

# CONTACT

March  
1971



Sweet Smiles  
of Success  
(see page 52)



The top table at the Clwyd District Conference during the 'Question Time' session. From left to right: Messrs. M. M. Parker (*Secretary and Solicitor*), M. R. Cowan (*partially hidden*), D. R. Mellor, L. Griffiths (*District Engineer*), G. D. Cooksley and K. Helliwell (*Group Manager*).

## BRIGHT IDEAS PLEASE! —Chief Commercial Officer

ABOUT 100 members of the staff of Clwyd District turned out for an interesting Employees' Conference recently, when the guest speaker was the Board's Chief Commercial Officer (Mr. M. R. Cowan).

Speaking in the capacity of a member of the D.J.A.C. Suggestions Committee, Mr. Cowan devoted his talk to the theme of the Suggestions Scheme, and the ways in which the scheme could benefit both the Board and the staff.

After referring to the difficulties caused for the commercial staff engaged in the difficult job of selling electric heating, as a result of the December power crisis, Mr. Cowan said he would start by making a suggestion himself . . . that all MANWEB employees should help their commercial colleagues to sell by being even more polite than usual, more efficient than ever, smarter, even more helpful and lively, thus helping to repair some of the recent damage caused to the industry's reputation.

He went on to outline the way in which the Suggestions Scheme operated, adding that cash awards for suggestions which could lead to cash savings, quality or service could possibly be as high as £50. Suggestions which were implemented were

reviewed after a year, and those which had proved to be particularly effective could qualify for additional awards.

Giving examples of suggestions which had won cash awards recently, the speaker added :

"The Committee's greatest satisfaction comes when they are paying out larger sums . . . they delight in receiving suggestions that are obviously going to benefit the Board and obviously, the greater the likely benefit, the greater the opportunity to pay a sizeable reward.

"So the message is—try to bankrupt us!"

The work of the L.A.C. during the past 12 months was dealt with by Mr. G. D. Cooksley, (*District Administrative Officer*), and Mr. Cowan did double duty by standing in for Mr. K. Helliwell in commenting on the Board's Report and Accounts for 1969/70.

The chair was taken by Mr. D. R. Mellor (*District Commercial Engineer*), who introduced the speakers and presided over a lively Question Time which lasted until quite late, with many written questions and a few additional on-the-spot posers as well.



# CONTACT

Vol. 23 No. 3

March 1971

### On other pages

Chester Ladies win again	52
Electric Living Trade Fair	54
Crewe Conference	57
Shop of the Month—Mold	58
Catering for Profit	60
Conway Valley Conference	62
Course 247	63
Philately	64
Annual Dance at Crewe	66
Retirements	67

Editorial Staff  
 Keith Baldwin  
 John F. Perry  
 Sam Doughty

### EDITORIAL

## *Peaceful Lib!*

**B**ETWEEN the extremes of the yashmak on the one hand, and chaining oneself to railings at Westminster on the other, there are countless variations in the role of women in modern society.

Throughout Europe and North America, at least, the last remnants of the "kitchen, church and children" philosophy are being swept away. In Switzerland, for long an example to others in many respects, the incongruous anachronism of voteless-women has been ended—a development which even the bitterest opponents of public bra-burning will probably regard as being quite proper.

There is little doubt that in those societies where equality of the sexes is still the private dream of a few revolutionaries the absence of women from public life deprives society of a vast reservoir of ability and talent.

A glance through this number of *Contact*, however, will reveal that the use of peaceful means alone can do much to develop these great potential reserves. Our lady first-aiders, pictured on the front cover, recently added to their competition laurels by beating all the male teams, while MANWEB's only woman engineer has recently supervised the presentation of a series of catering exhibitions throughout the area, and has attracted a good deal of attention as a result.

The Girl from MANWEB—the latest in a lovely and talented succession—continues to represent us with charm and ability on various public occasions, while courteous ladies form the backbone of our shop staffs and other points of contact with our customers.

Perhaps MANWEB is rather well blessed with able and charming women, or perhaps the nature of our business enables them to develop their abilities more fully than other circumstances might permit.

In an case MANWEB, the general public, and society are so much the richer.

## Chester Ladies Win Against Keen Opposition

**I**N THE world of first aid, especially in the Merseyside and North Wales area, there should be an active movement formed under the banner of "Men's Lib" if the Chester Ladies continue to leave their male opposition behind in the annual District First-Aid Competitions.

Over the past six years, they have competed five times—they had a rest in 1969—and on each of these five occasions, they have been outright winners of the District Shield. It looked very much as if it was to become their own property until this year when the Ambulance Committee decided to award two trophies, keeping the Shield for the Men and awarding a Rose Bowl for the Ladies.

With this fantastic record, our Chester Ladies can be justly proud of themselves especially when their achievements extend beyond our area boundaries as they did last year when they won the Florence Nightingale Statuette in the National Finals of the Electricity Supply Industry First-Aid Competition.

They have now qualified to return to London to defend their title. We all wish them "Good Luck."

In the recent District Competition held at Head Office, the Ladies team were up against Men's teams from five power stations—Bromborough, Clarence Dock, Connah's Quay, Fiddler's Ferry and Ince, plus a team representing the Men from MANWEB at Head Office.

