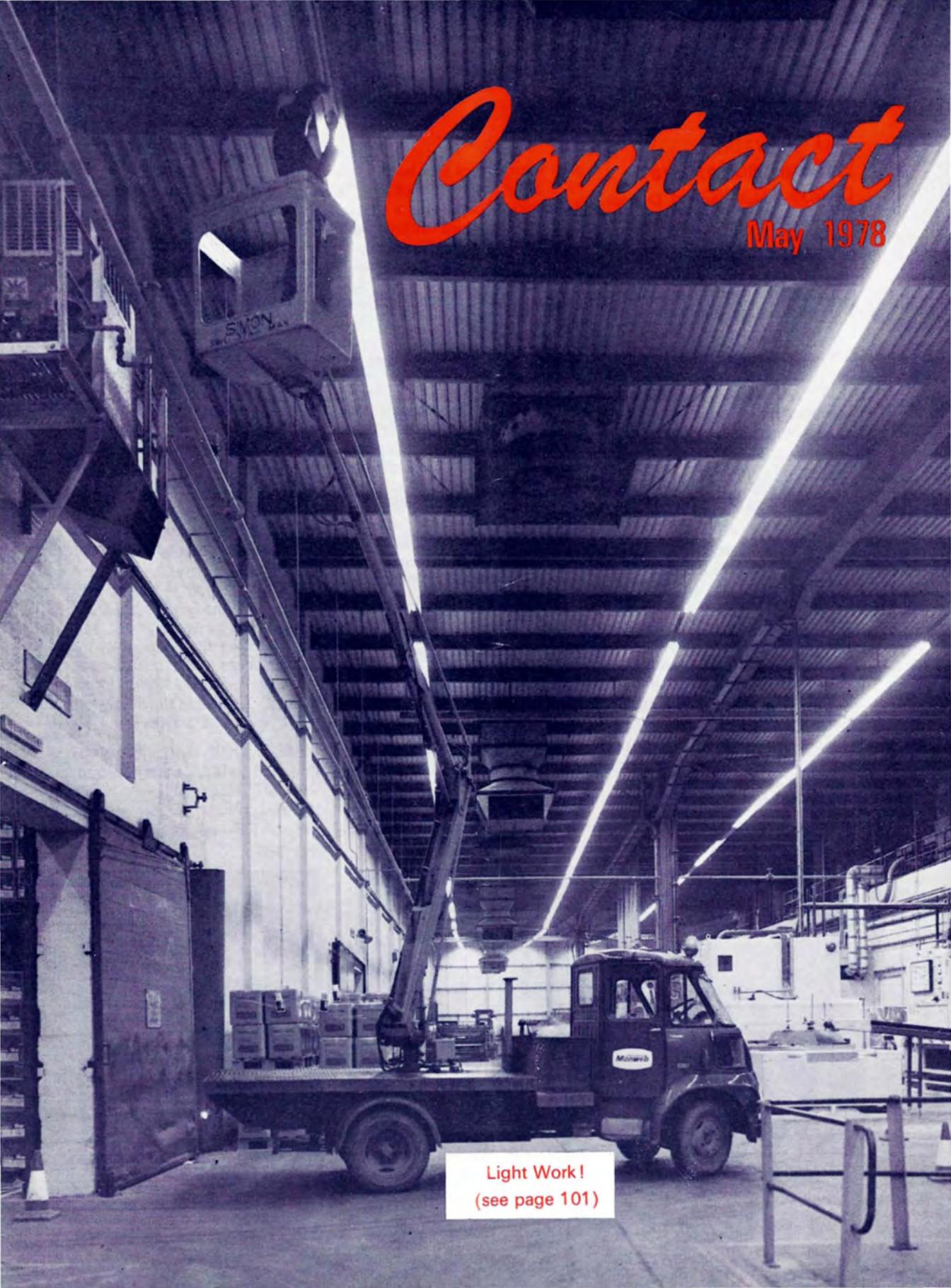


Contact

May 1978



Light Work!
(see page 101)

Appointments . . .

Group Manager

Mr. Norman Maden, District Commercial Engineer for our Gwynedd District, has been appointed Group Manager for Mid-Mersey, Mid-Cheshire and Oswestry Districts. He succeeds Mr. J. A. Winchester, who is retiring.

Mr. Maden, who comes from Rochdale, began his career in the electricity supply industry in 1934 as a trainee draughtsman with Rochdale Corporation Electricity Department. Posts of increasing responsibility with the Corporation and later with the North Western Electricity Board followed.

He joined MANWEB in 1962 as District Commercial Engineer at Chester, being appointed District Manager of the Board's Caernarfon District four years later and District Commercial Engineer, Gwynedd District, when the Board's structure was re-organised in 1970.

During the war, from 1940 to 1946 he served with the Royal Engineers in Palestine, Egypt, Italy and Germany, reaching the rank of Warrant Officer.

Mr. Maden is MANWEB's representative on the North Wales Productivity Association, and has

been chairman of that body since 1972. He is a Governor of Bangor Technical College, and a magistrate. His hobbies include gardening and interior decorating.

Mr. Maden is married with two grown-up sons.

Assistant Chief Engineer

Mr. Stan Roberts, District Engineer for the Board's Dee Valley District, has been appointed Assistant Chief Engineer (Plant and Construction) at Head Office. He succeeds Mr. Gerry Haughan, who was recently appointed Deputy Chief Engineer.

Mr. Roberts, who is 40, comes from Rhuddlan. He joined MANWEB as an apprentice electrician. He qualified as an electrical engineer and after a spell with the Central Electricity Generating Board re-joined MANWEB as an assistant section engineer at Rhuddlan in 1961. A succession of engineering posts followed, leading to his appointment as District Engineer, first at Oswestry and later at Dee Valley District.

