

Contact

March 1981

A Century of Service
(see pages 44 and 46)



Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board

With this certificate the Board
record their warm appreciation
of the services rendered
to the Electricity Supply Industry by
T. R. Porter and H. J. Huxley
during the past 50 years,
and send their thanks and
best wishes.

Chairman *B. H. Huxley*

Date *January 1981*





Left: Proving that our Chief Accountant has the real stuff flowing through his veins, Mr. Geoff. Barnes, a regular donor, raises a smile as he gives his 'pinta', surrounded by Dr. Olive Pascall, Nurse Margaret Rule, Mr. Richard Gales (Deputy Chairman)—awaiting his turn—and Nurse Dorothy Davis. Below: Another regular donor, Miss Sheila Fennah (punch card operator), relaxes as the precious fluid flows. In the background, patiently waiting, is Mr. Reuben Perry (Commercial).

Serious Shortage at the Blood Bank

A DISTURBING aspect of the increasing number of factory closures is the tragic loss to the National Blood Transfusion Service of hundreds of donors of the precious pints.

As firms close down and their workers become redundant, large numbers of regular donors who normally gave their blood during organised visits by the mobile units of the Service have been lost as a result. Now, the blood banks are desperately low in reserve supplies.

Organisations still in business and employing fairly large numbers of staff have been asked for more donors and extra sessions to help make up the deficit.

Regular donors at MANWEB's Head Office in Chester have readily agreed to welcome the Blood Transfusion Service twice a year instead of the normal annual visit. When the mobile unit was at Sealand Road a few weeks ago, urgent appeals made by our staff nurse, Dorothy Davis, resulted in an increase in volunteer donors from around 200 to nearly 300—almost 50 per cent up!

If this level is maintained for the twice-yearly visit, MANWEB Head Office staff will be making a three-fold increase in the amount of blood they donate to those who so desperately need it.



A CIVILISED PRINCIPLE

THE principle of "Help your neighbour—it may be your turn tomorrow!" has always applied to the giving and receiving of blood in this country.

Since the Second World War, when the need was illuminated in the flames of our blitzed cities, large numbers of people have accepted that they should donate, if they are fit enough to do so.

The vehicles of the National Blood Transfusion Service, and the smiling ladies who dispense tea, biscuits and reassurance, have, for many years, been regular visitors at factories and big offices—including our own Head Office, both at Liverpool and Chester. At the same time, substantial numbers of people who cannot contribute in this way are willing to make the effort to attend regularly at local collection centres after the postcards drop through the letter-box.

The difficulties currently confronting the service, described elsewhere in this number of 'Contact', call for greater numbers of these "self-starters" and for bigger returns from the organised visits. Some of our colleagues have set outstanding examples in this field of caring. We can recall one lady who notched up a score of more than 100 donations, and at least one other colleague who has more than 50 to his credit.

We are lucky to live in a society where the 'Give Blood' principle is almost universally accepted. There are still allegedly civilised countries where blood is bought and sold like any other commodity.

When the need for blood is obvious—as in the case of earthquakes and other major disasters—people are usually willing to queue for hours to donate. There is nothing spectacular about the present situation, but the need is no less real. Any one of us could learn all about it tomorrow as a result of accident or illness!

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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.

Award for 50-Year Man at Oswestry

MR. NORMAN MADEN (*Group Manager*) welcomed everyone to the special ceremony held to recognise the many years of dedicated service to our industry by members of the Oswestry District staff. He commented that it was usual, on these occasions, for him to 'out-service' the award recipients, but here he had to bow to Mr. Henry J. Huxley, who had completed 50 years' service.

Mr. Maden said that the families of the recipients should also share in the awards for the part they had played, over the years, in helping their partners in the work they were doing.

The awards were as follows:—

50 YEARS: Mr. Harry J. Huxley (*foreman, Commercial*) based at Whitchurch depot.

30 YEARS: Oswestry—Messrs. Eric Barrow (*foreman, Engineering*), W. Dennis Day (*switchboard attendant*), Harold G. Evans (*Commercial Supply Engineer*), Jack A. Matthews (*chargehand linesman*), Richard A. Owen (*District Engineer*), G. W. Brian Pryce (*System Engineer*), R. T. Sidney Pugh (*switchboard attendant*) and A. Neville Tincello (*labourer*). Newtown—Messrs. D. Erwyn Gittins (*linesman*), T. George Hawkins (*chargehand linesman*) and Thomas A. Owen (*electrician*). Welshpool—Messrs. Robert T. Hughes (*foreman, Engineering*) and H. Emrys Morris (*linesman*). Whitchurch—Mr. Leonard J. Brookfield (*electrician*).

20 YEARS: Mr. William T. Walker (*linesman's mate*) based at Whitchurch depot.

Laugh with Mitch



"This lady wants to know if we're the Electricity Men..."

ON OUR COVER, bottom left, is 50-year man Mr. Harry J. Huxley, who started work on the first day of January 1931. He was with the former North Wales Power Company and has been in Whitchurch all his working life. He is now a foreman with the Contracting section.

An Ode to 'Arry

by 'Enry Blackwell

(*Commercial foreman, Oswestry*)

Please excuse me everybody, but I would just like to say

A word about my buddy at his presentation here today.

You see, of all the gardening experts that I have ever met,

Harry Huxley is "The Tops"—on that I'll safely bet.

Apart from his Webb's lettuce, Brussels sprouts and gigantic leek,

He also grows a secret plant which really is unique.

He starts his seed in boxes, sheltered from the winter storm,

Lying snugly in his greenhouse, where he can keep them warm.

He's crossed the pollination, making use of his neighbour's bees,

Germinating two King Edward's with some compost and two peas.

When he planted them in the garden, they came bursting through the soil,

Just like those Texas gushers of J. R. Ewing's oil.

His wife now knows the secret—an explanation he felt he owed her—

Because he feeds them on magnesia and bicarbonate of soda.

His 'King Peas' are now enormous, measuring two feet all around:

Even cutting them in half, each piece weighs just a pound!

So all you would-be gardeners, it's time you made a start;

But don't forget the bicarb.—or you may never find the art.

"I'm calling them 'Silent Wonder'," Harry said, then slyly grinned—

"For with magnesia and bicarbonate, I'll never suffer with the wind!"



Members of the Head Office winning team, Mrs. Sybil Cooper (*p.a. Revenue*), captain, and Mr. Richard Coles (*3rd engineer—Drawing Office*).



Completing the team—Miss Julie Selvey and Miss Elizabeth Jones (*clerical assistants, Revenue*).

Head Office Team in National Finals

Once again, our first-aid team from Head Office has won the Rose Bowl in the Merseyside and North Wales District Competition. They appear in the National Finals later this month.

Since the competition started in 1959, our team has competed in every final except two. Mrs. Sybil Cooper, the captain, has been there every time!

In the Reserves Competition, Mr. Jeff. Cleugh, of our Liverpool District, won the Trophy. In third place was Mr. John Shallcross, of Head Office. Jeff, who previously captained the Liverpool team, is nearing retirement, and so took over as their trainer. No doubt this helped them to gain third place in the District Competition.



RESERVES COMPETITION
Winner **3rd Place**
Mr. Jeff Cleugh **Mr. John Shallcross**
(Liverpool) *(Head Office)*

Persistence, dedication and lots of hard work paid off for our Liverpool District team, who, after a number of years in competition, gained a creditable third place in the District Finals. The team, from left to right: Messrs. Alex Eden and Paul Wharmby (*electricians*), George Deakin (*joiner*), captain, and Robert Hilton (*electrician*).





ON OUR COVER, top right, is 50-year man Mr. Thomas Reginald Porter, appliance delivery electrician, North Mersey District. He started his working life on 1st December, 1930, in the Hatton Garden Offices of Liverpool Corporation Electricity Supply Department.

The Merseyside 40-year men with the Deputy Chairman and their Group Manager, from the left: Messrs. Jim Barraclough, Gordon Woodward, Richard Gales, Fred McHugh, John Langley, Bill Jameson and Arthur Langley.

Long Service on Merseyside

The three Merseyside Districts—Liverpool, North Mersey and North Wirral—held joint ceremonies to mark the long service of their staff. The 40-year men and their wives dined with the Board Deputy Chairman, Mr. Richard Gales, at a Liverpool hotel. The 20- and 30-year service staff were invited to a presentation and buffet at Allerton Hall, with their guests. Group Manager Mr. Jim Barraclough was the chairman of the proceedings, and thanked the staff for their loyal service and made the presentations.

50 Years

Mr. T. R. Porter (*electrician—North Mersey District*).

40 Years

North Mersey District—Messrs. F. McHugh (*installation inspector*) and G. Woodward (*1st engineer*).

Liverpool District—Messrs. D. Hughes (*electrician*), W. Jameson (*draughtsman*), J. E. Langley (*meter mechanic*), G. D. Perkins (*2nd engineer*) and F. Woan (*electrician*).

North Wirral District—Mr. A. Langley (*electrician*).

Liverpool District long-service staff. 20-year awards, standing, left to right: Philip Milton, Reg Hill, George Roughley, John Ashley, Joseph Cotter, Edward Potter, Geoffrey Gray, James O'Brien, Tom Slater and Ken Rigby. Seated, left to right: James Lyness, 20 years, George Rive, 30 years, Constance Marcus, 20 years, Ted Kelly, 30 years, Group Manager Jim Barraclough, Violet Topping, 20 years, Geoffrey Pittman, 30 years, Arthur Henderson and Kenneth Webb, 20 years.





North Wirral recipients of long-service awards, *standing, left to right: 20-year staff Bill Cussons, Kevin Donegan, Geoffrey Harris, Marguerite Aird, Iris Williams, Ruth Jackson, Brian Williams, Richard Withers and William Pemberton. Seated, from the left, are: 20-year man Neil Jones, 30-year recipients Doreen Rushton and Graham Houghton, Group Manager Jim Barraclough, 30-year recipients Mary Cowle, Bob Harrison and Thomas Hardie.*

(*electrical fitter*), A. Gregory (*chargehand—Commercial service*), B. H. Kaye (*shop supervisor*), R. E. Perry (*material control clerk*), K. Rymer (*contracting electrician*), J. Shevill (*marketing representative*), H. Shiels (*joiner*), B. J. Smith (*chargehand electrician*) and J. Roberts (*joiner's mate*).

Liverpool District—Mrs. C. McDougall (sales representative), Mrs. V. Topping (saleswoman), Miss C. Marcus (clerical assistant) and Messrs. J. Ashley (meter reader), L. Bell (joiner's mate), W. Bowers (joiner), R. Bridson (meter mechanic), E. Burnett (joiner's mate), W. Burns (chargehand storekeeper), G. Caine (2nd engineer), A. Clarke (joiner's mate), J. Cotter (meter reader/collector), J. Edwards (joiner), W. Gray (meter tester's assistant), A. Henderson (driver), R. Hill (storekeeper), J. Lyness (meter tester's assistant), J. Mangan (electrician), P. Milton (administrative assistant), J. Murray (joiner's mate), J. O'Brien

(*messenger*), J. Old (*meter mechanic*), L. Patterson (*meter reader*), E. Potter (*2nd engineer*), K. Rigby (*2nd engineer*), G. Roughley (*clerical assistant*), P. Shuttleworth (*electrician*), T. Slater (*chargehand labourer*), J. Templeman (*joiner*), R. Thompson (*storekeeper*) and K. Webb (*driver*).