Throughout the afternoon, the first aiders were tested as individuals and as teams in situations which had been devised by specialists to provide



Efficiency and action from the ladies during the team test. From left to right: Miss Elizabeth Jackson, Mrs. Sybil Cooper and Miss Sybil Timmins.

**OUR COVER PICTURE** shows 'The Winners', from the top—Carol Milnes, Julie Vennard, Betty Jackson, Sybil Timmins and Sybil Cooper. **STOP PRESS**—These ladies were again successful in the National Finals and hold on to the Florence Nightingale Statuette for another year.

All the competitors listen to the Chairman's remarks as they eagerly and nervously wait for the results to be announced.





Mrs. Dodds presents prizes to  
Miss Carol Milnes Mr. Dave Stevenson

training in the diagnosis and treatment of injuries and accustom the competitors to work confidently in full view of spectators. All the tests simulated 'real emergencies' of the kind of thing which could face them at any time.

Everyone taking part did exceptionally well, putting up stiff competition for each other. The final results showed the Chester Ladies in the lead with 318 points from a possible 400 with their nearest rivals, Ince (259 points) and Clarence Dock (246 points). Close behind was the Men's team from MANWEB Head Office who were in fourth place.

In the Reserves Competition, it was the female who again took the lead with pride of place going to Miss Carol Milnes well ahead with 44 marks from a possible 60.

Among the Best Individuals, other than those in the teams gaining team prizes, was our own Mr. Dave Stevenson.

Before the prizes were presented, our Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds, thanked all the team members for the very hard work they had put in training and practice sessions leading up to the competition, and from what he had seen, the standard was very high. He appreciated the real purpose and great service they offered saying that it was vital and

Just pipped into fourth place were the Men from MANWEB first-aid team. From left to right, standing, Messrs. Rodney Kenyon and Dave Stevenson. Seated: Messrs. Harold Wilson and Dave Ferguson.



necessary to have trained people available.

In bringing his remarks to a close, Mr. Dodds paid tributes to the members of the Casualties Union for their excellent simulation of the various injuries, to the judges for their time and care and to the Ambulance Committee for their organisation. Finally, he thanked the audience for coming along to support their teams and to add atmosphere to the proceedings.

Then Dr. I. MacIntyre (Geigy (U.K.) Ltd.), speaking on behalf of all the judges, gave a very amusing yet critical summary of the various tests. His main point of advice to all first-aiders was when they asked a question they should listen to the answer, whether it be from their patient or from the judge. They should also persevere in looking for other injuries in the patient even after they have seen the obvious.

Then came the great moment for the winners as their names were read out and they went forward to receive their prizes from Mrs. D. G. Dodds.

The moment of triumph for the Chester Ladies as they receive the Rose Bowl prize. Making the happy picture we have, from left to right: Miss Carol Milnes (reserve), Miss Sybil Timmins, Mrs. D. G. Dodds, who presented the prizes, Mrs. Sybil Cooper (captain), Miss Elizabeth Jackson and Mrs. Julie Vennard.



## **ELECTRIC LIVING TRADE FAIR**

# EASE AND ECONOMY IN THE MODERN HOME

Report by  
**MISS MARGARET WILLIAMS**



Once again our "Girl from MANWEB" was one of the main attractions at the show. Here we see Hilary in her 'hot pants,' looking trim and cool.

**WHETHER YOU'RE** a housewife with a yearning for a dream kitchen to take the dullness out of chores or a girl with a bedsitter who would like all mod cons on a smaller scale, this year promises to be a good one for you. For the 150 items which made their debut at the Electric Living Trade Fair at Brighton were geared to making life easy and—wonderful thing—doing so as economically as possible.

This mammoth fair organised by the Electricity Council each year always produces revolutionary ideas and this time two cookers on display ensured that you can now enjoy at home some of the advantages which has only been available to professional caterers and bakers—a hot air circulation oven. This method of oven heating incorporates a fan behind the oven casing which forces the hot air round the whole oven capacity resulting in the even baking of all foods and a reduction of cooking times by up to one-third of the conventional time.

The oven loading is reduced and this, coupled with shorter cooking times, makes for economy and one of the most gratifying things is that the shrinkage of your Sunday joint is reduced by about fifteen per cent. What's more, the insides of the ovens are easy to keep clean.

These have been introduced by Belling and Tricity and both incorporate other special features like auto-timers, dual rings, full-width grills and the like which one

has come to expect in modern electric cookers.

The glass ceramic hob which caused a stir when it was shown as a prototype at last year's fair has been brought out by G.E.C., Hotpoint and Morphy Richards and transforms any kitchen into a super-efficient place by its appearance alone—completely flat white surfaces with the heating elements concealed on the underside. More and more cookers with "stay-clean" oven linings which save on oven cleaners and all the tiresome effort involved indicated the popularity they've attracted since they appeared but a short time ago, and ovens which automatically clean themselves were on three cookers, by Creda, English Electric and G.E.C.

For someone with a big, hungry family or a load of entertaining to get through there's a very roomy cooker from the Carron Company with two spacious ovens, a large hob with a griddle and a non-stick surface, four radiant rings and an eye-level grill.

