



Contact

March 1978

Pressing on
at Dinorwic
(see page 57)

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Rejoins MANWEB as Deputy Chairman

Mr. RICHARD GALES, B.Sc. (Eng.), C. Eng., F.I.E.E., has been appointed MANWEB's new Deputy Chairman, in succession to Mr. Ben Hastings who recently became Chairman.

Mr. Gales re-joins MANWEB from the North Western Electricity Board, where he was Chief Engineer.



Mr. Richard Gales

He began his career in the industry in 1950 as a general assistant engineer with the East Midlands Division of the British Electricity Authority. Joining MANWEB in 1953 as a second assistant engineer, he gained promotion to senior assistant engineer in 1957. Four years later he was transferred to the North Wales area on planning duties, subsequently becoming District Engineer at Warrington. In 1965 he was seconded to Head Office in the Management Services Unit, and on re-organisation was appointed assistant chief engineer (System Management).

Mr. Gales left MANWEB to

take up the post of Deputy Chief Engineer for Norweb in 1973, being promoted to Chief Engineer in 1975. Latterly he also directed a two-year contract won by

British Electricity International to manage the electric utility in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia.

He was educated at Churcher's College, Petersfield, and the Imperial College of Science and Technology, later completing a graduate apprenticeship with the British Thomson-Houston company.

Mr. Gales is married with two children—a daughter who is a student at Bristol and a son who is at present doing voluntary service in Kenya.

NEW SECRETARY TAKES OVER

Mr. John Scudamore, B.Sc., C.ENG., M.I.E.E., Deputy Secretary to the Board, has been appointed Secretary in succession to Mr. Peter Henderson, who is retiring.

Mr. Scudamore, who hails from Gloucester, was educated at his local grammar school and at Birmingham University. He began his career in the electricity industry with Gloucester Corporation Electricity Department in 1934, and this was followed by war service as an officer in the armoured Royal Gloucester Hussars, with action in North West Europe.

After the war he spent a further short period with the Gloucester undertaking before taking a degree course in electrical engineering at Birmingham University. This was followed by successive engineering posts with the Southern Electricity Board at Portsmouth, and with Norweb at Preston. He joined MANWEB in 1954 as first assistant District Engineer at Chester, later moving to North Wirral as District Engineer and to Southport as District Manager. In 1969 he



Mr John Scudamore

was appointed Management Services Officer at Head Office, becoming Deputy Secretary last year.

Mr. Scudamore enjoys gardening, fell-walking and caravanning, and takes an interest in church affairs. Married, with four grown-up children, he lives at Hoole, Chester.

Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE
OF THE
MERSEYSIDE AND
NORTH WALES
ELECTRICITY BOARD

Vol. 30 No. 3

March 1978

On other
pages . . .

A Historic Link	56
Power of the Future	57
Talking Notes	59
First Aid – District Finals	61
Improved Supplies Dee Valley	62
Energy Sales – Industrial Development	64
News from Aberystwyth	66
Commercial Catering Campaign	68
First Aid Meetings	70
The Wallwork's in Malaysia	71
Around Whitchurch	73
Safe Drivers in Mid-Mersey District	74
Miscellaneous	76

TIME AND TECHNOLOGY

If the ghosts of the men who pioneered the electricity supply industry in North Wales still haunt the misty crags above Llanberis Pass they will marvel at the changes brought about by the passage of time and the advance of modern technology.

This number of *Contact* records the dismantling of the first line to take electricity from the "toytown" power station at Cwm Dyli, and also refers to progress being made in the construction of one of Europe's most exciting engineering projects, the Dinorwic pumped-storage scheme, a few miles away.

While it is true that the 240-odd inches of rain which deluge Snowdonia each year provides the basic energy source for the two generating stations, in many other respects they reflect the massive developments which have taken place in our industry as the years have passed. The output of Cwm Dyli (while the water is available) amounts to one three-hundredth of the energy which Dinorwic will be able to pour into the grid at a few seconds' notice. Cwm Dyli, a conventional hydro station, depends on Nature's replenishment of its reservoir, while the Dinorwic reserves, after being unleashed to meet peak demand, can be quietly pumped back to do the same job again and again.

Changes on this scale can be paralleled in many other aspects of the development of our industry. It may well be that seventy years from now our work today may be regarded as a suitable subject for historical study. It will have served its purpose in its time.

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 OLD

A Historic Link

NESTLING in a sheltered hollow under the flanks of Snowdon lies Cwm Dyli power station—the North Wales Power Company's first hydro-electric station, built way back in 1906.

At first glance nobody would recognise Cwm Dyli as a power station—it looks for all the world like an overgrown Welsh chapel. Perhaps even in those far-off days our industry's planners had to make special efforts not to intrude in too obvious a way into national beauty spots.

The real purpose of Cwm Dyli is given away, however, by the twin pipes which bring water down the hill from Llyn Llydaw, which lies a good deal higher in the famous Snowdon Horseshoe—and by the outdoor substation compound.

The wheel of history turned full circle at Cwm Dyli recently when work began on dismantling Line One—the first high voltage line built from the station, origi-

nally to supply the Oakeley slate quarries, over the mountain at Blaenau Ffestiniog. The line, which marches as straight as an arrow, crosses the main Capel Curig-Beddgelert road and climbs nearly 1,500 feet in a mile-and-a-half before gradually descending to Roman Bridge, on the road between Betws-y-Coed and Blaenau Ffestiniog. From there it rises again over the Crimea Pass to Blaenau Ffestiniog. Some time before the second world war a spur line was built from Roman Bridge to supply the village of Dolwyddelan.