North Wirral District—Mrs. M. Aird (audio typist), Mrs. R. M. Jackson (canteen supervisor), Mrs. M. I. Williams (canteen assistant) and Messrs. N. T. Bird and D. Blackburn (joiners), R. Cotgrove (foreman electrical fitter), R. Curtis (switchboard attendant), C. L. Cussons (clerical assistant), W. G. D'Eath (retired), P. J. Doheny (driver), K. F. Donegan (clerical assistant), G. Harris (engineering assistant), H. N. Jones (electrician), G. Kenwright (chargehand painter), W. J. Pemberton (labourer), J. L. Rogers (electrician), W. Watson (labourer), R. Withers (joiner) and B. Williams (chargehand storekeeper).

The long-serving North Mersey staff. *Standing, left to right: the 20-year award recipients. Brian Smith, James Baldwin, Bert Gregory, Pat Willis, Ken Rymer, John Shevill and Brian Kaye. Seated are the 30-year men with Group Manager Jim Barraclough, centre. On the left: Roy Roughley and Dennis Noad, with Les Appleton and Cliff Heaton, on the right.*





Talking Notes

DEMONSTRATING EQUALITY

BREAKING new ground—certainly as far as MANWEB is concerned—is a young Barmouth man who has recently become our first male trainee demonstrator.

Nineteen-year-old **Thomas Wynford** ("Wyn") Jones joined us in October, after a very successful two-year City and Guilds catering course at the Coleg Meirionydd, Dolgellau, and some practical experience in local restaurants and hotels. His City and Guilds course included passes in the theory and practice of basic and advanced cookery, and serving techniques, with a distinction in the subject of wines and spirits. It also earned him the hygiene certificate of the Royal Society for Food and Health.

After completing his course, Wyn did some practical work as an assistant chef at a Barmouth restaurant and the Maes Atro Craft Village, and as a waiter at a prominent Dolgellau hotel. Since joining us, he has spent some time at Head Office, Oswestry

District and Tywyn shop, and is now based at Aberystwyth District office, widening his experience and giving help and advice to caterers along this popular holiday coast.

Although he is our first male demonstrator - in - the - making, Wyn sees nothing unusual about this.

"It is readily accepted that most of the world's top chefs are men," he says. *"A demonstrator's work is all about helping our customers to make the best possible use of their equipment and their electricity supply. A good demonstrator can do the Board's business a lot of good, building customer confidence and electricity load at the same time."*

"All my new colleagues are very helpful and friendly and I look forward to a happy time with MANWEB."

Wyn, who comes from Dyffryn Ardudwy, near Barmouth, has two brothers and two sisters. He went to school at Harlech, where his talent as a budding cook showed itself in his school work at an early stage.

Liverpool Retired

At the Annual General Meeting of the Liverpool Retired Employees Group held last month in the Thingwall Road Sports Pavilion, a gift presentation was

made to Mr. Reg Adams in appreciation of his years of service to the Group as Secretary of the Liverpool Electric Supply Sports and Welfare Club.

Coupled with the AGM was an Arts and Crafts Exhibition with a number of special guests acting as judges and presenting prizes for the following classes: *Paintings*—Mrs. Lillian Whitehead; *Pottery*—Mr. Albert Whitehead; *Confectionery*—Mrs. Margaret Annett; *Knitting*—Mrs. Frances Robertson.

An entertaining and nostalgic half-hour was taken up with a presentation by Mr. Jimmy Gonzales of films—some dating back to the early 1930's—showing electricity industry employees at work in and around Liverpool. Many of the retired members present were able to recognise places and faces as they appeared on the screen.

The following Officers and Committee Members were then elected: *Chairman*—Mr. John McLachlan; *Vice-Chairman*—Mr. Thomas Greenhalgh; *Secretary*—Mr. George H. Barr; *Assistant Secretary*—Mr. Don Murray; *Treasurer*—Mr. Harry Duffy; *Auditors*—Messrs. George Unsworth, Harry Pope and John Robertson.

Committee—Mr. Reg Adams, Mrs. Margaret Annett, Mr. George Baker, Mr. Tommy Brown, Mrs. Gertie Freeman, Mr. Tommy Freeman, Mrs. Phyllis Hignett, Mr. Geoff Hope, Mr. Eric Hough, Mrs. Minnie Hough, Mrs. Frances Robertson, Mr. Charlie Taylor and Mr. George H. Taylor.

Wyn Jones.

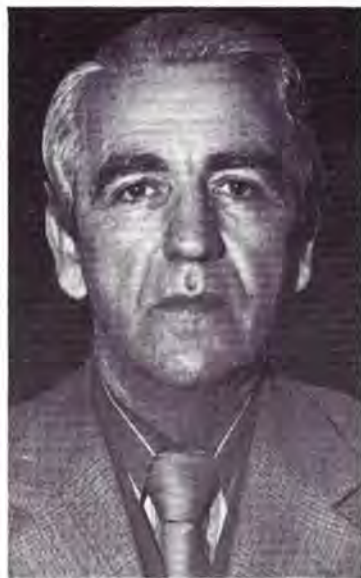


Jones the Justice

Staff in Gwynedd District can be justifiably proud of their colleague **Francis Jones**, an Engineering foreman based at Caernarfon, who was recently appointed a Justice of the Peace for the County of Gwynedd.

