

POWER
CABLES
ACROSS
THE
RIVER
DEE

Contact

MAY 1981

Helping Hands See Page 85



POWER CABLES ACROSS THE RIVER DEE

— *Interesting Engineering Contract*

A CALL by the North West Water Authority for an increase in their electricity supply at Heronbridge Pumping Station, on the River Dee about three miles up-river from Chester, produced an interesting piece of work for our engineers.

A total of 1,500 metres of 11,000-volt cable will be

Checking the operation plans, we see Messrs. Geoff Price (Senior Engineer), left, and Mr. Alex Taylor (McAlpine Services and Pipelines Ltd.).



The PVC pipes, positioned across the water in readiness for sinking into the prepared trench in the river bed.

installed to meet the demand, including a crossing of the river itself. The river crossing has been achieved by installing three 200-mm pipes and two 150-mm pipes a metre below the river bed—conditions laid down by the Water Authority.

The contract was placed with McAlpine Services Pipelines Ltd., of Hooton, who used crane-operated draglines to dig out the trench in which the pipes are laid. The silt and clay which resulted was used to repair nearby river banks which had become eroded over the years. To make sure that the trench was deep enough, divers carried out an inspection, and an echo-sounder, located on a barge, was also used.

The PVC pipes—fitted with draw-ropes to enable the cables to be pulled through—were assembled on the bank, floated into position, and then sunk into the trench by filling them with water. They were then covered with a protective layer of concrete-filled bags, and the banks were reinstated, strengthened with large wire baskets filled with stones and covered with layers of clay.

Some interesting relics of years gone by made their appearance during the trench-digging operations. This section of the river, between Chester and Eccleston Ferry, has long been used for pleasure-boat trips, and among the jetsam brought to light were quite a few old beer bottles—presumably thrown overboard after thirsts had been slaked!

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PRIDE AND RESPONSIBILITY

"THE restoration of supplies to so many people in so short a time is proof of the tremendous pride and public responsibility shown by electricity supply industry staff."

With these words, Mr. Austin Bunch, Chairman of the Electricity Council, paid tribute to the Herculean efforts of colleagues all over the country, in face of the widespread damage and supply interruptions caused by the freak blizzard which swept Britain at the end of April.

Describing the prevailing weather conditions as "the worst we have faced for many a long day", Mr. Bunch said that many of the men involved were lucky to get 12 hours' sleep in 72.

Energy Secretary David Howell added his appreciation in a letter to Mr. Bunch, saying that he was "encouraged to hear of the way in which Boards were able to help one another".

Although we had our own share of problems, MANWEB customers got away fairly lightly in comparison with other parts of Britain. This enabled us to send willing volunteers to help at some of the worst trouble spots (as reported elsewhere in this number of 'Contact'). The Chairman and the Chief Engineer have both received appreciative letters of thanks from Norweb and the East Midlands Board, asking that their thanks be passed on to those involved.

Nobody likes the size of bills they receive these days—but people in cold dark homes are always more than happy to see the line gangs and their Land Rovers coming up the road. At such times, the real value of electricity is better appreciated!

Editorial

Information Office, 5S1,
Head Office,
Sealand Road,
Chester CH1 4LR

Internal
telephone numbers
2106, 2107, 2108

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.



An Oswestry District team in snowy Derbyshire—left to right—Geoff Evans, Terry Edge, Bill Davies and Bill Walker.

MANWEB TO THE RESCUE !

The bright sunny weather which led up to Easter and prevailed for most of the Bank Holiday weekend might well have made most of us think that winter was a memory for another year.

But the fickle British climate had shocks in store, and the very next weekend brought biting gales from the north-east, backed by savage blizzards which swept over much of Britain. Farmers struggled to save their spring lambs, rescue parties searched for lost boys on Dartmoor—and Electricity Board linesmen and engin-

ers in many areas fought to restore disrupted supplies to around two million customers country-wide.

The worst-hit MANWEB Districts were Clwyd, Gwynedd, Dee Valley, Oswestry and Mid-Cheshire, with a total of more than 20,000 customers off supply for varying periods. Problems included poles and conductors broken by heavy icing, wind damage and damage caused by falling trees and breaking branches.

But the MANWEB area got away with things relatively lightly and, after a heavy weekend, supplies

Leaving Dee Valley for the East Midlands. Left to right: Martin Pierce, Alan Hughes, Luciano Marchesi, