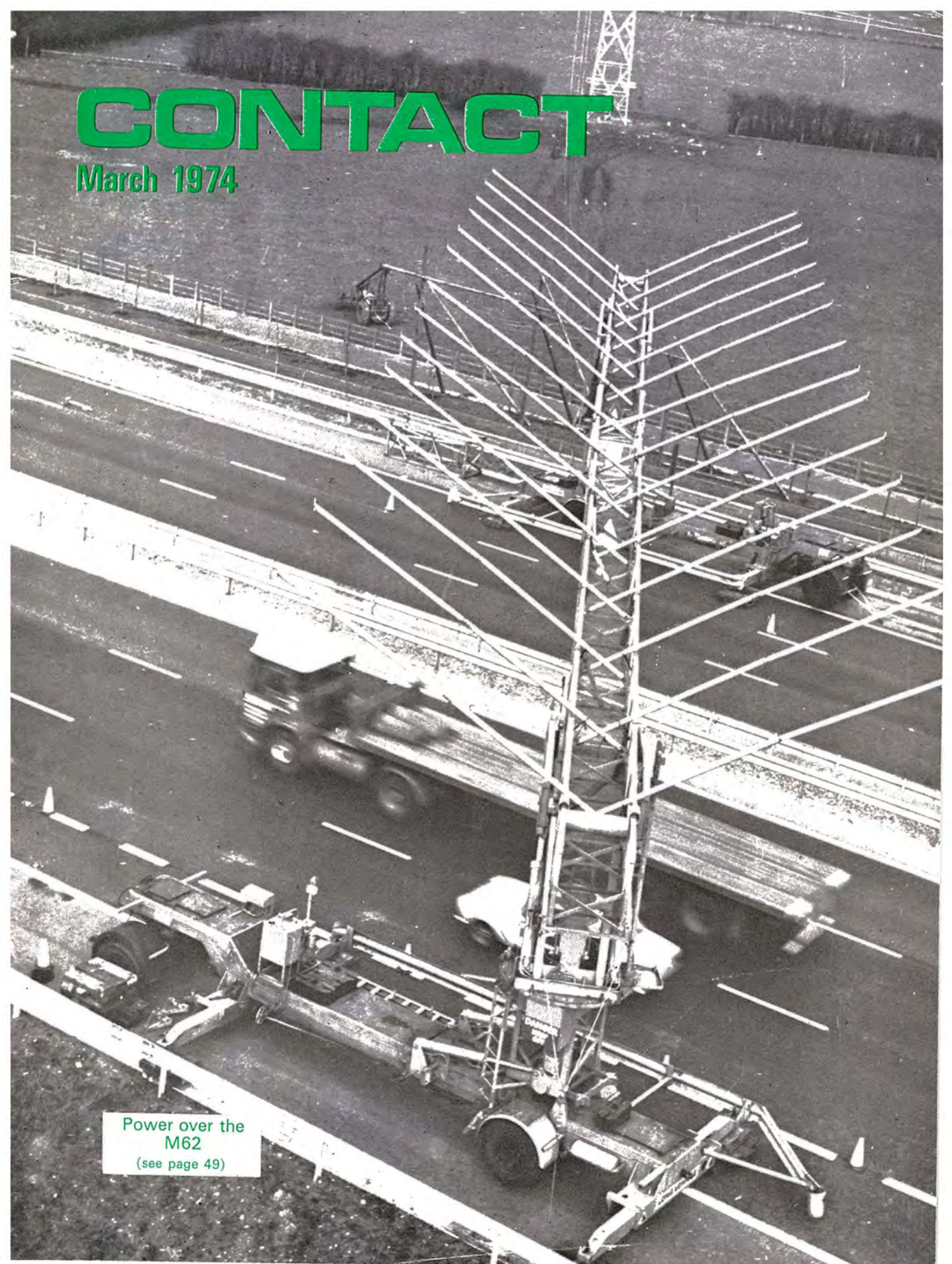


CONTACT

March 1974



Power over the
M62
(see page 49)

The John Nolan Fund

... OUR PEOPLE RESPOND (See Editorial)



Above: Liverpool Pensioners Club Secretary Harry Robertson, left, with Charlie Davies who received their £11 donation to the Fund.

Below: This picture of our Ladies' First Aid Team using a stretcher to make a collection at Head Office—was published in the *Liverpool Echo*. One of our pensioners recognised Mr. John Shallcross, and sent a donation, while gifts arrived from several anonymous donors, as far away as Macclesfield.



