

CONTACT

March 1975

Powis Castle
(see page 66)

Why Electricity Prices Must Rise — *Chairman*

Blunt commentary on the economic aspects of the energy situation came recently from our Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, speaking at the annual dinner of the Merseyside Branch of the Electrical Contractor's Association.

He blamed the impending increase in electricity prices on two main factors. First, the "enormous" increase in the price of coal supplied to power stations and second, the deliberate depression of electricity prices (in the face of other inflated costs) by successive Governments over a period of years.

"Power-station fuel," said Mr. Dodds, "represents about 50% of the total cost of electricity to the consumer. Following the recent pay award to the miners, the price of coal to power stations will go up by £225 million. This, and two previous coal-price rises in 1974 will have added, in one year alone, £550 million a year to the Electricity Industry's previous coal bill of £450 million—an increase of 130%!"

"Since 1971 retail prices in general have increased by 52% and wages by 79%. The cost of new electri-

cal plant and wages have escalated in sympathy with these increases. The overall result of this, coupled with the Government's artificial restraint on domestic electricity prices, has been successive deficits in the Supply Industry's accounts including £176 million last year and a prospective deficit of around £300 million this year, both footed by the taxpayer," added the Chairman.

"Is it to be wondered at that Electricity Boards have been obliged to add a separate fuel index to their domestic tariffs and that the Government have been compelled to accept reality in deciding to 'phase-out' existing subsidies?" he asked.

"This represents harsh reality," said Mr. Dodds, "but better reality than a world of delusion in which no consumer meets the cost of the resources used up in meeting his requirements and in which the nation's shrinking store of capital for investment is artificially drained away into projects which can never produce a return for future investment. Better too than a world in which a steep increase in taxes is necessary to finance not only normal deficits but abnormal deficits increased by the over-demand for a commodity priced well below the cost of its production."

He concluded—"The financing of deficits by the simple expedient of printing more pound notes is now clearly seen as the snare and delusion it has always been."

Our Cover Picture . . .

shows Powis Castle, Welshpool where towards the end of last season three of our electricians spent a couple of weeks or so repairing the wiring.

So efficiently did they do their jobs that the Earl himself, wrote the following letter of thanks to our District Commercial Engineer, Mr. R. A. Williams.

Dear Sir,

I write to tell you how much I appreciated the efficient and friendly service given by your three electricians carrying out repairs to the wiring of the castle following the failure of the main cable. Their names (in order of appearance) were John, Barry and Eddie, and I have nothing but praise for the manner in which they carried out their task under very difficult conditions—the castle being open to the public on most days that they were here, so that work in the state rooms could only be done in the mornings.

Considering how much work there was to be done, and the inaccessibility of much of the wiring, I was most agreeably surprised that they completed their task so soon and with so little disturbance to the daily running of the castle.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully, Powis.

In this impressive castle—a romantic border stronghold—can be found murals by Lanscroom, paintings, tapestry, early Georgian furniture and relics of the famous Clive of India. The castle is open to the public from June onwards and the beautiful terraced gardens can be visited from May, every day except Mondays and Tuesdays.

The trio for efficient and friendly service, from left to right: John Williams (electrician), Barry Day (installation inspector) and Eddie Edwards (electrician). Barry, after 25 years with the Board, recently left us to take over The White Lion at Llyncllys, near Oswestry.





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Editorial

A Coming Challenge

FACED with the prospect of having to meet the biggest-ever rise in the cost of electricity, the nation's domestic users are certain to see the Government's "Save It" campaign with new eyes.

Most people, by now, accept the validity of the campaign, but general exhortations along such lines have something of a hollow ring if any form of energy is available for public consumption at less than its true production cost.

The price of petrol had to be doubled, and stringent speed limits made compulsory, to bring home the realities of oil economics to many people, while estate agents no longer extol the benefits of oil-fired central heating in the course of advertising the properties on their books!

Many motorists have found ways and means of burning less petrol without suffering real hardship. Banding together in group travel schemes, and cutting down on non-essential jaunts are common examples, while a great deal of expensive and high-powered machinery now rolls quietly along at speeds even lower than those permitted by law.

Restricting the domestic use of electricity, however, is not so simple a matter, if the safety, convenience and comfort of home life is not to be seriously impaired.

There is no doubt that when the full effects of the coming price rises really begin to bite the value of making the wisest possible use of energy will come home with unpleasant force to every one of us. Our capacity to advise and lead the public may well prove to be a major challenge during the coming year.

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.



The team of speakers at the Conference, from left to right: Messrs. E. Redman and D. H. Laight, Sir William Mather, Messrs. M. R. Cowan and G. Applegate, Dr. J. Lawton and Dr. A. R. Blake.

INDUSTRY'S INTEREST

Effective and Economic Uses of electricity

The ever-growing interest among industrialists in making the most effective use of energy was reflected by an attendance of more than 150 at a recent conference, organised by MANWEB and held at Runcorn.

"*Electricity's Role in the Management of Resources*" was the day's theme, and large and small firms engaged in practically every kind of industrial enterprise, mainly in greater Merseyside and Cheshire, were represented.

After a welcome from our Chief Commercial Officer (Mr. M. R. Cowan), and an opening address by Sir William Mather (chairman of Mather and

Platt Ltd.), the first paper of the day was presented by Mr. Ernest Redman, MANWEB's principal industrial sales engineer.

Concluding a closely-reasoned address on the theme "*The Better Management of Energy and Resources*," Mr. Redman said:

"A decision to invest in an electrical process is one that should diminish the fuel cost risk by investing via electricity in a variety of primary fuels. Assuming the decision has been taken after a thorough appraisal of overall costs and alternatives, the decision should lead to the better management of resources generally."

Other papers, all strongly orientated towards the most effective and economic uses of energy, dealt with *The Thermal Wheel* (Mr. G. Applegate, managing director of Curwen & Newberry Ltd), *The Heat Pump* (Mr. D. H. Laight, director and chief engineer of Prestcold Ltd), *Energy Conservation in Drying* (Dr. J. Lawton, Electricity Council Research Centre), and *Electro-chemical Processing* (Dr. A. R. Blake, also from Capenhurst).

An open discussion rounded off the proceedings.

Some of the 150 delegates attending the Conference.





THE MAYOR FROM MANWEB

YET another MANWEB personality has accepted civic honours, with the invitation to **Mr. William David ('Bill') Morris**, a records draughtsman at Oswestry District, to be Mayor of Welshpool for 1975/76.

Welshpool born-and-bred, Bill worked for 20 years in the newspaper industry (with the *Montgomery and Merioneth County Times*), and serving his country (in the Royal Welch Fusiliers), before joining MANWEB in 1951 as a records draughtsman. His work mainly involved him in our North Wales Rural Development Programme in the old counties of Montgomery, Denbigh, and Cardigan.

He was first elected to the

Bill Morris,
Welshpool's new Mayor.



former Welshpool Borough Council in 1967, and with the re-organisation of local government won a seat on the new Montgomery District Council, in addition to continuing to serve on the Welshpool Town Council.

He has always been keenly interested in sport, having distinguished himself as a schoolboy athlete and playing football and cricket for Army teams, Welshpool F.C., Aberystwyth Town, and Powis Castle cricket team. He is vice-President of the Royal Welch Fusiliers Old Comrades' Association, and a former member of the old Area 4 staff committee.

His wife, Betty, comes from Bargoed, South Wales, and they have two daughters, one son, and three grandchildren.

Best wishes to Bill during his year of office!

Rhos Songsters

Three of our colleagues were among the 12 selected from the 70-strong Rhos Orpheus Male Voice Choir to sing at the reception following the recent top wedding in Chester of Lady Leonora Grosvenor and the Earl of Lichfield.

Among the guests and listening to the singing were members of the Royal family.

We offer our congratulations on what must have felt like a Royal Command Performance to **Messrs. Cyril Jones** (*debt collector*), **Iorwerth Morris** (*foreman, Legacy Stores*) and **Len Phillips** (*engineer, Commercial Supply*).

I.E.S. Luncheon

The Lord Mayor of Liverpool (Councillor Joseph Wilmington), and Mr. Derek Phillips, President of the Illuminating Engineering Society, were the principal guests at the recent annual luncheon of the Merseyside region of the Society, held in Liverpool. Guest speaker was Sir Stanley Holmes, Chief Executive of the Merseyside County Council.

MANWEB Group Manager **Mr. Sid Fairclough** is the Society's regional honorary secretary.

All over Italy

Back home after a six-weeks trip to Italy with the Electricity Council's Overseas Interchange Scheme is **Mr. Arthur Jones**, 2nd assistant production engineer at Dee Valley District.

Arthur, being an intrepid traveller, mastered the trip to Milan in his own car without incident—but he reckoned without the Latin elan of the driver of an Alfa-Romeo who succeeded in driving into the back end of Arthur's Cortina in Milan. Thus immobilised, our man from Rhostyllen found



From Rhostyllen to Rome. Here we see Arthur Jones (in white coat) with some of the friends he made on his recent trip to Italy.

himself travelling by public transport in Milan and Rome bringing him into close contact with the Italian man-in-the-bus!

