

CONTACT

MAY, 1977



Tea-up!
(see page 112)

Electricity Supply Industry takes further step forward in participation

THE NEED for electricity supply's trade unions and staff to be more fully involved in influencing the industry's decisions is recognised with the announcement of the establishment of a new central body charged with the joint consideration at national level of matters of common concern or interest to Boards, trade unions and staff.

The establishment of the new body, the National Joint Co-ordinating Council for the Electricity Supply Industry in Great Britain (NJCC(GB)), also recognises the fact that Boards want full understanding among staff for the industry's policies.

The establishment of the Co-ordinating Council follows discussions which first began on an informal basis, in June 1974. Early in 1976 these had reached the point where it was possible for participants to seek and receive acceptance from management bodies and trade unions to the main changes proposed. The Co-ordinating Council then began to meet on an interim basis in July 1976.

It has subsequently had a large "constitutional" task in drawing up and refining the Agreement under which it now operates and in attending to the terms of reference to be given to a new national Health and Safety Committee. Apart from this work, it has considered and given advice on a variety of important policy matters including the power station ordering programme and long term corporate planning documents.

Membership of the NJCC(GB), whose creation represents a substantial change in the way in which the industry conducts its joint business, is drawn from the Electricity Council, from the Boards of the industry's other statutory bodies (Central Electricity Generating Board, Area Electricity Boards in England and Wales,

South of Scotland Electricity Board and the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board) and from the nine trade unions recognised within the industry.

Its Chairman will come in alternating years from among Boards' and trade unions' members.

The Co-ordinating Council will deal with all matters previously regarded as subjects for joint consultation within the two separate National Joint Advisory Councils—one for England and Wales and one for Scotland—which have now been abolished. It will seek to extend the scope of discussions on such subjects as the efficient operation of the industry, the industry's corporate plans, financial matters, energy and appliance sales and trends, principles governing proposals for closures of places of work and the opening of new places of work, trends in manpower and manpower forecasts, organisational and technological changes, fuel policies and changes in the state of the national economy which have a bearing on the progress of the industry.

Simultaneously, a Scottish Council has been established, as part of the new structure, to provide for discussion of matters of sole or particular interest to the industry in Scotland.

National negotiating bodies will retain their autonomy but any two or more of them may refer an item of common interest to a Joint Negotiating Committee yet to be established by the NJCC(GB). The Council itself may offer to give guidance on negotiating matters.

In setting up the new body, the industry has been able to draw upon its experience in joint consultation which goes back nearly 30 years. The work of the two National Joint Advisory Councils covered a wide range of safety, health, welfare, and education and training issues, as well as matters affecting the efficient operation of Boards and the economic setting in which the industry operates.

The new organisation has also built on experience with advisory bodies at the work-place and at Board management level. The Co-ordinating Council has considered ways in which their district and local joint bodies can be developed on more participative lines and will shortly be publishing a Consultative Document seeking the comments of all interested bodies throughout the industry.



CONTACT

Vol. 29 No. 5

May 1977

Editorial

WINDOW INTO YESTERDAY

*On other
pages . . .*

Sales Conference '77	108
North Wirral Staff Conference	114
Need for Nuclear	116
New Appointments	116
Silver Jubilee Supplement	
Talking Notes	121
The Fresh Air City	126
Long Service at Clwyd	128
Wallasey Course	128
Retirements	129
Obituary	132

AS BRITAIN looks back over the first 25 years of the Queen's reign thousands of local 'Jubilee' celebrations are being arranged all over the country. They will doubtless bring a touch of lighthearted relief to the lives of millions of people, an opportunity to escape briefly from the pressures of workaday life and the daily doses of gloom and doom.

For children, most of all, such occasions are memorable. They will have their street parties, their Jubilee outings, and their commemorative mugs. Many middle-aged people will have misty but pleasant memories of similar events marking the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary, way back in the thirties.

Twenty-five years is a long span in a human lifetime. The past quarter of a century has seen enormous changes, and it was curiosity, more than anything else, which induced us to take a look at the MANWEB of 25 years ago.

From a dusty cupboard in our editorial office we dug out our bound volume of *Contact* for 1952. Many readers, we think, will be interested to look back through this window on yesterday, and our selections are reproduced on the centre leaves of this number of our magazine.

Many old friends will look back with nostalgia. Senior colleagues of today may sigh for the curly locks with which they were blessed when they were up-and-coming youngsters, while today's young people may find it interesting to discover what was going on in our industry before many of them were born.

Editorial Staff

Phone H.O.

Keith Baldwin 2164
John F. Perry 2167
Sam Doughty 2166

A Thought for the Month

Do you realise that . . . loft and cavity wall insulation can cut your home heating costs by up to 20 per cent?

SELLING 77



Messrs. Bill Shires, *left*, and Matt Cowan, the Deputy and the Chief Commercial Officer, who chaired the morning and afternoon sessions of the conference respectively.

MANWEB Sales Conference

A HARD year's graft ahead for the Commercial Department was the clear message from the speakers at the 1977 Sales Conference held at Chester's College of Further Education, a short time ago.

The delegates attending on each of the three days of this now bi-annual event were left in no doubt about the problems of the industry, what their role will be and what management is planning to assist them.

Harder selling, a tougher professional approach and teamwork were urged by the speakers. Chief Commercial Officer, **Mr. Matt Cowan**, closed the Conference with some straight talking, encouraged them with his own optimism and enthusiasm, and sent them off with plenty to think about, and with the assurance that the task was not impossible.

The slick stage presentation with the smooth operation of film, slide, tapes, sound and lighting, all dovetailing neatly into the speakers' papers, exemplified professionalism demanded from the rostrum.

The Board Chairman, **Mr. Denis Dodds**, attended the Conference for a period on one of the days and must have been impressed with the organisation of the event.

Clwyd District Energy Sales Engineer, **Mr. Bob Hodson** was the first speaker to address the meeting and his theme was "Selling Energy." He used an analogy with a military flavour, taking the current army publicity campaign 'The Professionals,' and drawing the comparison with the MANWEB energy sales campaign. He pointed out it would be 1985 before the 1975 forecast level of sales would be met. He urged a fresh look at the approach to selling to stem the tide of falling sales.

"We must be more enthusiastic, more efficient, better trained and more willing to work together as a team. We must strive to emulate the 'Professionals'," he said. The energy sales objectives are laid down by the Energy Sales Manager. Considerable scope is allowed to Districts in operating with their local knowledge, and Bob Hodson went on to explain how his troops had foraged for business.

Apart from the accepted source of leads, advertising and exhibitions, Clwyd District examined local authority planning applications, carried out sales presentation style demonstrations, ensured that sales representatives kept in close contact with shops, and the section maintained close liaison with other departments of the Board. The opportunities were there, in water heating, air conditioning, lighting, etc., and sales had to be sought and fought for.

Using these methods Clwyd had achieved 154% of their target for sales and load and 221% of their



Mr. Bob Hodson, the opening speaker of the meeting.



Messrs. David Mellor, left, and Les Appleton.

plant and contracting target. They were still not the top District—a position they intended to occupy using professionalism, team-work and a determination to succeed.

Contracting and service was the next item on the agenda and this paper was presented by Mr. Les Appleton, North Mersey District Installation Engineer, and Mr. David Mellor, Clwyd's D.C.E.

'Building for the Future' was the title of their joint presentation, in which they used a wall topped by square blocks spelling out MANWEB SERVICE. On the reverse of each block was another letter, and as one or other of the speakers chose a letter from the reverse side, 'Girl from MANWEB' Jackie Pemberton turned it round to the audience.