- ★ The Grand Raffle organised by No. 2 Works Committee to start the MANWEB side of the Fund brought in a magnificent £544.75. Another raffle is being organised as a number of gifts—a 'Teasmade,' and bottles of spirits and liquors, have been freely donated.
- ★ A small package—well wrapped with sticky tape—was handed in at our Lister Drive office in Liverpool. Inside—35p, from a pensioner.
- ★ The girls of the Head Office Netball Team have organised the eight teams in the Christleton Netball League into a sponsored tournament to be played at Christleton Leisure Centre on Sunday, March 24th, starting at 6.30 p.m.
- ★ Ron Hanson, joint treasurer of the MANWEB side of the Fund, tells us that he is receiving letters and donations from all over the country, especially from other Electricity Boards. He attributes this to the publicity given in *Contact*.
- ★ Our magazine goes to all our pensioners, wherever they are, and from Zambia came a £5 cheque from Mr. B. R. Campbell-Kelly, our Commercial Economist who retired last year.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT
ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT

Spring Dance

on Saturday, March 23rd
at the
Thingwall Road Clubhouse,
Wavertree, Liverpool

Dancing to the music of the
"R-J Sound"

Tickets 50p—
(including refreshments)

From: Messrs. J. Rowe or
R. Burgess, Lister Drive
(Late licence applied for)

**PROCEEDS TO THE
JOHN NOLAN FUND**

- ★ North Wirral District ran a Darts Tournament—and raised well over £150!
- ★ Extracts from one or two anonymous notes—"It makes you think, when you have got children of your own—God bless him!"
"£1 towards your collection for the little boy, with good wishes and prayers for his recovery."



THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE MERSEYSIDE
AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

CONTACT

Vol. 26 No. 3

March 1974

On other pages

Power Crisis Solved	48
Sky Cradle	49
Persistence Pays	50
Out of Season	51
Prize Crossword	52
Commercial Catering	53
First Aid Competition	54
Sportspage	56
North Wirral Quiz	57
Odds and Ends	58
First Aid Class	59
Efficient Use of Electricity	60
Sales Training	61
Our Retired Friends	63
Buy, Sell or Swop	64

EDITORIAL

Thank you all!

THE WARMTH and generosity with which the British people respond in aiding those stricken by disaster is legendary. Be it earthquakes in Turkey, famine in Africa, or floods in Bengal, some universally-respected figure will appear on the 'box' to ask for contributions to relieve suffering, to send medical aid, food, tents and blankets.

Such appeals seldom fail to produce an avalanche of cash, while from Gresford to Aberfan the ready response of our people in rushing to the aid of countrymen in distress has always been automatic and immediate.

The sad story of a blind and paralysed child, hardly more than a baby, which was published in last month's *Contact*, was touching enough to melt the hardest of hearts. The way in which Mr. Nolan's MANWEB colleagues—most of whom have never met him—have responded to our appeal to raise money so that little John may have the specialised treatment which alone offers hope for the future, is equally moving in a different way.

The ink on our magazine was hardly dry before individuals and groups, departments and clubs, in all parts of the MANWEB area, were making collections and organising functions to help swell the fund. At the time of writing, more than £1000 had been raised within MANWEB alone during the first few weeks, and in due course we hope to publish a list of acknowledgements to all those who have helped.

In the meantime, on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Nolan, we convey heartfelt thanks to everyone who has put a hand in a pocket, sold a raffle ticket, or made a contribution of any kind.

Editorial Staff
Keith Baldwin
John F. Pery
Sam Doughty

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.

Power Crisis Solved

IT WAS A few days before Polling Day . . . and the telephone rang in our Press Office at Chester. Nothing unusual about that, of course—but the request was a little out of the ordinary.

It appeared that an event of some importance was due to take place at the Huyton Leisure Centre on the evening of February 28th. TV cameras from the BBC and ITV would be there, together with all the national newspaper photographers. Between them they would be wanting quite a lot of electricity, to provide lighting for the movie cameras, to process film, and to operate the picture-wiring machines of the newspaper photographers.

The occasion?—The announcement of the identity of the Member of Parliament for Huyton.

And the man on whom the eyes of the nation would be focussed?—None other, of course, than the Right Honourable James Harold Wilson, a strong candidate for the 'hot seat' at Number Ten!

Swiftly into action went Mr. Bill Hewitt, our commercial supply engineer at Liverpool District. A couple of flying visits to the site, and talks with the press representatives, soon had the job weighed up. A special supply for the TV cameras was provided from a nearby substation, and banks of socket outlets were installed in the Leisure Centre's squash court for the benefit of the press photographers.

And the final prophetic touch? A special 100-amp supply to the Huyton Labour Club, in Dinas Lane, to enable the victor and his army of supporters to celebrate the occasion in the customary manner!

The Men from MANWEB



who carried out the work on the spot were electrician Jim Parry, and apprentice Barry Segman.

MEMBERS IN MANWEB'S AREA

The new line up of Parliamentary names and faces representing the MANWEB area includes quite a number of significant changes.

Our two leading Parliamentary personalities, of course, must be the Prime Minister (Huyton), and the Speaker (the Rt. Hon. Selwyn Lloyd) who represents Wirral.

Among the new Government appointments are Mr. Edmund Dell (*Birkenhead*) as Paymaster General, Mr. Eric S. Heffer (*Liverpool, Walton*) as Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry and Mr. Barry Jones (*Flint East*) as Joint Under Secretary for Wales.