Other adventures included being offered a regional speciality of frogs (*not just the legs—the whole frog!*) at a connoisseur's restaurant. Apparently he managed the legs—but boggled at the rest of the delicacy (*must have been those staring eyes!*).

Two weeks at Monza, two in the Milan District Office, and two at Rome made up Arthur's sojourn—during which he was able to make a detailed study of Italian jointing methods and to acquire a healthy respect for the expertise of Italian electrical engineers.

Museum Piece

A piece of history which our Liverpool District engineers will be glad to see the back of has recently been removed from the system with the redevelopment of the Islington Place area of the city.

When the substation was originally installed in 1933, **Mr. J. T. H. Owen** (now a second engineer at Liverpool), was working for Liverpool Corporation Electricity Supply De-

partment, and helped to erect the slate panel board—the last of its particular type to be installed in Liverpool.

The 6kV switchgear had live isolators, which had to be opened with a long wooden pole. Appropriately enough, some of the equipment is to find a final resting place in Liverpool Museum!

Liverpool S & S Club
present the
**NEW ELECTRON
PLAYERS**

in
**"SPRING AND
PORT WINE"**

A Lancashire comedy by
Bill Naughton

at the
**Neptune Theatre,
Liverpool**

**on Friday and Saturday
4th and 5th April 1975
at 7.30 p.m.**

**All tickets 40p (Senior
Citizens 25p Friday only)
available from Mrs. V.
Roberts Lister Drive
Offices.**

Advice for the Elderly

Latest in the series of public service leaflets "Electricity and You" is one aimed at helping elderly people to use electricity wisely. "How to Make the Most of Electricity—Advice for Elderly People in Winter," has been prepared by the Electricity Council in co-operation with Age Concern, and as well as giving simple advice on keeping warm, ways of making worthwhile savings in the electricity bill are listed. There are useful tips on cooking and water heating and hints on what to do if there should be a temporary interruption of the electricity supply.

Copies of the leaflet can be obtained free from local Electricity Board shops or from the Marketing Department, The Electricity Council, Trafalgar Buildings, 1 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DS.

Other titles in the series are: "How to Enjoy Warmth Without Waste"—which gives useful advice on cutting heat loss from the home; "A Guide to Running Costs"—which gives the amount of electricity used by most of the popular home appliances and shows the value you get for each unit of electricity; and "How to Read your Meter"—which tells customers how they can check on the amount of electricity they are using.

Shop Story

A customer went into our Heswall shop with the question, "Do you sell abortion 'fridges?'"

Leaves Lister Drive

The good wishes of many friends made during 22 years' service with MANWEB—first at Hatton Garden, Liverpool, and later at Lister Drive—go with **Don Gee** (consumer accounts), who has left to join the staff of the Consultative Council in Liverpool.

Chester Chosen

Chester has been chosen as one of the four cities to represent the UK during the European Architectural Heritage Year, and special stamps and commemorative envelopes will be on sale at selected Post Offices in Chester on 23rd April. Four denominations of stamps (7p, 8p, 10p and 12p) will be issued, and a special handstamp will be used to frank the envelopes.

200 Club

The monthly draw made at the end of February was won by Mr. J. Potter, Plant Supplies Engineer, at Head Office.

Equestrian to Aquarist

A very handy man to have around—I know from personal experience—is **Mr. John Barry Jones**, a driver mechanic based at our Llandudno depot.

A very likeable chap, John once won a horse in a raffle . . . yes, a horse, and the ticket only cost him 5p!

In his endeavours to become the Harvey Smith of Llandudno, John suffered aches and pains in a tender but fleshy part of his anatomy until he finally gave up and sold the horse and bought a caravan. He has found this a much more comfortable way to travel!

Handy man to know, John Barry Jones.



John is also a keen aquarist and has recently had a large tank made to house his 40-odd beautifully-marked tropical fish. His favourites among these are the Silver Dollar fish even though they present him with quite a problem as they are vegetarians. He cannot put ordinary plants in his aquarium because the Silver Dollars eat them, so he has to make do with plastic plants.

However, one day, he came across some pony nuts left over from the days when he owned a horse and, realising that they were mainly vegetable, he

Liverpool Electric Supply
**CRICKET CLUB
DANCE**
at Thingwall Road
Clubhouse
on Saturday, 12th April
7.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.
Disco by Space Odyssey
Tickets 50p from
Mal Cooper or
Albert Eyres
Late bar applied for
Refreshments available

decided to try feeding them to the Silver Dollars.

They really enjoyed them and now they thrive on their daily ration.

John is married and he and his wife Sandra have three children. He has been with the Board for the past twelve years, coming to us from a local garage.

His other interests, apart from helping people, include caravanning and photography.

Quarter-century—not out!

Members of the Liverpool Electric Supply Cricket Club and their guests recently held a dinner to celebrate the 25-years playing career of **Bert Eyres**, system engineer at Liverpool District.



Cricket Club Chairman Bert Eyres with his recently acquired silver salver.

Bert joined MANWEB in 1948, and has played for the club since then, his first game for the team being played against Maghull in 1949. From 1959 to 1963 he was 1st Eleven and Club captain. He then did a four-year stint as club secretary, after which he took on the job of fixture secretary. This year he has been elected Chairman.

Bert was one of the prime movers in the formation of the Merseyside Cricket Association, and has been the Association's Chairman since its inception.

Colleagues and friends presented Bert, with a silver salver and his wife Ann, a bouquet of flowers.

Last, but not least, his son Roy follows in Dad's footsteps—he also plays a fine game of cricket.

Best Output Yet!

Last year the Electric Vehicle Association was able to report its best output of electric vehicles for six years. The demand continues to rise and the last quarterly return has hit a new high-spot in the number of vehicles delivered to users.



The Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Joseph Wilmington visited our Head Office building recently, accompanied by his mother, and lunched with Board members and Chief Officers. Pictured above, from left to right, are, Messrs. M. M. Parker (Board Member and Secretary and Solicitor), A. P. Whyte (Chief Accountant) and B. Nelson (Member), Councillor Wilmington, Messrs. M. R. Cowan (Chief Commercial Officer) and D. G. Dodds (Chairman), Mrs. Wilmington, Mr. B. R. Hastings (Deputy Chairman), Councillor C. S. McKenzie and Professor H. T. Williams (Members), Mr. F. J. Brown (Chief Engineer) and Councillor G. Davies (Member).

Engagement

Congratulations to **Mr. Eric Powell**, of North Mersey District Drawing Office, on his recent engagement to Miss Kim Wilcox.

New Arrivals!

Congratulations to:

Mr. Steven Fishwick (computers, Head Office), and Mrs. Fishwick, on the birth of twins (Gregory and Howard).

Mr. Martin Benson (engineer—Liverpool District), and his wife Elizabeth, on the birth of a daughter (Claire Marie Jeanne).

Mr. Colin Bellingham (electrician—Lister Drive), and his wife Norma, on the birth of a daughter (Ruth).

HOLIDAYS

From our colleagues in Norweb.

Six berth caravan at Penrhos, between Pwllheli and Abersoch. Mains water and electricity. Phone 051-648 3701.

Six berth caravan at Prestatyn. Mains electricity, hot and cold water, flush toilets. 'Phone: Wrexham 52131 (after 6.0 p.m.).

ABERSOCH—4 and 6 berth caravan available April to September. Mains water and sea view both vans. Write T. J. Hill, 283 Peter Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

CORNWALL—village near Falmouth, modern bungalow, car space, b/b, terms moderate.

Write: N. Barnes, 4 Beechfield Ave., Flixton, Manchester, Lancs.

LLANDULAS—Four-berth caravan, sea view, two minutes from beach. Vacancies Easter onwards. Write: Mrs. L. M. Morris, 179 Huddersfield Road, Diggle, Oldham OL3 5NU.

MORECAMBE—six berth caravan on Westgate caravan park, all amenities. Write: M. Turner, 10 Barnes Road, Morecambe, Lancs.

MORECAMBE—1972 six berth caravan. Regent Caravan Site. All club amenities, within easy reach of sea and shops. Write: F. Schofield, 59 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancs.

NEW MILTON, HANTS—six berth caravan. Electricity, flush toilet, on superior site New Forest area. Three miles from sea. Write: J. M. Allen, 7 Sandringham Drive, Greenmount, Bury, Lancs.

For Sale

Oxton, semi-detached, three bedrooms, lounge/dining room, fully fitted kitchen, bathroom/W.C. Hall and stairs fitted Wilton carpet. New cedar shed. Concrete run-in for car. Close school and buses. £8,250 o.n.o. Mrs. H. Jervis, 4 Hargrave Close, Oxton, Birkenhead.

CAPTION COMPETITION

After keeping clear of the libellous and unprintable entries, we were able to come up with three winners in our 'Caption Competition.' They will each receive £2.

