

CONTACT

May 1976

MANWEB's Tallest
Pole
(see page 101)

SALES TRAINING AT WALLASEY

Four members of our Commercial staff who all joined the Board within the last twelve months, recently completed their four-week basic training at the Wallasey Sales Training School.

They are . . . Rhian Lloyd from Machynlleth shop. Welsh speaking. Once did a 'receptionist and 1,001 jobs' at a chalet park.

Bryan McDonald, Chester shop. Born in Caernarfon, speaks Welsh. Is interested in astronomy.

Mike McQuilliam, works at our Bootle shop. Likes 'heavy' music, football and people.

Alice Riley, a saleswoman at St. John's shop in Liverpool. Also worked as a doctor's receptionist and at a sub-post office.



Course 274—from right to left: Bryan, Mike, Alice and Rhian with sales training instructor Val Eastwood.

NEW GROUP MANAGER

Mr. J. A. WINCHESTER has been appointed as Group Manager with effect from 1st June, 1976. Mr. Winchester is currently the District Commercial Engineer for the Board's Dee Valley District. He began his career with the North Metropolitan Power Company followed by six year's war service as an electrical officer in the R.N.V.R. Then he worked for the Cornwall Electric Power Company—later the South Western Electricity Board—before joining MANWEB in 1953 as

District Commercial Engineer at Rhuddlan. Later he became District Manager at Conway Valley District and then at Crewe District in a similar capacity. On the reorganisation of the Board in 1970, Mr. Winchester was appointed as District Commercial Engineer, Dee Valley.

He will now be associated with the Board's Mid-Mersey, Mid-Cheshire and Oswestry Districts.

Change of Group

Mr. R. J. BARRACLOUGH moves from his secondment as Group Manager for the Board's Mid-Mersey, Mid-Cheshire and Oswestry Districts having been appointed to take over as Group Manager for the Dee Valley, Clwyd, Gwynedd and Aberystwyth Districts on the retirement of the present Group Manager, Mr. K. HELLIWELL in June of this year.

ECLIPSE

This photograph of the moon's partial eclipse of the sun was taken by our Head Office photographic team at 11.25 a.m. on 29th April. They used a Pentax camera fitted with a 135 mm lens and the tri-X film was exposed through a red tri-colour filter at one-thousandth of a second at F16. To protect the eye, the sun was viewed through the aperture via a piece of fogged photographic film.





CONTACT

Vol. 28 No. 5

May 1976

Editorial

Accent on the Positive

IT IS probably a regrettable fact that there are still a lot of people around who only think about electricity when the lights go out (when they swear), or when the bill arrives (when any thoughts they have are likely to be on the negative side!).

Such are the consequences of our own success in providing a supremely reliable supply, and of the long years when people happily used bountiful supplies of cheap energy—and wasted quite a lot of it.

To misquote an eminent member of the Government—“the cheap energy party is over”. All classes of users of all kinds of fuel are now carefully engaged in counting the costs, while the impact of rising fuel costs on our national economy has forced the Government to adopt the “Save It” theme.

Against the background of this situation there is now a need to encourage people to think about electricity in a positive way, recognising the many vital tasks which only electricity can do, realising that in many ways to *use* electricity is to *save* energy, valuable resources of all kinds, effort, and sometimes even life itself.

This is the purpose behind the industry’s “Think Electric” publicity campaign. After all, to the mother of a premature baby the electricity which powers the life-giving incubator suddenly becomes a pearl beyond price.

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Editorial Staff

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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.

Another Grower Goes Electric

Great Savings on Energy Costs

WITH THE ever-rising price of oil, commercial grower Mr. Arthur Jackson and his son Stewart soon found that the cost of providing the heat to raise tomato plants in their greenhouses at High Legh, near Knutsford, was proving too much to be an economical proposition.

Then they read the Electricity Council's handbook, "*Grow Electric*" and quickly decided to 'go electric' and called in MANWEB experts, Ron Andrews from Head Office and David Tinsley from the Board's Mid-Mersey District.

At the outset it was shown that during the long winter months, the low level of solar radiation is not enough on its own to provide adequate tomato

plant growth. Therefore, some method of providing artificial light and heat was required to foster strong plants and at the same time reduce the propagating period by about four weeks.

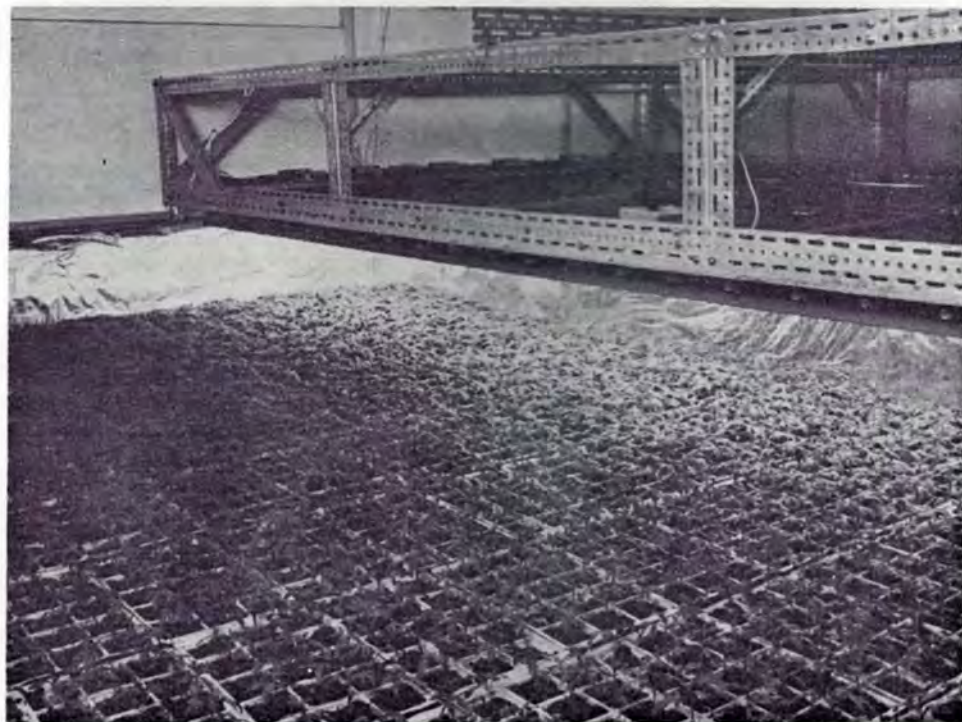
By using electricity to provide both light and heat under carefully controlled conditions, the Jacksons would be saved a tremendous amount of money normally spent on oil heating their large greenhouses.

An old outbuilding about 20 feet by 10 feet, formerly used as a garage, was chosen as an artificial growing room. First it was well and truly insulated before the floor was divided into two boxed areas, each holding about 1,600 tomato plants. A linear carrier rig, 12 feet by 8 feet, was constructed by the Jacksons then MANWEB electricians installed 27, eight-foot fluorescent warm white tubes to the undersides of the rig to throw high-intensity light and gentle heat—100 watts per tube—on to the plants.