Noteworthy was the way in which Labour strengthened its grip on Liverpool, despite the sweeping Liberal successes at the municipal elections. Two former Conservative strongholds—at Ormskirk and at Garston—fell into Labour hands, while Bebington also returned to the Labour fold.

The other party change of significance was the breakthrough by Plaid Cymru, in which Messrs. Dafydd Thomas and Dafydd Wigley won at Merioneth and Caernarvon, while Mr. G. W. Howells

(Liberal) took Cardigan from Labour to join Mr. Emyln Hooson as the second Liberal MP in our area.

In other constituencies—Chester, Crewe, Wavertree, Nantwich, Newton, Northwich, and Wallasey, new personalities—though representing the same parties as before—came on to the Westminster scene.

STATE OF THE PARTIES IN MANWEB AREA

Labour—20: Anglesey, Bebington, Birkenhead, Bootle, Crewe, Flint East, Huyton, Liverpool—Edgehill, Garston, Kirkdale, Scotland/Exchange, Toxteth, Walton and West Derby, Newton, Ormskirk, St. Helens, Warrington, Widnes and Wrexham.

Conservative—13: Chester, Conway, Crosby, Denbighshire, Flint West, Knutsford, Liverpool—Wavertree, Nantwich, Northwich, Oswestry, Runcorn, Southport and Wallasey.

Liberal—2: Cardiganshire and Montgomeryshire.

Plaid Cymru—2: Caernarvon and Merioneth.

UP AND OVER THE M62

TAKING six heavy conductors across a busy motorway was one of the final problems overcome by our engineers as the first 132,000-volt overhead line, designed and erected by MANWEB, neared completion.

The site was at Winwick Quay Bridge on the M62 at Dallam near Warrington and the conductors plus an earth line had to be taken from a huge pylon on the North side to another on the South side of the carriageway.

It was decided that this was the right occasion to use the Sky Cradle—prototype equipment borrowed from the South Eastern Region of the CEGB.

The Sky Cradle consists of two trailer units, each with a boom 55 feet long with up to five, ten-foot extensions making a total span of 105 feet in each unit. The ideal six-lane motorway is 105 feet wide and to cross at its widest angle, a span of over 200 feet would be required. This can be achieved with the Sky Cradle, and with its booms in position, the cables are drawn across in docks fitted along the boom arms.

Time and Money Saver

The 'instant bridge' is a great money saver and helps speed up new construction work and repair and maintenance work on the transmission lines crossing busy motorways. It also keeps the carriageways clear, avoiding irritating and time-

consuming hold-ups for motorists and goods vehicles.

In the particular situation at Dallam, normal scaffolding and towers would have cost about £4,000 and the work would have taken much longer to complete. The line is designed for the future use of the Sky-Cradle when maintenance work is needed.

The ease with which the whole operation was carried out so successfully, well within the originally estimated time schedule, proves the usefulness of the Sky-Cradle. Next time, however, we may not have to go so far to borrow a unit for our neighbours, the North Western Region of the CEGB, hope to have their own Sky-Cradle very soon.

Incidentally, the pylons carrying the cables on this special project had to be fitted with extensions taking the normal 90 feet ground to tip up to 140 feet. The extra height was to keep the cables clear of the existing motorway and the proposed local motorway and bus depot to be built in the area in the near future.

The new line, plus the seven pylons and a 132-kV substation will cost nearly a quarter of a million pounds and is part of the reinforcement scheme in that area. The line will eventually be fed from the new substation and linked with the 132-kV spur line running between Wigan and Bold.

Our man in charge of this operation is Mr. J. D. T. Wright (*2nd assistant engineer*).

The Sky Cradle straddling the motorway allowing the traffic to keep moving.

OUR COVER PICTURE

was taken by our intrepid cameraman perched high up on the pylon, seen in the picture on the right. This 'aerial' view, shows the Sky Cradle in position across the busy motorway.





Above: On site at Tarvin, Messrs. John Gittins, left, and Roger Glover.



Persistence Pays

Above left: Electrician Peter Gleave working on one of the Electricaire units.

Below: Mrs. Mayers in the kitchen of her all-electric home.



FOR A long long time, Mr. Roger Glover, 3rd assistant energy sales engineer in our Dee Valley District, has paid regular visits to the Tarvin Rural District Council offices in an effort to persuade them to 'go-electric' in their new Council houses.

His persistence met with success a short time ago when the Council decided on Electricaire for the first phase of a development—originally planned for oil—on a site at Tarvin.

Here they are building a total of 21 houses and four bungalows designed by Mr. John Gittins architect in charge of the project.

A number of these new homes are already tenanted with occupants enjoying the benefits and comforts of electric living. Like Mrs. Jennifer Mayers of number 12, who said, "*The heating system by Electricaire is just fine. It's so clean and the whole house is really warm. We can leave doors open anywhere in the house without worrying about draughts or cold air rushing in. Yes, electric central heating is for me and my family.*"

There is still one plot vacant on the site and this is to be used to house a mini health clinic to be built by the County Council. Needless to say, Roger is after this one too!