Jackie Pemberton.

Each letter stood for a key word in the presentation, 'S' for selling, 'O' for opportunities, etc., with the word 'Professionals' being spelled out when the final block was turned.

Both speakers re-iterated the need for team work and hard selling. They urged staff to 'sell up'—that is not only to sell the item the customer enquires about, but to explore whether there is any other aspect of MANWEB service that can be sold. The Board's image was very important especially when they were searching for more work. All consumer contacts should be dealt with efficiently and courteously, this plus neat dressing, clean vans and equipment all helped give a good impression of the organisation.

Plans for the coming year included a wiring campaign and a shower campaign as both of these had proved immensely successful last year. A new campaign to sell domestic intruder

alarms was to be mounted, and judging by the incidents of crime—a home is broken into every three minutes—it would appear a sure demand was there.

Inevitably prices in 1977 would rise for almost everything and money would be tight. "We must learn to adapt to meet changing circumstances," Les Appleton told delegates. "You know it only takes a minor change in attitude to turn a gloomy outlook into a challenging prospect."

Expansion in all sectors—industrial, commercial and domestic—was essential. Seminars in some Districts had been held for industrial managers and they had proved a great success.

David Mellor stated, "Experience in the electrical contracting business, and particularly by being successful at it, enables us to advise our customers on any matter which is connected with electrical wiring and appliance servicing. Also it is far easier to sell appliances, storage heaters, shower units or whatever, if we can do the whole job and the customer is not worried about details, and knows that because of our reputation, expertise and integrity, he is safe in our hands."

The Assistant Chief Commercial Officer, Tariffs and Statistics Mr. Derek Holman, and one of his staff, commercial engineer, Mr. Alan Edwards, took to the platform and between them they presented the background situation, Mr. Holman taking the world and nationwide position while Mr. Edwards fitted the MANWEB scene into the picture.

The amount of energy a country uses bears a close relationship to that country's standard of living. The average American consumes 100 times the energy of a Pakistani and enjoys a correspondingly higher standard of living.

Devaluation of the pound in 1968, followed by rapid labour cost increases and price rises, the oil

A section of the audience.





Messrs. Derek Holman, left, and Alan Edwards.

crisis, the world economic decline and the miner's strike all contributed to a fall in electricity sales. However, there were at last signs that the nations' economy was improving, and this was reflected in MANWEB last year, when industrial electricity sales were higher than for a decade.

As cost was an important factor in selling electricity, tariffs had to be devised to encourage consumers to use electricity in a way that enabled the CEBG to make efficient use of their plant.

"Since 1962 electricity has gone up in price less than most main indicators," Mr. Holman said. "It has gone up less than all fuel, food, services—like post, telephones and entertainment—and less than all expenditure items put together, by 4%. So electricity is better value today than in 1962—and that was just about the time when Harold McMillan was telling us 'You've never had it so good!'"

Taking up Mr. Holman's point, Alan Edwards compared the cost of electricity ten years ago with those of today. He pointed out that electricity represented a lower proportion of the family budget today than it did in 1967.

Unprofitable businesses go bust, and MANWEB had to turn its £9 million loss into a surplus. A combination of holding costs and increasing prices was the way in which the Board hoped to achieve this. Electricity price rises would still be below the rate of inflation.

The present recession has caused domestic and

Messrs. Bill Royden left, and Warwick Saunders.



industrial consumers to reduce their demand for electricity, appliances, equipment and contracting work.

"If you work in a shop and you think contracting is not important—you're kidding yourself." Mr. Edwards warned his audience. "If you work in contracting, don't run away with the idea that unit sales don't matter—they do. We need every job, every sale. In good times people want electricity, they know it is best. In bad times, they see it as a luxury product. They don't see it as a luxury product at bargain prices."

Closing on an optimistic note, Mr. Edwards saw the future as offering enormous opportunities for the electricity industry. As new North Sea contracts were renewed gas would double in price, and as the economy improved the demand for more appliances and the electric way of life would grow.

After the luncheon break it was the turn of Marketing Manager Warwick Saunders and St. Helens shop supervisor Bill Royden to give their paper on selling appliances.

Mr. Saunders regretted his first opportunity to address a MANWEB conference was not against the background of a buoyant economy, reasonable profits and the introduction of several new ideas. His sales objective for 1977/78 he summed up in three words, 'Sales,' 'Costs' and 'Profit.'

Before the last financial year sales of appliances had remained static for almost three years, despite massive inflation, cost increases and less profit. Last year the objective had been to halt the decline and it appeared that this had been done, although final figures were not yet available, by the end of February slightly more appliances had been sold with an 18% increase in cash turnover.

"Retailing has been described as a mixture of common sense, simple arithmetic and hard graft," said Mr. Saunders. "Our first objective for 1977/78 is to ask you for at least as much hard graft as last year."

The minimum he expected for the coming year was to hold the ground already won and to try, where possible, to improve the position. To help sales staff prices had been made more competitive.

The second objective was to try to contain costs—this was the simple arithmetic and common sense to which he had referred. But without successful selling the Marketing Section did not stand a chance of earning any profit. The Marketing Manager then introduced his co-presenter Mr. Bill Royden, to give the shop-floor point of view.

Mr. Royden looked forward to a hard year but with the reassurance that no matter how difficult things became life depended on an adequate supply of electricity and appliances. Sales staff had to accept the challenge and sell for profit. It was also the

sales staff's job to ensure that the customer was aware of the services the Board offered, that they had sound advice and that MANWEB policies were understood.

Selling was an unpredictable job, in which ability, practice and experience were important. The job was to establish and identify a need and fulfill it. To sell meant to create a desire to buy and overcome resistance—it was a profession that could not be learned overnight, and it demanded factual knowledge more than the odd burst of inspiration.

He attached great importance to advertising and Mr. Royden said, "When people are told something through advertising it brings enquiries. These are like gold bricks to the salesman. To have someone out of the blue ask for more information—a mailing shot or a conversation in a pub—should be classed as top priority. The Board spent a lot of money on advertising and we must take full advantage of any returns we get from this source."

Once the sale was complete the goodwill attached to it had only just started. It had to be continued by all other departments dealing with that customer, the clerical staff, delivery men, storekeeper, contracting staff, etc. One wrong word from any of these could lose the sale for good.

Teamwork was essential if we were to convince our customers to buy the Board's products, and only when the customer's queries and objections on price, delivery, reliability and after-sales service did the salesman have the right to close the sale.

It was the turn of the 'Admen' to come forth and give their plans for the coming year. Unfortunately what was billed as a 'double act' was halved to a solo performance. Advertising Officer **Brian Spring** was confined to a sick bed from the first day of the conference and his partner and assistant **Lawrence Whittle** had to combine their duet into a one-man show. The amalgamation of the script was literally completed as Bill Royden was speaking.

What the public thought about electricity was determined by the news media and Parliamentary



Display Team erect the conference sign. *Left to right:* Messrs. Gordon Lewer, Hugh Hughes, John Gorman and Alan Geddes.

Board Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds, chats with Gwynedd D.C.E. Mr. Norman Maden.



Two more sections of the audience, *below, left and right*





Mr. Lawrence Whittle.

reports. Much derogatory publicity, thanks to badly worded statements in the House and in many Council chambers, had given a very wrong image of electricity. MANWEB had to correct that image and advertising had an important part to play in informing our customers about the true value of electricity in their lives.