To give the plants alternative periods of twelve hours of artificial daylight, the rig is moved from one end of the room to the other at regular intervals.

Supplementing the heat from the lights is a three kilowatt fan heater, thermostatically controlled. However, this is only required in very severe and frosty weather conditions.

The temperature on the plants is maintained at



The linear carrier rig part way across one of the boxed areas showing how light and heat is directed on to the 1,600 tomato plants. With the rig in its final position, the area is completely sealed in.

68°F in correct and controlled conditions. This economical installation provides for a better heat utilisation and a great saving on energy costs.

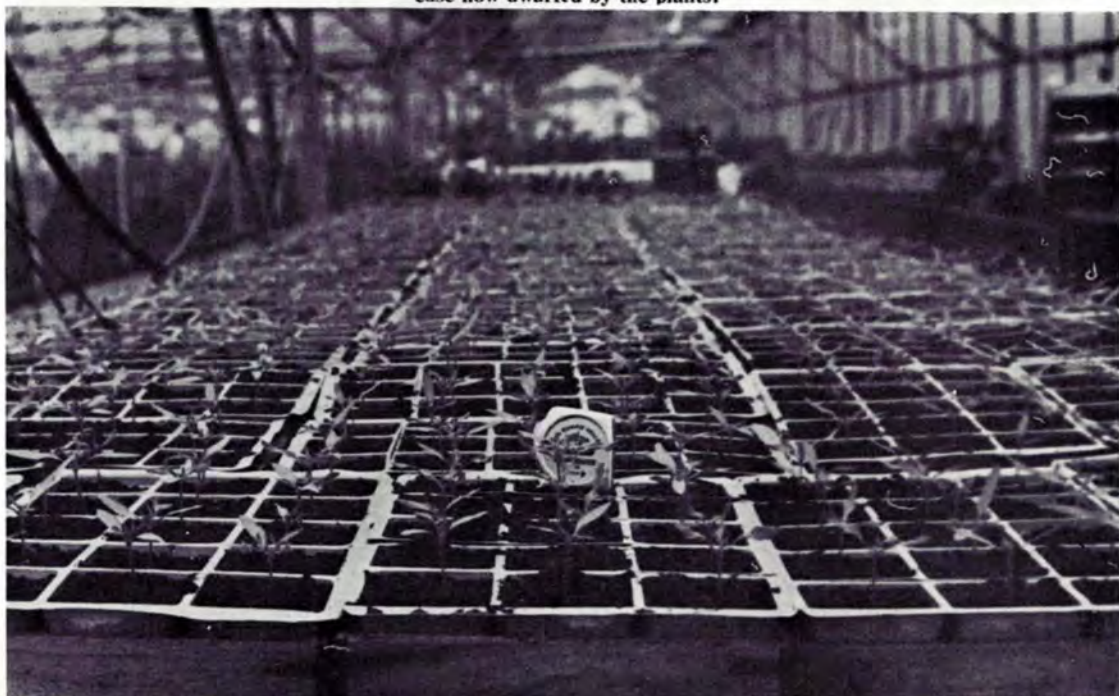
An extra benefit from the growing room is its use for lettuce propagation. Again, time saving helps the Jacksons bring their produce to the market weeks ahead of their rivals. Two weeks under lights saves some five or six weeks under normal conditions. They are also able to make use of the growing room for an extra two to three months in the year. Another factor of controlled growing means that the lettuce can be used as a 'fill-in' between flower crops—another saving on space and time.

This early propagating method and its exact nature has meant a greater use of the main greenhouses which are now run at much lower temperatures because of the established and firm plants now being transferred from the electric growing room.

"With tomato seeds now selling at £54 an ounce and oil costs soaring, we had to do something," said Mr. Jackson. "Electricity has given us the perfect answer and we are already delighted with the results. We now have stronger and healthier plants ready in a third of the time taken in the past. Our plants are ready at least 21 days ahead of our competitors—thanks to electricity!"



Pictures on this page show two sets of tomato plants grown over the same period. Below, a steel rule case in the front tray gives size comparison as it towers above the plants in the oil heated greenhouse while, above, Stewart Jackson holds a tray of strong and healthy plants raised in the 'all-electric' growing room—the rule case now dwarfed by the plants.



MR. DODDS VISITS OUR DEE VALLEY DISTRICT

Right in the centre of the Board's area, surrounded by other Districts is our Dee Valley District with its HQ at Rhostyllen, Near Wrexham.

With depots at Chester, Corwen and Legacy, the District has over 150,000 consumers in an area of 713 square miles.

There are shops at Chester, Corwen, Ellesmere Port, Johnstown, Neston, Shotton and Wrexham.

Billed unit sales for last year totalled 2,828,255 units.

Right: In the engineering section, Denis Dodds (Chairman), right, chats with, from left to right: Arthur Jones, E. T. Peters and Joe Winchester.

Below: Frank Jones, from Corwen, left, with Joe Winchester and Denis Dodds.

Below right: In the accounts section, the Chairman is seen here with Alan Bowers, left, and Tony Shell, centre.



With a few members of the Local Advisory Committee. From left to right: Ken Helliwell (Group Manager), Len Whalley, Jackie Pemberton, Denis Dodds, Gordon Harris and Noel Morris.





Above, left to right: Messrs. Sid Fairclough, Harry Telfer, Ron Morley, Bob Evans and Don Tomsett.



Above, left to right: Mr. Ben Hastings, Miss Elizabeth Frame, Messrs. Roy Stewart, George Bowers and Jack Bradley.

No. 5 L.A.C. EMPLOYEES MEETING

Electricity — the Future and the Past

THE ANNUAL General Meeting for North Wirral District employees was held recently at the Riverside Restaurant on the New Brighton Promenade.

After an excellent meal the 170 delegates settled down to the business part of the evening. The chairman of the proceedings was Group Manager Mr. Sid Fairclough, who welcomed guests and thanked the audience, made up from present and retired employees, for attending.

Mr. Jack Bradley, Secretary of the No. 5 Local Advisory Committee, summed up the work of the Committee of the last 12 months. He was under pressure from the chairman to reduce his allotted time. Unfortunately his signalling system with a colleague in the audience to keep within his new time limit went wrong but he still kept his report brief.

The Deputy Chairman, Mr. Ben Hastings, was the next speaker and he pulled no punches in his talk about the future outlook of the industry. Taking the short term future first, he said that he realised the North Wirral District personnel must be worried working in such an area of extreme unemployment.

The situation was serious, for the first time since the war we were selling less electricity than the previous year. Sales of units were down some 5%, and all sections of our consumers were using less. We could not expect a high growth rate for years to come.

Appliance and contracting sales were down 25% on last year and the Board and its employees had to face up to this and reduce costs and people. Although Mr. Hastings would not rule out redundancies, everything possible would be done to avoid them and so far they had not been necessary. The Board had, where possible, stopped replacing people who left, cut the work going out to contractors and had redeployed staff. To date, the workforce has been reduced by 200. Mr. Hastings promised the Board would keep in close touch with trade unions.