Now, due to the expansion of the 33kV and 11kV systems during the past 20 years, the five miles of line between Cwm Dyli and Roman Bridge have



The end of an era—Pole One, Line One, shorn of its conductors.

outgrown their usefulness, and are in the process of being dismantled and recovered. Although the line was re-conducted in 1934/5 most of the 180 poles in the five-mile section are the originals, having stood up to more than 70 years of gale and blizzard!

Although Cwm Dyli lies within the boundaries of our Gwynedd District, the skyline over which the poles of Line One disappear

(Continued on page 58)



Cwm Dyli power station in its rural setting.

. **AND, THE NEW**

Power of the Future

OUR COVER PICTURE shows the MANWEB team installing cable trays for the permanent lighting scheme in one of the tunnels in the Dinorwic power station project. This particular work involves the erection of 1,300 metres of trays to take the necessary cabling.

The picture on this page shows one of the 1,000-kVA substations commissioned by MANWEB on the site. Over the past two years the Board, on contract to the CEGB, have constructed a distribution network for site supplies which is the largest on any construction site in Europe. To date thirty-six 1,000-kVA substations have been commissioned for site works.

The Dinorwic power station, when fully completed in five years time, will be the largest of its type in Europe, and the most technologically-advanced in the world.





Beginning of the end for Line One. Linesman, W. Pritchard (left) and chargehand linesman Andrew Easton (right) set about removing the conductors.



The twin pipes which bring the water power for Cwm Dyli down the mountainside.



A Historic Link

continued from page 56

marks the Clwyd District boundary. Originally the whole of Line One was in the former Caernarfon District, but on re-organisation brought most of the line inside Clwyd District.

It was a team of MANWEB people from Clwyd, therefore, who had the rather nostalgic distinction of stripping the conductors from "Pole One, Line One"—a link with a most historic development in the electrification of North Wales.

Left to right: Messrs. T. Salisbury Roberts (power station engineer at Cwm Dyli), Ted Owen (linesman's mate), Henry Williams (2nd engineer), Arthur Rowlands (assistant engineer, now 3rd engineer at Aberystwyth), and Les Griffiths (District Engineer).

Talking Notes...

FOR FOREIGN SERVICE!

THIRTEEN years in the regular army, serving from 1939 to 1952 with the Royal Artillery and seeing action during the war in various parts of Europe and Africa, was the proud record held by **Wally Harvey** before he joined the Board to work as a meter tester at Lister Drive.

Now, thanks to his membership of the Dunkirk Veterans' Association and the efforts of the "Federation des Combattants Allies en Europe" he has received a number of campaign medals awarded to soldiers who actually "took part in the action" in various campaigns.

When the Germans broke through on the Western Front in 1940 Wally's unit was cut off from the main body of the British Expeditionary Force, and was attached to General Weygand's 10th French Army. Following the surrender of France it was every man for himself, and he made his way to the Cherbourg peninsula and escaped by sea to Britain.

Although not actually rescued from the Dunkirk beaches his service with the B.E.F. entitled him to membership of the Dunkirk Veterans' Association, and now he has received

the French *Medal de la Marne*, with the *Aisne Section Cross*.

Wally later went to North Africa with the 70th Field Regiment, R.A., fighting in the closing stages of the Tunisian campaign, for which he has received the *Croix de la Victoire*. Action in Italy followed, and for support given during the final assault on Monte Cassino by Polish troops came the *Polish 'Cassino' Recognition Medal*.

Finally, in Wally's words, "to put the icing on the cake," came the *Medaille d'Europe Verte*, in recognition for overall service to Europe, and he has



Above: Some of the many campaign medals and honours awarded to Wally Harvey.

Left: Wally pictured recently with a few of his friends and colleagues in the Meter Test section at Lister Drive.



A very young
—and! —
dashing—
Wally in
uniform way
back in 1943
—on his way
to earning
h's medals.



just been made a life member of the "Federation des Combattants" and has received the Federation Tie.

Wally expresses his thanks to Col. H. Jubb, British delegate to the "Federation des Combattants," and adds that "recognition of this sort makes the efforts of the past all worthwhile."

Overseas Visitors

Most of us probably think of St. Helena as a remote place to which Napoleon was finally exiled, but for a recent visitor to MANWEB the island of St. Helena is "home."

Mr. Eric George, assistant electrical engineer in charge of all the electricity supplies on this small island in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean, was one of four electrical engineers from different parts of the world who have been with us recently, spending from three to six months studying our industry under the auspices of the British Council. All are qualified people and apart from Mr. George the others were **Mr. Gibril Mohammed Mansary**, from Sierra Leone; **Mr. Mohidin Sceikh Nuren**, from Somalia, and **Mr. Ahmed Abdullahi Ali**, also from Somalia.

At home on St. Helena Mr. George is responsible for the generation and distribution of electricity—and also for the island's telephone system! He has little chance of getting away from the island (some might say he was already 'away from

it all') as there is no airstrip and only one boat every four weeks.

St. Helena, which is volcanic in origin, covers 47 square miles, and has a population of about 5,000. After falling into British hands the island was originally maintained to supply food and water to the ships plying between Europe and the East, and a hundred years ago some 1,500 ships a year called at St. Helena, compared with 40 or so today.

Apart from Napoleon's years of exile (guarded by nearly 3,000 British troops) the island was also used as a POW camp for about 6,000 Boer prisoners during the South African war.