As work on the housing site nears completion, building operations are moving over to the Waverton area for another Tarvin R.D.C. development consisting of 14 properties—again all-electric. Later they move back to Tarvin to develop another site for a further 30 homes.

This go-ahead Council have their houses built in areas with privately built dwellings and it is almost impossible to tell one from the other.

Our congratulations go to Tarvin R.D.C. for their wise decision in choosing electricity, to architect John Gittins for his designs and to our own Roger Glover for his persistence.



Out of Season

A poem by

Mr. W. E. BOYLIN
*(Administrative Assistant
 Revenue, Head Office)*

Covered by a seamist deep
 stands the fairground, fast asleep,
 out of season, cold and still
 lost of soul and lacking will.

Figure of eight, all girders crossed
 thru' the mist it's pinnacle lost,
 the cars now standing all forlorn
 bright colours faded, hard season
 worn.

House of fun, silenced, dumb,
 laughter lost, no echoes run,
 pay-box closed, cashier gone,
 House of ghosts it's duty done.

Hobby-horses, statued in
 mid-flight
 no crowds to push and tug and
 fight
 to mount the steeds and charge
 around,
 just silent stillness, awe profound.

Ghost train stopped, tho' still
 raising fear
 in those who dare to step too near,
 as never it did in season high,
 with doors that creak and rats
 that cry.

Boat lake drained with boats
 upturned
 taking the rest that they have
 earned,
 but seeming to listen, as tho'
 yet alive
 for the familiar call of "come
 in number five."

Coconut shy no balls to throw
 no raucous cries of "have a go,"
 no brash young girls or strong-
 armed men
 it seems they'll never come agen'.

Stands for icecream and
 candyfloss,
 hot-dog bars and places to wash,
 all closed and shuttered, no
 queues outside,
 will they recover their summer
 pride.

A graveyard, unkept and
 hoarding its dead
 this fairground where crowds
 did happily tread
 is closed for the winter, but come
 the spring
 will come alive once again and
 be back in full swing



PRIZE CROSSWORD

After our monster puzzle a couple of months ago, we now offer another teaser from our old friend Mr. F. G. Lott.

This particular crossword is of a much higher standard than any we have set previously and should give you something to think about.

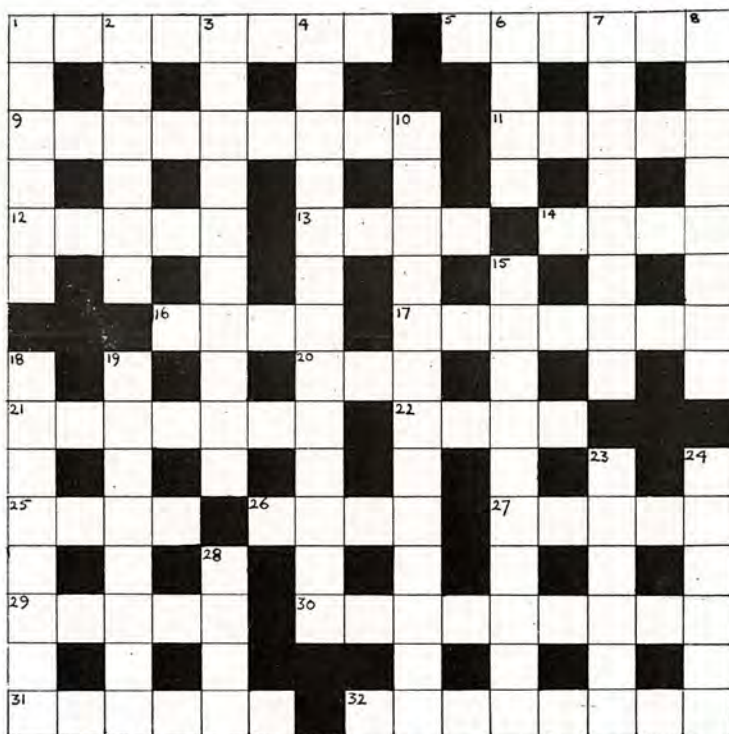
Try it, for Mr. Lott is interested in finding out how tough it really is and if he can beat us.

Prizes of £3 each will be awarded to the senders of the first three all-correct solutions received by April 1st.

Entries may be sent on plain paper if you wish and the competition is open to all MANWEB employees, pensioners and families. Only one entry per person please and these should be sent to *The Editor, Contact, MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.*

Clues Across

- 1 What's wrong? Squeeze some juice and find out (8)
- 5 Flies in the kitchen? (6)
- 9 You aren't born with them (9)
- 11 A Hardy heroine returns something of value (5)
- 12 If it's at it it's free (5)
- 13 Travellers in cloth? (4)
- 14 For whom Leander died (4)
- 16 Seven year piece of unfit cheese (4)
- 17 In a word, route the monotony (7)
- 20 Locks baked by Queen Mab, said Mercutio (3)
- 21 A Roman's thrown in the galley (7)
- 22 At which you don't agree (4)
- 25 It's well-named around the coast (4)
- 26 Legal permission to have a car (4)
- 27 Fish in the corner (5)
- 29 Impediment in the flesh (5)
- 30 Holm-oak is one unfading example (9)
- 31 . . . and here is another (6)
- 32 Went up with Dad, the scene changed (8)