Nationally the Electricity Council were continuing their 'Think Electric' campaign developing the theme and introducing some humour into the advertisements. TV, cinema and press advertising for the coming year were shown to delegates. The plans included all aspects of the Commercial Department's range of sales activities. Apart from the domestic market, plans included advertising to support sales to the catering industry, energy management, air conditioning, etc.

Turning from the national scene Mr. Whittle explained what MANWEB proposed to do. Customers should identify electricity with MANWEB, and to ensure sales it must be emphasised that when the customer thinks of any aspect of electricity he automatically thinks of MANWEB. The MANWEB campaign had this in mind with the new theme of 'MANWEB—it's a way of life,' in press, TV, radio and publicity, together with posters, leaflets and at point-of-sale displays in shops.

The audience then saw slides and film of the proposed campaign. One new venture was a new-style radio advertisement. Instead of the usual jingle and advertising message a 2½ minute chat spot with Simon Dee as the host, talking in turn to senior MANWEB staff, one on each spot, thus giving a relaxed and detailed talk on some aspect of MANWEB service. These are running at lunchtime on Radio City at the moment every Saturday.

Completing his presentation Mr. Whittle told delegates, "This then is the message for you for the coming year—think electric, sell electric—sell MANWEB, it's a way of life."

The Open Forum was the next item on the agenda and sales staff took the opportunity to put questions to the panel. Some originating from the Conference and others from pet hobby horses, with the inevitable query about shop clothing.

Finally it was Matt Cowan, the Chief Commercial Officer, who addressed his staff, and his summing up of the days' events concluded in giving the selling direction. The Sales Conference was an opportunity for the commercial staff to get to know one another, improve their teamwork, and a chance for them to be motivated to do a better job.

What motivated Mr. Cowan in his job as the Sales Manager for a £300 million organisation, and part of an industry whose customers spent £5000 million with it, was keeping so many people in employment. The industry kept 140,000 miners fully employed, and in total half-a-million people were employed by suppliers who relied on the electricity supply industry for their jobs. He saw his main task as protecting these, and the jobs of MANWEB staff.

He told delegates they could look after their own jobs by their own performance. He urged them not to be frustrated by the "knockers"—they needed to sell, and their jobs formed part of a vital service to the community.

He reminded them of what the speakers had told them, that there was a need to control costs, recognise the opportunity to make a sale, and most important to sell more electricity. Emphasising this point Mr. Cowan pointed to the gas industry, whose supply of North Sea Gas would run out in the 1980's. He suggested that MANWEB staff should extend the life of the gas industry by selling more electricity now!

The Industry's and MANWEB advertising aimed to prove that electricity was excellent value for money. Every wash by an electric washing machine was good value, but when three months' washing was paid for in one go the total bill did not appear so cheap.

Storage radiators were also excellent value. Staff had to defend them and stop people changing to another central heating system. "It never pays for any customer to change from storage radiators to any other fuel. It must be emphasised that off-peak tariffs are here to stay. Comparing gas and electricity, running costs are fairly similar when used to produce the same amount of heat," the C.C.O. told his staff.

In closing the 1977 conference Mr. Cowan asked his audience to trust their colleagues, work more effectively and cut costs. They were selling a bargain product at bargain prices.

OUR COVER PICTURE puts the back-stage team out in front for a change. It shows them enjoying a well-earned tea break. Phil Watson (lighting) pours for John Drew (sound), Norman Kenyon (stage management) and Reuben Perry (projection).



***Just some of the delegates who attended the 1977
MANWEB Sales Conference at Chester***



NORTH WIRRAL
DISTRICT STAFF
CONFERENCE

Guest Speaker's Two-way Communication

THE NEED to improve communications between management and workers in British industry was the theme of the guest speaker at the first of the new series of employees' annual meetings, organised by North Wirral District's Local Advisory Committee and held at a Moreton hotel recently.

The speaker was Mr. Stan Pemberton, Chairman of the General Executive Council of the Transport and General Workers' Union, who began work as a boy of 14 at one of Dunlop's Liverpool factories and still works for the same company, at Speke, 42 years later.

Guest speaker Mr. Stan Pemberton, 'communicates' with his audience at the North Wirral District annual conference.



Mr. Jack Bradley gives his report on the work carried out by the North Wirral District Local Advisory Committee.

Mr. Pemberton said that the question of communications in industry was complex and widely misunderstood. Failure to make the best use of communication—from the top to the bottom, and the other way round—was a prime cause of industrial strife, and proper communication was the responsibility of both sides.

Many workers in the "rougher" industries, he said, had not had the educational advantages of those who managed them. In such cases it was the duty of management to refrain from "talking down" to the employees, to understand their problems, and to provide the proper vehicles of two-way communication.

"Confrontation" attitudes must always be avoided he added. *"If either side throws down the gauntlet then the other is certain to pick it up. We can only solve problems by talking to each other, not at each other or down to each other,"* added Mr. Pemberton.

Group Manager Mr. Sid Fairclough, who was in the chair, welcomed the 120 or so people who turned up for the turkey dinner and the meeting, and extended a special welcome to the pensioners.

A report on the work of the LAC for the year 1976/77 (bang up to date!) was presented by LAC Secretary Mr. Jack Bradley. A vote of thanks to the guest speaker by Mr. Fred Slee (Vice-Chairman), and an Open Forum session rounded off the evening's business.

Candid
Camera
shots
at the
meeting
for our
North
Wirral
Staff



"The need for a Nuclear Decision"

—Electricity Board Chairman

THE MOST important challenge facing the electricity industry today is to arrive at an agreement on the type of nuclear reactor to be built, and to proceed with a programme of construction with total commitment.

This opinion was expressed by Mr. Francis Tombs, Chairman of the Electricity Council, addressing the recent annual conference of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association at York.

"I hope it will be possible to reach this situation during 1977," commented Mr. Tombs.

He added that after the difficult time which our industry had gone through recently as a result of the rapid increase in power station fuel prices there were now "signs of a cautious reassertion of growth trends and of increasing competitiveness of electricity."

"The task of energy policy is to create the environment in which electricity can prepare itself for the massive task of replacing gas and oil—a task which will require enormous capital investment and technical and manufacturing resources," he added.

Reminding the engineers that the industry and its consumers relied heavily on their expertise and high sense of duty, Mr. Tombs went on to say:

"It is not long since the EPEA introduced as

industrial lever a decision to weaken the sense of duty that I have been talking about by refusing to deal with supply interruptions outside normal working hours. I think that this was a mistake at the time and that it would be proved to be a mistake again. Possession of great power when generally recognised by employers and customers is better not invoked as an industrial weapon and I hope that it will never again be necessary or even expedient for your Association to cast aside the traditions of service which characterise our industry."

Referring to the Plowden recommendations Mr. Tombs said: "We are now at the rather unsatisfactory stage of having an agreement between the industry management, the principal Trade Unions and the Secretary of State about a reorganisation of the industry, but progress in implementation of that agreement has been disappointingly slow.

"I cannot urge too strongly the need for some real progress to be made in an atmosphere which seems to me uniquely favourable to change. There is, as I have said, a fairly universal acceptance of the need for change and there are also a number of new appointments which should make it possible to break with well-established traditions of independence and to substitute for them a genuine industry outlook.

"I hope that Government will be able soon to find the time to consider these important matters in the organisation of one of the most important industries in the country."

TWO NEW APPOINTMENTS



Pictures at Head Office, Messrs. John Scudamore, left and Colin Leonard.

We offer our congratulations to Messrs. L. John Scudamore who relinquishes his post as Management Services Officer to take up the appointment as Deputy Secretary, and to Colin W. Leonard, who moves from Assistant Chief Accountant—Administration to become Management Services Officer.