Weddings

Friends and colleagues in our Liverpool District offer their



Amid showers of confetti . . .
Mr. and Mrs. Cumine.

congratulations and best wishes for future happiness to **Martin Davies** (1st engineer) and his bride Lisa, and to **Winifred McKean** (Amendments section) and her groom Gordon Cumine

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Are you a member of the MANWEB Manual Workers Benevolent Society? If not, join today! Your contribution of TWO PENCE A WEEK will go towards helping a present—or former—colleague who finds himself in need. *It could of course be YOU!* Details from your District Administrative Officer, or, Head Office Welfare section.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Enjoy a week-end, or a few days, at "The Spinney" situated in the delightful Clwyd Valley. Ideal for bird watching and walking or as a touring centre. Write to: Mrs. J. D. Massey, "The Spinney," Llandyrnog, Clwyd. 'Phone: Llandyrnog 325.

Six-berth caravan available June/July, on a select site in Coed Helen Caravan Park overlooking the Menai Straits, Caernarfon. TV installed and club, shop, laundrette, showers on site. Write to: Mrs. E. J. Letman, 6 Castle Square, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

Head Office colleagues with our overseas visitors. From left to right: Eric George, Bernard Scott, Gibril Mansary, Mohidin Nuren, Ahmed Abdullahi Ali, Oscar Lloyd and Vic Heard



DISTRICT FIRST-AID FINALS

Set back for Sybil



Winners of the Rose Bowl—once again! Our Head Office team from left to right: Elizabeth Jones, Sybil Timmins (captain), Harry Longdon and Dave Roberts.

OUR MANWEB Chester team, winners of the District Rose Bowl every year since its inception in 1970, suffered a severe set-back this year when their very able captain, Sybil Cooper, sprained her wrist and was unable to take part in the competition. Dave Roberts, the reserve, stepped in and although at a disadvantage, the team put up a brave show with Harry Longdon and Liz Jones getting the Best Individual Awards.

Our thanks also go to the lads from Liverpool District—the only other MANWEB team in the competition—who fought hard against some very tough opposition.

As our Head Office team were the only ones in their particular section, they will now go forward with the winners of the District Shield—Electricity Council Research Centre—to the National Finals where, we hope, no other misfortunes face our team.



The gallant team representing our Liverpool District. From left to right, standing: George Deakin, Edgar Payne and Alex Eden. Seated: Geoff Cleugh (captain)

Les Smith – Serving Brother ▶

An active first-aider for the past 40 years—he obtained his first certificate in 1938—Mr. Leslie Smith has now been invested as a Serving Brother in the Order of St. John by Lord Cacia, the Lord Prior.

Les was a Regional Sales Controller with the Board until his retirement a few months ago after 42 years' service in the

electricity supply industry.

He will be long remembered for his association with the highly successful Northwich first aid team in the 50's. He still trains winning teams, particularly the ladies from Norweb and MANWEB.

Nurse Dorothy Davis congratulates Les Smith.





Repairing a broken line with a compression fitting. *Left to right: Dyfed Wynne, Arthur Morris, Conway Evans and Ron Hughes.*

Improved Electricity Supplies at Corwen and Bala

POPLE living in the Corwen, Bala and Tryweryn areas of our Dee Valley District can look forward to improved electricity supplies as a result of plans now being prepared by MANWEB.

These areas mainly depend for their electricity on a 52-years-old, 75 kilometres-long 33,000-Volt overhead line linking grid substations at Maentwrog, near Ffestiniog, and Legacy, near Wrexham. This line was built by the former North Wales Power Company to carry electricity from the hydro-electric generating station at Maentwrog.

Although the line was partly refurbished in 1968, the bad weather to which it is exposed has led to increasingly frequent and expensive repair work, and to inconvenience for the people who depend on it. During blizzards at the end of January sections of

it were brought down by the weight of ice building up on the conductors, and thousands of people were without electricity for varying periods. Tryweryn was off supply for 36 hours, and MANWEB engineers and linesmen struggled for several days in very difficult conditions to repair the damage.

Now MANWEB plans to improve the situation in two ways.

At present, in addition to the Maentwrog-Legacy line, there is a 33,000-Volt line feeding electricity to Corwen from Ruthin. A new line is to be built from Llandyrnog, near Denbigh, to Ruthin, thus boosting the supply to Corwen. This will cost £97,000 and should be completed next year.

It is also planned to completely refurbish part of the original line, between Maentwrog and Corwen



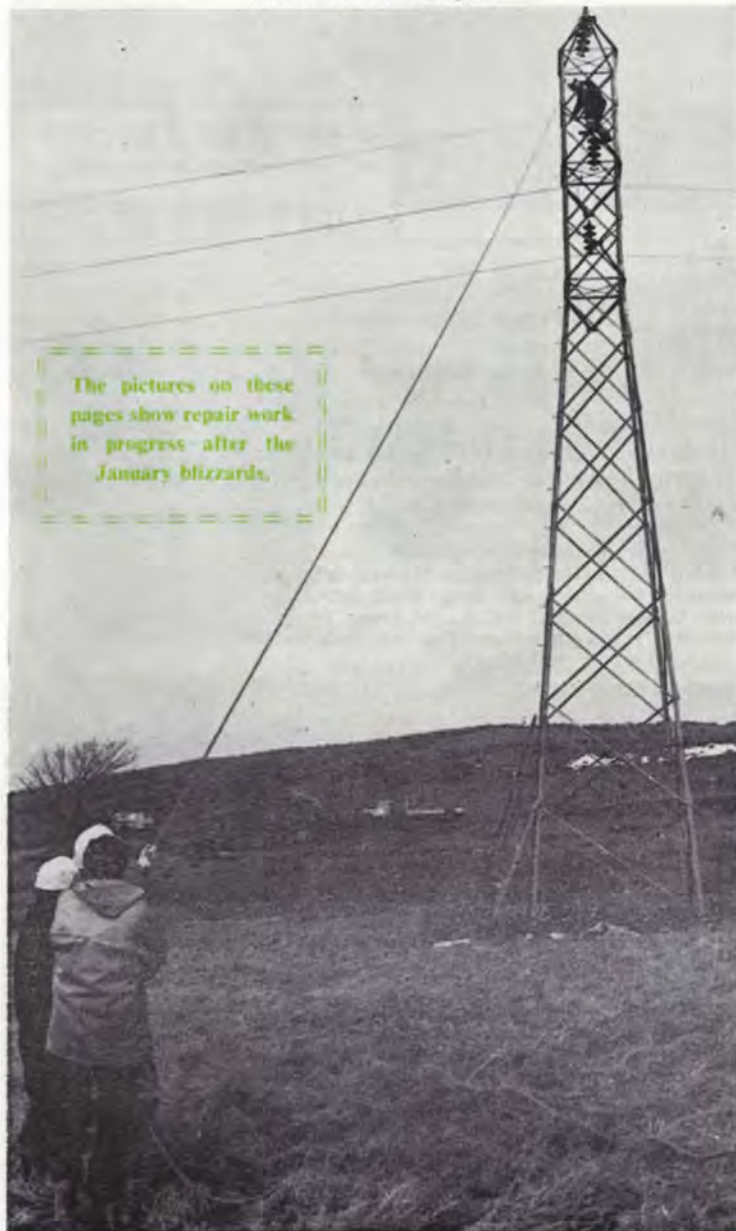
Putting their backs into it to raise the line into position. *Left to right: Eric Corfield (driver), Arthur Morris (linesman), Ronnie Hughes (linesman) and Keith Herniman (2nd engineer).*