Clues Down

- 1 Pickwickian tintinnabulator (6)
- 2 How else to get at the bottle? (6)
- 3 When a tumble-down inn merited a visit (10)
- 4 Not exclusive, like Eton, for example (13)
- 6 Poor Yorick! (4)
- 7 For beauty try a lettuce to begin with (8)
- 8 No seconds for Oliver (8)
- 10 A larger than usual castle in the air (13)
- 15 Grand, equal components properly assembled at College (10)
- 18 Mother Kelly piece of bread and butter (8)
- 19 The veg has upset little brother with colic (8)
- 23 Indubitably a sign of avarice (6)
- 24 Wrote and folded (6)
- 28 The Mikado sailor's happiest hour, with his Nancy on his (4)

WEDDING

Our congratulations on their wedding at Saltney Methodist Church go to Miss Janet Williams and Mr. Christopher Burnham. Janet is a clerk in the Head Office Revenue Section and Chris is a policeman.





Lesley in her role as senior demonstrator as she helps to get the MANWEB exhibit ready for the visitors.

The recent Government restrictions on the use of electricity put a stop to the Board's own series of Commercial Catering exhibitions planned for February and early March.

However we did take the opportunity to keep the flag flying by taking part in the Welsh Coast Resorts Catering Trades exhibition held at Llandudno recently.

Our stand, designed by Mr. Ron Sand of Head Office, was the best in the show and showed a wide range of specialised equipment.

This was the first official call to duty for our 'Girl from MANWEB'—Lesley Taylor, who also had to double in her regular job as the Clwyd District demonstrator.

COMMERCIAL CATERING

Lesley in her role as hostess, "The Girl from MANWEB" pours a drink for Councillor Charles Payne (Chairman of the new Aberconwy District Council) and his wife Mrs. Payne. The impressive line-up of V.I.P's. on the Board's stand are, from left to right: Councillor Emyr Hughes (Chairman of Llandudno U.D.C.), Mrs. Hughes, Mr. David Williams (Secretary, Welsh Coast Resorts Catering Trades), Mrs. J. T. Williams (wife of Chairman, Llandudno Hotels and Restaurant Association), Councillor James Johnson (Mayor of Colwyn Bay) and Mrs. Johnson. Partially hidden behind Lesley is Mr. Brian Baxter (Energy Sales Engineer, Clwyd).



NEW DATES FOR MANWEB'S COMMERCIAL CATERING EXHIBITIONS

Warrington—April 24/25/26
Chester—April 30/May 2.
Bangor—May 8/9/10.



Chester Ladies, left to right, Miss E. Jackson, Miss E. Jones, Mrs. S. Cooper (capt.), Miss S. Timmins and Miss A. Jones (reserve).

MANWEB Ladies First Again

MANWEB Chester Ladies won the recent Merseyside and North Wales District First Aid Competition, held at Sealand Road, by the Electricity Council Ambulance Centre.

Only one point behind was a mixed team from Connah's Quay Power Station and third were the men from the Electricity Council Research Centre at Capenhurst.

In addition to the overall first prize the Chester Ladies took the Rose Bowl, for winners of section 2, ladies, and the Connah's Quay team won section 1 for male or mixed teams. Both go forward to the national finals.

Two other MANWEB teams did especially well considering it was their first contest. Head Office Men were fifth from eleven, with captain Geoff

Lloyd and Roly Boden winning the individual prizes for members of unplaced teams.

Liverpool, the other MANWEB first timers finished eighth. A great effort considering they are mainly self-trained.

Capping the MANWEB success Miss Ann Jones, Chester Ladies Reserve was placed third in the separate reserve contest.

On the four stage settings, the made-up injuries and acting of the victims from the 'Casualties Union' gave a spine chilling realism to the incidents. Dr. A. T. Churchman, Director of the Capenhurst Research Centre, complimented the casualties and the adjudicators on carrying out an exacting days work. Mrs. Churchman then made the presentations to the winners.



Pictured left, Messrs. J. R. Boden and G. Lloyd.



Right, Dr. Churchman, Director of Capenhurst Research Establishment.



The MANWEB first aiders in action. Above the Head Office Men and below, the Liverpool District team. Top right, Miss Liz Jones, and centre right, Mr. Harold Wilson from the Head Office teams during their individual tests. Bottom right, the victorious Chester Ladies in action during their team test.



Needle Match

In a netball challenge match played a few weeks ago at the Deeside Leisure Centre, the Dee Valley girls beat the team from Head Office.

Dee Valley. *From left to right, standing, two local girls called in to make up the team, Nicci Edwards and Mo Griffiths. Kneeling, Kath Griffiths, Kate Barnes and Liz Parry.*



Head Office. *From left to right, standing, Marilyn Robinson, Jean Whittle, and Kath Evans. Kneeling, Cora Roberts, Chris Haresnape, Linda Littler and Linda Fisher.*



Table Tennis Star

Competing in the Rhyl & District League Table Tennis Championships, **Mrs. Barbara Williams** of our Clwyd District swept the board by winning the Ladies Singles title and, with different partners, took the Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles championships.