Looking further ahead toward the end of the century the speaker saw a very bright future for electricity and those who had embarked on a career in the industry. The days of cheap energy were over. Fossil fuel reserves throughout the world were limited. Nuclear power would be the main source of world power and by the year 2000 electricity would provide 50% of the world's energy needs. Nuclear power would produce 70% of this electricity, compared with 15% of present day generation.

Many other methods, some practical, some not, were being proposed to produce power from the sun, the tide, the wind and the most promising of these from waves.

The Deputy Chairman saw all new housing being built at the end of the century being totally electric. Transport too would use electric motive power. At present Toyota, the Japanese car giant, was investing vast amounts of cash in the electric car.

Concluding, Mr. Hastings was certain electricity

A happy quartet of delegates





**Some of the delegates who attended the
North Wirral District Employees' Annual Meeting**





Three more of North Wirral's delegates to their employees' annual meeting.

would become more essential in the next 20—25 years and the industry's employees contribution would be more essential by the end of the century.

The main speaker of the evening was the former Group Manager Mr. Harry Telfer whose talk was entitled 'Some Reflections on the Electricity Supply Industry.' Now enjoying his first year of retirement, he looked back over his years of service.

He started his career in the gloom of the thirties and along with others had stood in the dole queue. There was some similarity to today's economic climate. In 1933 a young Harry Telfer celebrated the fact that he had obtained a job with the Liverpool Corporation Electricity Supply Department.

The years he had spent with the Corporation had seen some development of the electricity load. The Sales and Service Dept. (Commercial Department nowadays) was involved in thermal storage heating, assisted wiring campaigns, and soil warming, the noted example of which was at 'The School of Science', Everton Football Club, for prevention of frozen pitches. (One wit was heard later to mutter, 'He must have a good memory to recall any science at Goodison Park—perhaps it was the Derby game when Liverpool played there!')

He recalled working on the building of Clarence Dock Power Station, the handcarts used by electricians and the grim year of 1938, the Munich crisis, and the outbreak of war in 1939.

A sad day he did remember was the day in 1939 when the *Thetis*, a newly-built submarine failed to

surface. He was working near the riverside and he and his team were asked not to make a noise. Thousands of silent people were standing looking into the Mersey for any sign of the stricken vessel.

One incident during the war stuck in his mind. He and a colleague were detailed on a secret naval mission. They were taken to Altcar, from where cables had been laid on the bed of the Mersey to detect enemy submarines. A fault or sabotage had occurred on one of the cables, and he and a colleague had to locate the fault and the reason. It turned out quite a simple one. The cable had been riddled with bullets, not from a saboteur but from the loyal British troops whose shots had gone astray from the nearby Altcar range.

Following the war and the election of a Labour Government, rumour of Nationalisation was rife. In 1947 Lord Citrine was appointed Chairman of the British Electricity Authority.

In 1948 MANWEB was formed under the Chairmanship of Sir Josiah Eccles, with a team of engineers from Liverpool and other undertakings, which included the former Chief Engineer Mr. Peter Stowell.

Since nationalisation the industry had made excellent progress as had MANWEB, and this Board now had the finest distribution network in this country if not in Europe.

In conclusion Mr. Telfer pointed out that in Huyton, near Liverpool in 1936 electricity had been 8 pence (old money) a unit, which was dearer than today's price. The major achievement he considered had been made by joint consultation in the industry. Despite the present gloom he urged the audience not to be down-hearted. "Electricity is the best bet", he concluded.

The meeting ended with a disco session by 'Amber' a disc jockey duo, one of whom is Gordon Starkey from the North Wirral Drawing Office.



The dancers, right, and the wallflowers, below.



POLICE CHIEFS PRESENT MANWEB DRIVERS WITH AWARDS

Senior police officers took time out recently to present Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents Safe Driving Awards to over 70 members of our Oswestry District staff at ceremonies held at District Office and the Newtown and Whitchurch depots.

All the drivers were complimented on their achievements.

Oswestry Staff

Silver Bar to 25-Year Cross:

Mr. C. H. O. Wilkinson.

Oak Leaf Bar to Ten-Year Medal:

Mr. N. W. Lewis.

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Messrs.

E. J. Brierley, A. E. Chandler, I. Jones, L. S. Lovell, N. C. M. Mason and W. E. Phillips.

Five-Year Medal: Messrs. T. H.

Ellis, W. Ellis, J. M. Jones and R. Revill.

Diploma: Messrs. D. Ashton, W.

T. Astley, J. Austin, K. Bailey, J. N. Butler, H. M. Cartwright, A. R. Conde, W. A. Davies, R. Entwistle, W. E. George, A. Jones, G. Jones, I. G. L. Jones, J. C. Jones, T. H. Jones, S. Kinka, D. Morgan, B. E. Morris, J. R. F. T. Owen, J. J. Pritchard, R. T. S. Pugh, G. Roberts, G. E. Roberts, H. Rogerson, R. G.

Thomas, K. Tomlinson G. V. Wilkinson, H. J. Williams and J. R. Williams.

Exemption Certificate: Mr. W. H. Blackwell.

Newtown and Welshpool Staff

Star Bar to 20-Year Brooch: Messrs. W. H. Jones and C. C. Lewis.

Corresponding Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Mr. G. H. Davies.

Oak Leaf Bar to Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. C. W. Parry and E. G. Woosnam.

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Messrs. W. J. H. Davies, R. T. Hughes, G. M. Joseph, J. R. K. Morris and T. A. Owen.

Diploma: Messrs. J. E. Evans, W. R. Evans, D. E. Gittins, W. S.



Oswestry top driver Cyril Wilkinson receives his silver bar from Chief Inspector Chris Furber.

Holloway, R. G. Jehu, D. L. Jones, D. T. Jones and H. E. Morris.

Whitchurch Staff

Star Bar to 20-Year Brooch: Mr. H. J. Huxley.

Corresponding Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Mr. R. A. Boyling.

Oak Leaf Bar to Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. H. E. Large and J. Leach. **Bar to Five-Year Medal:** Messrs. D. A. Bolas, E. Field and F. D. Jones.

Diploma: Messrs. L. J. Brookfield, P. C. Butler, W. Davies, W. D. Day, J. A. T. Edge, T. B. Edge and E. Wainwright.

Some of our Oswestry District safe drivers seen here with, from left to right, front row: Messrs. Brian Pryce (Production Engineer) and Reg Edwards (Installation Engineer), Chief Inspector Chris Furber (Officer in Charge of the Oswestry Division of the West Mercia Constabulary), Cyril Wilkinson, an award recipient and Stan Roberts (District Engineer).