The bed-sit bird needn't feel left out of things by having to manage on any old cooker for there are several mini versions designed for small spaces which would be ideal for elderly people too.

From Belling, who have been specialists in small cookers for a long time, comes a new table top version with two variable heat controlled fast boiling rings, a large radiant grill with a variety of grilling heights and a thermostatically controlled oven big

## For the loner . . .

Baby now only in name and size, the Belling budget-priced split-level cooker comes off the production line in April.

The oven/grill unit sells at £24.95 and the twin-radiant ring boiling table at £12.95, makes the pair at £37.90 by far the lowest cost split-level cooker on the market.

They can be sold as two entirely separate units and both can be plugged into standard 13 or 15 amp sockets, can be sited together or apart as required at any convenient height, a particularly desirable feature for the elderly or infirm.

## . . . and for the family

The restyled Credaplan oven unit with new handles and an improved trim gives the oven a neater appearance and simplifies installation. The oven vent is now positioned at the front of the oven and is inconspicuously incorporated in the more legible control panel. A new and more positive oven door latch has been fitted and the Rosta-spit has push button control.

Attractively styled to match the Credaplan oven, the 4-radiant ring hob unit is in stainless steel with black glass control panel. The unique feature is that the hob itself can be lifted off for ease of cleaning and there is a deep spillage area with individual bowls which can be removed for washing. The unit is designed to fit any standard 21 inch front to back cabinet. There are two 6 inch 1.5 kW rings at the rear and two 7 inch 2 kW rings at the front with maximum draw off space allowed on the stainless steel surrounds.

Price of the two products £71 for the oven and £48 for the hob unit. Available in October.



enough to take a 12 lb. turkey comfortably. Even more versatile is the split level Baby Belling which comes in two parts—oven/grill unit and boiling ring unit—both of which can be placed wherever required.

Another small wonder is a washing machine by Moulinex in durable moulded plastic which takes a capacity of 2½ lbs., can stand easily on the draining board and be stowed away after use. At £19.50 it's a good investment, and the agitator can be



removed for periodic cleaning without having to call in a service engineer.

And if that's not all, there are some very minute fridges for flats and for those people who like a second model for their caravan or for the dining room. Electrolux with their mini, midi and maxi range cater for all demands, from the very small size for those with space problems to big, luxurious ones with separate freezers.

Many of the new fridges feature automatic defrosting, and deep

freezers are coming in a wider choice of size and shape so that even the smallest home is catered for, and many of them have front openings and take up less floor room. More than 160,000 cabinets were sold last year and the demand in 1971 is expected to bring sales up to 200,000 which shows that more and more people are realising the economy of bulk buying and storage.

Dishwasher's, too, are on the up and up, and about 200,000 of them are in use throughout the

country and sales have trebled to 30,000 a year in the last six years.

The range of heating appliances that can take advantage of cheap electricity is constantly increasing with improvements in performance and design, and as 40 per cent of our new houses are built with no central heating system it's not surprising that storage radiators are so popular. Nearly four million of them have been installed in the homes of Britain and a steady growth is predicted this year, with new compact models designed to blend with all backgrounds.

A refinement of the storage radiator is the storage fan heater which gives simple control of heat output to provide even lower running costs, and new designs include a 6 kW unit for heating two rooms from Creda.

While most of the items on

show were planned with economy in mind and were within easy reach of most home-planners it was, nevertheless, great to look at something really luxurious in the form of a kitchen of the future giving us some idea of what will be of use in years to come. Three rotating island units housed fridge freezer, self-cleaning oven, microwave oven, hob units and dishwasher, and each could be turned around at the touch of a button so that the cook never has to move! Above two of the units were circular hoods with extract fans, lights and automatic delivery systems for storing and measuring out the required amounts of such things as sugar and flour. Marvellous!

Coming back to stark reality, the Electricity Association for Women tend to make things simpler with their tea-towel which

gives a stage-by-stage guide to the wiring of plugs in both the old and new colours and also with a kitchen card which gives a ready reference to the use of electricity in the home.

Naturally, most of the appliances, while helping to make life easy for the housewife, benefit the whole family in the long run, but something she can really call her own is a facial sauna from Carmen. You put your face into a mask, and a gentle mist cleans the pores, relaxes facial muscles and eases those tension lines and wrinkles. Wonderful as a pick-me-up after a day's slaving over the new items for your kitchen which you're bound to want when they come crowding into the shops!



#### THE MOULINEX WASHING MACHINE

Built in durable plastic and powered by a 200 watt electric motor, this compact lightweight (under 12lbs) washing machine is priced at only £19.50.

It will take over 2½ lbs dry weight of soiled clothes and has an automatic timer setting at intervals up to 10 minutes.

Guaranteed for a year.



A draining board or similar surface adjoining the sink unit will hold the machine and after use it can easily be stowed away.

#### THE COLSTON CLASSIC

This dishwasher is designed as a floor standing model and at 33½ inches high it will fit neatly under any normal working surface. As an alternative it can be built-in.