Shortly after this fine effort she won the Singles title in the Flintshire Closed Table Tennis Championships.

Hailing from the Midlands, she once played for Birmingham and for Worcester County and was the champion on two occasions. She moved North and started playing for Flintshire County.

The year 1968 was a very good year for Barbara for it was then that she won four top championships—Chester, Flintshire,



North Wales and Rhyl. Since then she has held the Chester championship on another occasion.

She has been keen on table tennis for as long as she can remember and now plays for the RAFA Club in Rhyl. She was chosen to play for North Wales in Cardiff last December.

Barbara joined MANWEB in 1971 and now works in the meter reading section at Rhuddlan. Away from work she likes gardening, dressmaking, knitting and decorating. In fact she is always busy and on the move which probably is one of the secrets of her success at table tennis.

Her next big test will be in the North Wales Closed Tournament to be held later this month. We wish her the best of luck.



The Brains of Birkenhead—quiz winners, from left to right: Messrs. Norman Davies, Graham Monks, Frank Kay and Alan Jones.

North Wirral Quiz Kings

SOMEBODY IN the District had to know what a “didgeridoo*” is—and which was the only opera composed by Beethoven.

As argument waxed throughout the District about these and other matters of equal importance, it was felt by the staff that the time had arrived to establish which section housed the “Brains of Wirral.”

The Sports and Social club got to hear about the arguments and announced its willingness to host a competition, open to all wishing to enter. The response was lively, with no less than twelve sections entering teams. As a result it became necessary to hold the

** It's an Aboriginal musical instrument!*

Quizmasters Messrs. Ron Morley, left, and George Bowers.



Quiz over three separate evenings—two preliminary knockout evenings, and a third semi-final-and-final evening.

The last event took place recently, the four semi-finalists being Contracting ‘A,’ O & S, Commercial and Liaison. The field was littered with the teams which had fallen a couple of weeks earlier—Admin, Contracting ‘B,’ Works Control ‘A’ and ‘B,’ Amendments, Energy Sales, General Services, and Marketing, surrounded by diphthongs and tucker bags and other such unlikely paraphernalia.

They were quickly followed by O & S and Liaison, in the semi-finals, and the winners of an all-Commercial final were the Commercial team of Frank Kay,

Alan Jones, Norman Davies and Graham Monks.

The ‘ever-presents’ who did know all the answers were Ron Morley (*District Engineer*) and George Bowers (*District Commercial Engineer*), who shared the role of Quizmaster and supplied the answers between them. Jack Casson (*Shop Supervisor*) supplied the technical services, including music to be identified.



Sound on! Mr. Jack Casson in control.

The runners-up. From left to right: Messrs. Tony Prescott, Alan Smith, Dave Hall and Maurice Smith.



WELCOME TO THE WORLD

Congratulations from their many friends throughout the Board go to the two charmers who formerly worked in our Liverpool District, Barbara Christian and Ann Jones, who both presented their husbands with new baby girls recently.

Barbara (formerly Barbara Parry) and husband Ray have decided to call their offspring Helen Alexandra.

Ann (formerly Ann Semple) and Alan go for Annette Michelle. Have a nappy time each!

«Z CARS» MINI VAN

The keen eyes of many members of our Legacy transport staff saw a mini van with the registration KVM 492F appear in a scene of a recent "Z Cars" episode.

Those with colour TV were also helped by seeing the van in the MANWEB maroon which helped ring the bells even stronger.

It turned out that KUM 492F was sold via the auction market in March 1972 and apparently it had been bought by a firm supplying props for film work.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY (MANUAL WORKERS) SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

Election of Members' Committee-men

Rules and nomination forms for the nomination and election of Members' Committee-Men to serve on the Committee are available upon request to the Assistant Secretary (Personnel), Head Office.

Each nomination is required to be signed by ten members of the Scheme and completed forms must be returned not later than the 9th April 1974.

BOWLS CHALLENGE

Oswestry District bowling team throw out a friendly challenge to any other bowls teams in the MANWEB organisation.

Any takers?—Get in touch with Mr. Eric Barrow, engineering foreman's office, District Office, Maesbury Road, Oswestry.

School for Jointers

Staff on a jointing course working on a full loop of 33-kV cable in the Board's jointing school at Hoylake. Their work on four joints and three sealings is being carried out under the supervision of Mr. Geoff Parry (senior instructor), right, and Mr. Roy Holden (assistant instructor), rear. After the jobs had been completed the loop was pressure tested successfully.





Practice with the triangular slings. *Top left:* Bill Rogers with 'patient' Fred Rose. *Left:* Cora Roberts does the double on Gill Farren. *Above:* Pauline Gale looks on as Don Richardson pins the sling on Lynne Worrall, with Nurse Dorothy Davis adding the final touches.