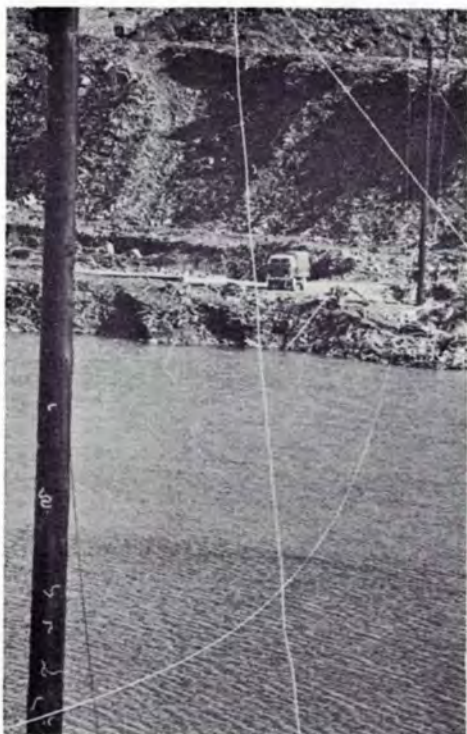


Inspector D. W. Nash, of the Shrewsbury Police Traffic Division, presents one of the brothers Edge, Terrance, with his diploma for safe driving at a ceremony held at Whitchurch depot.

AT WHITCHURCH AND NEWTOWN

MANWEB driver George Davies receives congratulations from Chief Inspector R. J. Thourgood (*Officer in Charge of the Newtown Division of the Dyfed, Powys Constabulary*) after the safe driving award presentation ceremony at Newtown depot. Also in the picture are Sergeant W. J. Owens (*Newtown Division*) and Messrs. Sid Warburton (*administrative assistant*), right, Brian Pryce (*Production Engineer*) second right, and Bill Thompson (*District Administrative Officer*), third right.

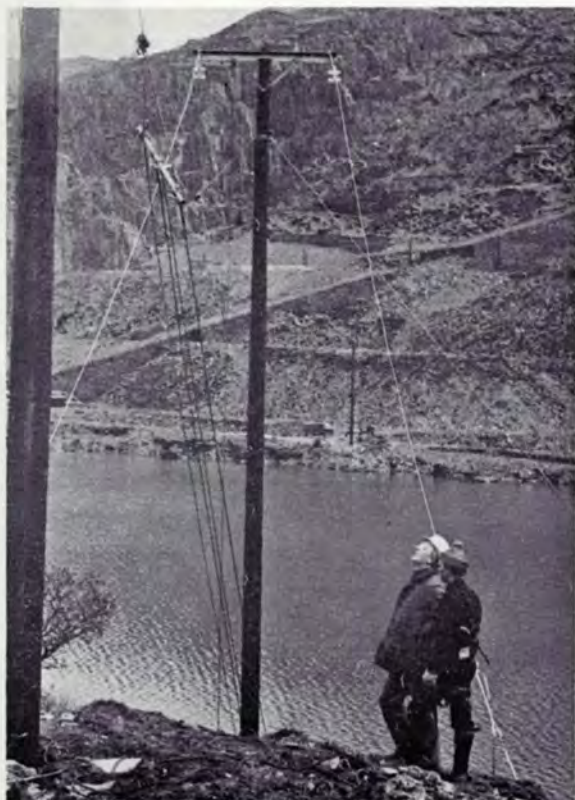


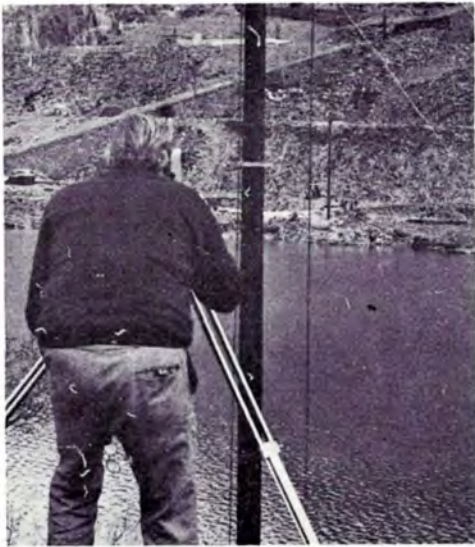


The map, above, shows the problem—across the lake or around. The solution—the temporary supply was fed across the lake's 600ft. width using two huge 60 feet poles to ensure correct centre clearances. A rope was placed into position across the gap by boat. Pictured left are the two 60ft. poles with the rope in position.

Power Crossing at Llyn Peris

Below, the rope is winched across by tractor, hauling a yoke to which were fastened the four conductors, and the engineer responsible for the execution of the operation Ken Jones, on the left, with a contractors man, guide the yoke from the water. Right, the lines attached to the yoke are lifted clear of the water.





Left, Ken Jones lines up the sag in the conductors with a theodolite, watched, above, by Messrs. Arthur Perry, Doug Parslow (contractor staff), Jack Critchley and Geoff Price.

OUR COVER PICTURE shows one of the two 60ft. poles used to carry supply across Llyn Peris. These 'one-piece' poles are the largest ever used by MANWEB.

Llyn Peris is just one obstacle negotiated by MANWEB engineers in the plan to obtain electricity from water power at the vast Dinorwic Scheme in Wales's rugged Snowdonia.

Contractors on the South side of the lake, needed electricity supply to operate machinery being used to tunnel into the mountainside. They were making an access tunnel to dig a diversion tunnel to enable them to divert the river feeding Llyn Peris. The

electricity supply was at a MANWEB 33 k.v. substation on the opposite side of the lake.

The width of the lake is 600 feet at its narrowest point. It was decided to cross in a single span using two 60 ft. poles, the largest ever used in MANWEB, rather than take the alternative and more expensive route of going several miles round the lake. Our pictures show how Mr. Arthur Perry, Assistant Chief Engineer, and his team planned and executed the project.

The line complete, with the conductors strung across the lake.



Talking Notes

MANWEB MAN REMEMBERED

LIVING less than a hundred yards from our Head Office building are a couple in their 80's, **Charlie and Betsy Birtles**, who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on 24th April.

Charlie retired from his job as a joiner's mate with the Board some sixteen years ago after working in our industry for over 40 years.

He began his working life as a miner in Stoke-on-Trent until he heard of a job with B.I.C.C. as a joiner's mate. He jumped on his bicycle and went after it—all the way to Prestatyn! He got the job!

In 1935 he went to work for the former Chester Corporation Electricity Department—

later taken over by MANWEB.

His brother **Mark**, who died recently at the age of 81, also worked for us for over 30 years. He was a meter reader. His son, **Albert**, is still with us working as a joiner at Prestatyn, where his father worked.

Charlie's son—named after him—is yet another MANWEB man, working as a meter reader from our Crane Street Depot

in Chester. He lives next door to Mum and Dad in Sealand Road.

In his early days, Charlie senior was a pretty good footballer. He still loves the game and up to twelve months ago he was a part-time gateman for Chester A.F.C.—never missing a match.

In his younger days he was a first-class roller skater—dancing too—and he bowled a fair wood on the greens.

In retirement he took up a most unusual occupation for a while—catching moles for local farmers. He nabbed quite a few in our Head Office grounds just after we moved into the building.

Charlie and Betsy's 60-year marriage did not go unnoticed by the Board for Group Manager **Ken Helliwell** invited the happy couple over to his office for a 'cuppa' and a chat. Later he handed over a gift from MANWEB of an electric toaster—and flowers to mark the occasion.

Campaign Electric

The Electricity Council advertising is to feature a nice cuddly model—one that is associated with warmth, security, homeliness and a happy family image, and certainly not a 'Sun' page three candidate. It is a 'Teddy' bear, clad in a tee-shirt with the link message of 'plan electric,' 'cook electric,' 'freeze electric,' etc., emblazoned on the front.