As with other Colston dishwashers, a revolving jet accelerator drives powerful jets of water into every corner and a top spray gives added efficiency. It will wash 100 pieces of tableware and can be either plumbed-in or attached to the kitchen taps.

A thermostatically-controlled heater heats the washing-water to 148°F (65°C).

Recommended retail price £133.07 including free installation.



Guest speaker:  
Dr. N. R. C. Crimmin.

## ***CREWE EMPLOYEES' CONFERENCE***

# **SAFETY IN NUCLEAR STATIONS**

## *Regular checks on radiation levels*

**T**HE STRINGENT and comprehensive precautions taken to protect power station workers and people living nearby from any possibility of contamination associated with radiation in nuclear power stations was the subject of an absorbing talk by the guest speaker at Crewe District's recent Employees' Conference.

The conference was held at a Crewe hotel, and drew an attendance of about 100, including a good sprinkling of retired employees.

The speaker was Dr. N. R. C. Crimmin, of Wylfa power station, Anglesey, and he spoke on "*The Role of Health Physics Staff in Nuclear Power Stations.*"

He began by explaining that the law placed a very high burden of responsibility on the CEBG for the health and safety of workers and residents in the vicinity of nuclear power stations, adding that international regulations laid down that only microscopic doses of radiation were permissible—doses very far below the levels considered to contain any element of danger. The fuel elements in nuclear reactors—sources of very high-level radiation—were completely segregated from human tissue at all stages, and replacement and maintenance work was

carried out by remote-control equipment which completely shielded the people doing the work.

Power station workers were checked over very carefully with sensitive monitoring equipment. The care with which this was carried out was illustrated by the fact that one man who registered a "high" radiation level on arriving at work was the subject of exhaustive inquiry until it was discovered that the source was an ointment sufficiently harmless to be prescribed by his family doctor!

To protect the surrounding areas against any remote possibility of leakage, regular monitoring was carried out in the localities of nuclear stations.

Dr. Crimmin concluded by saying that the safety standards imposed were so high, and the monitoring so thorough, as to give complete protection to those earning their living in our nuclear power stations, and to the people living nearby.

Reports on the engineering and commercial work of the District during the year were presented, together with a report by Mr. K. Helliwell (*Group Manager*) on the Board's Report and Accounts for 1969/70.

An enjoyable meal and an informative "Open Forum" session rounded off a successful evening.



A composite picture of some of our colleagues at Crewe who attended the District Conference.

## SHOP OF THE MONTH

# HIGH STREET MOLD



Just over twenty years ago, our shop in Mold was situated on the outskirts of the town, away from what is now the main shopping area, and it was not until five years ago that we managed to take over the present site, which at that time was a cafe. At the end of our first year's trading in the new premises,

the staff produced a turnover of nearly £52,000. In the following year the figure rose slightly to just over £54,000. Last year the turnover amounted to £80,694 and in the first ten months of the current year the figure stands at £103,222, already some 59.4 per cent over last year.



**Pictures :**  
*Top left :*  
**MANWEB's**  
attractive  
shop in High  
Street, Mold.

*Top right :*  
**The busy**  
scene on  
Market Day.  
Our shop is  
at the far  
end of the  
street.

*Left :*  
**A section**  
inside the  
shop  
showing  
appliances on  
display.



## Action Stations for our Staff at Mold

Mrs. Una Roberts, a part-time saleswoman, finds a second to turn and smile for our cameraman. ▶



▶ Miss Mary Burdis, a saleswoman takes a spell on the till as she collects customers' accounts.

▶ Mrs. Beryl Williams, a demonstrator with B.D.A. sells a hairdryer to a customer.



Below, from left to right :

Time for the tea break as Mrs. Elizabeth Bevan gets the cups ready.

Mr. J. Brian Hughes, shop supervisor, patiently waits for the customer to sign on the dotted line. Brian took over at Mold just twelve months ago after working at our Llanwrst shop.

Mrs. Barbara Jones, a saleswomen, helps the customer to decide.



# MANWEB Exhibitions show how to Cater for Profit

NOT LONG AGO, the average person in this country had the reputation of being willing to put up with anything that was placed before them when eating away from home. Poor food... bad cooking... sloppy service... they were supposed to force it down and pay-up without a grumble—or maybe with a little grumble. British catering was for long, something of an international joke.

Now those days have gone for good. Better marketing and packaging of food stuffs, fully equipped kitchens in the home, and foreign travel on a mass scale, have given the British Islanders of today an appetite for good food, perfectly cooked and served in an appetising way in congenial surroundings. And if they do not find these qualities in one hotel or restaurant, they will look elsewhere.

Our caterers have discovered this and the trade has made great efforts to cope with this rising standard of public taste and demand, but, at the same time, continuously rising costs are a permanent headache to those who make their living from satisfying our hunger. Outlay on materials, staff and overheads rise steadily, and the job of catering profitably becomes ever more difficult.

The key to profitable catering lies in good food

and in a fast streamlined system of operation. To show how these can be achieved together the Board staged their annual Commercial Catering exhibition at the Development Centre in Paradise Street, Liverpool. Some 30 manufacturers of commercial cooking and kitchen equipment co-operated with us to show everything which is most up-to-date, efficient and labour-saving in the catering equipment field.