Mr. Roberts enjoys mountaineering, skiing, sailing and squash. He is married and lives at Pen y Bryn, Penycae.

Energy Sales Manager

Mr. Bob Jowett, District Commercial Engineer for MANWEB's Liverpool District, has been appointed Energy Sales Manager at Head Office. He succeeds Mr. Roy Stewart, who retires on 30th May.

Mr. Jowett, who is 53, was born in Scotland but moved to Liverpool as a boy. He served his apprenticeship as an electrician with a Liverpool firm and later, during the war, was with the Army in Italy and Austria. He married an Austrian girl while with the Allied army of occupation.

Back in Liverpool he worked as an armature winder and technical estimator before qualifying, by spare-time study, as an electrical engineer. He joined MANWEB in 1954 as an assistant consumers' engineer in Liverpool, and this was followed by a succession of appointments with the Board, including that of District Commercial Engineer in the Southport and Liverpool Districts.

Mr. Jowett's main hobby is that of restoring antique furniture, some of which he keeps while the rest returns to the market through his daughter's antique business.



Norman Maden



Stan Roberts



Bob Jowett

Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE
OF THE
MERSEYSIDE AND
NORTH WALES
ELECTRICITY BOARD

Vol. 30 No. 5

May 1978

Editorial

On other
pages . . .

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COMMON INTERESTS

In any large organisation employing thousands of people there is always the danger that individuals may become so involved in their own particular jobs that they lose sight of their place in the overall scheme of things.

This or that responsibility may too easily be regarded as "their job" or "our job", and creating a feeling of "belonging" is one of the problems which face complex organisations with employees who are widely dispersed by distance or separated by their functions.

From time to time special difficulties confront most departments but rarely are the consequences of such situations confined in a watertight way. Crises and pressures of various kinds often call for sincere co-operation between people working in what, on the face of it, may seem to be widely differing jobs, and by the same token special campaigns and efforts can be supported by employees who may not appear to be directly involved.

This number of *Contact* draws attention to the intensified efforts of our commercial colleagues to expand our activities in the electrical contracting field. Those directly involved in fighting for new orders are the spearhead of the campaign, but many other MANWEB people can help by giving moral and practical support to their drive to create new business and work opportunities.

Editorial Staff

Phone H.O.

Keith Baldwin 2164
John F. Perry 2167
Sam Doughty 2166

Please let the Editorial staff know of any large-scale or unusual engineering schemes or commercial projects going on in your department. We are interested in people too! Contact us about your interesting personalities with a story to tell.



THE £6 MILLION-PLUS- MEN FROM MANWEB

New Contracting Drive

A major drive to claim a bigger share of the electrical contracting market for MANWEB was launched at a recent Head Office meeting.

Encouraged by the success of campaigns aimed mainly at the domestic customer (house re-wiring, showers, and intruder alarms), our commercial colleagues led by Installation and Service Manager Don Higgs are raising their sights. Target for the coming year is more than £6 million worth of contracting business, concentrating particularly on the industrial and commercial markets.

The re-wiring, showers, and intruder alarm themes, together with 'Manwebcare', will continue to be the subject of vigorous promotion during the coming year, along with other possible ideas at present in the

pipeline. These specialised campaigns have brought in more than £2 million worth of business between them, but advantage will be taken of the encouraging signs of expanding opportunities in the industrial and commercial fields.

At the Head Office meeting, attended by senior District and Head Office staff, Chief Commercial Officer Matt Cowan set the scene.

"As far as contracting work is concerned we are going forward again," he declared. Pointing out that most of our recent contracting campaigns had been aimed at the domestic sector, he said that in future additional effort would be concentrated on the 'big value' industrial part of the market.

The nuts and bolts of the new campaign were outlined by John Cheers and Dave Bennion. There would be an increase in the amount of money spent on installation and service publicity, the successful campaigns of the recent past would be continued and intensified, and there would also be a full-colour

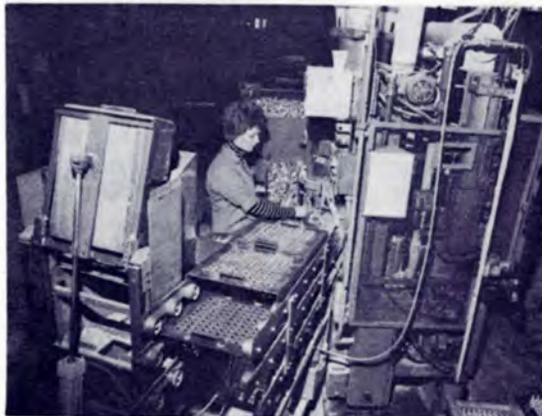
The entrance to the Manchester Ship Canal at Eastham where the electric pumps (opposite) are situated.





△ Lighting and power in the engineering works of Francis Industries at Wrexham

▽ On the production line at Champion Spark Plug Co., at Moreton In the Wirral



The electric pumps used to transfer water from the River Mersey to the Manchester Ship Canal to compensate for the water taken out of the Canal by Ince Power Station



MANWEB electricians wiring a control panel at Five Fords sewage works at Marchwiell near Wrexham, part of a handy installation contract worth £30,000. We also have a maintenance contract from the Welsh National Water Development Authority bringing in £11,500 a year.

12-page brochure presenting the Board's installation and service capabilities to industry, commerce, and local authorities. It was estimated that 80 to 90 additional contracting electricians would be taken on during the coming year to cope with new business.