(on which Bala and Tryweryn are wholly dependent). As soon as weather conditions permit, a detailed inspection of the line will be carried out, and a scheme prepared.

Commented Mr. Stan Roberts, MANWEB's Dee Valley District Engineer: "Damage to this line

has caused many problems for us in recent years. We are very pleased to have the prospect of giving our customers in Corwen, Bala and Tryweryn a better supply. We hope that when all the work is done we shall not have too many problems in the blizzards and gales."

While the 'ground crew' take the strain, Conway Evans (up the tower) does the craftsman's job!



The pictures on these pages show repair work in progress after the January blizzards.

Letters

from *Bebington*

"In connection with my recent rewiring installation I wish to recommend the service provided by your Mr. T. Winterton and Mr. E. Howells . . . I appreciated their efforts to minimise external damage and general disturbance . . their kindly and helpful manner was a bonus.

"The expert advice provided by your Mr. Woods was also greatly appreciated."

. . . *Berriew* . . .

A really nice testimonial from a pair of farming brothers:

"For the last 30 years my brother and myself have farmed this farm. I now wish to record our appreciation and sincere thanks for the excellent and courteous service we have always received from the staff of all your departments.

"This is written in all sincerity and comes with our very best wishes. We have always felt impressed by the excellent engineering work put in to the installation over very exposed countryside. This small tribute is especially important in what appears to me to be rather ungrateful and 'taken for granted' days."

. . . and *Tremeirchion*

From the Clerk of Tremeirchion Community Council to Clwyd District:

At last week's meeting of our Council it was agreed unanimously to write to you a letter of thanks. It was felt by all that when the village experienced a power cut on Friday night we noted with gratitude that your men turned out on a shocking night to remedy the fault, and within less than three hours we had our lights back!



Early in the campaign, a special exhibit was displayed at an exhibition staged in the Theatre Clwyd complex at Mold. Members of our commercial staff were on hand to meet visitors and tell them the MANWEB story. Our picture shows, from left to right: Harry Sharples (2nd assistant engineer, Test House), Alan Wagget (seconded from Electricity Council Research Centre, Capenhurst), Roger Glover (2nd engineer, Industrial energy sales), Anne-Reney Smith (energy sales demonstrator) and John Edwards (2nd engineer Technical Services).

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Over the past few months, meetings and seminars have been held throughout the Board's area at which members of MANWEB's 'Industrial' energy sales team from Head Office and each of our Districts,

have made special efforts to meet senior management in the many diverse industries served by the Board.

The immediate outcome of this planned public relations exercise is that now, many more 'top people' in local industry are aware of what the Board has to offer them in order to increase their profits and productivity.

The informal Industrial Management meetings have been supported by lunchtime seminars relating to electro-production held primarily for senior engineers.

Our North Mersey District industrial sales engineer Arthur Bent took the unusual step of organising a group of industrials on a trip down the Parkside colliery at Newton-le-Willows. With the helpful co-operation of the NCB, Arthur and his colleagues took advantage of the visit to talk about basic fuels in general and electricity in particular. In our North Wirral District, George Bowers (D.C.E.) and Doug Willacy (energy sales engineer) took a group of industrials on a visit to Trawsfynydd nuclear power station. Both ventures proved very popular with hosts and guests.





Above: Top management from local industries at our Welshpool presentation.
Below: Two of our guests take the opportunity to study some of our literature.



**OSWESTRY DISTRICT
INDUSTRIAL
MANAGEMENT
MEETINGS
at WELSHPOOL
and WHITCHURCH**



Chairing the meetings was Lyn Price (DCE), seen here, right, with speaker Doug Barnes.

Some of the delegates at the Whitchurch meeting listening to a talk from Doug Barnes, Oswestry's Industrial energy sales engineer.





Guest speaker Dr. J. Gore with Messrs. N. V. Baxter and Jim Barraclough

News from Aberystwyth District

Annual staff Conference

The annual conference for employees covered by the No. 10 and No. 18 Local Advisory Committees held a short time ago in Aberystwyth, proved to be the usual happy get-together for staff from both sides of the industry. A good attendance braved the bitterly cold weather to receive a warm welcome from Mr. N. V. Baxter, station manager at Rheidol Power Station, who chaired the gathering.