A very busy and active man, Francis is also Vice-Chairman of the Language Committee of Gwynedd County Council, Chairman of the Development and Amenities Committee of Arfon Borough Council and a member of Llanberis Community Council.

All of his spare time is taken up in dealing with the needs and



Francis Jones, J.P.

problems of his constituents, who, like his MANWEB friends, all speak very highly of him.

Well done, Francis!

Stop press news is that he is to be the new Deputy Mayor of Arfon Borough Council. Francis will commence his duties in May.

Successful Show

The Board's new open-style stand at the 20th annual Welsh Coast Catering Trades exhibition,

NORTH WIRRAL DISTRICT

Employees' Annual Meeting

on Friday, 24th April, 1981, at 6.30 p.m.
at Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight, Bebington
Buffet at 6.45 p.m. Meeting at 7.45 p.m.

Guest speaker:

Mr. Colin Leonard (*Management Services Officer*)

Retired MANWEB employees from the District wishing to attend the Meeting please contact Mr. Jack Bradley at North Wirral District Offices in Craven Street, Birkenhead

held recently at Llandudno, attracted many visitors, who saw a large range of electrical catering equipment on display.

Our exhibit carried the twin themes of convenience foods and fast electric cooking. The first was staged in conjunction with the nationally-known convenience food firm "Everfresh" and, to illustrate the fast-cooking feature, we had a number of microwave and convection ovens on circuit.

Mr. Ron Carter (*energy sales engineer*) said that, at this early stage of the year, the exhibition could be a good barometer to show how caterers and hoteliers

would be reacting to business in 1981. "I was pleasantly surprised at the amount of interest shown by the people who came to our stand," he commented. "We had some good sales and numerous follow-up enquiries and I expect to clear about £25,000-worth of business from the show."

The section of our stand devoted to a heat-pump display attracted a terrific amount of interest from potential customers. They were shown how, by its use, a constant temperature could be maintained at comfort level throughout their establishments.

Another innovation was the continuous audio-visual present-

Pictured at the Llandudno Catering Exhibition, left to right: Clwyd demonstrator Christine Hughes, *Girl from MANWEB* Rosemary Tomlinson, Llandudno Mayoress Mrs. Valerie Gradwell, and Mr. Russell Gradwell, the Mayor, with the Mayor of Aberconwy, Mr. Robert Trevor, right.





Head Chef of the Taylorplan Ltd. caterers in the Sealand Road restaurant, John Rowlands, receives his special award certificate from Assistant Secretary Tom Hamilton, on behalf of the Cookery and Food Association. Pictured left is restaurant manager Ian Gillies and, on the right, chairman of the North Wales Division of the organisers, Joan Dittrich, the MANWEB catering engineer.

tation, utilising back-projection through a purpose-made screen in one of the background panels on the stand.

Chef's Award

The everyday fare on the menu of the Head Office restaurant has won, for the man who is responsible for creating and producing the dishes, a special award from the North Wales Division of the Cookery and Food Association.

The Association hold a contest to find their divisional "Cook of the Year", who is then their representative for the national title. To find the winner, they visit the candidate's premises unannounced and sample the food that day.

The eventual winner was a previous holder of the title and a highly-experienced cook, who pipped the Head Chef of the Head Office restaurant, John Rowlands, by a very fine margin. In fact, so high was the standard and so fine was the margin, that the Association decided that they would make a special award to John—the first time that they have done this in the last six years.

John, who is 29, is employed by Taylorplan Ltd., who have the Head Office catering contract. He is married, and he and his wife, Carol, have two children—Claire, nine, and Mark, seven. A Cestrian, he studied catering at Birkenhead Technical College.

To mark his success, John was

CHESTER AND HEAD OFFICE RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

Will be held at Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester, on Wednesday, 29th April, 1981, at 2.30 p.m.

Outings and Social Meetings are being arranged for the coming year. All MANWEB retired staff, and spouses, who worked or now live in the Chester area are welcome. Subscriptions £1 per annum can be paid to the Treasurer at the meeting or sent to his address, Mr. C. G. Smith, 28 St. Mary's Road, Dogleston, Chester.

presented with a lethal-looking kitchen knife, plus a cookery book from MANWEB and a certificate from the North Wales Division of the Cookery and Food Association.

Stork Visit

Congratulations to a former member of the Debt Control section at Lister Drive, Hazel Poole, on the birth of a daughter, Natalie Anne, who weighed in at 8 lb. 3 oz.

Proud father, Michael, is a manager at the local branch of Kwiksave.

Junior Cook of the Year

The Merseyside and North Wales region provided the first winner of the Tricity "Junior Cook of the Year 1980" national competition, when 13-year-old Michelle Wood, from Formby, beat all-comers to take the title.

Britain's largest manufacturer of electric cookers, Tricity, in



"SILLY SIGNS"

'For Folks in a Hurry' is the caption to the above Silly Sign, snapped by North Mersey Systems Engineer Cam Shimmin. 'Cheap Rates Available' is Ray Stobart's title for the picture below. He is an electrician at Clwyd and the bright 'sparks' who started the contest. Each picture wins a fiver.



conjunction with the Electricity Boards of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, are following up last year's enormous success, with another nationwide search to find the "Junior Cook of the Year 1981".

Boys and girls aged between eight and 14 years are invited to enter. They have to create an imaginative and well-balanced three-course meal for two people. Ten entrants with the most interesting menus will be selected to take part in each of the regional trials, including one in Liverpool. The final 15 winners will then compete in the national finals at the Savoy Hotel in London.