District Commercial Engineers Glyn Norbury (Mid-Mersey), and Lyn Price (Oswestry/Aberystwyth), added their contributions on the theme "*It Can Be Done*", drawing on examples of successful contracting work carried out in the Districts.

The Head Office launch of the new drive will be followed by similar meetings in each District, for the benefit of NJB and Senior NJIC staff.

OUR COVER PICTURE shows a man from MANWEB working from a tower wagon carrying out routine lighting maintenance at the Fibreglass Factory on the Wrexham Industrial Estate.



Talking Notes

STORMTROOPERS AT MANWEB!

STAFF and customers at our Chester shop were surprised recently when the doors opened to admit two most unusual visitors, Darth Vader and his Stormtrooper companion

They had arrived to see for themselves the amazing Toshiba microwave oven . . . the exciting new concept in electric cooking. They examined the cooker of the future here on earth today!

Darth soon discovered that the microwave oven defrosts

stood by his visitors from space, took the opportunity to explain that microwaves were really very high frequency radio waves which penetrated everything except metal. "The microwaves agitate the molecules in the food," he said, sensing the technical interest of his poten-



'Queer' customers invading our shop at Chester. Darth Vader and his 'Star Wars' companion do not upset the cool calm of supervisor Norman Large, left, or Regional Sales Controller, Bill Wakelin seen in the background.

in minutes, re-heats in seconds and does prime cooking in about a fifth of the time taken by conventional cooking equipment.

Mr. Norman Large, the shop supervisor, having recovered from his initial shock and found that he could be under-

tial customers, "and therefore create heat by friction." He told them that the food cooks throughout its whole mass at once—not from outside in or vice versa.

Darth and his companion were amazed to find that there was no direct heat in the oven

so that the edges of the dishes and the handles of pans etc, remained cool. In fact, the food could be cooked in the dishes to be served at the table.

However, the feature which pleased the visitors most of all was that the Toshiba microwave oven was ideal for convenience foods as these could be defrosted and ready for the table in minutes.

Having been brought up-to-date with our progress on the planet earth, the two visitors left . . . no, not by flying saucer but by car. They didn't go far—just a little distance up Northgate St., where they were appearing in the much acclaimed film "Star Wars", at the Odeon Film Centre.

Open Trout Championships

The British Open Trout Championships, organised by the CEGB's North Western Region, will be held on Dinas reservoir near Aberystwyth on Sunday, June 11th. Entry forms can be obtained direct from Mr. E. Fletcher, Secretary's Dept., CEGB, Europa House, Bird Hall Lane, Stockport SK3 OXA. Disabled anglers can now compete with other entrants, thanks to an improved access road and a newly completed fishing station.

There are over £200 in prizes to be won at Dinas, one of the top six trout lakes in England and Wales.

Prizes for the event are: For the heaviest aggregate: The

Perpetual Challenge Trophy and replica plus a choice of angling goods to the value of £100.

For the largest number of fish caught: a choice of angling goods to the value of £60.

For the heaviest single fish of the competition: a choice of angling goods to the value of £20.

For the heaviest aggregate caught by a junior: a choice of angling goods to the value of £20.

A trophy will be awarded to the most successful disabled angler.

Anglers will have the option of contributing 50p to a pool—which could be as high as £125—to be paid out to the holder of the heaviest aggregate caught by a contributor.

Fishing is from 10am—5pm so competitors get a full day's sport and with no "bag limit".

Wedding

Congratulations and best wishes for the future to **Miss Jill Sudworth**, a clerk in the general services section at Mid-Mersey District office, Warrington, who was married recently to **Mr. Geoffrey Allcock**.

Jill is the fourth generation of Sudworths to be employed

in the electricity supply industry.

Staff Discounts

Improved staff discounts in respect of appliance sales from Board shops have been effective from April 1st. Stock and reconditioned appliances and counter sundries are now available to staff at 15% off the MANWEB price (compared with 10%), while items up to £10 are now exempt from staff purchase note requirements.

LAC Support

Liverpools District's Local Advisory Committee recently had a visitor in the person of **Mr. Fred Freeman**, Chairman of the United Way of Merseyside, an 'umbrella' fund-raising organisation working on behalf of a large number of deserving local good causes.

One of the organisation's main aims is to encourage 'payroll giving'—a system where employees of local firms can agree to small regular deductions being made from their pay-packets. Mr. Freeman expressed appreciation of the support given in the past by MANWEB people in Liverpool, and urged others to join them.

During the past 20 years the income raised has risen from just over £3,000 to more than £41,000 and support has been given to a wide range of worthy causes, including those concerned with the welfare of the aged, the handicapped children and young people.

The LAC agreed to encourage support from District staff.

Eventful Future

After 12 years service with the Board **Mrs. Susan Sian Williams**, a typist at Dee Valley District, said farewell to her colleagues recently on leaving to start a family. Prior to re-organisation Susan was an audio typist with our former Area 4.

On behalf of her many friends she was presented with a rose bowl and electric hair rollers by **Mr. Arthur Ellinson** (District Administrative Officer).

FOR SALE

TR7 'S' Registration 1977 5-speed gearbox, sunroof, 6,000 miles, Goodyear rally tyres, 15 months Supercover remaining. Excellent condition. Under-sealed. £2,900. 'Phone: Mickle Trafford 300 867.