In addition to these appliance

Diamond wedding couple Charlie and Betsy Birtles receive Board gifts from Mr. Helliwell. Their son, Charlie is in the left background with Mr. E. T. Peters (*Dee Valley District Engineer*).



marketing advertisements, with the activity and electricity being associated, the Council plan documentary style advertisements to persuade our customers to 'think electric,' and illustrate to them the vast benefits that electricity brings.

Two television commercials have been made and have started their appearances on the nation's TV screens. One shows how electricity helps in hospitals and the other how it makes the hatching of over a million eggs a day an efficient and profitable enterprise.

For industrial marketing the stress will be on 'Plan electric,' while in the commercial sector advertisements will be urging consumers to 'cater electric,' 'light electric' and 'fresh electric' (the best way of expressing air conditioning).

The farmer and grower will be urged to 'farm electric' and 'grow electric.'

Letter of Thanks

Another satisfied customer who took the time and trouble to put pen to paper wrote the following letter to **Geoff Thomson**, an installation engineer on our Aberystwyth District staff.

Dear Mr. Thomson,

I am writing to express my thanks and appreciation for the work carried out at 'New House,' Dalybont by your Department. The re-wiring and the installation of the storage radiators is excellent.

I am particularly pleased with the care taken by your people and I am most grateful for the responsible way they treated our carpets, furniture, ornaments, etc.

Yours sincerely, (Signed).

And to **Adrian Davies**, electrician—the man who did the job—we offer our thanks and congratulations.

Instant Action

It was a case of 'all hands to



The Mold fire-fighters at our shop in the High Street. From left to right: Graham and Sheila Crewe and Roger Wood.

the pumps'—or to be more precise, the fire extinguisher, for members of the staff of our Mold shop a few weeks ago when a stationary van in the street just outside the shop suddenly burst into flames.

Saleswoman **Mrs. Shiela Crewe** was just being dropped off at work by husband **Graham** when the blaze began. Quickly they grabbed extinguishers from the shop and tackled the flames, with shop supervisor **Roger Wood** rushing out to help them. The blaze was under control in a very short time.

Five-a-Side Tournament

Following last year's successful five-a-side football competition organised by our Anglesey Sports and Social Club and won by Llangefni Contracting, it was decided that this year the competition for the Shield would be open to other local firms.

In preparation for this event our colleagues in the Gwynedd

District played in an inter-section competition to find our best teams for the main show.

Nine teams—Caernarvon Admin., Commercial, Electricians and Engineering, Llangefni Service, Mains o/h, Mains u/g, Contracting, and Meter Readers—competed in two groups.

In addition two special games were played featuring a team of Caernarfon Ladies—but the Sex Discrimination Act did not help at all for they were beaten by Caernarvon Admin. (3-1) and Llangefni u/g (2-1). Better luck next time girls!

The final of the competition was played between Caernarvon Admin. and Llangefni Contracting with Caernarvon winning by five goals to four after extra time.

In the 'MANWEB Shield' competition held shortly afterwards six local teams joined our two finalists to play some very exciting games.

Both MANWEB teams reached the semi-finals but both

were beaten by the odd goal.

The eventual winner was the team from J. P. Woods & Sons who defeated Gwynedd County Council.

Bob Gibson, Chairman of the Anglesey Sports and Social Club presented the trophy to the winners and said that he hoped next year's competition would attract even more local teams.

Justice of the Peace

We offer our congratulations to **Mr. Tony Forshaw**, an administrative assistant in the Head Office Registry and Mailing section, on his appointment as a Justice of the Peace for the Wirral Petty Sessional Division of Merseyside.

Tony, who is 41, has been in the electricity industry since 1951. Initially he joined the CEBG in Liverpool, moving within that Board to Manchester before coming to MANWEB at Love Lane, Liverpool, in 1958.

He devotes much of his spare time to church and youth activities. He is a member of the fund raising committee who organise money-spinning



Mr. A. A. Forshaw, J.P.



Our quartette at this year's Spring School at Cambridge, from left to right: James S. Jones (foreman, Llangefni), Edna Jacobs (clerical assistant, North Wirral), Robert H. Woodall (System Engineer, Mid-Cheshire) and Bryan W. Flint (electrician, Northwich).

events for one church. He has also shown a keen interest in his local Boy Scout Group, in addition to other youth and education interests.

The appointment as a magistrate is not a reward or an honour for community service but no doubt in Tony's case the way in which he has carried out his voluntary work has impressed a member of his community that he would be suitable to carry out the duties of a Justice of the Peace.

Any member of the local community can recommend a person for a position on the bench. A notice is published annually inviting nominations. In Lancashire and Merseyside nominees are then vetted by the Duchy of Lancaster and people considered fairminded and honest citizens may be offered the opportunity to serve on the bench.

Having received his letter from the Duchy of Lancaster asking him if he was willing to serve, and agreeing, Tony has to undergo tuition, attend as an observer and serve for several years on the bench before he is eligible to become a chairman of the trio of magistrates who sit at each session.

Tony will hold the position until he is 70 years old unless he resigns or moves over 15

miles outside his present District boundary.

There is a considerable responsibility incurred in this new venture, which will no doubt have the support of Tony's wife Barbara, and his two sons, 14-year-old Bernard and Damian who is 12.

Back to School

Our correspondent in North Wirral District, **Edna Jacobs**, was joined by three other members of the Board's staff when they attended a Spring School at Corpus Christi College in Cambridge a few weeks ago.

She tells us that they had a most informative and enjoyable week. Lectures were both topical and interesting and given by some expert speakers, Messrs. R. A. Farance (Electricity Council Industrial Relations Adviser), A. W. Bunch (S.E.B. Chairman) and J. Lockwood (Nalco organiser for Electricity staffs) to name but a few.

Visits were arranged to Ely Cathedral, the Shuttleworth Collection and—most popular—to a local brewery!

Pensioners Trip

Our ever active group of Liverpool pensioners have booked the famous *Royal Iris* for the afternoon of 5th July.

Their friends from the Birmingham Retired Group will be

joining them for lunch on board followed by a pleasant trip up and down the river Mersey.

Harry Robertson, the Liverpool Group's secretary tells us that they hope to arrange a full day cruise—after the trial trip—for as many MANWEB pensioners as possible.

If this comes off, we will let you know in good time.

Trouting Championship

A new addition to the angling calendar, the "CEGB British Open Trout Championship," is to take place at Dinas reservoir on the weekend, June 12/13th. It is intended that the competition, the first of its kind to be sponsored by the CEGB, will become an annual event.

Dinas forms part of the Rheidol hydro-electric scheme, near Aberystwyth. It is a "put and take" lake, stocked with brown and rainbow trout reared in Regional fish farms as part of the Board's amenity programme.

It is hoped that several large fish—possibly in excess of the 10lb 7oz Welsh record—will be placed in the water prior to the competition. There will also be plenty of rainbows in the three pound class.