FIRST AID CLASS

Treatment for a fractured skull, Ralph Buckley goes to work on Ellis Parry.



A few weeks ago, Nurse Dorothy Davis of Head Office looked around for volunteers from our staff at Sealand Road, Queensferry and New Crane Street to enrol on a first aid course.

She was agreeably surprised at the immediate response especially from the NJIC staff. The course soon started with clerks and engineers, painters and storekeepers, electricians and mechanics, all joined in the common aim of learning the basic principles of first aid.

Held every Wednesday afternoon between 2.30 and 4.30, the eight-week course consists of lectures coupled with practical training. Instruction is given on the theory of elementary anatomy and physiology and demonstrations of correctly treating wounds and broken limbs.

Incidents are arranged to test the first-aiders reactions and help them diagnose and give treatment when faced with injured people.

The surviving 16 members of the present course take their final examination on the 13th of this month. We wish them every success.

Our sincere thanks go to people like this throughout the Board who take the time and trouble to prepare themselves to be of use when an accident occurs and when someone is injured.

Another neat head bandage done by Colin Bradley on his colleague Tony Banham.



Efficient use of Energy

DESPITE the availability of relatively cheap oil and natural gas, electricity has steadily increased its share of the energy market during the past few years, said Mr. John Platts, Energy Sales Manager, Electricity Council, addressing a recent conference on "Fuel Conservation and the Economy" in London.

Mr. Platts continued: "Excluding transportation the 1972 consumption of electricity represented 15% of the total energy consumed in the country, which is a growth of 30% since 1966. How much longer can this continue? The most realistic way of representing market shares is on the basis of effectiveness at the point of use. Taking that on average electricity is used with twice the efficiency of combustible fuels, the present electricity market share becomes 26%. We expect that the electricity share will be about 30% by the end of the decade and 45% by the year 2,000.

Analysing the use of electricity

in industry, he said that 60% was used for motive power, mainly in driving production machinery.

"The use of electric motors almost reflects the quality of life. Some homes contain as many as 15 electric motors, quite apart from the millions in industry—all improving productivity. As manpower costs increase further we will see greater use of motive power, and we should catch up with other industrialised countries in the extent of mechanisation, giving more power to the elbow of the British worker so that he can improve his productivity," he added.

A further 25% of the electricity used by industry went to provide heat, and electricity could put heat exactly where it was wanted, with an efficiency approaching 100% and in a controlled and

uniform way.

Good lighting was essential in industry and commerce, but lighting for all purposes accounted for only 13% of total UK electricity consumption, so when the present emergency was over there would be no need to work in the dark.

Many new buildings could benefit from the application of Integrated Environmental Design, said Mr. Platts, and IED offered the opportunity to provide good quality environments which would use energy effectively.

"But whatever our interests in industry and commerce, we should remember that we are all users of energy in the home," concluded Mr. Platts. "And it is here where further savings can be made, since over 40% of electricity generated in this country is used in the home. The best savings can be achieved by installing good standards of thermal insulation, which can reduce fuel consumption for heating, cut heating bills, and actually increase our comfort."

JOE JOINS THE BREWERS

Friends and colleagues of Mr. Joe Antrobus, foreman meter reader/collector at Runcorn, gathered at Roche House recently to wish him 'good luck' on leaving to take up an appointment with Bass Charrington.

Mr. Antrobus joined MANWEB in 1950 as assistant storekeeper, being promoted storekeeper

five years later, and joining the meter reading team in 1956. He was subsequently promoted chargehand and then foreman.

Mr. R. J. Williams (*principal assistant, consumer accounts*), made a farewell presentation to Joe, who will be greatly missed by all the friends he has made over the years.

Mr. Antrobus, centre left, receives a farewell gift from Mr. Williams.



SALES TRAINING AT WALLASEY



Course 265

The Lassies—from left to right—Mrs. Joan Brady (*Norris Green*), Mrs. Margaret Jones (*Neston*), Mrs. Ethel Thomas (*Llanrwst*), Mrs. Lynn Powell (*Ellesmere Port*) and Mrs. Karen Christensen (*Birkenhead*).

The Lads—from left to right—Messrs. John Griffiths (*Caernarfon*), Bryan Marriott (*Bootle*), Robert Buckingham (*Walton Vale*) and Ray Ricketts (*Barmouth*).



Course 266

It looks as if Mr. Chris Jones from Aberystwyth as the lone male on Course 266, needs the support (*not literally*) of our Sales Training staff, Messrs. Frank Pickles, *standing left*, and Eric Richardson, *standing right*. The ladies in our picture are, *from left to right, front row*: Mrs. Win Haskayne (*Maghull*), Mrs. Lilian Blakemore (*Moreton*), Mrs. Dorothy Litherland (*Warrington*) and Mrs. Win Smith (*Bootle*). *Back row*: Mrs. Win Sandison (*Kirkby*), Mrs. Margaret Smith (*Old Swan*), Mrs. Connie Wilkinson (*Winsford*) and Miss Avis Allen (*Sandbach*).