SUCCESSFUL FIRST-AIDERS AT GWYNEDD

This happy group of staff from our Gwynedd District were all successful in their first-aid examination held a short time ago. They are, from left to right, front row: Cathie A. Jones, Leslie Bollington, Bernie Rycroft, Sister Dorothy Davis (instructor), Margaret James-Bevan, Eirlys Hughes and Pauline E. Jones. Back row: John Howard Hughes, John Lloyd Williams, Colin Blundell, O. Hefin Thomas, Charles (no dummy this one!) and Dewi C. Jones. We offer our congratulations to one and all.



**No. 5 LOCAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Annual Meeting at Moreton



Men from MANWEB with the guest speaker, from left to right: Mr. Sid Fairclough, Mr. Fred Slee and Miss Mabel Mackenzie.

FOR the second year in succession, members of our staff in the North Wirral District gathered at the Coach and Horses Hotel in Moreton for their annual meeting, organised by the Local Advisory Committee.

Of the 120 people attending, it was immediately noticeable that there was an unusually large proportion of ladies present. This prompted us to wonder if North Wirral was blessed with a higher percentage of females on its staff than our other Districts or, if the ladies of North Wirral were more interested, concerned and active in staff meetings than their counterparts elsewhere.

Guests welcomed by LAC Chairman Mr Sid Fairclough (*Group Manager*), included a number of chief officers from Head Office, Mr. Norman Barr (*Trade Union Officer EETPU*) and Mr. Don Gee (*Assistant Secretary to the Electricity Consultative Council*). A special welcome was also extended to senior staff from our Liverpool and North Mersey District and to former North Wirral District employees who had returned to renew old friendships.

Apologies were received from Mr. Richard Gales (*Deputy Chairman*), regarding his unavoidable absence, and from Mr. Ron Morley (*District Engineer*), who was, we were informed, making good progress following a heart attack.

LAC Secretary, Mr. Jack Bradley (*P.A., Adminis-*

tration) then addressed the assembly, He said that this would probably be the last time that No. 5 Local Advisory Committee would, in its present formation, have such an annual meeting.

He briefly explained that a new body, having a different constitution and called the Local Joint Council of the Local Co-ordinating Committee, would take the place of, and extend the role of, the present Local Advisory Committee. In planning for this change for future joint consultation and advisory machinery at local level, he said that a number of important observations and comments regarding the new set-up had come from their own local committee.

Jack then reviewed the work carried out by members of the No. 5 Committee during the past year in dealing with health and safety matters, welfare and sick visiting, long service awards, superannuation, first-aid, Spring and Summer Schools, suggestion schemes, canteen facilities and many other matters.

He took the opportunity, once again, to advise all members of the staff to keep up with what was happening in their District by looking on the notice boards where, among other things, copies of the minutes of LAC meetings were always posted.

Mr. Fairclough thanked Jack for his summary then went on to introduce the guest speaker for the evening, Miss Mabel Mackenzie, a senior official



At the meeting . . . from left to right: Doreen Salter (*Consumer Accounts*), Eric Roberts (*retired installation inspector*), Betty Haslett (*Personnel*), Jack Bradley (*Administration*) and Lil Martland (*Personnel*)

of ACAS—the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

In a very informative talk, Miss Mackenzie gave her audience an insight into her important and exacting work with ACAS, an organisation set up in 1975 consisting of three members from the CBI, three from the TUC and three academics. "We are paid by the Government, but we are not accountable to them," she commented. "Our objective duty, in essence, is to promote good industrial relations in industry."

She said that the Service was available for advice for employers on the evils of bad trade unions and 'Reds under the beds', and for Trade Unions on how to deal with Dickensian employers.

Miss Mackenzie gave brief details of some of the cases in which she had called to help. These examples went a long way to show exactly what her work entailed as a member of ACAS.

She explained that her position was always difficult as, acting in an advisory capacity, she rarely saw both sides—employer and trade union—together. "I have to play devil's advocate," she went on, "with neither side liking me."

"To have discipline in industry," she continued, "rules and procedures must be seen to be fair before they can be operated."

Although requests for ACAS intervention came mainly from employers, Miss Mackenzie told her listeners that she strongly suspected that quite a number were at the instigation of the trade unions.

In bringing her remarks to a close, she emphasised the independence of ACAS and of the tribunals. She said that the big problem she always met was lack of consultation and lack of communication from both sides of industry.

Mr. Fred Slee, the former Vice-Chairman of No. 5 Local Advisory Committee, then rose to express sincere thanks to Miss Mackenzie on behalf of everyone at the meeting.

An 'Open Forum' session brought in various questions from the staff which were ably answered by the respective senior officers. One question



Brenda Frost
(cleaner,
Birkenhead
shop)



Rita Aird
(typist) chats
with **George**
Bowers
(D.C.E.).



A couple of our
cleaning staff,
Eileen Rooney,
left, (Birkenhead
shop) and
Margaret
Coughlin
(District
Office).



From
Wallasey shop,
Bob
Buckingham
(supervisor)
with **Helen**
Kennedy and
Jackie Semple
(sales).

regarding jackets for shop staff somehow came out as jackets for female staff and frocks for male staff—which no doubt would lift shop sales curves right off the graph!

Guests

. and former employees





Oswestry District Safe Drivers



At the ceremony held for Newtown and Welshpool staff, Chief Inspector Thorogood of the Newtown Division of the Dyfed-Powys Constabulary, *right*, presents the third bar to a twenty-year brooch to Mr. Cecil Lewis, as other award recipients look on.





Some of the safe drivers based at Oswestry District Office who received their awards from Chief Inspector Daniel Nash of the West Mercia Constabulary. Top driver, Mr. Cyril Wilkinson is third from the right on the front row.

AT THREE separate ceremonies held at various venues in our Oswestry District, awards were presented to members of the staff who had qualified as safe drivers. Top award went to Mr. Cyril Wilkinson (*Engineering*) who had completed 27 years of accident-free driving.