Coarse and sea anglers are expected to be especially in-

terested in the competition, since spinning and ledgering will be permitted, in addition to fly-fishing.

There is to be an optional pool each day with an estimated total prize value of £300. In addition, the winner will have a choice of either an 8½ft. carbon-fibre spinning rod or a 9ft. carbon-fibre fly rod. Both are being specially made for the competition.

The combined ticket/entry fee is £1.50, compared with the normal day fee of £1.75, exclusive of rod licence.

There will be a limit of 250 anglers a day on the lake, so it is advisable to send early for entry forms, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope to: Mr. E. Fletcher, Dept. F 1, CEGB, Europa House, Bird Hall Lane, Cheadle Heath, Stockport, SK3 0XA.

Employees' Suggestions Scheme

Seventeen suggestions submitted under the Employees' Suggestions Scheme received cash awards during 1975, a total of £115 being paid out.

Top of the list were **Mid-Mersey** and **Dee Valley** Districts with four awards each. Three suggestions have been submitted to the DJAC to consider whether they are

suitable for implementation on a wider basis. One of these recently received a further award of £20.

Flower Power

While on a visit to Oswestry District recently, our Deputy Chairman, **Ben Hastings**, accompanied by **Stan Roberts** (District Engineer) and **Ron Williams** (District Commercial Engineer), went 'on-site' in the Whitchurch area to watch a re-conductoring operation in progress.

Here he met some of the Welshpool line gang—**Fred Davies**, **Geoff Evans**, **Emrys Morris**, **Jack Preece** and **Stan Reece**.

After chatting with the men on the job, the trio headed back down a lane. They were soon flagged down by an angry farmer driving a landrover.

Our men from MANWEB stopped and were rather taken aback when the farmer called out, "What have you done with my daffs? I saw you . . . you've been picking daffodils in my woods."

The embarrassing situation was cleared up when it was realised that after inspecting the overhead line site our men had taken off their protective helmets—yellow—and carried them in their hands. The farmer

WAITING FOR THE STORK'S VISIT!

Friends and colleagues at Oswestry District Office subscribed to present Mrs. Barbara Morris with an infra-red grill when she left the Board recently to prepare for the arrival of her first baby. Barbara, centre right with hands together, joined the District staff in December 1972 on the move into Maesbury Road Offices.



from a distance, had mistaken these for his precious daffs!

New Leaders for E.A.W.

At the Annual Conference of the Electrical Association for Women held in Eastbourne earlier this month, the delegates from the 250 branches in England, Scotland and Wales were able to meet their new President and new Director.

The Rt. Hon. Baroness Hornsby-Smith, DBE, has succeeded the Dowager Countess De La Warr, DBE as the Association's President while Mrs. Ann McMullen takes over from Miss Mary George CBE who was Director for 19 years.

Heat Treatment Talk

One of the guest speakers at a seminar organised a few weeks ago by the Wolfson Heat Treatment Centre, and held at Aston University, Birmingham, was MANWEB's **Terry Keenan**, 1st engineer, Industrial Development at Head Office.

His subject was 'Electric Heat Treatment—the Management of Resources,' and he appeared by invitation of the British National Committee for Electroheat.

Terry joined MANWEB in 1963 as an apprentice electrical fitter at Hoylake. He was transferred to Student appren-



Guest speaker Mr. T. M. Keenan.

tice and gained his OND in engineering at Birkenhead Technical College. He then went on to complete a four-year Sandwich Course at Salford University for his B.Sc. (Hons) in electrical engineering.

He followed this with 18 months working in our Liverpool District energy sales section before taking an M.Sc. Course in electroheat at Loughborough College.

On his return to the Board he joined the Industrial Development section at Head Office.

Terry, aged 28, is married and has two sons and a daughter. He enjoys a game of squash and is secretary of the MANWEB Head Office squash section.

Clwyd Retired Group

Calling in at our office a few days ago, **Fred Evans**, the secretary of Clwyd Retired Staff Association told us of a recent visit to the Pumped Storage Scheme at Blaenau Ffestiniog, when some 40 members of the Association enjoyed a fine day out.

Plans for the future include a trip to Trawsfynydd power station on Tuesday, 13th July.

The Association's first Annual General Meeting will be held at Cefndy Road offices, Rhyl, on 1st September next at 2.30 p.m.

Former employees from Clwyd District, or any MANWEB pensioner living in the area interested in meeting friends and colleagues should get in touch with Fred at 'Richmond,' Earl Road, Mold, Clwyd. 'Phone Mold 3241.

For Sale

February 1976 Avenger 1300 de-luxe four-door saloon. Approx 7,000 miles. Taxed to Jan. 1977. £1425. 'Phone Wrexham 53752.

Large cabinet clothes dryer Approx 20 cubic feet. One or two kilowatt heat—or blows cold. Ideal for nappies or horse blankets! £12.00 'Phone Frods-ham 33882.

NEW FERRY, three-bedroomed semi-detached house with gas fired central heating. Ground floor cloaks/w.c., lounge-dining room, kitchen, bathroom/w.c., good decorative order throughout. Price £6,950 (offers considered). Enquiries to Mr. Pat Byrne, 24 Esher Road, New Ferry, Wirral, Merseyside.

Fixed your holidays yet?

If so, don't forget to take a camera—and some film—along with 'Contact's' Photographic Competition in mind.

This is open to all MANWEB employees, pensioners and their families. There are sections for colour transparencies, colour prints and black and white pictures.

There is some good prize money to be won too! So get snapping! !

A copy of the Rules may be obtained on request from The Editor, 'Contact', MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



FOOTBALLERS OF THE YEAR

First team choice for the title went to Brian Sheppard, right, with Phil Ryder, left, the second team selection.

In the very close finish to the football season, there was lots of talk and speculation on which team would achieve the famous 'Double'. As we now know, this did not come off for the professionals but it did for one amateur team—our own Head Office footballers.

They managed to pull off their 'Double' by winning the Chester and District Supplementary League Cup and the Cayzer Shield Competition.

Team captain Phil Roberts was presented with both trophies following the team's 3-0 win in the final match against Kelsall at the BICC ground at Helsby on 28th April.

A handful of supporters went along to cheer our team to victory even though they were well outnumbered by the coachload of Kelsall fans.

The game was mostly one-way traffic for MANWEB with goal-

keeper Glyn Pool spending most of his time watching the near misses at the other end.

After half-an-hours play, Dave Passmore slotted in a very neat goal. In the second half with MANWEB well in command, Eddie Phillips netted two more goals.

In the Supplementary League, our team lost only one match out of the eight played. They topped the league with 14 points and scored 29 goals with only nine against them.

In all matches throughout the season, our leading scorer was Geoff Green who had 27 goals to his credit.

All the lads say that they could do even better next season if they have the backing of a good supporters club. Serious nominations for Chairman of such a club should be sent to Mr. Hugh Farrow (*System Management*), 4S1 at Head Office. Think about it!