Mr. Scudamore left Birmingham University to join the Gloucester Corporation Electricity Department in 1934.

Following war service he worked for the S.E.B. and Norweb before joining MANWEB in 1954.

Mr. Leonard was educated at Chester Grammar School. He left in 1956 to work in the accounts, audit, computer sections of a number of companies before coming to MANWEB in 1967.

CONTACT'S SILVER JUBILEE SPECIAL

"The more it changes, the more it remains the same," says a free translation of a noted French proverb. Our readers can judge for themselves whether this is true of our industry or not by the extracts from the 'Contact' of 25 years ago which are reproduced on these pages.

People come . . . and people go . . . but "the old firm" carries on, surviving social changes and internal re-organisations, by virtue of the fact that there will always be a need for a reliable, efficient, electricity distribution system.



At a Trydan Club dinner, from left to right: Messrs. T. W. Jones, M.P., A. E. Williams (Club Chairman), R. W. Jones (Operations Engineer 4/5 Sub-Area), J. M. Cowan (Technical Engineer, Area Board HQ) and T. A. Maguire (Conway District Engineer).

- As coal becomes more precious, increasing interest is being taken in alternative sources of power. Many new ones, such as atomic energy is being investigated, but in our own industry, principal interest is centred on harnessing wind power for the generation of electricity.

- Demands on the local distribution networks at Hawarden and Ruabon necessitates increased transformer capacity. The two 3,000 kVA transformers at Hawarden substation have been replaced by a pair at 7,500 kVA capacity. One of the 17½-ton 3,000 kVA units has been installed at Ruabon to augment supplies there.

Queen for a Day. Miss June Horne of the Power Samas section at Derby House was elected as Queen for the Liverpool Electric Power and Lighting Sports and Welfare Club's Gala Day at Thingwall Road.



- MANWEB's rural development programme in Cardiganshire has progressed steadily and with the recent completion of a portion of Section 7, a further 181 new consumers were given supply at Llanrhystyd, a picturesque village 15 miles from Aberystwyth and the most Southern point in the Board's area.

- Middlewich U.D.C. street lighting went all-electric when our Northwich District staff installed 163 various types of lanterns in the main thoroughfares and side streets.

- V.H.F. radio equipment was installed in the Birkenhead District of the Board. The call sign—"Cralec."

- Among the Safe Driving Award recipients was Mr. Peter Moore of No. 1 Sub-Area (now with North Mersey District) who received his Five-Year Medal.



CONVOCAION OF DISTRICT ENGINEERS

Members of No. 4/5 Sub-Area Engineering staff at their monthly meeting. They are, from left to right: Messrs. L. Griffiths (Assistant Operation Engineer), E. T. L. Jones (D.E., Crewe), L. V. Taylor (D.E., Rhyl), T. A. Maguire (D.E., Conway), P. Blunt (Assistant Sub-Area Engineer), G. F. Davies (Sub-Area Engineer), E. J. Britt (D.E., Wrexham), E. W. Griffiths (D.E., Bangor), I. G. Jones (D.E., Anglesey) and D. A. Hamblin (D.E., Aberystwyth). Mr. F. O. Harber (D.E., Oswestry) took the picture.

● "Jolly Jack the Sailor," an impromptu melodrama was presented at a Southport District Social Evening. Mr. T. Dutton not only prompted the audience during the sketch but also gave prompt lines to the 'actors,' moved them about the stage and made them re-read any lines he considered particularly witty. The cast—Widow—J. Foreshaw; Nellie—G. Sallabanks; Baron MANWEB—N. J. Stubbs; Jack—E. Capp and Flossie—J. H. Hampton.

● The Electron Players enacted "A Murder has been arranged," a ghost story by Emyln Williams, at the Crane Theatre in Liverpool.

● The Report of the Ridley Committee, set up to advise the Minister of Fuel and Power on the possible measures to promote the best use of the country's fuel and power resources, was published on 11th September. The Committee recommend that competition between the fuel and power industries should continue, giving all consumers a freedom of choice.

● The new Club Room for members of the Northwich Sports and Social Club was opened by Mr. S. C. Harling (No. 2 Sub-Area Manager).



"How about another of those impartial and unbiased leaders running down the Electricity Boards?"



ABERYSTWYTH TO BLACKPOOL

Members of the Aberystwyth District Sports and Social Club pictured outside MANWEB Headquarters building in Love Lane, Liverpool, on route for Blackpool to see the illuminations.

SILVER WEDDINGS

(Just a reminder fellas!)

Mr. Dowell Jones who married Miss Rhona Thomas of No. 4 Sub-Area HQ, on 6th September 1952.

Mr. Raymond Walley (*electrician*) in our Clwyd District and Miss Freda Smith from Yorkshire, who were married on 19th July.

Mr. A. H. Spargo of our Abbey House, Rhuddlan staff who married Miss Joyce Roberts at Trinity Church Prestatyn, on 14th June.



Mr. and Mrs. Dowell Jones.



Mr. and Mrs. Ray Walley.



Mr. Ron Gravett (*No. 3 Sub-Area Commercial Officer*) with the Britton Bowl which he won in the E.I.B.A., Merseyside and North Wales Area Golf Competition.

Some years ago, he was kind enough to present a trophy to the Board and each year members of the MANWEB Golfing Society compete for the 'Gravett Cup.'

● In the Nalgo Football final, Hatton Garden beat Divisional HQ by two goals to one. The winning team was: Cross, Cottrell, Moss, Ricketts Lea, Gordon, Dugdale, Caird, Cousins, Thompson, Roberts.

● FOR SALE—Lady's model Raleigh Sports. 21-inch frame, mileage 500 in good condition. Philidyne lighting set. £10.

Austin 7 saloon 1931-32, in good condition and with re-conditioned engine. Insured to July 1953.



Runners-up in the 40-strong Nantwich Knock-out Cricket Competition was our local team, seen here with their trophy. *From left to right, back row:* Messrs. I. Morris, F. Cliffe, W. Wright, F. Stubbs and F. Everall. *Front row:* Messrs. W. Ralph, R. Peters, J. D. Mottram, L. Young and E. Davies.

Winners of the 'Hillsdon Cup' in the inter-section knock-out cricket competition, Liverpool Central District team, who were, in batting order: Messrs. E. Redman, A. Eyres, S. Green, A. Park, W. Thomason, J. Ince, M. Caird, J. Robinson, J. Marsden and P. Quinn. *The umpires, scorers and junior we do not know, but no doubt someone will!*



STAFF AT HOWLEY

Mr. H. Millyard
(Warrington
District Engineer),
holding pipe, with
some of his
engineering
colleagues, from
left to right:
Messrs. R. Evans,
S. Brown, W. H.
Mayhew, J. J.
Cross, H. F. Smith
and A. R. Cooper.



Members of the Love Lane (Headquarters) Chess Club with the Chessboard Trophy. They are, from left to right, back row: Messrs. F. C. McCarten, N. W. Burnett, F. Chynoweth and J. H. Stephenson. Front row: Mr. R. J. McDonald, Miss A. Minton, Messrs. M. A. Garrett and J. N. Jukes.



◀ "I'VE GOT A GOOD MIND TO BUY A SET OF OUR OWN!"

1951-52—"A HARD BUT SUCCESSFUL YEAR"

In presenting the Board's Annual Report, Mr. J. Eccles (Chairman) said that there was a net surplus of £104,817. Capital expenditure during the year was £3,067,198. The 700,000 domestic cus-

tomers used an average 4,417 units during the year.

In North Wales, 204 miles of high voltage lines were put into commission.