We are indebted to the senior police officers who took time to come along and present the awards and pass on a few words of advice to the drivers. They commended all who had qualified for the awards which were as follows:

Oswestry District Office

Silver Bar to 25-Year Silver Cross: Mr. C. H. O. Wilkinson.

Star Bar to 20-Year Brooch: Mr. D. M. Neaves.

Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. E. J. Brierley, I. Jones L. S. Lovell and N. S. M. Mason.

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Messrs. E. Barrow, A. E. Chandler, T. H. Ellis, W. Ellis, J. M. Jones and J. R. F. T. Owen.

Diploma: Messrs. D. Ashton, J. Austin, W. T. Astley, H. M. Cartwright, R. A. Conde, R. Entwistle, W. V. Evans, W. E. George, H. Higgins, D. B. Hopkins, G. Jones, I. G. L. Jones, T. H. Jones, B. E. Morris, J. J. Pritchard, R. T. S. Pugh,

G. E. Roberts, G. Roberts, H. Rogerson, J. B. Smith, R. G. Thomas, K. Tomlinson, G. V. Wilkinson, H. J. Williams and J. R. Williams.

Newtown and Welshpool Depots

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

15-Year Brooch: Mr. E. O. Woosnam.

Oak Leaf Bar to Ten-Year Medal: Mr. J. R. K. Morris.

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Mr. G. M. Joseph.

Five-Year Medal: Mr. W. R. Evans.

Diploma: Messrs. J. E. Evans, D. E. Gittins, W. S. Holloway, R. G. Jehu, D. L. Jones, J. E. Joseph and H. E. Morris.

Whitchurch Depot

Star Bar to 20-Year Brooch: Messrs. R. A. Boyling and H. J. Huxley.

Oak Leaf Bar to Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. H. E. Large, J. H. Leach and L. Purcell.

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Messrs. E. Field, F. D. Jones and C. H. Taylor.

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



At our Whitchurch depot, Inspector Martin of the West Mercia Constabulary Traffic Department, is seen here congratulating Mr. Arthur Boyling on gaining his first bar to the twenty-year brooch.

ELECTRICS ARE INEVITABLE

Energy for Transport

The electric vehicle economy is inevitable, but it cannot happen overnight. Government must come to grips with the issues that have special impact on our future.

This is the conclusion of the latest report of the Advisory Council on Energy Conservation, "*Energy for Transport: Long Term Possibilities*".

The report recommends that serious study be given to the transition to electric vehicle use. This view has always been expressed by the Electric Vehicle Association of Great Britain Ltd. The British Electric Vehicle Industry has demonstrated its ability to meet our needs in recent years by manufacturing 25,000 licensed road vehicles and others including industrial trucks. But as fossil fuel sources run down, there will be critical issues in the transport field and we must be ready for them.

The paper highlights the overall gains from the efficient use of primary energy by using electricity to power vehicles instead of syncrude derivatives, which are themselves power-consuming to produce.

"DRIVE ELECTRIC 80"

The Electric Vehicle Association, in conjunction with The Electricity Council, announces a major international conference and exhibition to be held at London's Wembley Conference Centre from 14th—17th October 1980. This major conference—DRIVE ELECTRIC 80 will follow the pattern of previous international events in Europe and North America.

By 1980 developments in Britain and the well-funded electric vehicle development programmes of Japan, USA and the European Economic Community countries will have made significant progress towards volume production. The new European Electric Road Vehicle Association will be alerting public opinion and the Community governments to industrial needs. As a feature of Drive Electric 80 the organizers will invite manufacturers and their key users to appraise the commercial progress they have made and to discuss and debate their future developments and plans.

The Electric Vehicle Association pin-points those items which are essential to the technological advance of the industry to meet the demands of the home market without recourse to imports, particularly from Japan and the United States. The export potential to other countries is vital to the well being of the Industry.

Energy Storage

The major contribution to greater electric vehicle mobility is the development of improved types of battery with emphasis on the sodium-sulphur configurations. British development programmes must be supported in earnest and government support must be encouraged.

Primary Energy Supply

The maximum use of electric transport will avoid the widespread use of syncrude for transport. This is important in considering the availability of fuel supplies for nuclear power stations in the future.

Vehicle Evaluation

It is important to initiate further schemes similar to the GLC experiment, to evaluate different types of electric vehicles in urban areas and to identify the servicing and operational needs. Above all this will encourage potential users to switch to electric propulsion.

Licensing and Traffic Management

It will be very important to maintain differential vehicle licensing well into the future to cover the transaction stage and beyond, to reflect the longer life of electric vehicles and the expected energy thrift. This will encourage further use.

The development of construction regulations and traffic management techniques, which do not penalise, but positively assist the design and use of electric vehicles is an obvious necessity. The government must be not deterred from bringing the benefits to the nation.

National Programmes and Technological Awareness

A critical study of the electric vehicle programmes in USA, Japan, Australia and in the European Community must pose the question of whether there should be a formalised one in the UK. Such a programme would concentrate the efforts of a wide range of organisations across the country and accelerate development. Other forms of electric vehicles could be examined including hybrid types. The EVA favours this formal approach by government.

The Electric Vehicle Association welcomes the working paper of the Advisory Council for Energy Conservation and sincerely hopes that the government initiates action on the recommendations made.

A special 'Club Night' held at the Wilderspool Leisure Centre in our Mid-Mersey District, featured electric catering equipment. Early customers were Mr. and Mrs. Neville Flavell, of the Union Vaults, Runcorn, seen left, with Geraldine Leake (Our 'Girl from MANWEB') and Jane Fairclough, the District demonstrator.