"That's all right Mr. Dean, beans have the same effect on me!" sent in by **Mr. George Harrison**, Legal Section, Head Office.

Mr. Dean: "My girdle's killing me!" sent in by **Mr. Robert D. Jones**, Internal Audit, Head Office.

"I went into this business with my eyes shut!" sent in by **Mr. G. A. S. Lewer**, Display Leader, Head Office.



BADMINTON ENTHUSIASTS COMPETE AT CHESTER

Six teams of badminton enthusiasts, drawn from all parts of the MANWEB area, met at Chester Drill Hall last month to play in what is hoped will be the first of a regular series of such competitions.

Three teams from Head Office, and one from each of the Group Managers' clutch of Districts (named, appropriately enough, 'Fairclough,' 'Barracough,' and 'Helliwell'), competed for the trophy donated by the North Wirral Sports and Social Club.

Team members were:

'Fairclough': Paul Wilkinson (Capt.), and Geoff Phillips (Liverpool); Elwyn Jones (N. Wirral); Doris Hamer (N Mersey); Doreen Rushton, Heather Limb and Sue Davies (N. Wirral).

'Barracough': Barry Harding (Capt.), and A. Banks (Mid-Cheshire); Geoff Purslow (Oswestry) Barbara Allman (Mid-Cheshire); Dot Lorenzo and Carol Jones (Oswestry).

'Helliwell': Alan Snape (Capt.), Will Jones and Richard Parry (Gwynedd); Tony Tonks (Dee Valley); Pauline Jones (Gwynedd); Lyn Leadbetter (Clwyd); and Maria McAdam (associate).

'Head Office': John Ford (Capt.), Mike Greenslade, Neil Taylor-Hayhurst, Marie Blair, Vivien Price, and Janine Rawson.

'MANWEB' (Head Office): Reg Morris (Capt.), John Ashton, Joe Pugh, Joan Hughes, Maureen Donaldson, and Kath Knight.

'Head Office A': Ken Winrow (Capt.), Richard Donaldson, David Atherton, Keith Hughes, Joan Morris, Eryl McKenzie, and Jennie Ashton.

The tournament was sponsored by Head Office Sports and Social Club, and organised by John Foster (North Wirral). It is hoped that other Clubs will sponsor future competitions.

After an enjoyable afternoon's effort, the eventual winners proved to be the 'Fairclough' team with 'Head Office' in the runner-up position. The trophy was presented to the winners by Mr. H. C. Foreman, Chairman of the Head Office Sports and Social Club.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY INDUSTRY NATIONAL BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

to be held at
Birmingham University Sports Complex on
Saturday, 5th April (9.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.)
and Sunday, 6th April (10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.)

ADMISSION FREE

Take a trip out and support MANWEB's
two teams.

The stalwarts who were left at the end of the day's play at Chester Drill Hall. The Competition winners 'Fairclough' are seated, from left to right: Geoff Phillips, Heather Limb, Doreen Rushton, Paul Wilkinson, Doris Hamer, Sue Davies and Elwyn Jones. The runners-up, 'Head Office,' are kneeling, left to right: Neil Taylor-Hayhurst, Janine Rawson, Marie Blair, John Ford, Mike Greenslade and Vivien Price. Competition organisers —and caterers— were John Foster, right, and Tony Thakray, left.



UP THE JUNCTION!

Man from MANWEB in Clubland

OUR Commercial engineers have quite a reputation for the way in which they are often able to give our customers expert help and advice on all kinds of electrical problems. On many occasions they prove to be specialists in other fields too as exemplified by energy sales engineer Mr. Ron Carter from our Clwyd District when with his help and enthusiasm, the Chairman and Committee of the Llandudno Junction Labour and Social Club decided to move from the 'local' image and challenge as the number one club on the North Wales coast.

It all started when the Club Chairman felt that the 2,000 members should be able to come to their Club and enjoy a night's entertainment in a concert room free from cigarette smoke and excessive heat and in an atmosphere as clean and fresh as the good Welsh air outside.

Ron provided the answer when following up their enquiry resulting from our air conditioning campaign. He managed to bring in an order for the installation of air conditioning equivalent to 15-tonne refrigeration. The whole job was worth around £5,500.

The scheme, well-designed and installed, proved to be very efficient much to the delight and satisfaction of the members and the Chairman who then mentioned to Ron that their existing oil-fired central heating system, in addition to becoming expensive to run, was also proving inadequate.

Eagerly sensing extra load, Ron was again ready with a scheme. He suggested that the most practical solution would be to convert the existing air-conditioning installation to a dual system incorporating a 48-kilowatt heating unit. The idea was accepted and MANWEB had another contract worth £500!

Shortly afterwards, when Ron called to inspect the installation he noticed building work being carried out for the provision of new dressing rooms and toilet facilities for the Club's concert artists. He then saw the half-circle plinth at the side of the concert room which served as the stage.

Again Ron's grey cells were activated and drawing on his past experience in amateur dramatics and stage presentations for various functions with the Board, he

decided to approach the Club Chairman and his Committee with yet another exciting project for them to work on.

As a result, and almost entirely from Ron's original thoughts, the Club now have a permanent stage, large enough for a full-size band, and designed to attract top artists used to high standards. A comprehensive 20-kilowatt Rank Strand stage and house-lighting scheme complete with transistorised dimmers, is remotely controlled from an operations kiosk which has been erected at the rear end of the concert room. Even the operation of opening and closing the front curtains is electrically controlled from the kiosk. All this has realised additional work for the Board to the tune of £3,500.

The Club now ranks with the best in North Wales and is on a par with the country's top entertainment spots.

A few weeks ago, coming up to the third anniversary of the Club's original opening, our contracting staff pulled out all the stops in order to commission the new stage lighting installation in time for the special anniversary concert which starred comedian Pat Mooney supported by some top line artists.

Packed to Capacity

On opening night, the concert room was packed to capacity, the artists made up and ready to go on, but, there was no sign of the man who was to operate the lighting equipment. Fortunately, the Man from MANWEB was on hand again and Ron spent the evening in the kiosk operating the switchboard, expertly showing the Committee, the artists and the audience the full effect of the first class stage and house-lighting installation which, at the end of the very successful evening, was highly praised by one and all.

Club Chairman, Mr. Harry Priestley commented, "MANWEB are marvellous. You bring them in to do a job and before you know it they are as keen as you are to make your business a success. They are always ready to help and their expert advice in so many fields is really sound. We have complete trust in them to get on with the job and to finish it."

The electrical load at the Club is around 55-kilowatts, and with such a forward-looking Chairman, backed by a strong Committee and the support of 2,000 members—and of course Mr. Ron Carter—there is no limit to the further growth of this great Club. Possibly all-electric catering could be next on the agenda!

Incidentally, we have just heard that a 200-kilowatt consumer type substation has recently been commissioned for the Club.

So, "Wheeltappers and Shunters" watch out! There's no competition "Up the Junction."



Above: The new stage, comfortably filled as the Roland Mott Band open the show on Gala Night.

Right: Checking on final arrangements on the big night, from left to right: Messrs. Roland Mott, Harry Priestley (*Club Chairman*) and Ron Carter, our man in Clubland.

On Opening Night at Clwyd's Top Club



The packed clubroom—with one lady looking to see if there is any more room on the roof!



1975 Electric Living Trade Fair

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT HARROGATE

Journalists from eleven newspaper groups and broadcasting organisations in the MANWEB area visited the 1975 Electric Living Trade Fair, staged at Harrogate in February, along with hundreds of representatives of the press, radio and TV, from all over the country.

The Fair—which attracted nearly 200 exhibitors—was the largest ever held, reflecting the confidence of electrical appliance manufacturers in future sales and growth. Forty overseas firms represented Common Market countries, Scandinavia, the USA, the Far East, and (for the first time) Russia. Almost every stand had something new to show, and there was special emphasis on energy conservation and the wise use of electricity.



Cookers

With the growth and popularity of the labour saving, fitted kitchen, there is a trend towards separate electric ovens and hobs. More than twenty new split level oven units were on show, all with energy and time-saving features such as grills that can be switched to use only half the heating element, or can be used as a second economy oven. Several models have fan ovens which have extra cooking capacity, using the space normally taken up with conventional heating elements. The whole area of the fan oven can be used for cooking without fear of scorching or burning as temperature is even throughout and there is more shelf space. Also the fan oven is faster for many types of cooking.

All the modern electric cookers now have ovens that just refuse to get dirty. Most have linings with a special coating that automatically destroys any spills leaving no sticky marks; some maintain a spotless finish by an additional, automatic cleaning cycle at a higher temperature.

Domestic microwave ovens make their first appearance. Extremely fast cooking and heating of fresh, convenience or frozen foods, plus 60 per cent electricity savings, are among the many claims for these ovens which are no bigger than a TV set yet capable of almost all the cooking tasks of the conventional oven and hob.

There are also many other ideas for the fitted kitchen. More than one manufacturer showed units incorporating a counter-top deep fat fryer, bain marie, radiant rings, and heat-resistant rests for the pans.