Farms connected were at the rate of three per day.

The festive season was celebrated at Northwich District when 280 members of the Sports and Welfare Club with their children enjoyed a 'meat' tea followed by games and meeting Santa (Mr. Percy Booth).



Talking Notes

AN INDEPENDENT COUNCILLOR

IN HER second attempt to gain a seat on the Weaverham Parish Council, part-time saleswoman at our Northwich shop, **Mrs. Jean Smith** was recently successful in her election as the Independent—with Liberal leanings—member for the Church Ward.

Twelve months ago she fought in the Gorstage Ward and was defeated by a mere eight votes.

Dave Pennington congratulates Jean Smith watched by colleagues at our Northwich shop who are, from left to right going up the stairs, Christine Jones, Cath Wilkinson, Mary Hudson (Tricity), Mary Tomlinson, Nancy Szostek, Doreen Owen (Hoover) and Alan Horrocks.



Jean at one time, was a Home Service Advisor with the Gas Board, but she soon saw the light and left them to get married.

Then she and her husband Stuart went into the hotel business in Derbyshire and Middlesborough.

Later Jean became a District Supervisor for Midland Catering (Industrial) and worked in a number of places including Shire Hall at Mold.

Stuart is now a catering manager. They have two sons, Gordon (22) and Malcolm (19) both at Durham University.

Locally, Jean is interested in the well-being of the community as a whole and in improvements in the environment.

She found, in her campaigning, lots of apathy among the electorate with only a minimal number bothering to register their vote.

However, we are pleased that enough people decided to put their 'X' in the box marked Jean Smith!

She now joins another MANWEB colleague, on the Council, **Mr. Brian Livesley**, a Work Study Officer with M.S.U. at Head Office. He too, once worked for supervisor **Mr. Dave Pennington** at our Northwich shop.

Creditable Badminton

Two MANWEB teams contested the 8th Electricity Supply National Badminton Championships, held last month at Exeter University and sponsored by

the South Western Electricity Board.

The twenty teams from Area Boards and CEBB Regions were split into four groups, with the group winners forming the semi-finalists. **MANWEB 'A'** team topped their group, winning all their games, and went on to meet the East Midlands Board in one semi-final. After a tense match we were beaten by the odd game, and the EMEB team then went on to defeat **NORWEB** in the final.

MANWEB 'B' team finished bottom of their group, but there was considerable consolation for them in a "Plate" knock-out organised for the 16 teams who did not reach the semi-final of the main event. Our players defeated the South Western Board and **NORWEB 'B'** to reach the semi-final of the Plate event, only to be beaten by the eventual winners, the Eastern Electricity Board.

Our badminton enthusiasts are always on the look-out for players to represent **MANWEB** in these championships,

and if you are a badminton player don't hide your talent—get in touch with **John Foster** (*System Engineer, North Wirral*). Plans will soon be drawn up for the **MANWEB** badminton event later this year.

Electricity at "Ideal Home"

There was a completely new approach to the Electricity stand at this year's **Ideal Home Exhibition** at Olympia. Four room settings, designed by Dawn Marsden, were created to show the most up-to-date electric appliances for the home, demonstrating how they could be matched with the domestic surroundings and make their time and labour saving contribution to modern living.

In the kitchen was a split-level cooker, a fridge and freezer fitting into a space only 24 inches square, and a complete home laundry fitted under the worktops.

The lounge-dining room featured electric storage radiators making use of night-time off-peak tariffs (now more advantageously priced than ever),

TV and hi-fi, while the bathroom offered electric towel rail and heater (wired to meet safety requirements), together with an instantaneous electric shower.

The bedroom contained the latest in electric alarms—a digital read-out, no loud ticking and a gentle morning awakening to the sound of music or the morning news from the radio. High standards of lighting were common to all the layouts, but the bedroom offered dimmer switches for bedside or dressing-table use.

Appreciation

A nice little note of thanks was received from the Post Office by **Mr. Frank Threadgold** of our Queensferry Stores recently.

It followed an accident at the Stores when a Post Office engineer, who was working on a ladder in the building, met with a mishap and ended up on the floor. Though not seriously hurt he was bruised and badly shaken, and **Mr. Tony Bonham**, one of our storekeepers who is the depot's First Aider, assisted by Mr. Threadgold, did what was necessary to help.

Double Triumph

A big entry of budding table-tennis stars, competing in the Crewe and District Table Tennis League's annual championships at Crewe Youth Centre recently, received an outstanding example from 20-years-old **Janet Scragg**, a clerk at our Mid-Cheshire District office.

Janet, who plays for **MANWEB's** fourth division team, took the coveted ladies' singles title, beating three higher-ranked players in an entry list which included the current town team and three former Champions. She won the final 22—20 and 21—11 with a fine display of attacking play.



MANWEB "A," from left to right: Audrey Garmory, John Foster (*non-playing captain*), Joan Hughes, Will Jones, Marie Blair, Mike Greenslade, Doris Hamer and Paul Wilkinson.

MANWEB "B," from left to right: Joe Pugh, Maureen Donaldson, Barry Harding, Joan Morris, Tony Tonks, Heather Rankin and Doreen Rushton.



And just to emphasise her supremacy among the ladies Janet also took the junior ladies' singles title with a comfortable 21-14, 21-10, victory.

Suggestion Scheme Awards

A motor test panel for testing washing machine motors and speed control modules, built in the commercial workshop at Crewe, brought a further cheque on the recommendation of the DJAC for **Mr. Steve Davies**, service electrician at Crewe.

The cheque was presented recently by **Mr. Norman Walsh** (District Commercial Engineer) in the presence of **Mr. Jim Bird** (Installation Engineer).

Twenty-six suggestions submitted under the Employers' Suggestions Scheme received cash awards during 1976, a total of £152 being paid out at local level. Seven of these suggestions were recommended for local adoptions and five of these were submitted to the District Joint Advisory Council as it was felt that they might be suitable for implementation on a wider basis. On these, two were subsequently recommended for further awards amounting to £50.

Additional awards amounting to £40 were granted during the year in respect of suggestions previously referred to the DJAC. The greatest individual award during the year was £80, bringing the award total in respect of the one suggestion to £100. This suggestion and one other were referred to the National Joint Advisory Council for consideration of their suitability for national application.

Suggestion forms and details of the Scheme are available from the Secretary of your LAC.

People Write . . .

A nice letter to Mid-Cheshire District from a consumer living at Shavington, near Crewe . . .

"Kindly convey to the gentlemen concerned my most sincere thanks for the courteous and efficient way they dealt with our power supply failure on Saturday night, especially when your representative noticed that I was disabled.

"Both the gentleman who answered our first call for help and the crew who came to do the repairs were most prompt and cheerful, despite the late hour."

Dracula's Other Friend

Following our story in last month's 'Contact' featuring the man who gave 50 pints of his blood, **Mr. John Morris**, we recently had the Blood Transfusion Service Unit at Head Office.

One of their best customers here, with 33 pints donated, is **Mr. Ron Rampling**, who works in the Plant Supplies section.

Ron first gave his 'pinta' in 1953 while serving in the RAF. As a 'volunteer' he received a

SQUASH

Players are invited to enter the

MANWEB OPEN SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

to be held in June 1977. The competition is being organised by Phil Ramsey. If you wish to enter, please get in touch with him in the Technical Section, 4WI, Head Office. (Telephone 2415)

bottle of Guinness as a reward!

He was in the service for some 14 years, joining when he was just turned 17. Later he went to work for the Eastern Electricity Board before joining us in 1968 to work in the Revenue section at Chester. For a while he transferred to the Computer section and then moved over to his present post.