'Contact' Camera at our Commercial Catering Exhibitions

At the neat and well staged one-day show held at the Tower Hotel in Pwllheli, our staff were kept very busy with a steady flow of sales and enquiries. Our picture shows two very important customers, Mr. and Mrs. Beer of the Tyddyn Llwyn Hotel, Porthmadog, seeing the magic of microwave cooking demonstrated by Eirlys Hughes, our District demonstrator.



SUCCESSFUL SEASON FOR MANWEB FOOTBALLERS

Promotion to the Premier Division of the Chester and District League has crowned the achievements of a highly successful season for our MANWEB (Chester) football team.

They have proved their eligibility where it counts—on the football pitch—by winning the first division title for the second year running, and beating teams from higher divisions to reach three Cup Finals, winning one and losing two.

Over the past couple of years, lack of facilities—pitch, changing rooms and showers—denied the team's promotion into the Premier Division. However, this year, at the League Meeting held on 17th May, we came out on top of the voting list for entry into the Premier Division. With this encouragement, every member of the team is looking forward to further successes in the 'Big League.'

Probably the most memorable match in which they played was the final of the Chester F.A. Senior Cup. The game took place on the Chester A.F.C. Ground at Sealand Road. The MANWEB giant-killers were attempting to beat Cheshire County Officers, a team from two divisions higher than themselves.

The final was described by football correspondents

of the three local newspapers as the finest game for many years. It was a fast and furious match, with end-to-end play and plenty of incident.

The replay was on a wet and miserable night when the County Officers won the cup by the only goal of the game. MANWEB goalkeeper Steve Addison was injured in the first half and suffered two broken ribs. Fortunately he is on the mend.

Partial revenge came for the MANWEB team when they beat the County Officers' second team to win the Chester F.A. Challenge Cup, by two goals to nil.

In the third final for the Chester and District League Cup, the trophy was lost with the last kick of the match.

The achievements of the team are a credit not only to the skill, enthusiasm, and fitness of the players, but to a large extent to the team manager, Peter Jones, whose wife Ann is a clerk at Head Office.

He took over managing and coaching the MANWEB footballing squad two and a half years ago. A punishing training routine for the 41-man squad has ensured their fitness, and his coaching methods have improved their understanding and reading of the game.

Our top team. From left to right: standing, Barry Hart-Davies, Dave Ashford, Dave Spencer, Brian Sheppard, Steve Addison, Emyr Jones, Phil Roberts (captain), Rob Jones and Vin Dean. Kneeling: Peter Jones (manager), Paul Reynolds, Keith Dyer, Eddie Phillips, Jerry Banks, Nigel Crossley and Ian 'Billy' Jones.



Chester Club beat County Officers in Five-Sport Match



Our pictures on this page show staff from MANWEB and Cheshire County Council engaged in competition in the various sports

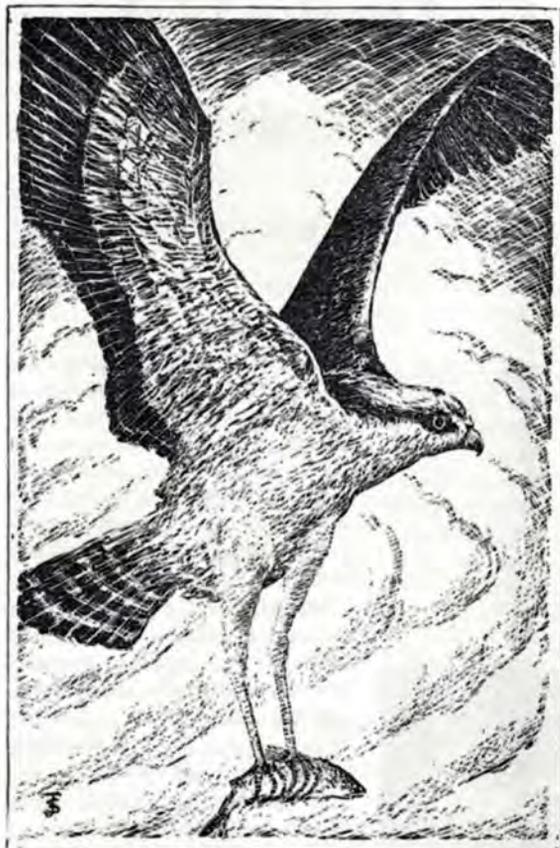
A multi-sports evening was held recently at Head Office, in which nearly 100 contestants competed in five different sports. When all the points were totted up the MANWEB (Chester) Club won the match against their guests from Cheshire County Officers' Club.

The MANWEB girls won both the netball games, while mixed teams won the darts and snooker. The County Officers won at pool and table tennis.

The evening, organised by Nigel Crossley on the eve of a cup final between the football teams of the two clubs, was such a success that a return fixture is planned for June 8th at the County Officers Club.

Three more sports have been added to the original five—badminton, tug-of-war and five-a-side football. In addition there will be a Disco and late bar.





▲ Chimpanzee

◀ Osprey

Scraperboards



◀ Badgers

by

Mr Stan Jones
*(retired storekeeper,
Legacy Depot)*

RETIREMENTS

Mr. J. FAIRCLOUGH

After 32 years service to the industry Mr. Jack Fairclough, chargehand storekeeper at St. Helens depot, retired recently.

Jack saw service during the last war with the Royal Artillery in Britain and on the Continent. He does a lot of voluntary church work, and is Cross Bearer at St. Thomas' Church, St. Helens. He is also an enthusiastic supporter of the "Saints" Rugby League club.