Many attractive and expensive prizes will be shared among the young cooks selected. The eventual winner will receive—amongst other prizes—a holiday in the South of France with two companions, and tuition in *haute cuisine* from one of France's most eminent chefs, Roger Verge.

So, here's hoping that the MAN-



A greater interest than ever before was shown in the annual Chester Sports and Social Club's Pool and Snooker Championships. The competition, organised by the section's secretary Mike Mole—who failed to get amongst the prizes himself—attracted over 60 participants. Our picture shows all of the winners with club chairman Harry Foreman, *extreme left*. Keith Roberts, singles snooker champion, is next to him, with secretary Mike Mole next. Then, *from the left* are: snooker pairs champions Andy Critchley and Reuben Perry, lady pool winner Liz Jones, men's pool winner Ken Sudlow, and men's pairs pool winners Harry Beech and Joe Caldwell.

WEB area will provide another winner for Tricity's "Cook of the Year 1981".

To Let

Pwllheli—Three bedroom bungalow, sleeps five. Lounge, kitchen, bathroom with shower. Ample parking space. Short walk from beach. 'Phone: Pwllheli 2073.

House For Sale

Knotty Ash, Liverpool. A detached three-bedroomed house, with 18 ft. through lounge, kitchen, sep. w.c. and bathroom. Integral garage, small gardens front and rear, open aspect to rear. Planning consent for extension, plus all plans. Tel. 051-220 2949 after 6 p.m. Price £25,500 o.n.o.

FROM ABERYSTWYTH

GOING HOME

Below, we see Mr. David Bennion (Installation Engineer), left, presenting Mr. Emyr Hughes with a farewell gift, when he transferred from his job as 3rd engineer—Installation at Aberystwyth to take up a post in the Supply section in his home District of Gwynedd.



THREE SMART GIRLS

The picture, below, was taken at the District Sports and Social Club's annual party for the children and shows the three youngest charmers on parade. *From left to right* are: Emma, daughter of Mrs. Glenda Jones, who recently left her job in the Accounts section at Lluest; Rhian, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Davies—Adrian is an electrician at Aberystwyth; and, finally, we see Lisa, the daughter of Mrs. Leslie Miller, another former member of the Accounts section in the District.



£250,000 Contract for our Clwyd District

New Factory for Hotpoint Company

OUR installation team in Clwyd District are currently working on a contract worth over £250,000 at the new Hotpoint factory at Kinnel Park, Bodelwyddan. The work was obtained despite some fierce competition from a number of major national electrical contractors.

Mr. Graham Monks (*2nd engineer—Installation*), who prepared our quotation, told us: "Our price was very competitive and the Board's fine record of work, built up over many years in the Company's existing factory at Llandudno Junction, must have had some bearing on the Hotpoint decision to trust MANWEB."

Nearly £60,000 was accounted for on high-voltage work which included two sub-stations in the factory area housing four 800 kVA transformers.

Electrical installations include the fitting of 224 GEC Champion 400-watt High-Bay Luminaires on rows of lighting trunking suspended high above the factory work area. In the offices, cafeterias and workshops there will be 417 fluorescent fittings, and throughout the site there is to be a complete emergency system, utilising over 140 lighting points. All the cable work will run along 600 metres of ladder-rack, installed at high level.

Security and access road lighting will consist of solar-floods mounted on the building itself and on roadway lighting columns.

When the contract is completed, over 20 miles of cable will have been installed. About two miles of lighting trunking, a mile of steel conduit and half a mile of steel trunking will also have been utilised.

Actively engaged in the planning and progress of this contract are Messrs. John Stobbs, David Higginbotham and Gary Purchase from the Hotpoint Company, with Messrs. Walter Jones (*Installation Engineer*) and Graham Monks from our Clwyd District. Help from Head Office came from Messrs. Gerry Worthington (*Lighting Specialist*) and Harry Jones (*2nd engineer—Installation*), who planned and supervised the HV work.

Hotpoint have manufactured their world-famous home-laundry equipment at the Llandudno Junction

A section of the massive new Hotpoint factory at Bodelwyddan. In the picture we see, from left to right: Messrs. Gary Purchase (Hotpoint), Tommy Davies (foreman electrician), John Stobbs (Hotpoint) and Graham Monks.



Installing lighting trunking high in the roof area are Messrs. John Roberts, left, and Roy Robinson (electricians).



Contracting staff at work on the first phase

Clwyd District electricians working on the contract. From left to right, top shelf: Messrs. Brynley Thomas, Robert Hughes (apprentice) and Dennis Sweeney. Below: Messrs. Roy Camp, Tony Roberts and Stephen Walkden (apprentice).

factory for the past 30 years. As there was no room for further expansion on this site, the decision was made for a new multi-million-pound factory to be established on the site of a former Royal Artillery base at Kimmel Park. The Company eventually hopes to employ about 600 people here when production starts, and jobs for a further 300 as the market expands.

Initially, two production lines will be geared to a weekly turn-out of 2,000 of Hotpoint's latest front-loading washing-machines. In the meantime, the factory at Llandudno Junction will continue to produce existing models, including the twin-tubs, tumble-dryers and top-loaders.

Hotpoint's share of the British market now stands at 25 per cent. The Company's present Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. Chaim Schreiber, recently stated that, whatever the future brings, manufacturers like Hotpoint are determined to weather any storm. He said that he was certain that Britain would win through and would be highly competitive in the '80's.

"We will continue to produce the machines that the British market wants," he commented, and we will continue to produce them more efficiently."