There was also a wide range of small cookers, quick grills, rotisseries and toasters—all capable of cooking smaller quantities and fast snacks with the minimum amount of electricity. Also shown for the first time was a plug-in electric cooking pot designed for long slow cooking of stews and casseroles—again making wise use of electricity.

**The combined refrigerator-freezer—
on sale in a
variety of capacity combinations.**

Refrigerators and Freezers

The refrigerator combined with the food freezer has grown in popularity over the last two years and there are now many cabinets offering a freezer matched in capacity with a refrigerator at convenient waist level. Upright freezers are now as popular as the chest type because of their economical use of floor space. This year there are several new models, including some with two doors.

Home Laundry

Sales of washing machines have continued to increase, with single-tub automatics now accounting for 60 per cent of sales. Many of the new introductions are now small enough to fit under a worktop yet will wash, rinse and spin-dry a full 9 lb. load. Most machines incorporate energy saving features. The front-loading, tumble-action machines use the minimum of hot water, and wash programmes conform to water temperatures recommended by the garment manufacturers.

New automatic spin dryers and tumble dryers will take care of the drying problem and incorporate a safety locking system which is now becoming standard on all washing machines and dryers. One of the new tumble models gets rid of its own steam and so does not need venting to the outdoors. There are new ideas to simplify ironing—lightweight irons with treated soleplates, and methods to prevent scale building up in a steam iron.

Electric Heaters

Electric heating combined with high standards of insulation can give running costs that compare favourably with other fuels—and electricity has the extra benefits of simplicity, cleanliness and virtually no maintenance costs. Storage heaters are just one of many electric systems being shown that offers central heating at low capital cost, simple installation and—in conjunction with home insulation to conserve the heat—acceptable running costs. Many of the models shown at the exhibition now have a fan or damper mechanism that allows control of heat output simply by turning a knob.

Most of the electric heaters on show need only a connection to a 13 amp socket and their heat response is immediate. This year there were more fireplace heaters complete with modern surround, popular with those replacing or modernising old fire grates. There are also new portable fan heaters and new low wattage convector for the hall, dining room, study or nursery which give background heat at modest cost.



Above:

One of the new generation of cookers—complete with non-stick griddle for dry frying, four rings, two ovens with self-clean linings—and built-in salt-and-pepper pots!

Below:

A wall-mounted air-cleaner, which can extract dust, smoke, smells, bacteria and other air-borne pollutants in heavily-used public places.



Water Heaters

Electric water heating is simple to install and maintain, and not expensive if the tank is really well lagged. Among numerous new electric water heaters are cylinders for immersion heaters with factory-applied insulation which cuts heat loss to a minimum. Shower units that need very little plumbing and easy wiring and use much less water than the bath were exhibited on several stands, together with compact sink and basin water heaters that save money by avoiding long pipe runs, and instantaneous water-heaters that will give small quantities of hot water at the touch of a button. These small instantaneous models are ideal for shops, offices, doctors' and dentists' surgeries, clubs and cloakrooms.

Dishwashers

Several new models are shown this year including many with built-in softeners to give a sparkling finish to the glass and china.

Other New Labour Savers

Small electric helpers to simplify housework and kitchen tasks were exhibited on most stands. There are new electric kettles (including models in bright colours) vacuum cleaners, air purifiers, electric blankets, plate warmers, toasters, food mixers,

coffee makers, hair dryers, personal care appliances, ice cream makers, waste disposers, can openers, deep fat fryers, fry pans, blenders—even door chimes!

An Electric Future — despite energy problems

“It is essential that the electrical manufacturing industry continues to grow. If we look at the long-term future—as well as the short-term situation—by the end of the century it is safe to predict that almost all the homes in Britain may well be all-electric. With the probable shortage of fossil fuels really biting by the 1990's we will probably have to depend for most of our domestic energy on the new generations of nuclear power stations now being planned or researched.”

With these words Mr. Charles George, marketing adviser to the Electricity Council, pinpointed the answer to the question as to why we should have an Electric Trade Fair when the need for energy conservation is universally accepted. He was speaking to the assembled press of Britain, after they had seen a preview of what the Fair had to offer.

Mr. George added: “The latest electrical equipment for the home represents a huge investment by manufacturers in research and technical development and capital. It also represents the output of a very large number of work people throughout the land. The manufacturers are demonstrating their optimism and sales confidence despite current economic problems, and despite a world-wide fuel crisis which has increased the costs of the manufacture of appliances and of what the housewife must now pay to own and operate them.

Referring to the present policies of the electricity supply industry, Mr. George added: “As well as our efforts to contain *our* own costs, the electricity supply industry has undertaken a major campaign to help the householder and housewife contain *their* electricity costs.

“A campaign to help the householder make wise use of electricity is very much in the national interest and indeed it has never made sense to waste anything. Certainly it makes no sense at all to waste energy whether it be coal, gas, oil or electricity, and so we are working alongside the Department of Energy in an educational and publicity programme to show our customers how to make their electricity go further.

“It is our firm belief that when electricity is used

The shape of things to come — the domestic microwave oven.



wisely our customers can still continue to enjoy the many real benefits of electricity shown here at the exhibition.

"We, in Britain, do not want to forget that we are amongst those who enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world. Women have no need to spend every day engaged in household drudgery—washing, cleaning and cooking—thanks to their electrical servants. And the greater proportion of these excellent labour saving aids, that make this possible, use only very small amounts of electricity.

"Like the primary fuels, electricity *can* be wastefully used when it is converted into heat—for heating a room or a home or for heating water.

"We have had cheap fuel for so long now there was little inducement for builders or householders to insulate homes so as to reduce the amount of heat escaping to the outdoors. Cheap fuel made people reluctant to spend money on insulating materials or even buy a lagging jacket to reduce heat loss from the hot water cylinder. But simple and inexpensive

methods for preserving heat can make immediate and substantial cuts in our fuel bills. A million well insulated homes could save £10 million on the fuel bill—and there are about 19 million homes in Britain. It will take 10 years, at present rates, to insulate a half of them—so no time should be lost in making a start.

"Electric cookers, electric water heaters, fires and fan heaters—all these useful appliances are now being developed so they can be used wisely and economically. Throughout the exhibition there are many ideas being shown to maintain sales in a vital and major industry which in Britain is a large employer and one of our major sources of export revenue.

"We are not dealing with a shortage of electricity and there is no question of asking anyone to go without electricity if he is prepared to meet the higher bills. What we and the Government are seeking is a sustained effort over a period of years to alert the public to the need for energy conservation—energy sense is common sense."

Some comments by the Ladies of the Press . . .

"The emphasis was on energy conservation, and the wise use of electricity, and this was reflected by many of the things on show, such as grills which could be switched to use only half the heating element, or used as a second economy oven, and fan ovens with extra cooking capacity using space normally taken up with conventional cooking elements.

"Appliances that use the least electricity are the 'in' things, and are about to lead the field when they crowd into the shops this Spring."—Margaret Williams, in the *Western Mail*.

"Almost every stand had something new to show, and there was a special emphasis on energy conservation. Domestic microwave ovens made their first appearance. Extremely fast cooking and heating of fresh, convenience, or frozen foods plus 60% saving of electricity are among the claims for these ovens"

—Stella Parker, in the *Warrington Guardian*.

* * *

"With fuel costs soaring, the manufacturers concentrated on fuel-saving appliances, and there was a very substantial showing by many famous firms on 'table-top' cooking using small grills, small ovens, even the pressure cookers are coming to the fore again, all in order to save precious fuel."

—Mona Smith, in the *Cheshire Observer*.

* * *

"Almost every stand had something new to show, and while this didn't actually result in anything very revolutionary, there was a general feeling of improved designs, of power-saving ideas, of real attention to the needs of the housewife.

"The whole business of what your electricity is costing you was dealt with in a speech by Mr. Charles George, Marketing Ad-

viser to the Electricity Council, who pointed out for a start that the price per unit in Britain is still among the lowest in Europe. On the campaign to save fuel, he said that with the wise use of electricity, consumers could still enjoy all the benefits, and in particular women could still escape from household drudgery."

—Peggy Woodcock, in the *Chester Chronicle*.

* * *

"The electricity supply industry, as well as making efforts to contain its own costs, has undertaken a major campaign to help people contain domestic electricity costs.

"Almost every exhibitor had something new to show, representing a huge investment in research, technological development and capital, and demonstrating their optimism despite current economic problems."—Jenny Griffiths, in the *Evening Leader*.

OUR INDUSTRY'S ROLE IN DISTRICT HEATING

Regional teams comprising personnel from both the Central Electricity Generating Board and Area Electricity Boards have been established by the electricity supply industry to give careful study to any potentially viable district heating schemes arising within their area, said Mr. Gerald S. West, of the Electricity Council, at the recent annual meeting of the District Heating Association.

Mr. West said that since the teams had been established 21 schemes for district heating had been put forward for consideration, and while it would be premature to give any indication of the outcome, the coverage varied from compact city centre developments, and hospital and education complexes to large redevelopment or new town areas. These were mainly reasonably close to existing power stations.