On behalf of his friends and colleagues he was presented with a camera.

Mr. E. JACKSON

After 19 years service, Mr. Eric Jackson a chargehand labourer at the Southport depot of North Mersey District retired. He joined MANWEB from the Water Board.

In his earlier days he was a very proficient footballer, playing for several Southport teams. Now his pastime is that of a pigeon fancier. His birds have won him a number of prizes and medals.

To mark his retirement his colleagues subscribed to present him with a transistor radio.

Mr. F. MEALING

One of the industry's real 'long-servers' in the person of Mr. Frank Mealing, foreman in charge of all the work carried out in the rural part of the

Chester section of Dee Valley District, retired recently. With 50 years and 10 months' service behind him, Frank must be one of the dwindling band of men who reach the magic "50-year" milestone in their working lives.

Working out of Crane Street depot since he was a boy of 15, he turned his hand to almost every aspect of work in the engineering department, including cable-laying, jointing, and overhead line work. He was noted for his ability to lead and handle men.

His very first job was as a 'lamp-lad' for Chester Corporation, and it has even been suggested that among his many talents was a flair for 'scrumping' apples (with the aid of a lamp-lighting stick, in early hours of the morning) from gardens of one of the city's more elegant residential districts.

In the words of a close friend "his colleagues and his consumers will miss Frank, but no man has more earned a long and happy retirement"—sentiments endorsed by his many friends, who subscribed to a parting gift of a watch presented by District Engineer Stan Roberts.

Mr. J. R. GREEN

The Chairman's chauffeur, Mr. John Green, retired from the Board after thirty years service. With three years to go before normal retirement, he took advantage of the early retirement scheme.

(Continued opposite)

Stan Roberts, left, presents a farewell gift from colleagues to Frank Mealing at his retirement party.



Criticism for Parliament

PARLIAMENT'S failure to legislate for the re-organisation of the electricity supply industry during the current Parliamentary session came in for criticism from Sir Francis Tombs, Chairman of the Electricity Council, in a recent statement to the Select Committee on Nationalised Industries.

Sir Francis told the Committee that the defects of the 1957 Act were recognised explicitly by the report of the Plowden Committee in 1976, and the re-organisation which was outlined by the Secretary of State for Energy in July last year had received a general welcome in the industry.

Hopes were raised that Parliament was about to rectify some of the major constraints imposed by

earlier legislation, but "alas, Parliament proved unequal to the task" he said.

The proposed Bill was now published as a White Paper, and the Electricity Council had agreed to give the White Paper general support (subject to specific reservations), reaffirmed the need for legislation to remove barriers to a co-ordinated industry, and resolved in the interim to seek to develop methods of working to enable the industry to operate on a co-ordinated basis, while safeguarding against excessive centralisation.

Sir Francis concluded:

"The Electricity Council is united in recognising the need for changes in the structure imposed by the 1957 Act . . . the electricity supply industry makes a major and essential contribution to the national economy and well-being. It deserves better of Parliament than to be shackled by a rigid structure and subjected to constant organisational uncertainty."

Retirements—continued

John had driven for the former Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds, from the mid-sixties until his retirement in December last, and has continued with the present chairman Mr. Ben Hastings.

Away from the wheel of the car he was extremely proficient with the billiard cue, being Head Office champion snooker player on more than one occasion. He also enjoys camping and is a frequent visitor to the Lake District.

A widower, John has two children, John junior who is still at school, and a daughter, Andrea, who is a registry clerk at Head Office.



John Green

Satisfied Customers in Clwyd District . .

From a Rhyl gent . . .

May I express my thanks to two of your men who re-wired my house—Mr. Arthur Salisbury and Mr. Steve Gierke . . . they worked very hard and kept the mess down to a very small amount, and they had a lot more to do with this being a corner house".

. . . and from a Prestatyn couple

"It was late on Saturday afternoon that a fault occurred and we phoned MANWEB for emergency repairs. . . we were due to attend a theatre that evening. The engineer arrived within 90 minutes and what a pleasant person he was. He managed to locate the fault and repair it with natural ability, but his manner was quite exceptional. We would like to inform you of our gratitude for such efficient and cheery service.

The 'pleasant person' in this case was Mr. Ray Ball, electrician.

. . and Gwynedd District

"Thank you for the quick and efficient service I had from your people last night in restoring the

supply to my cottage. It is only a small branch line supplying our cottage and two farms, and when I rang Bangor I had every courtesy and co-operation . . . the fault was attended to in atrocious weather."

The bouquets go to engineer Aneurin Ellis, linesman Bryn Williams, and his mate Ben Jones.

Obituary

We deeply regret to report the following deaths:

Miss Julie Tattum, aged 19, a clerk in the Revenue section at Head Office. Julie, who had only been with us since February, tragically lost her life in a traffic accident on Aston Hill, Queensferry, when crossing the road after getting off the bus on her way home from work.

Mr. Joseph Arthur Smith, retired labourer from our Runcorn depot. He was 77.

Mr. Percy White, aged 76, of Brian Avenue, Stockton Heath, Warrington, who retired in 1966 after 34 years with the industry, including 25 years in the meter test department.

News from our Retired Employees' Associations



Extending hands of friendship and welcome to all MANWEB retired staff, are the secretaries of the various associations, from left to right: Messrs. G. E. Wheeler (*Mid-Mersey*), F. L. Evans (*Clwyd*), H. Robertson (*Liverpool*), A. T. K. Knott (*Mid-Cheshire*), F. Jeffries (*North Wirral*) and H. Abel (*Dee Valley*).