Here are the Champions! *From left to right, back row: Barry Hart-Davies, Geoff Green, Nigel Crossley, Brian Sheppard, Glyn Pool, Eddie Phillips, Rob Jones and John Gorman. Front row: Pete Jones (manager), Mike Artell, Dave Passmore, Phil Roberts (captain), Martin Harris, Harry Shone and mascot, Steve Jones. Keith Littler, a regular first team choice throughout the season was unfortunate when he fractured his cheek bone in a league fixture a week or so prior to the Cayzer Shield final and had to miss the game. Hard luck Keith!*



Persian Passage

ASIAN customs posts are designed to test the patience of far more tolerant people than we are. It took 2½ hours to get into Iran and we were ordinary tourists with all our papers in order.

Iran is a continuation of the same high barren plateau and to get to Tabriz involved several hours drive through the same empty countryside. Tabriz was en fete celebrating Mahomet's birthday when we arrived and no one was really interested in answering our plaintive requests for directions to Chahgoli, the one and only camp site. Eventually, after circling the packed town centre a couple of times we got on the road only to find that the camp site was really a restaurant in a large park and was even more *en fete* than the town. Somehow I squeezed into the last bit of space on the car park which was in fact the camp site.

A brief visit to Tabriz in dense traffic and into a seething mass of people. It was difficult to recognise any rules of the road in use, not even driving on the right if it didn't suit. Found the one celebrated tourist attraction—the Blue Mosque, but it was closed for repairs!

Then another day driving across the plateau seeing only occasional flocks of sheep and goats and the odd patch of cultivation. Found the camp site at Takestan for which we had seen a road sign 750 kms previously. Very good it was too with lots of hot water, very useful for itinerants.

And so to Tehran—at the evening peak as usual. I had read about the idiosyncracies of Tehran traffic, but nothing I had read prepared me for the reality. First of all, every square foot of roadway was filled with trucks, vans, cars, motor-cycles, horses, cycles, donkeys, pedestrians and not infrequently cows, sheep, goats and camels. Secondly, every driver in Tehran (*and in the rest of Iran for that matter*) is grimly determined to get past the fellow in front, no matter how. Thirdly, no pedestrian worthy of the name would dream of taking the slightest notice of wheeled or four-footed traffic. Fourthly, there is simply no respect for nor notice taken of double white lines, traffic signals or policemen. Fifthly, buses and taxis, of which there are many hundreds, these being the only public transport, stop anywhere on the carriageway to set down and pick up passengers but never, never signal. Put a British trained driver down in the middle of this lot and you have a very scared individual.

To add to the jollity, twice within a quarter hour, I had the left hand front bumper bent back to 45° by people cutting across my bows when there simply wasn't space.

Shortly after the second incident, we were mis-directed at a vital point and we were on our way back to Turkey.

By the time we were through the city a second time it was pitch dark and still the road to the camp site eluded us, so we decided to halt at the first likely looking spot. This turned out to be a small public park with car park adjoining about 15 kilometres south of Tehran.

Thankfully we turned in thinking we would be the only 'all-nighters.' Not a bit of it! There were dozens of people picnicking on the grass in the darkness and when we took a short stroll before turning in these same people had lain down to sleep wrapped in all kinds of coverings. We learned subsequently that it is the habit of residents of the centre of towns and cities, during the hot weather, to make for parks and open spaces to eat the evening meal and sleep out. By 7.30 the following morning everyone had vanished!

On leaving the outer suburbs of Tehran going South, it is desert and so it remains all the way to Isfahan. Our route lay through Qum, the second holiest city in Iran and reputed to be not too welcoming to foreigners, but we did not experience any difficulty.

Qum is a small oasis in the middle of the desert, which begins not more than 200 metres from the centre of the town. Here was a mosque with three beautiful domes—two mosaic and one golden. I got them in the viewfinder and that was the moment when the camera threw one of its occasional fits of temperament and the shutter refused to work despite all my efforts.

A day of driving across the Pars or Fars desert from which Persia got its name. From Tehran to Shiraz it is about 900 kilometres of virtually uninterrupted desert and only during the last 50 kilometres or so before Shiraz are there signs of cultivation and a few flocks of sheep and goats. Going down the hill into Shiraz the road passes under the imposing Arch of the Koran, built of brick and faience. A copy of the Koran is built into the top of the arch and to pass under it is said to bring good fortune. The camp site was really a motel and caravans were just tolerated as second-class citizens. Typically Iranian, our welcome was less than cordial.

Sight seeing was a bit more complicated than usual. The Tourist Centre was tucked away in a corner then having found it, there was the job of interpreting the not too clear map of Shiraz which they gave us. To complicate matters further, the Empress of Persia was in Shiraz for a Music Festival and seemed to be visiting all the places we wished to visit and so they were closed to us.

Fortunately, two of the principal sights are open permanently—the shrines of Persia's two best loved poets, Saadi born in 1190 and Hafiz born in 1324.

These tombs are delightful places to visit and are about a kilometre apart on the outskirts of the city. Each tomb, elaborately carved, is in a small pavilion set in the middle of a delightful garden. There is an air of tranquility and of happiness and once having found a seat from which to absorb the atmosphere, it is difficult to make the effort to move on.

Zend Avenue, the principal street of Shiraz, is impressive—broad and tree-lined with some impressive buildings along its length. One of them is the Vakil Mosque (*Mosque of the Regent*) which has some fine mosaic decorations but which, alas has begun to deteriorate.

At the fourth attempt we got into the Delgotha gardens but found them a disappointment.

The Narenjestan gardens were a very different matter although we almost missed them. Passing through the gate from the busy, noisy, scruffy street into the garden was rather like a superior version of the transformation scene in a pantomime. On entering, there is in front, two rows of orange trees, palms, roses and clipped hedges framing a large ornamental pond which leads to a colonnade at the bottom of the garden.

The colonnade is covered with a lovely mosaic in yellow, blue and red faience in a whole series of intricate designs.

Next, to the Khalili gardens which Fodor's guide said '*offered breathtaking vistas.*' Maybe we were already out of breath when we got there, because they didn't take ours! In fairness, our visit was at the end of summer when most of the blossoms and flowers had faded or were on their way out.

We visited two shrines, both major places of pilgrimage on the Moslem Sunday, which is our Friday. They were the mausoleums of Shah Toheragh and of Seyed Mir Mohammed. Margaret had to wear a chadrah, that all enveloping garment worn by Iranian women, before she was allowed in. She did not seem to find it either comfortable or easy to manage. Seen through Western eyes, it was difficult to understand the pilgrimage part. There were thousands of people picnicking in the huge courtyard and dozens of vendors of all manner of things and even one or two stalls set up. However, the domes of both mausoleums were photogenic, having mosaic decorations. The Friday mosque too had some fine mosaics and was a haven of peace and quiet after the crowds at the shrines.

We were stopped momentarily at a road junction. An Englishman, living in Shiraz, asked if we needed help. After a brief conversation he invited us to his English club that evening for a drink, an invitation we were glad to accept. He was an ex-Army man and was in Shiraz to teach Iranians how to use weapons supplied to Iran by the UK Government.