After the LAC secretaries had presented their reports on the year's activities Group Manager Mr. Jim Barraclough referred to the many problems caused by bad weather during the past Winter.

"I would like to express my own thanks, and those of the Board, for the way in which those problems have been dealt with," he said. "These emergencies bring out the best in our people. As a nation we should be grateful that employees of the electricity industry are always ready to turn out in all weathers to get the supply back on!"

Guest speaker for the evening was Dr. J. Gore, Engineering Science Manager for the CEGB's North Western Region, who devoted his talk to the subject of nuclear generation.

Dealing with the arguments of the 'anti-nuclear lobby', Dr. Gore declared:

"The record of safe operation of nuclear power stations in this country is unsurpassed in the world. We have the equivalent of 180 years of reactor operation experience, and there have been no incidents of significance."

Dr. Gore said that radiation was a natural phenomenon to which we were all constantly exposed. The contribution of our nuclear power stations only amounted to one quarter of one per cent of the radiation to which the citizens of Britain were exposed—comparable to that of a colour TV.

On the subject of the disposal of radioactive waste the speaker said that the earth already contained more radioactive material in the form of uranium than we were ever likely to have to dispose of. He added that although plutonium was a highly toxic substance it was much less toxic than many biological agents—such as those responsible for anthrax—and much less toxic than many chemicals in common use.

Some of the delegates who attended the Local Advisory Committees annual conference at Aberystwyth.



Club Dinner-Dance

Just under 100 members and guests of the Sports and Social Club attended the annual Dinner Dance at the Marine Hotel a few weeks ago.

Everyone enjoyed an excellent dinner, and after a short speech of welcome and a brief summary of the club's activities the *Harmony Disco* set the pace for the night's dancing.

Once again Club secretary Keith Jones and Social Section Chairman and Secretary Jack Colley and Jackie Lewis, had organised a really successful occasion, voted the 'best yet' by the happy revellers.

A trophy was presented to Emyr Griffiths for winning the bowls knock-out competition, held at the end of last season.



Round the tables ..



Emyr Griffiths receives his bowls trophy.



New Arrival

Congratulations to Roy and Betty Haley, who live at Bow Street, just outside Aberystwyth, on the recent birth of their daughter Jennifer.

Roy joined the Board from local government in Coventry three years ago as a second engineer in the

installation section. He and Betty enjoy walking in the surrounding countryside and son Julian is rapidly becoming a fluent Welsh speaker at the local primary school. Roy has also been learning Welsh with a local group.



Members of the Board's sales staff on duty at the MANWEB stand in this year's North Wales Coast Catering exhibition at Llandudno. They are, from left to right, seated: Eryls Hughes, Kerry Jones, Geraldine Leake (The "Girl from MANWEB"), and Christine Hughes. Standing: Leo Purcell, Bill Anthony and Arthur Thomson.

Commercial Catering Campaign

Big growth area

A series of specialised exhibitions held at strategic venues throughout the Board's area has been designed to introduce potential customers in the big growth areas to our new Five Star Catering Service.

This offers top quality catering equipment at very competitive prices, quick delivery from stock, help by experts on catering planning, installation and fitting and a reliable after-sales service.

In addition to the shows illustrated on these pages, we have also exhibited at New Brighton, Bootle, Southport and Oswestry. Next month we will be in Aberystwyth, Gwynedd and Mid-Mersey Districts.

Our Commercial colleagues look forward with confidence to increased business in the catering field as a result of this sustained and well-planned effort.

The celebration of the Chinese New Year coincided with the opening of the Llandudno exhibition and to mark the occasion members of the official party sampled a Chinese dish prepared by our demonstrator on the MANWEB stand. Our picture shows, from left to right: Mrs. and Councillor J. T. Williams, Councillor J. Milbourn (Mayor of Llandudno), Miss Christine Hughes (demonstrator), Councillor R. D. Jones (Mayor of Aberconwy), Miss Geraldine Leake (our 'Girl from MANWEB'), Mrs. R. D. Jones (Mayoress of Aberconwy) and Mrs. J. Milbourn (Mayoress of Llandudno).



at Wrexham...

For three days, members of our Dee Valley District Commercial staff were on duty at the Memorial Hall, Wrexham, where our exhibition was staged. The local press featured a nice picture for us, and for *Contact* we see here, from left to right: Messrs. Don Hinsley (energy sales engineer), Charles Williams (senior sales representative), Mrs. Menna Roberts (demonstrator), Miss Geraldine Leake (our 'Girl from MANWEB') and Mr. Trevor Edwards (1st engineer, energy sales).



...and Crewe

The Wistaston Manor Inn at Crewe, was the venue for our Mid-Cheshire presentation. Good business was done and our picture, right, shows Mrs. Judith McIntyre, the District demonstrator, with two visitors to the exhibition.



An additional attraction at the Crewe exhibition was the display of air conditioning equipment, most essential in modern kitchens—from home to hotel—and in dining areas. Our picture shows Mr. Terry Keenan, Industrial sales engineer, (kneeling), demonstrating an air conditioning unit to a visitor.





Above, first aiders listen to the lecture given by Dr. K. Little, pictured right, of Chester Royal Infirmary.



First Aid Meetings

A first aid conference and a lay instructors course were held at Head office recently. The Annual First Aid Technical Conference was a gathering of MANWEB and C.E.G.B. first aiders. The main speaker was Dr. K. Little a consultant in accidents and emergencies at the Chester Royal Infirmary.

Dr. Little attends emergencies and treats victims on the spot. His talk was illustrated by slides of victims he had treated showing the details of their injuries.

The Lay Instructors Course, organised by Dr. Ken Turner, the Board medical advisor and Nurse Dorothy Davis, gave the opportunity for a first aiders from Head Office and the MANWEB Districts to become proficient teaching first aid.