He added that, with regard to heat supplies to industrial and commercial sites, ten possible schemes had been suggested and were being carefully studied.

"These investigations require collaboration between the different parties involved—the supply industry as the heat supplier, the consultant, the heat contractor and, of course, the developer acting on behalf of the ultimate consumer," he said.

"I have mentioned the ultimate consumer last,

but we must all remember that all that we are doing is on his behalf. It is our task to provide him with an improvement to his living standard at prices he can afford and without any burden being placed upon the community at large."

Mr. West stressed that the criterion on which any scheme would be judged would be that of economic viability. It was a particular responsibility of the supply industry that it should secure an adequate return on the investments it made.

In the introduction of district heating schemes linked to combined heat/electricity supply plant, the risk arose that large amounts of capital might be

Association's New President

Sir Peter Menzies, Chairman of the Electricity Council, has been elected President of the District Heating Association. He succeeds Lord Greenwood of Rossendale.

invested but the heat load not materialise as quickly as was expected. One approach to this problem would be to build up the district heating system gradually, using direct heat supply from local boilers until an adequate heat load had developed. Then the district heating scheme might be coupled to a new heat/electric station or a converted existing station, and the local boilers relegated to a standby role.

Better Office Equipment

Energy management has become an important new discipline for businessmen who require office buildings with advanced environmental standards and acceptable running costs.

A businessman's guide to the wise and efficient use of energy is contained in a new publication from the Electricity Council, "*Electricity in Offices*," which sets out the standards by which new offices are judged. It also outlines the way in which these standards can be realised by environmental controls which make the best possible use of energy and other resources. It is not generally realised that good quality lighting, which can be visually imaginative as well as functional, and air conditioning, which provides consistently com-

fortable working conditions, are calculated to represent less than three per cent of the costs of employing office staff.

"Electricity in Offices," is obtainable from all Electricity Boards and the Electricity Council, Marketing Department, Trafalgar Buildings, 1 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DS. Single copies are free.

ELECTRIC-MELTING

"*Electric Melting of Non-Ferrous Metals*" is a new 24-page illustrated brochure published by the Electricity Council describing the advantages to the non-ferrous metals industries, of melting, holding and diecasting with electrical equipment.

Following a short introduction, three sections deal separately with the application of electric equipment to aluminium, copper and zinc. Each section contains case histories of successful installations and the benefits which accrue. Specific applications described for

electric equipment in the three sections are: Aluminium-melting and holding for diecasting, and secondary aluminium melting; Copper-melting of copper alloys for foundry ingot production, copper alloy melting for foundries, and melting and holding of copper alloys for casting slabs and billets; Zinc-melting and holding for diecasting. The brochure is available free, from Electricity Boards or from the Electricity Council, Marketing Department, 1 Charing Cross, London, SW1A 2DS.



We are the Champions!

Chatting at the end of a 'Champion' production line are, from left to right: Messrs. Alan Jones, Graham Houghton and Fred Halifax.



A great team in action

A GREAT team of electricians in our North Wirral District have proved—yet again—that the Men from MANWEB earn their reputation for speed, quality and efficient service on the jobs they tackle.

Recently, we managed to catch up with them working on a new factory extension for the Champion Spark Plug Company at Upton. This lucrative and challenging contract came to us through the initial opportunism of Mr. Ron Jones (*energy sales engineer*) and Mr. Alan Jones (*installation engineer*).

They had been to Champion's to talk about power factor correction and separate metering arrangements for the new extensions which was to double the Company's output capacity, and with an eye to business they suggested to Mr. Fred Halifax, the Works Engineer, that MANWEB should tender for the job of wiring the new premises.

Subsequently, when our tender was accepted, Mr. Graham Houghton (*Contracting Engineer*) commented "Although our price was competitive, I believe

that the real reason for the success with our tender was because of the previous satisfactory service given to the Company by North Wirral District."

The new extension building got off to a bad start with work held up because of the steel shortage. Our men patiently waited to get in, which they did eventually, weeks behind the scheduled starting date. Despite this setback however, the Men from MANWEB completed their work by the date quoted on our contract.

This speedy service helped bring in other work from the Company to the tune of £60,000 and we are now in the running for a further £20,000-worth of installation work.

The main contractors for the Champion building have their own electrical installation department, but they were so impressed with our work that they have recommended us as sub-contractors for electrical installations on a new superstore to be built—a job worth about £100,000! Champion!!

The 'Champion' sparks team from North Wirral. From left to right: Messrs. Alan Rigby, Ken Taylor, Terry Winterton and Geoff Robinson (*electricians*), Graham Edge, Dave Povall and Barry Thomas (*apprentices*), Steve Filer, John Gibson and Noel Youds (*electricians*), Alan Flynn (*apprentice*) and Norman Davies (*supervisor*).



The Fuel Crisis and Electric Vehicle Prospects

HARDLY a day passes without either the threat or the reality of a substantial increase in the cost of transport. The cost is, of course, entirely dependent on the price we pay for the oil we have to buy from abroad. There are, however, two distinct problems—the quadrupled price of the oil, and the devastating effect on our balance of payments. Both these factors influence the case for battery-electric transport. In the ‘good old days’ of a year or so ago it was already established that ‘electrics’ were cheaper to run than petrol or diesel vehicles; cheaper, not only for the cost of fuel per mile but cheaper overall, including depreciation, maintenance, insurance and tax, as well as fuel. With the numerous increases in the cost of imported oil, the prices of petrol and diesel to the public have followed suit, and the benefits of ‘electrics’ have increased. Of course some of the imported oil is used for the generation of electricity so electricity charges have gone up too, but home-produced fuels accounted for over 80% of current generated. Therefore any switch from either petrol or diesel could save 80% of our overseas payments for each unit of transport turned over to electric.

There are many uses of mechanised transport where ‘electrics’ cannot as yet compete. Until developments occur in a new generation of batteries, the existing lead-acid type limit their range and speed. However, there are many uses to which they can be put and where, in addition to their economic advantages they can compete with internal combustion engined vehicles both in average and maximum speed. These uses occur in our cities, towns and urban areas where traffic is dense, where legal speed limits of 30 or 40 miles an hour obtain and where 30 miles a day is seldom exceeded by the vehicle. In particular their application is in the lighter commercial delivery vans, in transport used in the servicing of household and other commodities and as passenger cars for local shopping, taking the children to school and so on.

For all these jobs, ‘electrics’ are available with top speeds of 30 to 40 mph, and ranges up to 40 or 50 miles on one charge of the batteries. Their acceleration is such that on average speed they can certainly hold their own in give and take town traffic.

The merits of battery-electrics are often judged on the performance of the ubiquitous milk float which was never intended to travel fast but was designed

for multi-stop-start applications on door to door deliveries. Indeed, so successful is it that daily deliveries of household milk would have to cease on purely economic grounds if they had to rely on the more expensive forms of propulsion. But there is no inherent problem in designing electrically propelled vehicles for higher speeds. At Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah, USA, the World speed record for an electric vehicle has just been raised to over 167 miles an hour but in practical terms, light vans and cars using electricity as their fuel can do all that is needed in speed, acceleration and distances to be covered that are experienced in our built-up areas. So far, production of such vehicles here in the UK is limited to half a dozen firms all of whom are specialists in electric traction but whose output is restricted to a few vehicles a week. Things are moving more rapidly abroad. In the USA, a thirty million dollar contract has been signed for 15,000 electric cars to be delivered by Sebring Vanguard to Genser-Forman Ind., New Jersey. In Japan, five manufacturers of petrol driven cars, including the two largest producers, Toyota and Nissan, are turning their attention to the manufacture and development of electric vehicles. Toyota have developed a five-seater passenger car which has a top speed of 50 mph and can travel 100 to 125 miles at 30 mph. Nissan report a light delivery truck which they claim will travel at 45 mph for 100 to 125 miles.

In Great Britain, Crompton Electriccars and Harbilt Electric Trucks & Vehicles are pressing on with their light vans which have a performance ideal for city and town use and Enfield Automotive Ltd have started production in a small way with their passenger car. But no large producer of petrol cars and vans in this country appears to have any plans in this direction. Inevitably the purchase price of any commodity is linked with the rate of production and if the output of battery-electric transports was accelerated to mass-produced levels the electric vehicle market could undergo a remarkable change resulting in a really great contribution to the economy of the nation and a substantial benefit to the environment.

BATTERY-VEHICLE FILM

A film to promote the greater use of battery-electric vehicles has been commissioned by The Electric Vehicle Association of Great Britain.

Over the past few years the Association's promotions have ranged over a wide field from press advertising to seminars, each devoted to a particular branch of industry, commerce or public service.

ON THE odd occasion, our engineers experience little difficulty in locating a fault in a cable buried three or four feet underground. Snags do arise however when the cable is not underground but underwater as experienced by our engineers based at Machynlleth who, a few weeks ago, were faced with an extremely tricky job of locating a cable in the bed of a river.