This Liverpool exhibition got off to a flying start when it was officially opened by the Lady Mayoress of the City, Mrs. Ian Levin. The large number of visitors were welcomed to the opening ceremony by Mr. D. G. Dodds (*Chairman*) who expressed the Board's pleasure and gratitude to Mrs. Levin for her time and interest, and for graciously opening the exhibition.

Then Mr. M. R. Cowan, our Chief Commercial Officer addressed a few remarks to the audience.

*"From factory canteen to the Savoy Grill, from coffee in the laundrette to a national snack-bar group, catering in this country is considered to be the third largest industry with an annual turnover of around £2,600 million."* he said.

He went on to talk of the electricity industry's

Taking a turn at the urn is Mrs. Ian Levin assisted by Miss Hilary Panting, our 'Girl from MANWEB.' On the other side of the counter, from left to right, are, Mr. Dodds, Mrs. Dittrich, Mr. D. S. Webb Jones (*senior assistant engineer*) and Mr. Cowan.



important role in helping caterers by constantly looking for new developments in equipment which would help offset rising costs.

He then talked a little about 'convenience foods'—blast frozen, accelerated freeze dried, canned and boil-in-the-bag, emphasising that in reconstituting these foods electricity is the only fuel that will do the total job.

Mr. Cowan then invited everyone to look round the exhibition and see the equipment on display which was so extensive and versatile that the caterer had complete flexibility for purpose and layout. He added that experts from MANWEB were also available to advise in the field of lighting, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning, whether it be for a small cafe or for the largest of hotels.

"Electricity is truly the power behind the chef," he concluded, "enabling him to cater for profit."

A novel feature in the exhibition was "Maggie May's Cafe"—a blueprint for the small snack-bar of the future, fitted out at a modest cost with electrical equipment sufficient to enable a very small staff to serve a range of varied and well-cooked food at short notice. "The proof of the pudding"—hot snacks and simple meals—was served to the visitors.

In addition a complete range of every kind of electrical aid to storing, preparing and cooking food on every size of scale was exhibited and demonstrated by experts. The exhibits included cooking equipment of all kinds, fryers, infra-red grills, hotcupboards and Bain Mariés, griddles, toasters, boilers, convection and micro-wave ovens, steam cookers and chip ranges.

The associated labour-saving equipment, so essential in keeping staffing costs down, includes potato peelers, slicers, buttering machines, ice-makers, dishwashers and tenderisers.



Mrs. Dittrich, centre, with two very important visitors to the exhibition.

After Liverpool, the exhibition moved on to Southport and Bangor. All three were arranged by an expert—Mrs. Joan Dittrich, MANWEB's only woman engineer, who, before being appointed to the Head Office Commercial team as 3rd Assistant engineer, had long experience as a demonstrator with the Board. Last year she was awarded a Commercial Catering Bursary by the Caroline Haslett Memorial Trust under the auspices of the Electrical Association for Women, and went on a six-month course, part of the time being spent at Llandrillo Technical College and part in London visiting a number of large catering institutions.

## CAT CAPTION COMPETITION



We asked for more entries for this competition and we certainly got them—as many as a dozen at a time. Thanks for a very good effort. We hope to run more of this type of competition in future issues of our magazine.

This time, the three £1 prizes go to the following members of the staff for their excellent entries:

**Mr. G. Lewer**, Display Section, Head Office. (*To Let—unique leopardskin dwelling—fully furnished hallway with genuine carved ivory tusks and red carpet leading to . . .*)

**Mrs. P. Woulfe** of Upton Shop. (*Dinner Invitation.*)

**Mr. W. E. Boylin**, Head Office Accounts Section. (*'I heard you laughing when you saw 'Beware of the Cat' on the gate.'*)

Come along to the Deeside Recreation and Leisure Centre at Queensferry and support MANWEB Champions in the Electricity Supply Industry Restricted Badminton Championships.

Saturday, April 3rd  
10.0 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Sunday, April 4th  
10.0 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

# CONWAY VALLEY CONFERENCE



Guest speaker Mr. Cowan, *extreme left*, smokes a peaceful pipe as Mr. Helliwell acknowledges the work of the District under the leadership of Mr. L. Griffiths (*District Engineer*) *second from right*, and Mr. D. R. Mellor (*District Commercial Engineer*), *right*.

**M**ORE THAN 90 people attended the Conway Valley Staff Conference held at a Llandudno hotel a few weeks ago where they enjoyed what must have been one of the happiest and most successful staff get-togethers ever held in the District.

In his capacity as Chairman of the No. 15 Local Advisory Committee, Mr. K. Helliwell (*Group*

Report by  
**LEONARD HUGHES**

*Manager*), first introduced the guest speakers for the evening, then the individual members of the L.A.C. and finally he extended a warm welcome to the nineteen retired members of the Board's staff who had joined the gathering.

Then Mr. George Cooksley (*District Administrative Officer*) as Secretary of the L.A.C. in presenting his Report, which had previously been circulated, said he wanted to thank everyone who had participated in the work of joint consultation.