Mr. Bob Swetenham, an instructor at the Chester Teacher Training College, Dr. Turner and Nurse Davis gave hints and guidance on teaching methods and watched as the students learned and practiced their new skills over the 3½ days of the Course.

Below are the first aiders who attended the teaching training course, left to right, Mr. Bob Meacock, Dr. Ken Turner, Miss Sybil Timmins, Messrs. Brian Harding, Gordon Thompson and Geof Cleugh, Nurse Dorothy Davis, Mr. Ted Tierney, Mrs. Margaret Davies, Messrs. Alan Owen and Eric Lee, and Miss Pauline Jones.



WALLWORKS' WANDERINGS

The Jungle Beauty of MALAYSIA

TRAVELLING down through the South of India Bill and Margaret Wallwork in their motorised caravan they have named "Vandewal", made the precarious sea crossing, to the Island of Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon.

They explored the large island visiting temples and tea plantations. Finally they drove towards the sea port of Columbo where they deposited "Vandewal" aboard a ship, the *Singha Fortune*, bound for Singapore. They then boarded an aircraft and flew ahead of the ship to await the arrival of their mobile home nine days later. They spent the time sightseeing around the beautiful and clean free port of Singapore.

With the arrival of the ship and "Vandewal" the Wallworks continue their journey crossing by a causeway into Malaysia and Bill Wallwork now continues his traveller's tale:-

* * *

Scenically, we found our first journey in Malaysia across to and up the east coast, disappointing. There is little to see except scrub, rubber and palm oil plantations.

The rubber plantations stretch for mile after mile each tree having its helical cut with a spout and cup underneath to catch the latex. By the side of the road we saw numerous heaps of large circular objects, redly purple in colour, the periphery being covered with fruits rather like large crab apples, and lethal looking spiky leaves in between. Then we noticed these objects growing in the cavity where the fronds join the trunk on a sort of bushy-looking palm tree. We later learned that the trees were oil palms and we were warned not to go near a plantation as snakes found them very attractive as residences.

This east coast is one of the relatively few places where turtles come ashore to lay their eggs and there are two particular beaches only. After dusk they emerge from the sea, waddle up the beach, and with their flippers scrape a hole in the sand where they deposit their eggs. The morality rate amongst baby turtles is high, with man's depredations adding to natural hazards, and their numbers have diminished rapidly. So serious is the situation that the Malaysian Government is taking steps to protect them. Men patrol the two beaches each evening to search for the tracks made by turtles as they come ashore. They

then stand guard until the turtle has laid her eggs meantime keeping the crowd at bay and enjoining silence until the operation is completed. The on-lookers are quite co-operative and obey the guards instructions.

Two of the turtles we saw laid 108 and 104 eggs respectively. As soon as the guard announces that the laying is complete flash bulbs pop by the dozen and torches light up the scene. The eggs are taken by the guard and buried in the sand in a railed off enclosure with a label alongside giving the date of laying. After hatching the baby turtles are escorted into the sea to stop the sea birds getting at them, once in the sea they are, as the saying goes, on their own.

Malaysian villages are more prosperous looking than their counter-parts in other Asian countries. The shops are more solidly built and have more depth so that the customer can enter them. Even more noticeable is that the range of merchandise on display is wider, all relectioning the country's prosperity.

Imported goods, including foods, are expensive, but fruit and vegetables are relatively cheap. Hereabouts we added mangosteens and rambutans to our eating experience, much to our enjoyment. Mangosteen is a fruit about the size of a small peach with a thick, hard dark purple skin, which, when removed leaves a white segmented interior with a stone in one or more of the segments. Rambutan looks rather like a large strawberry covered with soft red and yellow spikes. Inside the skin is a smooth white fruit with a stone, about the size and shape of an almond in the middle. Both fruits are sweet and quite delicious.

There were thousands of durians on sale both in the villages and by the roadside. They smell horrible and we never plucked up enough courage to try them although we were assured many times that they were delightful to eat. We read about them in the guide book but this did not help us to overcome our prejudice—"eating durian can be likened to eating raspberry blancmange in a public lavatory".

Frasers Hill is the smallest of Malaysia's hill stations and very attractive. Bungalows predominate, and there is a steak house, a tavern and a bonny little nine hole golf course—all very English.

Holiday Island

Cameron Highlands is on a bigger scale as a hill resort, and is the centre of an important tea and vegetable growing area. The tourist people in the Cameron Highlands have hacked out and trodden a series of walks through the surrounding jungle to waterfalls and hill summits. They are perfectly safe provided one keeps moderately alert and finishes a walk before dusk. We agreed though, that we would

have hated to get cut off from the track even by a few yards, as the undergrowth is extremely thick and could make the problem of refinding it quite difficult.

We decided on a holiday on Penang Island and found a good parking spot on the North Coast of Batu Ferringhi. It was a lovely place, next to the beach, and alongside a luxury hotel whose outdoor showers etc. we could use for a small fee. The beach is long and golden, the Indian Ocean is warm and the rollers are high enough to make swimming enjoyable. Sunsets were colourful and when seen through the fringe of casuarina and palm trees is quite spectacular.

Georgetown has many interesting corners for the tourist and one of them is the Chinese Snake Temple. On the alter, incense burners, carvings and plants are draped with dozens of poisonous snakes, all within easy touching distance. They are said to be stupefied by the incense fumes and certainly they looked quite enough, but even so we kept our distance.

The most spectacular temple is the Kek Lok Si at Ayer Itam, reputed to be the largest and finest Buddhist temple in South East Asia. It is built on a steep hillside and covers 30 acres. As well as a monastery and a temple there is a fish-pond, turtle-pond, gardens, numerous joss-sticks stands and, high up the hillside, the Pagoda of 10,000 Buddhas, seven storeys and 100 feet high.