Beyond the Fog — a Brighter Future

BOARD CHAIRMAN SPEAKS AT ABERYSTWYTH

DESPITE the present economic recession—which is bringing about a fall in demand for electricity— young people in our industry can look forward to “a most exciting age, with the brightest possible future ahead.”

This was the message from Board Chairman Ben Hastings, when he spoke on the theme of “*Present and Future Prospects for the Electricity Supply Industry*” at this year’s staff conference, organised for employees on both sides of the industry at Aberystwyth.

The Chairman said that the immediate and short-term prospects for our industry were depressing. The recession had led to a fall in demand from industry of around 17 per cent during the current economic year, and he forecast an overall reduction of around ten per cent in MANWEB’s unit sales for 1980/81.

“Looking ahead for the next seven years, we are forecasting a growth of only about one per cent per annum. Since 1974, and the four-fold rise in the price of oil, we have been playing in a completely different game. Don’t imagine that the old days are going to come back, because they are not. Things ain’t what they used to be!” warned Mr. Hastings.

From now on, electricity was going to remain relatively expensive, and that was something we had

to learn to live with. People were looking at electricity through new eyes. They were beginning to ask themselves: “Do we need a colour TV? Do we need a freezer? Wouldn’t we rather have a holiday or a new carpet?”

After observing that appliance sales and capital investment programmes were both “well down”, Mr. Hastings said that the whole of our industry had to adjust its capacity in line with foreseeable demand. We had to try in every way to reduce our costs, while keeping our service at a first-class level, and to defend our load against the background of the need to conserve energy.

Economic Madness

Analysing the demand for electricity, Mr. Hastings said that 60 per cent of our load—including motive power, lighting and refrigeration—could be regarded as “safe” and likely to keep on growing. The other 40 per cent—the heating of water, people and food—could be regarded as “shaky”. Gas could do all of those jobs.

“Britain’s domestic gas prices are the lowest in the world, while our industrial gas prices are among the highest,” he said. “There is no doubt that domestic

Pictured left is Board Chairman Ben Hastings, with Group Manager Glyn Dodd seated beside him, addressing the Aberystwyth meeting. Delegates and guests are pictured right.



gas prices are going to escalate—to underprice a scarce resource is economic madness,” he declared.

He forecast that the prices of oil and gas would continue to rise until they approach the cost of manufacturing those fuels from coal. Electricity prices were already based on the cost of coal and uranium, and the time would come when the economic facts of life would work in our favour. For the next couple of years, however, we would do well to keep our load, and must expect to lose some load in the heating sector.

The Electric Car

Mr. Hastings then turned his attention to the longer-term future—and to those brighter prospects!

He forecast that the 21st Century would see no form of heating other than electricity, as highly-insulated homes became the accepted norm. Our industry had to prepare itself for that day.

New industrial processes were coming on the scene, and electricity was playing an increasingly important role in some of them—notably in metal-melting, the drying of inks, paper and timber, and electro-chemical processes for the recovery of scarce metals.

The future in transport had phenomenal possibilities. We were well behind most European countries in rail electrification, and large sums of money were being spent in development work on the electric car. Britain had 50,000 electric vehicles in use—the biggest fleet in the world—and this fleet was going to grow even bigger.

“While being realistic about our present situation, there was every reason to look forward to that brighter and exciting future,” concluded the Chairman.

After an enjoyable meal, the conference began with a warm welcome to all from Group Manager Glyn Dodd, followed by LAC reports from secretaries John Hughes (MANWEB) and E. Lloyd Jones (CEGB).

Following proceedings at Aberystwyth.



More Aberystwyth delegates.

The year's work on both sides of the industry was reviewed by Mr. Dodd and Rheidol station manager Mr. M. Cropper. There were reassuring words for his staff from Mr. Cropper. He told them that, although Rheidol was a small station, it produced the cheapest units in the North West Region of the CEBG—a factor which was very likely to secure the station's future.

An especially constructive *Open Forum* session rounded off the evening. Questions ranged from the price of cookers, nuclear power, the filling of vacancies and the future of MANWEB shops, to the theft of electricity and closer links between the generating and distributing sides of the industry.

Laugh with Mitch



“Are you sure this is the right address?”



The two Head Office 40-year men and their wives before lunch with the Chairman. From the left: Mrs. Mable Wynn, Messrs. Richard Gales, Ken Wynn and John Scudamore, Mrs. Sheila Shepherd, Messrs. Cliff Shepherd, Ben Hastings and Jim Fisher.

Head Office Long Service Awards

A quiet and informal luncheon with the Board Chairman was the way two Head Office staff celebrated their 40 years in the electricity industry. Messrs Cliff Shepherd and Ken Wynn, together with their wives, dined with Mr. Ben Hastings and the Deputy Chairman, Mr. Richard Gales.

Also present were department heads Mr. John Scudamore, Board Secretary, and Mr. Jim Fisher, Chief Engineer. During the luncheon, the Chairman presented the long-service certificates to Cliff, who is

a senior executive officer in the Personnel Section, and to Ken, a 2nd engineer in the Technical Drawing Office.

At a more formal gathering later in the day, Mr. Hastings presented the 30- and 20-year certificates in the Head Office restaurant. Most of the 58 recipients were able to attend with their guests. The Chairman thanked the staff for their service and guests—wives or husbands of the recipients—for their support over the years.