Ron enjoys gardening and during the summer months, invariably wears a flower in his buttonhole. Another of his interests, in common with his wife Brenda, is horse riding.

Ron gets the needle and gives away another pinta!



Good Samaritan

On a busy Saturday afternoon at the end of April, **Mr. Ian Ledson** (foreman, Installation), North Mersey District, found himself in a traffic hold-up in Crosby Road North, Waterloo.

He soon discovered that an elderly lady had been in collision with a motor scooter and was lying injured in the middle of the road.

He then saw two passers-by go into the road to help her, and protect her from further harm.

Despite the danger to themselves from impatient drivers, the two men stayed with the injured lady until the ambulance arrived some time later.

It was then that Ian recognised one of the 'Samaritans' as he slipped quietly away. It was **Mr. Denis Dodds**, our own Chairman.

Specimen Hunter!

Several trophies for specimen fish have been won by **Mr. Bob Lovell**, a chargehand labourer at Aberystwyth who acts as press and records officers for the Aberystwyth Seafish Specimen Group.

Bob Lovell with some of his competition fishing trophies.



At the recent annual general meeting of the Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers he was presented with the Best Specimen Black Bream Shield for a fish of 3 lbs. 11 oz.; the Specimen Hunters' Cup for a total of six different species taken from a boat; the Ray and Unspecified Cups with a cuckoo ray of 4 lbs. 3 oz. and a grey gurnard of 15 oz. 8 drms., together with five gold, two silver and three bronze awards in the ABU specimen fish contest.

New Arrivals

Congratulations to **Mr. Terry Gopsill** (2nd engineer, technical at Head Office) and his wife **Teresa** on the birth of a daughter, Gillian, on 2nd May.

Congratulations from colleagues at Lister Drive go to **Colin** and **Mary Oldfield** on the birth of a son, Alistair James.

Colin works as a second engineer, Systems, in the Liverpool District.

On The Air

In the March number of 'Contact' we reported that



Poet from Machynlleth, Gwenan Jones.

Mrs. Gwenan Jones, telephonist at Machynlleth, was to take part in the BBC Radio 4 programme 'Down Your Way' on 17th April, as one of six local people chosen to speak about Machynlleth.

We hear that the programme was broadcast as planned, much to the interest of the Machynlleth community.

Rhostyllen Fashions

There was a "full house" at the Dee Valley District's canteen at Rhostyllen one evening recently when members of the District's Retired Staff Association and their friends enjoyed a ladies' Fashion Show organised by the pensioners and children's party committees.

The show was laid on by a well-known Wrexham clothing retailer, and 11 models displayed 78 outfits to suit all ages, sizes and pockets. Judging by the applause, the audience greatly appreciated the girls' efforts.

Mr. Keith Griffiths (prin-

cial assistant, Admin.) told us that the work of transforming the canteen into an atmosphere more like the salon of a top fashion designer was carried out in a very short time by a small band of willing workers. He asked us to express the thanks of the audience to them, and also to those who helped prepare and serve the interval refreshments.

Takes to the Air Again

A short time ago Clwyd District Sports and Social Club invited Squadron Leader Emlyn Thomas, Commanding Officer of the RAF Outdoor Pursuits School at Llanrwst, to talk to them about Snowdonia.

Among the audience was a veteran flyer of long ago, in the person of 80-years-old **Mr. John George Wheelwright**, father of **Miss Dorothy Wheelwright**, routine accounts queries supervisor at the District Office.

During the interval Mr. Wheelwright chatted with Squadron Leader Thomas, telling him of his adventures during the First World War when he served in the Royal Flying Corps (the forerunner of the modern RAF) as a wireless operator attached to the field artillery.

The airmen of yesterday and today formed an immediate bond. As a result Mr. Wheelwright was invited for a day out to RAF Valley, Anglesey, and arrangements were made for a Whirlwind helicopter to pick him up from his home at Tremeirchion, near St. Asaph, to take him on his VIP visit.

Unfortunately bad weather ruled out the airlift, so Mr. Wheelwright went to Valley more sedately—by car. It was not all disappointment, however, for he did get a short

CONTRIBUTORY PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE SCHEME

As from 1st May 1977, cover under this Scheme has been increased to provide for a benefit of £4,000 per unit for Permanent Total Disability.

This increase does not apply to contributors who are over 65 years of age at the time of the accident. In such cases benefit will continue at the present rate of £2,000 per unit.

Employees who are contributors to the Scheme will, in due course, receive endorsements showing the increased cover.

Any employee wishing to have further details of the Scheme should get in touch with their District Administrative Officer. Head Office staff should contact the Assistant Secretary (General Administration).

helicopter trip in the vicinity of the airfield—the highspot of one of the most exciting days of his life.

Holiday Accommodation

New six-berth caravan at Green Meadow Caravan Park, Clarach, near Aberystwyth. Mrs. J. Jones, Ty Mawr, Clarach. Tel. Bow Street 777.

Six-berth caravan on a private site near Beaumaris, Anglesey. Most dates available. 'Phone: 051-608 6178.

For Sale

'M' Reg. Reliant 'Rebel,' four-wheeler van. 23,000 miles. All fibreglass body. First class condition, looks like new. Owner needing larger vehicle. Corresponding model today—on the road—£1,765. This one, a bargain at £450. 'Phone John Green, Chester 47951.

Farisa Electric Organ. Two manual keyboards and rhythm section. Would suit beginner. £150 o.n.o. 'Phone Crewe 584487 (evenings).

HOYLAKE LADS AS RUNNERS-UP

In the recent Electricity Supply Industry competition in First-Aid for first-year apprentices, our team from Hoylake Training School were pipped into second place. Our picture, below, shows them, from left to right, Bryn Morris, Stephen Holmes, Carl Woodman and Michael Jones receiving their awards from Mr. G. T. Shepherd (Chairman, Midlands Electricity Board).



CHESTER — THE FRESH-AIR CITY

Last summer temperatures in this country reached nearly ten degrees higher than those in the South of France. As a direct result—and the promise of further hot summers to come—more and more business houses turned to electric air-conditioning to provide better working conditions for the staff and so increase productivity.

Well to the forefront in this 'rush for fresh air' is the ancient City of Chester where there is a higher proportion of shops and offices air-conditioned than in any other city or town in the British Isles—a situation in which MANWEB has played a significant role.

At More and Gamon Ltd., one of the City's



Inside More and Gamon's spacious car showrooms in Chester, Mr. Stratton, right, chats with our Man from MANWEB, Mr. Roger Glover (*energy sales*), Dee Valley District. In the foreground, an unusual vehicle manufactured by G.N., is a pre-1922 B.H.D. Special.

The attractive and modern Grosvenor Shopping Precinct in the Chester City centre with more and more shops joining the air-conditioning club under the guidance of MANWEB's specialist engineers.

leading motor car showrooms and offices, two completely automatic Gemini units were installed in the middle of the hot spell last July.

"We took some time to make up our minds," said Mr. Gordon K. Stratton, managing director of The Farmore Group, "but our capital expenditure was limited. Our large office windows face the noonday sun and look upon a busy main road. Temperatures of well over 85° were common, and the traffic noise was distracting. So we installed double glazing which cut down the heat input—and would later cut our heating costs—by about ten per cent. It also reduced the excessive noise. However, the double glazing did create ventilation problems.

"The time had come to think of air-conditioning. We sought advice from MANWEB and subsequently had the Gemini units installed. We have found them the complete answer in providing the ideal working conditions for our staff, conducive to increased production.