Mr. Helliwell submitted a review of the Board's Annual Report and Accounts for last year and said that MANWEB had endeavoured, with considerable success, to absorb cost increases by a combination of sales expansion and greater efficiency, but that in spite of this, our finances were under heavy pressure. The price of coal supplied to power stations had risen in October, 1969 and again in January 1970, and these increases had added £1 million to the Board's costs during the year under review.

Then followed the first of the guest speakers, Mr. M. R. Cowan (*Chief Commercial Officer*) who gave a most interesting talk on "The Suggestion Scheme" saying that this was an extremely useful way of improving efficiency and reducing costs, which in turn, should enable us to sell more electricity, sell more appliances, and sell more of our contracting services, which he stressed was necessary to our very existence.

The theme followed by the next guest speaker, Mr. J. L. W. Ladner (*Education and Training Officer*), was that it was never too late to take advantage of the opportunities which existed in the industry to

A study in concentration from just a few members of the District staff who attended the Conference.





The Chorus, from left to right: Mrs. Lillian Boucher (Southport), Mrs. Dorothy Grant (Allerton), Mrs. Anne Barton (Maghull), Mrs. Sheila Davies (Johnstown), Mrs. Pam Woulfe (Upton), Miss 'Lol' Davies (Portmadoc), Mrs. Jean Peel (St. Helens) and Mrs. Pat Hall (Bootle).



And some of our salesmen, from left to right: Messrs. Dave Martin (Chwyd), Ronald Durkin (Huyton), Tony Martin (Chwyd) and David Melling (Birkenhead).

## CONWAY VALLEY CONFERENCE—*continued*

improve educational standards and to obtain qualifications which could lead to advancement in one's career. "The Board," he said, "was willing to help by arranging part-time day or block release, by affording financial assistance towards registration, tuition and examination fees, and in certain instances, by allowing time off and assisting with the cost of attending lectures."

The 'Open Forum' proved, as always in the Conway Valley District, to be a lively affair with more than sufficient questions to keep the panel of speakers on their toes, and the audience interested and often amused.

## HOUSE for Sale—West Kirby

Post-war 3-bed semi.  
Double length garage;  
established gardens with  
fruit trees: heating and  
many extras Price £4,950.  
Contact Mr. M. R. Gisen-  
thwaite. Tel. 051-625-9335.

## ROYAL VISIT

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales paid a flying visit to Chester a few weeks ago and as part of his tour he called at the Lache Youth Centre to talk to some of the young people. The picture below, shows Prince Charles taking time out for a cup of tea and having a chat with Neil Allmark, left, aged 16, who has been working in MANWEB's mailing section at Sealand Road for the past six months.

"Cheshire Observer" picture



# **DUE CARE AND ATTENTION**

Article contributed by

**Mr. DEREK LANG**

*Principle Assistant Computer Services*

**I**N THE first article of this series, reference was made to the handling and care of your stamps. Although it may seem that this topic is too obvious to require comment, it is surprising how many quite serious collectors handle, store or mount their treasures carelessly.

There are several very good books which deal with this subject and, even if one cannot afford to buy them, some are usually available in public lending or reference libraries. If I had to choose one particular book relating to this aspect of the hobby it would almost certainly be "How to Arrange and Write-up a Stamp Collection" by Stanley Phillips & C. P. Rang and published by Stanley Gibbons.

The purpose of the advice which can be given within the limitations of this particular article is to encourage collectors to pay attention to some details which are all too often neglected in the general haste to fill up album pages.

In the first instance, stamps should be prepared and made fit to be included in the collection before they are mounted. This refers particularly to stamps which have been included in earlier collections. All too often stamps are remounted with thick wads of previous mounts still adhering to the backs. These are usually items which have come from old collections or poor quality approvals. The reasons for not removing the debris from the backs of these items include the time factor and the possibility that the mount is covering some defect.

Damage may also be caused during the removal process. Most paper can be removed by floating the stamps, face upwards in warm water or by placing them face upwards on damp blotting paper and sliding the paper off the backs. Some of the more stubborn pieces may require the assistance of a wet short haired camel-hair brush used with great care. In such removal processes, it is important to know which stamps are printed in inks which tend to run. Reds, purples, and greens are possibly the worst offenders.

After removal from paper, stamps should be placed face down on a piece of clean white blotting

paper and allowed to dry thoroughly. In most cases the stamps will tend to curl but this can be rectified by storing them in a stock book (*a book with stiff card pages each having a number of strip pockets across the page*) for a few days after which they should be sufficiently flat to mount in an album.

During the handling of stamps whether used or unused, collectors are advised to use philatelic tweezers rather than fingers. Apart from the fact that tearing or bending is less probable, one is less likely to discover finger prints disfiguring otherwise perfect stamps for, however clean one's hands are kept, perspiration can and does affect stamps.

Storage of stamps not actually being put into an album is also important. Items on paper awaiting inspection or removal from paper may be kept safely in shoe boxes provided that care is taken to see that the pieces are laid in the box carefully and that the size of the paper does not exceed the dimensions of the box. Stamps which have been removed from paper or unused stamps are best stored in stock books in either chronological or subject order.