This became necessary when a contractor 'pile-driving' in Bar-mouth harbour accidentally damaged our cable laid under the waters crossing the Mawddach estuary. The Men from MAN-WEB set about the task of finding and then lifting the cable which over the years had sunk deeper and deeper into the river bed.



At full tide, the cable safely lifted and harnessed.

SUBMARINE CABLE SEARCH

Eventually it was found at a depth of about 20 feet under the silt and sand.

The plan was to locate the cable at the centre of the harbour and then work shorewards. This enabled jointing to be carried out away from the main tide race channel as well as reducing the length of cable required to restore the system to normal.

The tides played an important part in the exercise for taking into account the weather conditions, wind speed and direction, working at low tide was limited to between 30 minutes and one hour at a time.

Eventually, after the cable had been located and marker buoys attached, colleagues from B.I.C.C. came in to lay a new length of cable with one submarine straight through joint on the landward side and the other joint being made on board a fishing boat anchored firmly in the middle of the estuary.

With the submarine link finally completed, security of supply was restored to the area along this

popular stretch of coastline.

Mr. Ivor Evans, our engineer in charge of the operation said, "It was an interesting and challenging job which presented a number of difficulties. Our sincere thanks

go to the many local fishermen and to the Harbourmaster for without their willing assistance, the quick and successful completion of this hazardous job would not have been possible."

The beginning of the search with, from left to right: Messrs. Bryan Williams, Merion Rees and John E. Williams (linesmen), E. Ivor Evans (assistant engineer—System) and Reg Hughes (linesman's mate).





At New Crane Street, Mr. Gray Davies, *front left*, with top drivers, Messrs. John Hampton, *centre*, and Harry Smith, *right*, surrounded by other award winners.

Awards to Safe Drivers

PATIENCE is a virtue which all good drivers should have, and over 160 drivers from our Dee Valley District and Head Office proved that they have this quality by their long wait for the Safe Driving Awards which were finally presented to them at ceremonies held at New Crane Street, Chester and at District Office, Rhostyllen a short time ago.

At the Chester get-together, drivers were welcomed by Mr. T. P. Shell (*District Administrative Officer*), who remarked that with the congestion on our roads today, drivers needed to have all their wits about them as well as being blessed with lots of luck to survive without an accident. He congratulated the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents for their sponsorship of the awards saying that anything which encouraged safety on the roads was well worth doing.

At the Rhostyllen ceremony, Mr. E. T. Peters (*District Engineer*) welcomed the small representative group of drivers based locally. He too said that good drivers must have a terrific amount of luck on their side as well as the ability to anticipate movements and actions of others on the road. He plugged the first-aid classes currently being held at various depots in the Board's area by saying that all drivers should have a rudimentary knowledge of how to care for people injured in accidents occurring on the roads. "*Do not always depend upon the other*

man," he commented, "*you should know what to do in an emergency.*"

At both meetings, Mr. Elwyn Gray Davies, the North Wales representative of RoSPA, presented the awards to the drivers. After congratulating them on their achievements he went on to speak of the Bill before Parliament last November regarding the compulsory wearing of seat belts in vehicles. He said that people's opinions varied on this subject, with many based on prejudice and not on hard facts.

The rights of the individual was usually the first argument against the wearing of seat belts but, said Mr. Gray Davies, as individuals we also had responsibilities to our families and if by not wearing seat belts we were killed or maimed in a car accident, then by exercising our own rights we could be hurting those we loved most. He also pointed out that death on the road was the concern of us all because every life lost cost between £3,000 and £4,000.

Another protest against the wearing of seat belts was when an accident involved a vehicle catching fire or going into deep water, one could be trapped in. The argument against this was based on statistics which proved that less than one per cent of vehicle accidents involved fire or water. Also, he pointed out, by not wearing a seat belt you could be knocked unconscious anyway!

Another objection covered was that it was better to be thrown clear of a vehicle in a crash than to be

strapped in. He said that research showed that when a person is thrown out of a moving vehicle he stood twice as much chance of being killed or seriously injured than he would have done had he been 'belted-up.'

He reminded his audiences that the majority of car accidents occurred less than ten miles from home and that fatalities can occur in vehicles going less than ten miles an hour.

In conclusion, Mr. Gray Davies said that he hoped what he had said would inspire more discussion and thought leading to more people wearing seat belts in their vehicles no matter how short the journey or how familiar they were with the road on which they were travelling.

... at Chester ...

Star Bar to 20-Year Brooch: Messrs. K. G. Burden, J. Hampton, F. S. Massey and C. G. Smith.

Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Messrs. W. J. Burton, H. B. Powell, A. V. Roberts, H. E. Smith and J. E. Taylor.

15-Year Brooch: Mr. F. Hodgson.

Oak Leaf Bar to Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. W. T. Allman, J. Ashbrook, E. A. Bennett, C. T. Bentley, R. J. Coterrill, D. C. Hall, I. A. John, A. R. Jonas, E. B. M. Jones, J. F. Owen and D. Phillips.

Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. G. A. Johnson, F. Newall and J. M. Williams.

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Messrs. C. D. Birtles, C. Bowyer, W. G. Carlton, P. A. Elphee, E. P. Frost, G. F. Grindley, A. Hark, R. F. Hood, D. T. Lally, F. Mealing, E. K. Salisbury, T. M. Shone, L. Sefton, T. Taylor, G. Thomas, D. M. Williams and M. Williams.

Five-Year Medal: Messrs. G. Brown, J. Gerrard, B. Griffiths, H. D. Jones and C. Robinson.

Diplomas

Messrs. P. Ankers, W. Astbury, R. W. Buckley, W. H. Clegg, C. V. Croft, P. Edwards, T. I. Evans,

B. E. Fawkes, B. Flanagan, F. Gerrard, J. M. Griffiths, T. F. Gulliver, A. Harrison, L. D. Hughes, J. Hulmston, K. Humphreys, D. F. Jackson, R. Jones, J. Kelly, G. Lacey, L. C. Lanceley, J. B. Lawson, D. Lewis, D. H. Lloyd, J. Lockley, D. J. Lynch, B. B. Martinez, R. O. Merryweather, G. H. Morgan, P. Newbrooke, S. T. O'Brien, L. Ridgway, A. Roberts, N. Roberts, T. A. Roberts, W. Roberts, F. A. Rose, K. Stokes, H. E. Smith, G. Swift, D. Williams, G. E. Williams, S. Wilson, D. J. Windsor and S. Wright.

... and at Rhostyllen

Corresponding Bar to 25-Year Medal: Mr. E. T. Corfield.

Star Bar to 20-Year Medal: Mr. D. S. Hopwood.

Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Mr. G. Parry.

Oak Leaf Bar to Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. F. Cross, E. B. Edwards, J. A. G. Harris, F. Jones, E. Lloyd, R. Parry, J. W. Pierce, H. Williams and T. C. Williams.

Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. E. E. Davies and E. N. Williams.

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Messrs. E. Ellis, J. R. Evans, D. Foulkes, E. Gilpin, H. D. Jones, D. Owens, D. A. Roberts, E. H. L. Webb and G. Williams.

Five-Year Medal: Messrs. L. Broadbent, T. O. Jones and D. J. Roberts.

Diplomas

Miss M. Roberts, and Messrs. G. Bennett, D. Burke, K. D. Buckley, J. E. Cartwright, D. Challoner, F. Crump, G. Davies, L. Davies, Lloyd Davies, J. Devaney, A. Dodd, G. Edwards, C. Evans, G. Evans, K. Evans, P. Forrett, I. Green, R. James, G. Johnson, E. Johnston, C. Jones, Eifion Jones, Eric Jones, W. Jones, J. Jordan, H. Lewis, J. A. Lloyd, A. Lovell, R. McCluskey, J. Millington, I. Morris, J. J. Morris, P. Morris, R. A. Norfolk, T. Owen, J. B. Parry, E. Phillips, H. W. Price, F. R. Prile, A. Roberts, F. Roberts, D. Roberts, A. Tonks, W. Woodall and R. Williams.

Safe drivers at the Rhostyllen ceremony faced a battery of press photographers taking this picture of Mr. Gray Davies (in glasses) presenting an award for 27 years' safe driving to Mr. Eric Corfield.



GROWING VEGETABLES FOR FREEZING

By a Gardening Correspondent

It is easy enough to decide that the garden should produce more vegetables or fruits, but to decide what kinds to grow is more difficult. You may wish to save money, or you may feel that home-grown vegetables are more nourishing and more flavour-some than those from the shops. Certainly vegetables gathered young are more nutritious than the tougher, fully-grown article.

If you have a food freezer this considerably influences your choice of vegetables, because it enables you to grow a larger proportion of those that are most expensive to buy and which you seldom get really fresh and tender in the shops. These include all the beans, peas and sweet corn. You can buy asparagus—at a price; and globe artichokes too, but these cost anything between 15p and 25p depending on the size and where you buy them. The cost of fresh vegetables is obviously influenced by the amount of labour involved in their production, and in the yield per acre.