Not far from Kek Lok Si is the funicular railway to the top of the Penang Hill (2,300 ft.) from where

there is a fine view of Georgetown, the straits and the mainland of Malaysia. At the top of the hill, a tournament of the Malaysian game of Sepak Raga was in progress. It is similar to volleyball, but the players must not use arms or hands to get the ball over the net. The young men we saw were very adept at getting it over using feet, knees and heads.

Kongsis, or Clan Houses, are ancient Chinese organisations of people with the same surname. Today they tend to be benevolent associations and centres of ancestor-worship. Khoo Kongsi or Dragon Mountain Hall is one of the most famous and most spectacular in Malaysia. Inside and outside it is intricately carved, all of which was executed by master craftsmen in China before being brought to Penang for incorporation in the hall. Seen from across the square in which it stands, this Kongsi is an eye-catching spectacle. Another temple, but quite different, is the Thai Wat Chayamangkalaram which houses a 108 ft. long reclining Buddha, the third largest in the world.

Having spent a day or two swimming, sunbathing, idling, sight seeing and house-keeping we had to renew our travel papers, insurance and have a cholera injection—these we needed so that we could enter Thailand.

* * *

When we next join the Wallworks they will be visiting the land and cities of Thailand (formerly Siam).

Chester's hydro-electric power station

IT MAY surprise many people to know that Chester once boasted a hydro-electric power station.

Hydro-electric power is a fairly remote concept, associated more with Norwegian Fjords or the Highlands of Scotland, rather than the humble surroundings of the weir next to the Old Dee Bridge.

But that, in fact, is where power was generated up to 20 years ago. The flow of water generated electricity, which was fed into the grid serving the city.

The problem with the power station was that it was susceptible to variations in tide levels, and when a particularly low tide affected the river—as happened recently when the weir was almost dry—very little power was produced.

As the national electricity grid became more sophisticated, the usefulness of the hydro-electric

power station declined, and it was eventually scrapped.

However, the building still stands and now houses a pumping and extraction station. It is the building below the bridge on the right as one crosses the river into Handbridge.

A spokesman for the North West Water Authority said: "It is a very long time since the hydro-electric power unit was in use. It only produced a small amount of electricity, and it just became uneconomical."

The weir is also the location

of a fish count which has recently undergone renovation. The count was formerly constructed of tubes through which the fish swam to get up river.

This process has now been replaced by more efficient machinery consisting of sensor units which trigger off each time a fish passes over an electrode in the water.

At very high tides the fish can swim over the weir, but at all other times they have no alternative but to swim through the fish count.

The count is necessary to regulate the number of fish in the river for anglers and to make sure that there are not too many for the amount of water, particularly in relation to the amount which is extracted for consumer use.

—Extract from

"Chester Chronicle"



'Contact' at Whitchurch

Our man from 'Contact', finding himself with a couple of hours to kill in Whitchurch, called in at our local shop and depot.

Our ladies at Whitchurch shop, from left to right: Elaine Pearce (cleaner), Molly Broadhurst (part-time sales), Kathleen Cull (supervisor) and Belinda Hatley (sales).



He met our shop staff, above, happy at the prospect of winning the Electrolux window display competition and looking forward to their 'crash diet' plan!

Left, on appliance delivery, electricians Alan Jones and John 'Skippy' Williams, who, since joining the Board at Hoyleake nine years ago, have been together ever since.

Another duo who started with MANWEB at Hoyleake on the same day in 1963 and are now together again at Oswestry District, are Ray Appleton, seen in our picture right, with Ron Andrews from Head Office. Barnes, who, on the day of our visit, was principal speaker at an industrialists meeting at a local hotel.



Above: Installation engineer Ray Appleton, left, with Ron Andrews from Head Office.

Right: Doug Barnes, Industrial energy sales engineer.



The Spring window display with which our ladies at Whitchurch shop hope to carry off the Electrolux prize. They borrowed the model lamb from the local butcher and daffodils at the centre of the display emphasised the 'woman's touch'. Good luck ladies!

MID-MERSEY DISTRICT SAFE-DRIVING

High cost of Road Accidents

THE presentation of ROSPA Safe Driving Awards to MANWEB drivers with ten years' or more accident-free records was carried out by Superintendent D. Holland, of the Cheshire Constabulary at Mid-Mersey District office recently.

Supt. Holland said that an average of 85 people a month—15 of them schoolchildren—were killed or injured on the roads in the Warrington area. If it were not for the skill and caution exercised by professional drivers such as those employed by MANWEB the toll might well be worse. He could not recall dealing with an accident involving a MANWEB vehicle in his 20 years' experience.

Another guest was Mr. A. G. Jackson, North-west liaison officer for ROSPA. Mr. Jackson said that accidents on the roads cost the country £972 million a year, and every fatal accident cost £42,000 in addition to the pain and unhappiness involved. He joined Supt. Holland in congratulating MANWEB drivers on their splendid record.

The full list of Award recipients (*those for less than ten years received theirs through the post*) is as follows:-

Star Bar to 20 Year Brooch Messrs. E. A. Bold and A. M. Turner.

20 Year Brooch Messrs. N. Gabbott and C. F. Oultram.

Bar to 15 Year Brooch Messrs. T. B. Almond, G. K. Hazelhurst, F. Nuttall, J. Smith, A. Sutton, J. Tart, and T. Topping.

15 Year Brooch Messrs. C. Antrobus, R. Bramhall, and J. B. Edwards.

Bars to 10 Year Medal Messrs. F. W. Bignall, H. Blythe, L. Bowler, J. B. Brassington, A. Horrabin, T. O. Mannion, J. E. Moore, R. Vickerstaff, and T. Whitney.