"We have had experience of air-conditioning in the past when about 15 years ago, a small, but rather cumbersome, unit was installed in our old offices. It is still going strong today and doing its job most efficiently. The new units are of course of modern

design and take up a very small amount of space on the office wall. They are so quiet too. One would hardly notice that they were there. I am very satisfied and am sure that all our staff have felt the benefit and comfort of electric air-conditioning."

Inside the city's modern Grosvenor Shopping Precinct more and more shops join the air-conditioned club with every passing year—usually under the guidance of MANWEB's specialist engineers.

Mr. Leo Bostock, director of display for Air Conditioning Services Ltd., said that the cost of installing air-conditioning was more than repaid by customer satisfaction and increased trade. An average sized shop of 3,000 cubic feet could be serviced by a single £600 machine under normal circumstances.

"We are only just getting round to thinking of air-conditioning as a necessity. In America air-conditioning is installed into a building as it is being constructed. We should get into that way of thinking over here," he added.

All in all a most satisfactory state of affairs for a city where our own Head Office building did such a fine pioneering job in the field of efficient energy use and good environmental control.





Some members of our Clwyd District staff who received their Long Service Certificates recently from Mr. Jim Barraclough, seventh from right. Also in the picture are, extreme right, District Officers David Mellor, George Cooksley and Les Griffiths.

LONG SERVICE IN CLWYD DISTRICT

AFTER presenting Long Service Certificates to members of our Clwyd District staff at a ceremony held at St. Asaph recently, Mr. Jim Barraclough (*Group Manager*) emphasised the importance of experience in our industry.

"These Certificates show that staff *do* stay a long time with MANWEB and therefore become very experienced in their jobs and aspects of the Board's workings," he commented. "This experience is essential as a back-up for new staff joining us."

The award recipients were as follows: (*Based at Rhyl unless otherwise stated*):

40 Years: Mr. J. D. Evans (*switchboard attendant*).

30 Years: Miss M. E. Burdis (*saleswoman, Mold shop*), Mrs. E. A. King (*marketing sales demonstrator, Rhyl shop*), Messrs. H. T. Evans (*chargehand fitter*), H. O. Hughes (*1st engineer—System*), I. Morris (*Production Engineer*), M. I. Jones (*electrician*) and W. E. Roberts (*labourer, Llandudno Junction*).

20 Years: Messrs. A. Jones (*jointer's mate, Llandudno Junction*), K. E. Hatley (*electrician*), H. A. Hampson (*electrician, Llandudno Junction*), R. Harkness (*shift electrician*), E. Owen (*linesman's mate, Llanrwst*), J. R. Evans (*chargehand electrician, Mold*), H. Evans (*labourer, Ruthin*) and J. Burgoyne (*labourer*).

Mrs. J. Rawlings, widow of Ron Rawlings of Llandudno Junction who died a short time ago, was present to accept his Certificate.

SALES TRAINING AT WALLASEY



A happy group, on course, at our Wallasey Sales Training School a short time ago. They are, from left to right: Wendy, John, Brenda, Steve and Anne.

Mrs. Wendy Fuller, part-time sales assistant at Machynlleth who joined us last November. She once worked for the Nature Conservancy Council. Wendy enjoys music, walking and sewing.

Mr. John Mann, a sales representative based at Macon Way, Crewe since the beginning of the year. Once worked in a solicitors office.

Mrs. Brenda Williams, a part-time sales assistant at our St. John's Precinct shop since last November. She has worked for us before at our Walton Vale shop.

Mr. Steve Pryce, an energy sales representative in the Liverpool District. He joined us about ten years ago and has worked on various clerical jobs around the District before going 'Commercial.'

Mrs. Anne Foster, a part-time sales assistant at our St. Helens shop for the past seven months. She previously worked in a furniture discount warehouse. She likes collecting antiques and her prize possession is a grandfather clock dated 1760.



A cheerful group from Head Office Secretarial section gather round to give a happy send-off to Mrs. Doreen Brewer, seen here in dark cardigan behind a table filled with parting gifts and cards.

RETIREMENTS

Mrs. D. BREWER

Mr. Tom Hamilton (*Assistant Secretary*) at Head Office, wished Mrs. Doreen Brewer a long and happy retirement, a sentiment echoed by her secretarial colleagues present.

Doreen, an audio typist who concentrated mainly on legal work, joined the Head Office staff on re-organisation in 1969. Previously she had worked in the Area 2/3 Offices in Sealand Road and New Crane Street, where she started work for the Board 13 years ago.

She and her husband Geoff, who retired some time ago, have a daughter who works as a speech therapist.

The theatre and travelling are two of her interests which she will now be able to pursue more fully. Her friends from the typing pool tell us she has nimble fingers and produces some excellent sewing and crochet work.

Mr. D. S. WEBB-JONES

After a service to the electricity industry spread over 46 years Mr. Denis Webb-Jones, Principal Engineer, in the Commercial Department's Energy Sales Section, retired recently.

He started his career as an apprentice with the Winchester City Electricity Department. He became a fitter and in 1941 joined the Royal Navy, where he was an electrical lieutenant, and saw service all over the world including the Indian and Pacific Oceans. After the surrender of Japan he was one of the first to visit the devastated city of Hiroshima.

Returning to 'civvy street' he resumed his career with the City of Winchester as an assistant consumers engineer. Three years later, after nationalisation, he was appointed as assistant District Commercial Engineer in the Oxford District of the Eastern Electricity Board.

He came to MANWEB in 1954 as District Commercial Officer of the then Southport District. He was promoted to Senior Assistant Commercial Engineer at the former Area 1 Office in Liverpool,

Chief Commercial Officer Mr. Matt Cowan, *centre right*, wishes Mr. Denis Webb-Jones health and happiness in his retirement. Commercial colleagues echoed these sentiments.



in 1962, moving to Chester in that capacity seven years later with the Board re-organisation. Three years ago he was made Principal Engineer.

Away from his office duties he enjoys the quiet of the countryside, he is a naturalist, and walking is his great passion. He is something of an authority on the footpaths and bridle ways in the countryside, particularly in the Lake District, where his knowledge of the pathways often excels that of the resident wardens.

Sharing his love of walking is his wife Peggy. She is also an avid reader and a fine linguist who has helped the Board out by acting as interpreter on occasions when foreign visitors came to see the Sealand Road building, with Denis himself acting as guide.

They have a daughter, Terry, who is married with two young sons, who have inherited their grandfather's love of the hills and mountains.

Many of his colleagues joined with the Chief Commercial Officer Mr. Matt Cowan at a presentation at Head Office to thank Denis for his services and wished him many happy years retirement. Caravanning and walking will take up most of this free time now, no doubt!

Mr. C. DAVIES, B.E.M.

After 23 years' service to the industry Mr. Charles William Davies, chargehand labourer with our Liverpool District, has retired.

For many years, both as a MANWEB employee and in his spare time, Mr. Davies has played an active role in industrial relations and public life, and this was recognised by the award of the British Empire Medal in last year's Birthday Honours List.

He was an active member of the Local Advisory and Works Committees, a shop steward, a member

of the Manual Workers' Benevolent Committee, a former chairman of Halewood Parish Council and a former member of Knowsley District Council.

Other interests include the Halewood Football Club and the Halewood Social Club.

On behalf of his many friends he was presented with a cheque by Mr. C. E. Donovan (*District Engineer*), at a gathering at Lister Drive.

Mr. J. BURGOYNE

Mr. John Burgoyne, who joined the Board in 1956, retired recently from his job as a chargehand on the cable-laying side at Rhyl.