Unfortunately asparagus and globe artichokes give a small yield from a fair amount of ground and would not be a sensible crop for the amateur to grow in a small garden. If you have plenty of room however, and you like them, late March or early April is the time to plant a new bed of these vegetables.

It is not really worth while planting less than 50 asparagus or six artichoke plants. The asparagus would need an area of about 100 sq. ft. and the artichokes about 36 sq. ft. The asparagus will need no attention beyond keeping it clear of weeds, cutting down the stems in the autumn, and feeding once a year. The globe artichokes should have the soil scraped away in April and the shoots reduced to leave the three strongest ones. Plant a new row each year, and destroy the oldest plants after they have cropped for three years. Any surplus of the two vegetables may be frozen.

Peas and beans, of course, freeze extremely well. A start may be made with a round-seeded early pea such as Feltham First, sown in February if the soil is fit to work, and further sowings made at intervals of two or three weeks from late March until mid-May. For these use a main crop variety such as Achievement or Onward.

The heaviest yield of beans from a given area will be from runner beans, and a variety new this year, White Stringless (Fry) is one that commends itself to the housewife. In good ground in a good season, runner beans can produce up to 4 lbs. of beans per foot run of row.

Broad beans too freeze well, either whole when

picked very young when the pods are only 3—4 ins. long, or as shelled beans. When gathered for freezing as shelled beans, unlike most vegetables, they must not be picked too young. The beans should be as least as large as your thumbnail—if they are smaller they seem to lose their flavour, although these small beans are delicious when cooked fresh.

There are now several completely stringless French beans, such as Flair, Tendergreen, and Processor which used to be known as Table Talk.

To prolong the pea and bean season one can sow round-seeded peas and broad beans in the open in February if the ground is fit to work. If cloches are available these will hasten the maturity of these crops by two or three weeks. So too the French and runner bean harvest may be spread over a long season if seeds are sown individually in peat pots, or boxes of seed sowing compost in a cold frame or a greenhouse in April, and planted out, either under cloches in early May, or in the open at the end of May. Then another sowing of French and runner beans may be made in the open at the end of May or, in the southern half of the country, even into early June.

Marrows freeze well, and one can either grow the courgette type of marrow, or the ordinary bush or trailing varieties. Cut the marrows when they are 4 to 6 ins. long. Never leave any to grow old and set seeds because the plant will consider it has done its job and give up producing more marrows. One plant, provided the marrows are all cut when they are small, can produce two dozen marrows.

Sweet corn freezes very well. The variety North Star is very reliable. Seeds should be sown in small peat pots in late April or early May for planting out at the end of May when danger of frost is past. Plant in a square block, not in a straight line, to help pollination of the seeds on the cobs.

NEW SERVICE MANAGER

Mr. W. D. Higgs, senior commercial engineer with the Midlands Electricity Board at Board headquarters, has been appointed as MANWEB's Installation and Service Manager. He succeeds Mr. S. Fairclough, who recently became one of MANWEB's new Group Managers.

Mr. Higgs began his career in the electricity industry with the Llanidloes Electric Light Company in 1939, returning to Llanidloes after war service in the Navy, and transferring to MANWEB on nationalisation.

In 1958 he joined the Midlands Board, serving in posts of increasing responsibility both at Ludlow District and Board Headquarters until 1973, when he was appointed senior commercial engineer.



'Put me among the girls' sums up what happened to M.C. Ron Neil when our photographer lined up this picture at the North Mersey District Dinner Dance.

North Mersey Dine and Dance

After a slap-up five-course dinner at the Blundellsands Hotel recently, some 100 members and guests of the North Mersey District Sports and Social Club went on to enjoy an evening's dancing with Master of Ceremonies Mr. Ron Neil to keep things moving.

It was a huge success thanks to the work put in by Edna Courtney, Cam Shimmin and Wyn Thomas.



Prize Crossword Competition

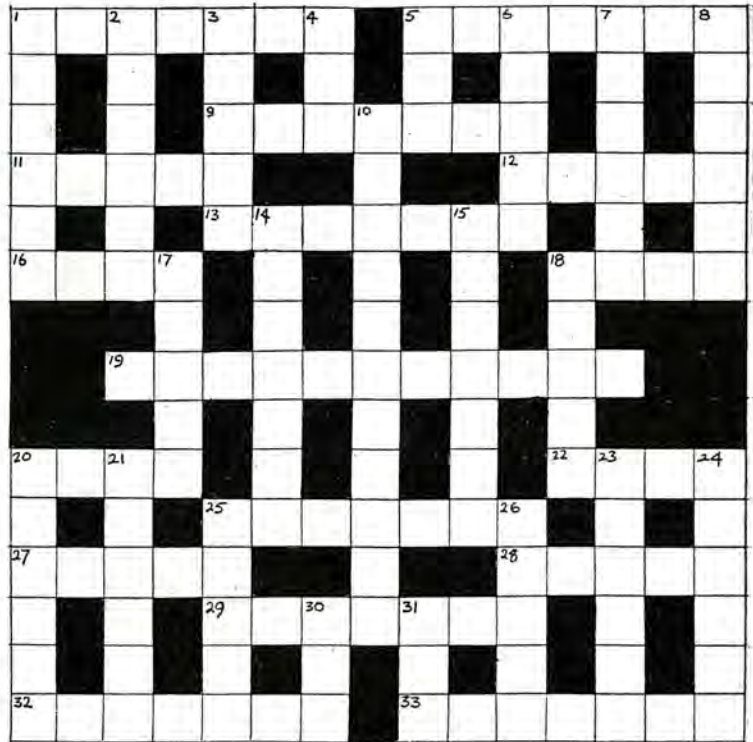
Once again we are indebted to **Mr. Cam Shimmin**, North Mersey District's System Engineer, for this tricky puzzle.

The competition is open to all MANWEB employees, pensioners and their families—but only one entry per person please.

These should be sent to, *The Editor, "Contact," MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.*

Prizes of £2 each will be awarded to the senders of the first three all-correct solutions opened on 4th April 1975.

Plain paper entries will be accepted if you don't want to mutilate your copy of "Contact."



Clues across

- 1 Am at the beginning and end of this combination of elements, and its got a pound note in the middle! (7)
- 5 A wet hen can be changed into corn (7)
- 9 A close relation to a Middle East town will extend the territory (7)
- 11 Unite in one way, but just the opposite (5)
- 12 Cheer up! The direction is delayed (5)
- 13 A pound within a flower product used in paint (7)
- 16 Mark with acid and bring your girl friend round to see the result! (4)
- 18 They hear a king is enclosed in two directions (4)
- 19 To look at studies can be capable of reduction (11)
- 20 A ship follows a graduate at the bottom (4)
- 22 Thanks to the Navy for this piece of water (4)
- 25 I objectively turned about, finished with faults removed (7)

- 27 It's new! But there is many an old one (5)
- 28 Old fashioned was a point unwanted (5)
- 29 The French go after the grinding corn and it's hard to stomach (7)
- 32 A small number bursts into song on the edges of the stairs (7)
- 33 Tells of the backward French encompassed with taxes (7)

Clues down

- 1 Certify an idiot by a Yorkshire river (6)
- 2 A final letter back to the chief won't help you to live (6)
- 3 Part of a crane and the Spanish Prussian carp (5)
- 4 A confused Ministry of Health means conductance (3)
- 5 Pack a wartime bun from the N.A.A.F.I. (3)
- 6 A different Eastern Dane brought forth young (5)
- 7 An Italian condiment sends Mother into a legendary Irish Royal abode (6)
- 8 Ensure it is changed for this Sun God (6)
- 10 Mass Nesting could result in commissions (11)
- 14 Heavy metal thrice involving me and 500 as well as a drink once used by the Navy (7)
- 15 A direction at full volume is capable and can be expressed (7)
- 17 The bricklayer's carriers have nothing in them, but they will fit on your head (5)
- 18 Consume about 150 to produce a striking effort (5)
- 20 Hot stuff in the laboratory! But it's not electric (6)
- 21 Cuts adrift but always surrounded by shipping (6)
- 23 A sailor despatched away (6)
- 24 My brother's girls feature in scene one (6)
- 25 The Spanish drink is in Scotland (5)
- 26 Live note is healthy (5)
- 30 It is short and anagrammatically it is old fashioned (3)
- 31 Going down it's high but coming up it's rubbish! (3)



Turning their backs on the bar notice is one of the privileges of the Committee members, *from left to right:* Messrs. Ben Carmen, Harry Walker and George Hignett, Mrs. Minnie Hough, Mr. Charlie Murdoch, and Dick Hough (*partially hidden*), Mrs. Frances Robertson, Messrs. Charlie Payne, John McLachlan, Alf Kinrade, Harry Robertson and Chris McGinty.

Liverpool Retired Employees Meet

There were 43 members of the Liverpool Retired Employees Group at their third annual general meeting held at the Thingwall Road Clubhouse last month. Also attending the meeting were the newly-appointed Group Manager, Mr. S. Fairclough and the Liverpool District Administrative Officer, Mr. T. D. Hamilton.