### **Plan Out the Page**

Stamps being mounted into an album must conform to several requirements some of which will vary slightly according to the scope and nature of the collection. The basics to be considered will include the need to plan out the album page before mounting any stamps. This necessitates a knowledge of the stamps which are likely to appear on the page if the complete range is not to hand at the time. This in turn may require reference to a catalogue and a predetermined idea of the method and scope of the presentation.

The actual mounting of the stamps may be effected by the use of stamp hinges (*best quality peelable hinges only are recommended*) or by some sort of pocket mounts which are usually made of a black plastic background which has an adhesive back for sticking to the album sheet and a clear plastic flap hinged to the front. The stamp is inserted between the two pieces of plastic—the advantage of this method is that nothing is stuck to the stamp and so mint stamps may be kept in perfect condition, also stamps may be removed for re-presentation for displays, etc., without unnecessary wear and tear to the stamp. The main disadvantage is probably expense.

The scope of this article is limited and one has to learn much from experience and study. Any specific queries will be welcomed, just drop a line to *The Editor, 'Contact,' Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR*, and an attempt will be made to supply an answer either individually or, in the case of problems of general interest, in a future article.



SG(1970) 188-191  
CW(1970) S103-106  
All Plate Nos. 1

Security Printing Corpn. (Necess)  
7p & 13p 1,000,000 each  
40p 500,000. 50p 300,000  
13p perf 14 x 12½ (10 x 8)  
others 12½ x 14 (8 x 10)

1. PAHARPUR  
7 paise  
ultramarine

No information - check Public Library.

2. MOHENJODARO - Harappa civilization, evolved slowly from about 400,000 to 2,500 BC. Most extensive civilization in Indus, Rajasthan & Kathiawar. Elaborate granaries, irrigation system, town planning divided cities into Civic/Religious area and a residential area
3. TAXILA - c 600 BC? Towns had by now been established as centres of trade and young men would travel long distances to be apprenticed at such centres. Taxila (Gk Takshashila) was the capital of Gandhara & Vedic & Iranian learning merged here. Outlet for the overland trade to West. Mauryans built Royal Highway, (now the grand trunk road). Depot for Chinese Silk (via Central Asia), Turquoise from Iran and Afghanistan.

## Archaeological Issue 1963



The layout pages of the 1963 Pakistan Archaeological issue. (The page showing the four stamps above has been reduced in size here.)

Set your stamps out neatly with a minimum of information detracting from the page. But it is not enough just to collect the stamps, for to avoid loss of interest one should collect information too, and a separate record sheet may be built up as the example on the left shows.

### LEAVING THE BOARD



Mr. Harold Day, a foreman in the Commercial Section at Mold, left the Board recently to take up an appointment with a firm of contracting electrical engineers in Swindon. Harold is well known in amateur boxing circles and is often the 'man in the middle' in local and international competitions.

We wish him lots of good luck in his new job.

### And a farewell thank-you from a customer

Dear Sir,

I enclose my cheque of £117 in payment of the enclosed account.

My wife and I would like to thank Mr. Day and the young men who did the installation for

the efficient, thoughtful and cheerful way in which they carried out the work. We are also grateful to your showroom staff, Mr. Hughes and Mrs. Jones, for their helpful advice in the selection of our equipment.

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed)

### ANOTHER CONTRACT

Bootle Corporation have just accepted a quotation from our Commercial Department in the North Mersey District for a new Bootle Village project consisting of 162 maisonettes with Electricaire central heating and 24 flats with electric floorwarming. This is a job worth £28,500.



Members of the Sports and Social Club Committee. From left to right : Messrs. N. Walsh, B. Taylor, D. Clutton, Mrs. M. Morse, Messrs. N. Smith, F. Barlow, Mrs. A. Boyer, Messrs. R. Hanley, N. Latham and E. Smith.

Mrs. Margaret Morse, (Manwebella), in her 'coming out' gown, waits for her Prince Charming.



## Another "Good Do" at Crewe

After their very successful 'Hoe Down'—reported in last month's 'Contact,' the very active Crewe District Sports and Social Club followed up with their Annual Dinner Dance held recently in a local hotel.

The President of the Club, Mr. Norman Walsh, welcomed some 180 members and their friends before they settled down to eat an excellent meal, after which they enjoyed dancing to some fine music provided by Nat. Watson's band.

The high spot of the evening was when the "New Kilawots" put on their own mini-panto, "Manwebella."

This talented group, who gave up other engagements in Las Vegas to appear in Crewe, gave a most brilliant performance.

The ugly sisters, played by Ron Hanley and John Harrison, showed fleet of foot in their size nines, and their dress sense was



the envy of all the ladies. Manwebella, played by Margaret Morse—a chick in sackcloth—was transformed into a raving beauty by Fairy Godmother (Nal-go Nell) with Irene Isherwood perfect in the role.

Chris Clutton took the part of a very Charming Prince while Terry Nicholas, as a MANWEB Messenger, completed the cast.

The script and songs were by Toni Boyer who also narrated the story.

The "New Kilawots" were accompanied by their musical director, Mr. 'Liberace' Walsh.



Mr. Noad, *centre left*, presents Mr. Coffey with farewell gifts on behalf of friends and colleagues in the District.