Head Office 30-year service award recipients, back row, left to right: Eddy Jones, George Evans, Bob Gibson, Hubert Evans, Des Lock, Tom Fox, Oscar Lloyd, Ivor Pearson, Len Walter, Gren Roberts and Hugh Farrow. Second row, left to right: Andy Buckley, Ted Young, Dick Storer, Dave Price, Graham Jackson, Wyn Jones and Jack Baird. Third row, from the top: John Thompson, Neville Jones, John Bailey, Norman Kenyon, Gerry Carlton and Eric Roddan. Front row, left to right: Eddy Lunt, Marjorie Barlow, Chairman Ben Hastings, Joan Dittrich, Mair Lowndes, John McInnery and Bill Boylin.



HEAD OFFICE RECIPIENTS

40 Years:

Messrs. C. Shepherd (*Senior Executive Officer—Personnel*) and K. H. Wynn (*2nd engineer—Technical Drawing Office*).

30 Years:

Mr. R. T. Gales (*Deputy Chairman*).

Engineering: Messrs. A. J. Buckley, G. Carlton, G. G. Evans, H. Evans, H. S. Farrow, T. Fox, W. A. Griffith, G. G. Jackson, E. A. Jones, N. Jones, J. McInerney, D. G. Price, E. M. Roddan (*retired*) and J. Thomson.

Financial: Messrs. J. Baird, W. E. Boylin, G. W. Jones, L. W. Jones, D. Lang, P. C. Mulvey (*retired*), I. Pearson, L. Walter and W. E. Young.

Secretarial: Mr. J. A. Bailey, Miss M. L. Barlow, Messrs. R. T. Gibson and O. Lloyd, Mrs. M. Lowndes, Messrs. E. Lunt, J. G. Roberts and R. F. Storer.

Commercial: Mrs. J. M. Dittrich, Messrs. N. B. Kenyon and H. R. Pierce.

Management Services: Messrs. W. P. Edwards and D. J. Lock.

20 Years:

Engineering: Messrs. A. G. A. Acton, B. W. E. Acton, B. Mather, W. J. McIlhagga, E. J. Mulroy, J. Murray, D. Perrin and B. Pritchard.

Financial: Mrs. H. J. Griffiths, Miss C. A. Owens and Mr. S. Wilson.

Secretarial: Messrs. J. Barnes and D. C. Jones, Miss J. I. Jones, Miss C. A. Sankey and Mr. A. J. Wilcock.

Commercial: Messrs. C. M. Arnold and J. M. Whalley.

Management Services: Messrs. J. A. Bridge, A. D. C. Pharaoh and L. Pritchard.



Brian, left, and Albert Acton, right—we think!

DOUBLE TWENTY

Chairman Mr. Ben Hastings thought he was seeing double when he presented the Head Office 20-year service certificates. In fact he was—for look-alike twins Albert and Brian Acton were receiving their certificates.

The 36-year-old bachelor brothers served a student apprenticeship together and are now both draughtsmen, Albert in the records drawing office and Brian a 3rd engineer in the technical drawing office.

They both share the same interests: foreign travel and boating—they built their own 12-foot boat. Brian enjoys woodwork and Albert is a keen photographer.

The 20-year award recipients from Head Office, back row, left to right: Davy Jones, Sid Wilson, Brian Mather, Colin Arnold, Jim Murray, Dennis Perrin, Ted Mulroy, Larry Pritchard, Adrian Pharaoh and Jack Barnes. Front row, left to right: Brian Acton, Jim Wilcock, Helen Griffiths, Carol Sankey, the Chairman, Carolyn Owens, June Jones and Albert Acton.



Years of long and loyal service recognised



Senior Officers congratulate 40-year staff. From left to right: Mr. Ken Tatler, his wife Betty, Mr. Graham Zeiber (*District Engineer*), Mr. Norman Maden (*Group Manager*), Mrs. Phyllis and Mr. Dennis Nicholls.

THIS year, a hotel at Plumley, near Knutsford, was chosen as the venue for the presentation ceremony of Long-Service Certificates to members of our Mid-Cheshire District staff.

Addressing the recipients and their wives and friends, Mr. Norman Maden (*Group Manager*) intimated that there must be some satisfaction and purpose in the job if staff worked for one organisation for these long periods of time. He said that, despite many of the criticisms levelled at our industry, we could not be bad employers for people to stay so long. "These ceremonies are held for management to show their appreciation of the staff who stay," he commented.

Mr. Maden had a special word of thanks for the staff who took on the additional responsibility and trouble to represent their colleagues on the various committee meetings with management and unions.

The Mid-Cheshire District Officers then gave brief

biographies of each member of their staff who had qualified for long-service awards and certificates.

The recipients were as follows:—

40 YEARS: Messrs. Dennis Nicholls (*switchboard attendant*) and Kenneth Taylor (*supervisor, Transport*).

30 YEARS: Messrs. Arthur Ashbrook (*linesman*), Thomas Aspinall (*electrician*), Kenneth Hunter (*clerk*), George Robinson (*labourer*), William Robinson (*meter reader*), Albert T. Stubbs (*clerk*) and Eric Tideswell (*labourer*), Miss Mary Tomlinson (*sales assistant*) and Mr. Robert Waddilove (*linesman*).

20 YEARS: Messrs. Raymond England (*linesman*), John Harrison (*electrician*), Malcolm G. Latham (*Work Study officer*), J. Eric Shaw (*shop supervisor*), Roly H. L. E. Smith (*fitter's mate*) and Tony Williams (*electrician*).

Some of our Mid-Cheshire long-service staff with District Officers and organisers of the presentation ceremony. From left to right: Messrs. Bob Waddilove, Eric Shaw, Malcolm Latham, Tony Williams, Roly Smith, Ray England, Ken Hunter and Arthur Ashbrook, Miss Mary Tomlinson, Messrs. Norman Maden (*Group Manager*), Norman Walsh (*District Commercial Engineer*), and Mike Metcalfe (*District Administrative Officer*), Mrs. Pauline Platt (*clerical assistant*) and Mr. Harold Allman (*p.a. Administration*).