Mr. A. STANLEY

A popular member of our meter reader/collector team based at the Runcorn Depot, Mr. Arthur Stanley retired a couple of weeks ago at the age of 65. Both he and his wife are bowls enthusiasts, but Arthur admits that his wife wins all the prizes. Colleagues at Runcorn presented him with a bowls bag to remember them in his retirement.

Mr. F. HALLIWELL

After ten years with MANWEB—but many more than that in the electrical appliance business—Mr. Frank Halliwell, marketing representative based at Widnes shop, retired recently.

Mr. Halliwell joined Hoover as a local representative in 1949, later becoming area manager for Warrington and Leigh and finally working at St. Helens before joining the Board in 1966.

In retirement he intends to catch up on his gardening, to visit Amsterdam to see a son who lives there, and to take a holiday in Australia later in the year so as to enjoy the summer "down under." On behalf of his many friends he was presented with a clock as a retirement gift.

Liverpool District Engineer Mr. Charles Donovan, *centre right*, hands over a cheque, subscriptions from colleagues, to Mr. Charlie Davies on the occasion of his recent retirement.

(Picture by Mr. Jim Gonzales)



Mr. A. M. TURNER

Mr. Arthur Turner, installation inspector at Mid-Mersey District, took early retirement on health grounds recently after 47 years' service. He began work with the Mersey Power Company as an apprentice electrician in 1930, being appointed installation inspector in 1948. For the past three years he has been the District's top-award driver under the ROSPA Safe Driving scheme.

Arthur, who served in Burma during the second world war, was presented with a radio by his many friends in the District.

Mrs. D. HOOLE

A long serving member of the Head Office Accounts staff retired recently after 38 years' service. Mrs. Dorothy Hoole joined the Liverpool Corporation Accounts Department in 1939 and came to MANWEB in 1948 with the nationalisation of the industry.

Dorothy will probably be better known to her friends as Dorothy Kenwright, for it was in 1975 that she married and became Mrs. Hoole. In the former Area 1 Accounts Department, she was a member of the Revenue Section. She moved to Head Office on the re-organisation in 1969/70, coming to live in Chester, and has worked as a clerical assistant in other Accounts Sections.

In her days in Liverpool she was a keen badminton player, and enjoyed a game of tennis. Her colleagues in the Hire Purchase Section tell us she has green fingers and point as evidence to a large rubber plant, nearing six foot high, she has left in their care, which she raised from a mere 18 inch bedraggled specimen bought from a local shop.

She and her husband Bill are moving to Banbury, hence Dorothy's early retirement. We understand her *driving* ambition is to pass her test and hold a full motor vehicles users licence. In this and her new life her friends and colleagues wish her well.



Staff from our Widnes shop having a farewell drink with their friend and colleague, Mr. Frank Halliwell, centre, as he is presented with their retirement gifts by Mr. Vernon Collard (District Sales Supervisor).

To help him keep up with the news while enjoying his retirement, friends and colleagues at our Runcorn depot subscribed to present Mr. Arthur Turner with a farewell gift of a portable radio. Our picture, below, shows, from left to right: Mrs. Josephine Turner, Mrs. Ivy Cank, Mr. Frank Crossley (Installation Engineer) and Arthur.



Cards with farewell messages and retirement gifts filled a table when Mrs. Dorothy Hoole completed her service with the Board recently. Our picture, below, shows her surrounded by her friends at Head Office as Mr. Harold Shepherd (admin. assistant) says his personal farewell.



Obituary

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

Mr. Cyril Adams, of Flower Street, Castle, Northwich, who retired six years ago as a foreman meter reader after 42 years' service to the industry. He was a keen supporter of Northwich Victoria Football Club, and served as treasurer for 18 years.

Dr. John G. Fox, the Board's medical officer prior to his retirement in 1975 after 26 years' service to MANWEB and the North West Region of the CEGB. Himself a diabetic, Dr. Fox was a consultant in the treatment of the disorder with a clinic at the David Lewis Northern Hospital, Liverpool. He was also medical advisor to Messrs. Tate and Lyle, sugar refiners, of Liverpool.

Mr. Harry Gray, aged 94, Mid-Mersey District's oldest pensioner, who was a storekeeper at St. Helens prior to his retirement in 1948. Mr. Gray lived in Alston Road, Liverpool 17.

Mr. Edward Vernon Holmes, a fitter's mate in our North Mersey District until his retirement in 1966. He was an active member of the Manual Workers' Benevolent Society and will be sadly missed by his family and the many retired members who enjoyed his frequent visits and helpful manner.

Mr. Bill Lee, principal assistant (sales) with our former No. 1 Sub-Area prior to his retirement in 1962. Mr. Lee began his service with our industry at Nottingham in 1938 and later worked for Hotpoint and Ediswan before joining MANWEB in 1949.

Mr. Thomas Moore, of Pinfold Close, Sefton, Liverpool, who joined the Board as a labourer in 1955 and retired in 1971 as an assistant in the meter department at our former depot at Marsh Lane, Bootle.

Mr. James Edgar Morgan, formerly a clerk at our Llandudno office, who served the Board from 1949 to his retirement in 1971.

Mr. Henry C. Nicholls, senior inspection engineer at Hatton Garden, Liverpool, prior to his retirement in 1964 after 37 years' service to the industry.

Mr. Albert Percival, a former driver in our Mid-Mersey District, who retired in 1960.

Mrs. Lillian Plumley, a draughtswoman in our Mid-Mersey District prior to her retirement in 1970, who died at her home in the Isle of Man.

Mr. Joe Roper, of Abbeystead Avenue, Bootle, who served for 37 years as a jointer patrolman prior to his retirement in 1964. He was a founder member of the Manual Workers' Benevolent Society, and continued his interest

during his years of retirement.

Mr. Joe Seddon, who worked in the meter reading section of the consumer accounts department at Warrington prior to his early retirement last August.

Mr. Esketh Waterworth, a labourer in the street lighting department at Runcorn prior to his retirement on health grounds in 1968.

Mr. W. H. (Bill) Wilkinson, formerly an engineer in the Meter Test Department at Lister Drive, where he will be remembered for his helpful and cheerful disposition.

Bill had completed 45 years' service in our industry when he retired in 1967.

During the last war he volunteered for service with the R.A.F. and was in the Middle East theatre of operations.

ELECTRICITY IN YOUR GARDEN

Electricity makes gardeners' fingers greener. It helps them to grow a wider range of plants successfully and takes much of the drudgery out of less interesting gardening chores.

The return after a few years of the Electricity Council's useful handbook "*Electricity in Your Garden*" is proof enough that keen gardeners enjoy using modern electric methods pioneered by professional growers and scaled down for amateur use. It was first published in 1946, and since then over 600,000 copies have been distributed. This latest 1977 edition has been entirely rewritten and illustrated.

The book first warns the reader that the greenhouse is no place for amateur electricians and advises a professional

wiring installation. It explains the function of every available electrical gardening aid, from soil warming cables and mist propagation through night break lighting to fountains, garden pools and even decorative lighting. All the advice is practical, simply presented and easily understood. There are chapters too, on safety and on freezing home grown vegetables and fruit.

Percy Thrower wrote the introduction and reveals himself to be an early, and still keen, user of electric garden equipment. "All these aids," he says, "provide us with time to relax and enjoy our gardens... and isn't that what a garden is for?"

Electricity in Your Garden (50 pages, A5) is published by the Electricity Council and is available from Electricity Board Shops and many garden centres, or direct from the Electricity Council, Marketing Department, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD. Price 50p, post free.