Clwyd A.G.M.

Widespread interest in forthcoming events and outings to be organised by the *Clwyd District Retired Employees' Association* was reported by treasurer Mr. E. J. Grosse at the Association's recent Annual General Meeting held at District office.

The officers (Messrs. A. Garman—*Chairman*, E. E. James—*Vice-Chairman*, E. J. Grosse—*Treasurer* and F. Ll. Evans—*Secretary*) were re-elected, together with existing Committee members A. R. Train, E. Walley, B. G. Baxter and T. Williams.

The Committee agreed that the Derbyshire Miners' holiday centre at Rhyl would again be the venue for the annual dinner, and

it was emphasised that former electricity industry employees from any part of the country who might have retired to the Clwyd area would be very welcome as Association members.

Highland Weekend

The adventurous *Mid-Mersey Pensioners Association* began their new season's activities with a flourish when a coachload from Warrington, Frodsham, Run-corn and St. Helens visited Callander in the Scottish highland for a mini-holiday.

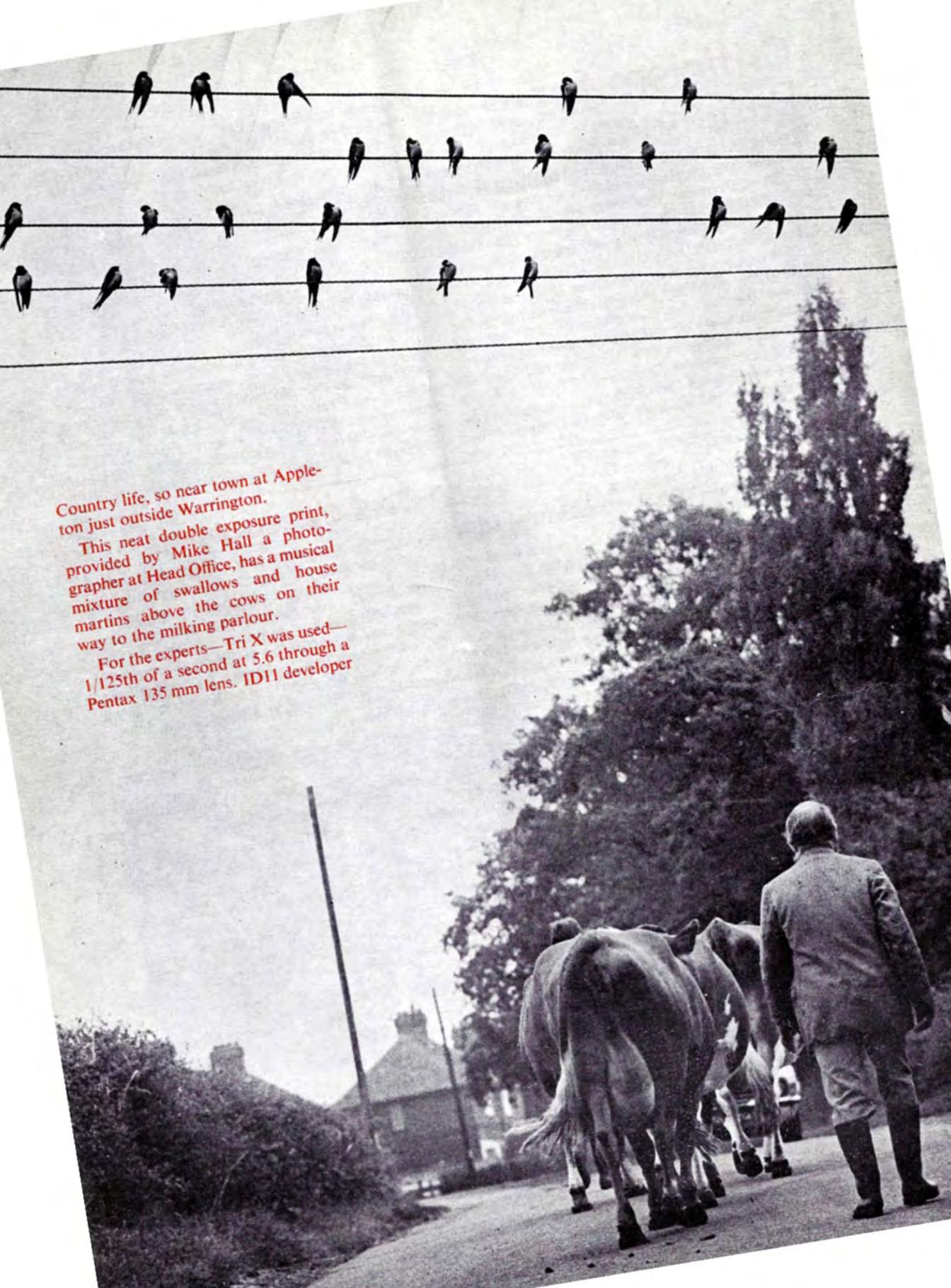
Trips from their holiday centre

included a visit to a distillery (with samples!), a run into Edinburgh, and a half-day tour of the Trossachs.

Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely, and no doubt the Association's programme of coming events will receive the usual enthusiastic support.



The large and happy group of retired members of our *Mid-Mersey District* staff who enjoyed—among other things—a visit to a distillery on their mini-holiday in the Scottish highlands.



Country life, so near town at Appleton just outside Warrington.

This neat double exposure print, provided by Mike Hall a photographer at Head Office, has a musical mixture of swallows and house martins above the cows on their way to the milking parlour.

For the experts—Tri X was used— $1/125$ th of a second at 5.6 through a Pentax 135 mm lens. ID11 developer