A fellow guest at the club was the music critic of

one of the two English language newspapers in Tehran. He was there to cover the Music Festival. For about an hour I had to listen to a most erudite dissertation, not on opera, not on Beethoven, not on contemporary music but on vodka, a subject on which he was quite knowledgeable. Vodka is made in Iran on quite a large scale, and is relatively cheap. The evening ended with everyone eating a ploughman's lunch—Iranian style!



The Great Votive mosque, known as 'Fatima's Shrine'
(Popperfoto)

Before we arrived in Shiraz, we had read much florid prose about it and seen it described as the "town of poetry, roses and nightingales." Maybe it was when the words were written, but it scarcely merits that description today. There are pleasant oases as I have described but it is necessary to traverse a great deal of noise, dirt, bustle and squalor to reach them.

Next month we continue the *Wallworks'* account of their tour of Iran.



Some of the men from our Pumpfields garage gather round as Mr. Ron McShane (*workshop engineer*), centre left, says his farewell to a very happy Bill Steging on the occasion of his recent retirement.

RETIREMENTS

from Head Office . . .

Miss L. E. WELLS

A variety of gifts were given to Miss Louisa E. Wells to mark her retirement from the Board after 26 years' service.

Louis, as she was known to her many friends, joined the industry at the former Area 2 Accounts Department at Eversley, transferring to Chester when the former Areas 2 and 3 were combined and on reorganisation in 1969 she became a member of Head Office staff.

She started in MANWEB as a temporary clerk, worked for a while as a comptometer operator, and more recently became an accounts clerk.

Outside the office, Louis was a great traveller. She has visited practically every European and

Mediterranean country, has visited Canada and the U.S.A. several times, and plans to continue her wanderings in retirement.

. . . Pumpfields . . .

Mr. W. STEGING

For many years, a popular and irrepressible member of the staff servicing a fleet of MANWEB vehicles at Liverpool's Pumpfield garage, Mr. Bill Steging, a mechanical fitter's mate, is now enjoying life in retirement.

Joining the former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department in 1933 he first worked at the Clarence Dock power station. Since then he has held jobs at various Liverpool depots.

Bill—or 'Steggy' as he is popularly known—and his wife Gladys have two daughters, one making them grandparents and the other working as a University Councillor at Keele.

Surrounded by gifts, flowers and cards of 'Good Wishes' from her friends and colleagues at Head Office, Miss Louisa Wells says her goodbye to Mr. Geoff. Barnes (*Assistant Chief Accountant—Revenue*).





Following a farewell presentation at Carlton Street, Mr. Laurence Case and his wife, centre, pose for a photograph with some of his colleagues at St. Helens depot. Standing left, front row, is Mr. Glyn Norbury who made the presentation.

... St. Helens ...

Mr. L. CASE

A couple of weeks away from work with a sprained ankle is the only record of 'sickness' in more than 40 years' service given to the industry by Mr. Laurence (Lol) Case, an electrician based at our St. Helens depot in the Mid-Mersey District.

His colleagues at Carlton Street wish for this amazing good health to continue for Lol now that he has joined the ranks of the retired.

He began his working life as an apprentice with the former St. Helens Corporation Electricity Dept., in 1936. A few years later, during the war, he was serving with the R.A.F. Later, he returned to St. Helens as a craftsman.

A former tennis player, Lol is a keen member of the Gas and Electric Sports Club and has served on the Committee for several years.

At a farewell ceremony, Mr. Glyn Norbury (*District Commercial Engineer*) spoke of Lol's desire to be of help to one and all—which was good for consumer relations, before presenting him with a watch for himself and a bouquet of flowers for his wife, from friends and colleagues at St. Helens.

... Liverpool ...

Mr. H. DUFFY

Another of our long serving employees who has retired recently is Mr. Harry Duffy, a foreman installation inspector in our Liverpool District.

It was nearly 46 years ago that Harry started work as an apprentice wireman with the former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department. He spent some time at Clarence Dock power station where he completed his apprenticeship and

at the Pumpfields depot where he worked on the 'changeover' programme.

In 1942 he was directed to other work by the Ministry of Labour before returning to Electric Supply in 1946.

After a spell on cooker repairs, he moved into the installation department and was promoted to inspection foreman in 1964.

Harry is a very keen County Combination cricket fan and follows his team—Sefton—everywhere. He is also a very good joiner—dovetails and all—and thinks nothing of setting to and building a wardrobe!

He and his wife are both very active members of the Church of St. Michael's in the Hamlet.

At his farewell presentation Mr. Bill France (*installation engineer*) handed over some stereo equipment from Harry's many friends and colleagues in Liverpool.

... Warrington ...

Miss A. JOLLEY

An early retirement on the grounds of ill health was taken by Miss Alwyn Jolley, a telephonist at our Mid-Mersey District Office in Warrington.

Alwyn has been with us for 26 years and was on the



Miss Alwyn Jolley at her switchboard.

switchboard at Warrington shop before going over to District Office. She is a member of the 'Compassion in World Farming' movement and is also a keen swimmer holding the ASA Teacher's Certificate.

Respecting her wishes for a quiet farewell, Mr. Denis Hodgetts (*District Administrative Officer*) and Mr. John Sherwin (*principal assistant*) were hosts to Alwyn for a 'cuppa' and a chat while friends and colleagues gave her parting gifts of an electric kettle and a cheque.

... and Crewe

Mrs. G. ROBERTS

After working for the Board for the past twenty years—sixteen of these in the Oswestry District, Mrs. Gaynor Roberts has recently retired from her job in the consumer records section in or Mid-Cheshire District offices at Crewe.

Gay, who came from Ruabon, made friends wherever she worked and this was proved by the numerous personal gifts she received before leaving. Subscriptions from her colleagues bought



All smiles at Macon Way, Crewe as the camera lens focuses on just a few members of the staff who gathered to wish a happy retirement to Mrs. Gaynor Roberts, seen here receiving a farewell handshake from Mr. Peter Falcon.

a battery mantle clock which was presented to her by Mr. Peter Falcon (*District Administrative Officer*).

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we record the following deaths:

Mr. Stan Barrow, a former chargehand with our Liverpool District engineering section. Stan collapsed and died on 19th April as he was preparing to go to the Electric Supply Club at Thingwall Road where he had a part-time job.

He joined the industry in 1936 and retired in 1970. Through his work at the Club he kept in touch with many friends and former colleagues.

Mr. Terry Roper, aged 38, a meter reader/collector in our

North Mersey District.

Terry joined the Board's staff in 1956 and worked as a meter fixer at Pumpfields and Lister Drive. Later, he joined the pre-payments section at Bridle Road.

He had a cheerful personality and was always helpful. Terry will be sadly missed by many people in and around Liverpool.

Mr. Harry Lowe, aged 82, was a senior assistant in the statistics section at our former Area 1 Office in Hatton Garden, Liverpool. Prior to nationalisation he was with the St. Helens undertaking.

With all MANWEB colleagues and friends, we extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved families.

A THANKYOU

Mrs. Mali Hamblin of Aberystwyth wishes to thank all those kind friends who sent expressions of sympathy on the death of her husband Mr. David Hamblin, the former District Engineer at Aberystwyth.

She would have liked to have thanked all these kind people personally, but hopes that all who read *Contact* will accept this message in lieu.