Lighting Luncheon



Caught by the camera just before the luncheon, from left to right: Mr. H. Carpenter, Mr. G. D. Worthington (Chairman, Merseyside I.E.S.), Dr. J. A. M. Bell (Vice-President I.E.S.), Councillor Francis Burke (Lord Mayor of Liverpool) and Mr. D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman, MANWEB).

Mr. Harry Carpenter, Blackpool's Director of Lighting and Electrical Services, was guest speaker at this year's annual luncheon meeting of the Merseyside Region of the Illuminating Engineering Society, held at Dove-dale Towers, Liverpool, recently.

In Mr. Carpenter they had a world-acknowledged expert in their field. His enthusiasm for lighting, and his love of Blackpool, have earned him extensive recognition both for his contribution to improving lighting standards, and for the commercial success of Blackpool's Autumn Illuminations.

The Society is concerned with all aspects of vision and illumination in Britain, and the lunch meeting is their main local annual gathering. Among the guests was the Lord Mayor of Liverpool.

Photographic Exhibition

Pictured right are three committee members of the Chester Photographic Section, Messrs. W. D. G. Hood, chairman, S. D. Ferguson and A. Evans, secretary. The occasion was the opening of an exhibition of members' work shown at Sealand Road Restaurant. There were some 80 prints both in colour and black and white from some 20 members of the 80 strong section.



Obituary

We deeply regret to report the deaths of a number of retired colleagues:

Mr. William Goadby, retired labourer, of Barnton, Northwich, who was employed by the Board for six years until he retired in 1972. He was 58.

Mr. Samuel Idris Berry, aged 57, of Greenbank, Northwich, who was a labourer for 22 years until his early retirement in 1972.

Mr. Harry Holt, aged 69, of

Orford, Warrington, an electrical fitter's mate until he retired after 22 years' service in 1969.

Mr. William Campbell Gorrie, formerly with Liverpool Corporation and Area 1 Mains Dept., at Hatton Garden, Liverpool.

Mr. T. Coffey, of Clinkham Wood, St. Helens. He was 82.

Mr. W. D. Slater, station superintendent at Rheidol Power Station. Mr. Slater began in the industry with Aberystwyth Cor-

poration in the meter test department, and continued in that capacity after nationalisation until the section was closed. After training he was appointed as an assistant section engineer, later transferring to the CEGB as an operations engineer. He was later promoted a deputy Station Superintendent, before taking over as Superintendent at Rheidol.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of our old colleagues.

This is Your Life!



The moment of truth with, from left to right, 'Eamonn' Williams, Bill Gandy and 'Lefty' Blackwell, (commercial foreman).

Mr. BILL GANDY

A "This is Your Life" style programme, presented by Oswestry District Commercial Engineer Ron Williams, marked the retirement of Mr. W. G. (Bill) Gandy, a marketing sales representative on the District staff.

Bill came into our industry in 1939 as a store-keeper, after a long period spent working for a cycle retailing concern, and in 1952 moved to the District Office at Salop Road. A few years later he transferred to the commercial side, based on Oswestry shop, and helping out at busy periods at Whitchurch, Welshpool, and Newtown.

During the war he served in the Home Guard as a platoon commander.

The ceremony, at which Bill received gifts on behalf of his many friends, was held at an Oswestry hotel, and was followed by an enjoyable social evening, with dancing, until the early hours.

Leaves Runcorn

Friends and colleagues of Mr. Harold Powell, a labourer at our Runcorn Depot, said their farewells as they presented him with a parting gift on the occasion of his recent retirement.

STILL GOING STRONG

Following his retirement last August after 47 years' service in the electricity supply industry, Mr. Jack Hughes, a former chargehand linesman in our

North Mersey District is working again, this time in a Liverpool shipping office.

Jack started work with the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department in 1926 as an assistant linesman and helped erect the first overhead line taking supplies to farms in the Gateacre area—rural Liverpool in those days! Later overheads spread to Cronton, Widnes, Tarbock, Crosby, Hightown and Southport.

At that time there were no training schools for linesmen so Jack and his foreman had the additional job of training labourers to become linesmen.

During the war, he had many hair-raising experiences including an encounter with an unexploded bomb in one of our substations. After clearing the people from nearby houses, the bomb went off, demolishing the building but with no harm to life.

Jack has had his clashes with vandals too. Just prior to his retirement, he worked in an area where thieves were taking our copper wire. With Mr. A. W. Hawley (District Engineer), they arranged for an alarm bell to be fitted in a local farm house which would be activated by any movement of the copper wire. The thieves arrived and got to work, setting off the alarm without even knowing it. The farmer rang for the police and they arrived on the scene in time to catch the criminals red-handed.

In 1972, Jack was accidentally injured when he was struck by a hammer dropped from the top of a pole. He was knocked unconscious and woke up in Walton hospital, followed by three months sick leave.

Now, fully recovered, he has completed one most interesting and active career and is now started on another one. We wish him the best of health and good luck in the future.

"We've been together now for 40 years." Jack and May Hughes who recently celebrated their Ruby Wedding anniversary.



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