10 Year Medal Messrs. G. L. Bevan, S. Ford, and A. E. Houghton.

Bar to 5 Year Medal Mrs. H. C. Brown, Mrs. M. Waller, Messrs. J. Allen, W. Blake, C. W. Butterworth, A. Dearden, T. Fillingham, E. Hough, W. T. Jones, E. Keogh, L. Keogh, A. R. Lovelady, J. McKague, G. McCarthy, W. F. Mills, C. J. Osborne, L. Percival, J. Rae, A. Smith, E. J. Watkins, J. W. Wells and G. A. Williams.

5 Year Medal Messrs. R. Balmer, J. Brown, J. Clarke, W. Crooks, D. Eckersley, W. Lomax, J. K. Melvin, N. Stubbs, and A. L. Wilkinson.

Diplomas Messrs. H. R. Abbott, P. Arbuckle, J. W. Atherton, A. Bagan, E. G. Barrett, R. Berry, W. Boughey, R. Briscoe, D. Brown, L. Butterworth, R. J. Cartwright, F. A. Clague, E. A. Clayton, T. Collins, M. Craven, N. Dennett, D. J. Donaldson, L. A. Douthwaite, B. Evans, N. Fieldes, J. Forber, H. Furnival, N. Gamble, R. Garvey, S. Gilbert, D. W. Goff, R. J. Goodall, D. R. Gorton, J. A. Grimes, W. S. Grundy, B. Hayes, B. Howarth, J. W. Jones, M. Joyce, S. A. G. Lowe, R. McCarthy, M. McDonald, R. J. Moore, P. O'Malley, A. A. Perry, J. S. Potter, N. Rawsthorne, J. C. Robinson, C. Siebert, A. E. Titchard, A. Tucker, C. S. Turner, H. Turner, A. E. Webster, L. C. K. Whitbread, G. Whitlow, J. Worth, and T. Yorke.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Our picture, *below* shows Councillor Paul Orr, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, flanked by Mr. Michael B. Clark (bearded), the National President of the Illuminating Engineering Society and by Mr. Geoffrey Sims, the Merseyside Region Chairman, on the occasion of the Society's Annual Luncheon held at Dovedale Towers, Liverpool, a short time ago.

A good turnout of members enjoyed an excellent lunch and later listened to their guest speaker, Mr. A. J. Stocks, Chief Executive of Liverpool City Council



AWARD PRESENTATIONS ...

Safe driver Mr. Albert Horrain from our Warrington depot, receives his award from Superintendent Holland watched by other award recipients, from left to right: Messrs. Tommy Topping, Stanley Ford, Jimmy Tart, Colin Antrobus, Reg Bramhall and Terry Mannion.



Another presentation from the Superintendent, this time to Mr. Ernest Bold from Runcorn depot. Also in the picture are, from left to right: Messrs. Arthur Houghton, Frank Nuttall, A. G. Jackson (Rospa), Trevor Whitney and Fred Bignall.



Here we see Terrance Almond from St. Helens depot, receiving his award from Superintendent Holland, with Messrs. Alex Sutton and Edgar Moore, left, and Mr. A. G. Jackson (Rospa), right.



SALES TRAINING



Electrician Phil Swift, left, instructs members of sales training course No. 280 during their recent visit to the Board's appliance test house at Queensferry. Our picture shows the group, from left to right: Paul March (St. Johns), Barbara Davies (St. Helens), Margaret Tonks (Chester) and Ann King (Runcorn).

Bouquet from Birkenhead

"I am delighted with the re-wiring of my house, and in particular my thanks to Mr. Ian Bidwell who carried out his work so quietly and efficiently."

NATIONAL SAVINGS

In view of enquiries made by a number of employees concerning the "Save As You Earn" scheme, operated by the Department for National Savings, the Board are prepared to apply for group membership, in respect of monthly and weekly paid employees, provided that the number of potential savers meets the necessary requirements of the Department of National Savings, i.e. a minimum of 20 members per monthly or weekly group.

All interested employees should contact their District Administrative Officer or get in touch with Welfare Section at Head Office.

Thanks to North Mersey staff

"Thank you very much for the prompt way in which you set the wheels in motion for the installation of our alarm system.

"I would also like to compliment the young man who installed this alarm system as his workmanship was of high standard as well as being quick and neat. I think he

The Liverpool Power and Lighting Sports and Social Club

present

THE NEW
ELECTRON PLAYERS

in

"A PUBLIC
MISCHIEF"

A comedy by
Kenneth Horne

at the

Neptune Theatre,
Hanover Street, Liverpool

Friday, 31st March

Saturday, 1st April

at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets 65 pence from:

Mrs. V. Roberts,
Lister Drive (97.772)

is a credit to MANWEB.

"Finally, please thank Mr. Appleton for his help in getting the extra keys when you were on holiday.

"Again, many thanks."

The electrician to be complimented is Mr. Dave Gambon of North Mersey District service department.

Obituary

We deeply regret to record the deaths of the following colleagues:

Mr. Norman Cain, of the meter department, at Lister Drive. He was aged 49, and had worked for the Board for 22 years.

Mr. Frank Maher, of the building department at Liverpool District office. Mr. Maher had been with the Board for 26 years,

We express our sincere sympathy to the families of our former colleagues

having previously worked at the display centre at Paradise Street.

Mr. Henry Robinson, of Hatfield Close, Sutton Heath, St. Helens, a labourer at St. Helens prior to his retirement in 1968.

Mr. J. R. Williamson, a former joiner who spent 21 years at our Runcorn depot prior to his early retirement last November.