### Mr. W. R. COFFEY

Joining the industry in 1933 when he worked at Hatton Garden in Liverpool, Mr. W. R. (Reg) Coffey called it a day when he retired recently.

During his long career he dealt in the main with service enquiries and the work of the Commercial Department. In the

last war he served with the Royal Navy.

Reg made many friends, a number of these gathering to wish him a happy retirement and to present him with farewell gifts which were handed over on their behalf to Mr.

Coffey by Mr. D. E. Noad (*District Commercial Engineer*).

## RETIREMENTS



Engineering staff in Liverpool gather round to join with Mr. Haughan (*District Engineer*), *centre left*, in wishing Mr. Morris a long and happy retirement.

### Mr. A. G. MORRIS

After 44 years' service in the electricity supply industry in Liverpool, Mr. A. Geoffrey Morris recently retired from his job as assistant section engineer.

### Mr. L. F. DEVINE and Mr. J. C. EVANS

Two more engineers off to a life of retirement are Mr. Larry Devine, an assistant section engineer, and Mr. Jack Evans, a section engineer, both from Lister Drive.

A double farewell photograph with a couple of ladies adding charm to the scene. Seated *from left to right*: Mrs. Joan Mitchell (*clerk*), Mr. H. Telfer (*Group Manager*), Mr. Devine, Mr. Haughan, Mr. Evans and Mrs. Vicky Roberts (*clerk*).



## BILL JAQUES—Retires

A section engineer in our North Mersey District, Mr. William (Bill) Jaques retired recently after completing 44 years' service with the industry.

He began his career as an apprentice electrician with the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply and later, when qualified, his jobs were many and varied. He was involved in the installation of the cables in the first Mersey Road Tunnel and worked on the D.C. plant, the change-over from D.C. to A.C. and the uprating of the network to 11,000 volt in the Liverpool North District.

During the last few years he was responsible for

the Crosby, Thornton and Hightown areas in which considerable redevelopment has taken place.

Bill's hobbies include cine-photography, gardening and (at his wife's request)—'do-it-yourself.'

At a farewell ceremony held at Marsh Lane a few weeks ago, Mr. A. E. Sweeney, who retired as the District Engineer in 1969, returned to join with many more of Bill's friends and colleagues to wish him a long and happy retirement and to see Mr. A. W. Hawley, the present District Engineer, on their behalf, present Bill with an electric fire and a coffee percolator which he hoped would keep him warm and provide refreshment during the impending house decorating session.

## Obituary

### MR. GEORGE FARADAY DAVIES

Many present and retired members of the MANWEB staff will be sorry to hear of the death of one of the key pioneers in rural electrification work in North Wales—Mr. George Faraday Davies, our Area 4 Engineer until his retirement in 1956.

Mr. Davies was born at Llangwm, Denbighshire, in 1890, and received his early training in the electricity industry at Woolwich, Rugby, and the Isle of Wight. In 1912 he joined the South Wales Power Company as a maintenance and operations engineer, served with the Royal Engineers in France and at Gallipoli during the first world war, and returned to the South Wales Power Company after the war.

In 1925 he became assistant transmission engineer with the North Wales Power Company, making his home at Wrexham. He joined MANWEB on nationalisation, and ultimately became Area Engineer.

Mr. Davies was one of those who pioneered high voltage transmission and distribution over mountainous and thinly populated country, with the associated problems of maintaining supply in face of the hazards of nature, and those of developing equipment. He served in the Home Guard during the second world war.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife, son and daughter, and five grand-children.

Informing us of Mr. Davies' death, our former Area 4 Manager (Mr. R. N. Pegg) paid tribute in these words:

*"He was a quiet and modest man to whom no one appealed for help in vain, as many a young engineer can testify. His dedication to his calling can still serve as a model for the young engineers of today."*

### Mr. HAROLD HOLDEN

A genial and popular member of the Liverpool District Engineering staff, Mr. Harold Holden passed away suddenly on Sunday morning, 21st February. Although recently he had not been enjoying the best of health, his passing came as a great shock.

He served his apprenticeship with the former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department and combined with assiduous study, subsequently obtained professional recognition.

Prior to 1948 he had been engaged in the Commercial activities of the Department, ultimately transferring to the Mains Section, and upon nationalisation he was appointed as section engineer in the Central District. He contributed over 43 years' service to the Industry and was looking forward to a happy retirement.

He will be sadly missed by all his colleagues and friends in Liverpool.

### Mr. W NEIL FORRET

It is with regret that we have to report the death of Mr. W. Neil Forret, an installation inspector at Wrexham in our Dee Valley District.

Mr. Forret, who was 55 years of age, had a total of 37 years' service in the Industry, entering the Board's service on Vesting Day on being transferred from the staff of the North Wales Power Company.

Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. Forret and family—their son Paul is an apprentice electrician working for the Board at Wrexham.

### Mr. W RICHARD PARRY

Earlier this month, Mr. W. Richard Parry, who was formerly employed in the Stores at Llangefni, died after a very long and severe illness. He was 53 years of age. Mr. Parry retired from his work in the latter part of 1958 owing to ill health, and since then he had been visited on many occasions by members of the Manual Workers Benevolent Society.

We offer our sincere condolences to his daughter.