Watched by friends and colleagues, John Stephenson, right of centre, receives a farewell handshake from Deputy Chief Commercial Officer Derek Holman.



RETIREMENTS

Mr. J. H. STEPHENSON

A double Degree in Economics was the praiseworthy achievement of Mr. John H. Stephenson, who recently retired from his post as executive officer in our Economics, Tariffs and Statistics section at Head Office.

He read for his subject at the University of Wales in Cardiff, where he gained his first Degree—with Honours—and also sat for and passed the examination set by the University of London.

He took German language as an additional subject, and this came in very handy during the last war, when he became an interpreter at a German prisoner-of-war camp in South Wales. Here he had the task of questioning captured S.S. officers. For the next six years he was stationed at various P-o-W camps, prior to his demobilisation with the rank of Captain.

After a short spell with the Ministry of Works in Cardiff, he joined MANWEB in 1949 as a statistical specialist in the Commercial field.

At his farewell ceremony, a parting gift of a beautiful canteen of cutlery, bought with subscriptions from friends and colleagues, was presented to him by Mr. Derek Holman (*Deputy Chief Commercial Officer*). He thanked John for his many years of meticulous work for the department.

Replying, Mr. Stephenson recalled, with humour, his initial visit and subsequent interview at our former Head Office in Love Lane, Liverpool. He then offered his sincere thanks to friends for their farewell gift.

In retirement, Mr. Stephenson will devote more time to his very large garden at his home in Gayton on the Wirral. No doubt he will also listen to some Italian opera and play the occasional game of chess. Friends throughout the Board have sent their best wishes to John and his wife, Jean, for many years of happy retirement.

Mr. E. JONES

In recent years, attendants at our Kirkby Grid Substation have been telling their colleague Mr. Elias (*Ted*) Jones that he would retire from there. Then came the news that all staff would be transferred to the new Control Centre at Lister Drive.

To prove the predictions correct, Mr. Jones checked the dates of his retirement and the new move. He found that if he took the residue of his annual leave he could finish his time—officially—at Kirkby Grid.

Being on leave when his retirement day came around meant that there was no special farewell ceremony arranged. However, his colleagues did not let the occasion pass unnoticed, as they presented him with some gift vouchers.

Mr. Jones joined our industry in 1947, and worked successively as a labourer, meter reader, meter test assistant and, finally—from 1964—as a sub-station attendant.

In retirement, Mr. Jones, who enjoys listening to his records and entertaining his grandchildren, will be joined by his wife on a coach tour of Italy. We hope that this will be the start of a journey into a long and happy retirement for them both.

Mr. C. V. JONES

After more than 34 years with the industry, Mr. Charles Vincent Jones, the popular clerk at our transport garage at Legacy, near Wrexham, has retired prematurely on health grounds.

Charlie joined the North Wales Power Company in 1946, after war service in India. He is a much-travelled man, having visited the U.S.A., Canada, Spain and Germany as a chorister with the internationally-famous Rhos Male Voice Choir. He has also holidayed in the U.S.A., Canada and South Africa, visiting members



Jim Davies, 1st engineer in the Head Office Transport Section, gives Charlie Jones, centre left, a farewell handshake, and wishes him a long and happy retirement.

of his family, and plans another South African trip in the near future.

His hobbies include carpentry and painting, and, on behalf of his many friends, he was presented with power tools by Mr. Jim Davies, of Head Office transport section. His gift will come in handy for both his hobbies—particularly for making frames for his pictures, which, we are told, are very good indeed.

Mr. H. WHALLEY

One day last month, staff gathered at our Southport depot to say their farewells to Mr. Harry Whalley, a labourer who was taking early retirement because of ill-health.

He joined the Board as a cable-layer in 1962, and was involved, for many years, in the extensive project of standardising the low-voltage system in Southport.

During the war years, Mr. Whalley served with the RASC and spent some time in Burma, Java and Singapore.

He is keenly interested in bowling and in playing darts and has a faithful companion in "Rex", his well-trained dog.

In making the retirement presentation, Mr. Bill Sutton (*1st engineer—Production*) wished Harry and his wife many years of happy retirement, with the sincere hope for an improvement and stabilisation in his general health.

Mr. G. CAULTON

Starting his apprenticeship as an electrician in 1929 at 14 years of age, Mr. George Caulton has now retired at the age of 66 years from his job as an electrical fitter in our Mid-Mersey District. Surprisingly, after 52 years of working life, he still looks as if he could go on for many more years.

Born in Warrington, his first job was with a local firm, and worked on the site now housing our Mid-Mersey District Offices. In those pre-war days, his firm specialised in the manufacture of gas cookers.

Even though he has come the full circle and works on the same site today, he is now "all-electric".

When qualified as a craftsman, he worked for an electrical contractor in Manchester prior to joining the Royal Navy in 1941, and served until 1946. He was attached to a submarine flotilla for a couple of years, and spent some time in Freetown, West Africa.

He returned to his civilian job and worked for the Air Ministry at the American Air Force Base at Burtonwood before joining MANWEB in 1949.

We join with his many friends at Warrington in wishing Mr. Caulton good health and happy days in retirement.

The last day of work for Mr. George Caulton, left, with workmates. Standing: Billy Peet, fitter, left, and John Thornlow, apprentice fitter. On the right: Barry Hayes, fitter.