In the chair for the meeting was Mr. Alf Kinrade, who in his opening speech expressed thanks for the interest shown and the assistance given to the Group throughout the past twelve months by former Group Manager, Mr. H. Telfer, who was now a retired member, Mr. J. Pilkington from Head Office Welfare Section, Mr. E. Taylor in his capacity as Chairman of the Liverpool Sports and Welfare Club and to the editorial staff of 'Contact.'

Secretary Mr. H. Robertson, stated that plans for 1975 were well in hand with trips and outings on the same lines as last year's successes.

Officers and committee members were elected at the meeting. The Chairman is Mr. A. Kinrade and

Vice-Chairman, Mr. C. Payne. Honorary Secretary is again Mr. H. Robertson with Mr. J. McLachlan as assistant secretary.

Members elected to serve are Messrs. Ben Carmen, Jack Davidson, Billy England, George Hignett, Chris McGinty, Charlie Murdoch, George Murphy and Harry Walker. Co-opted members are Mrs. Frances Robertson, Mrs. Minnie Hough and Mr. Dick Hough.



Some of our former colleagues now with the Liverpool Retired Group.



RETIREMENTS

Mr. H. FURNESS

After nearly 20 years in charge of our Chester shop, supervisor Mr. Harry Furness has now left us to enjoy a life of retirement.

He has shouldered the responsibilities and troubles of customers and staff since 1956 and we are pleased to report that he was still on his feet at the end!

Harry began his long career in our industry with the Blackpool Corporation Electricity Department



Above: Chester shop supervisor, Mr. Harry Furness surrounded by a galaxy of his girls, a few days prior to his retirement. From left to right we see, Lucy Pleavin, Flo Porter, Mary Lindley, Pam Smith, Harry, Ella Mason, Lydia Sharvin, Ethel Adamson and Cyndy Morgan

Below: Our picture, taken after the farewell presentation to Mr. Les Hayes, shows, from left to right: Messrs. I. Morris (Production Engineer), L. Griffiths (District Engineer), Les, J. L. Hughes (System Engineer) and B. G. Baxter (Energy Sales Engineer).



At the outbreak of war he joined the army, serving in 1935 working in the consumers engineer's section. overseas with an infantry division of the Royal Engineers. He travelled to North Africa—Algeria and Tunisia—and took part in the Salerno landings. He battled through Italy as far as Casino before moving back to the Middle East. After another spell in Italy he was posted to Greece where civil war had broken out. Then back to Italy and on to Austria with the army of occupation.

On his return to civilian life he went back to Blackpool and in 1946 took charge of their main showroom. He stayed on after nationalisation until in 1951 he was put in charge of a new super-shop in the Town centre.

Five years later MANWEB got the benefit of his wide experience.

In retirement, with every Saturday free, Harry will be able to watch his favourite rugby football club—union of course—Chester. He will also be able to devote more time to another of his interests, campanology. As one of a band of eleven bellringers at St. James' Church, Christleton, he will soon have the opportunity of ringing the twelve bells in the Chester Cathedral Campanile.

A beautiful set of binoculars was the farewell gift presented to Harry from his many friends and colleagues while Mrs. Furness received a bouquet of flowers.

Mr. L. HAYES

After a lifetime in the supply industry, Mr. Les Hayes (2nd engineer, Clwyd District) retired recently.

He began in June 1935 with the North Wales Power Company at Rhuddlan, served during the second World War in the Royal Artillery, was captured by the enemy and kept a prisoner of war in Poland for five years. After his release he returned to Rhuddlan as an assistant mains engineer later moving to Ruthin as a section engineer and finally returning to Rhuddlan as a second engineer.

In presenting him with a re-

tirement gift of an infra-red grill and an electric blanket, Mr. L. Griffiths (*District Engineer*) paid tribute to his loyalty and ability as an engineer, and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Mrs. M. CROSS

Mrs. Muriel Cross, a popular member of our North Wirral District staff, has retired after 34 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

Muriel joined the former Birkenhead Corporation Electricity Department in 1940, when there was a shortage of male clerical staff due to wartime conditions, and she has proved herself, over the years, to be the equal of any mere male in getting the job done. At the time of her retirement she was a higher clerical assistant in the General Services section, and will be greatly missed by her friends and colleagues.

Farewell gifts including matching luggage, a Kenwood mixer with bowl and stand, and a blender, marked her popularity at Craven Street, Birkenhead. The staff of the Information section at Head Office also wish Muriel a long and happy retirement, with our thanks for the help she has so willingly given to us from time to time.



Surrounded by friends and parting gifts we see Mrs. Muriel Cross, *third from right*. We are sorry Muriel for the poor reproduction of the picture, but it was taken from a not very clear colour photograph.

Mr. L. H. ELLIS

A group of friends and colleagues gathered at a Newtown hotel a few weeks ago to bid farewell to Mr. Leslie Howard Ellis on the occasion of his retirement.

Good wishes cards were received from friends at Head Office, Oswestry District Office and Newtown Office and Depot who were unable to attend the farewell party.

Leslie was a senior clerk based at Newtown and over the years he has processed all the clerical work connected with the DC/AC

changeover at Llanidloes and Caersws, the North Wales Development programme, the opening of the Newtown Development Scheme and the eventual re-organisation of the Oswestry District's Welshpool and Newtown depots.

On behalf of Leslie's colleagues, Mr. W. Thompson (*District Administrative Officer*) presented him with a wristlet watch and a set of cut glass tumblers and conveyed everyone's wish that having well and truly earned it, Leslie would now be able to enjoy a long and happy retirement.

Some of the Oswestry District friends and colleagues of Mr. Leslie Ellis, *seated second from the right, front row*, at his retirement presentation a short time ago.



MANUAL WORKERS
BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY

THE ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING

of the above Society
will be held on

Friday, 16th May
1975

in the Restaurant at the
Mid-Cheshire District
Offices,
Macon Way, Crewe

Light refreshments will be
provided

All members and retired
members will be most
welcome

IT'S NOT ALL BRICKBATS!

*Some letters of thanks
from . . .*

A Capel Curig customer

"Thank you for repairing the overhead line so expeditiously. Not only that, but it was done with no fuss or noise. The weather was foul at the time and darkness was setting in.

"Tradesmen of this type are few and far between, but by Jove, they must be tough!"

another from Moreton

Just a brief note to express my appreciation for your good work in having the meter re-read and for your courtesy in writing to tell us that my husband had overestimated the amount of electricity we have used.

We complain so much of faceless authorities and staff who

won't accept responsibilities that it seems worthwhile acknowledging concern for people when it happens.

and from

*Associated Octal
at Ellesmere Port*

"Now that the situation is back to normal following the failure of one of the 12.5MVA transformers we think back to the efforts which were made to restore security of supply.

"We realised that the job of changing and transporting the transformers was beyond our capacity, so we immediately turned to your organisation for assistance. "The response was immediate and well-organised and we write to thank you for the way your staff so ably reacted and applied themselves to the job."

TAKE A BOW — ALL STAFF CONCERNED

Obituary

Mr. A. JAMES

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. Arthur James, an engineering foreman at Runcorn depot until his retirement on health grounds in August 1974. Mr. James had served the industry for 40 years.

Mr. E. JONES

The host of friends made during a lifetime of public service were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Mr. Eifion Jones, in his working life MANWEB's principal assistant (administration) at Dee Valley District, and in his public life the Chairman of the Alyn and Deeside District Council. He was 53.

Mr. Jones began his public life as a Parish Councillor, and maintained his links with politics at this most local level (despite many more important offices in the meantime) by serving for 25 years as hon. secretary of the Flintshire

Association of Parish Councils. For 19 years he was a member of Hawarden R.D.C., occupying the chair in 1964/65. He was elected to the Alyn and Deeside Council in 1973, following local government re-organisation, and chaired the 'shadow' Council during the year preceding his official election as Chairman of the Council in 1974.

He was honorary secretary of the Flintshire Playing Fields Association, and gave much service in the field of hospital management, and as a school governor. He was appointed a J.P. in 1956.

Mr. Jones started work with Hawarden R.D.C. as a junior clerk in 1939, and after war service with the R.A.F. in the Mediterranean and Middle East theatres returned to that Council, joining MANWEB on nationalisation. In 1955 he became District Senior Clerk with the former Wrexham District. He also played

a key role in the operation of the Local Advisory Committee, over many years.

On behalf of all his colleagues and friends throughout the MANWEB organisation we extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Jones in the passing of a man who gave so much for the welfare of his fellows.

Mr. J. TOPPING

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. John Topping, a labourer at our St. Helens District from 1947 to his retirement in 1965.

Mr. W. H. YATES

It is with regret that we record the death of Mr. William Henry Yates, a former electrician with our North Wirral District prior to his retirement in 1965.

Mr. Yates was well-known in West Kirby where he had lived for over 60 years.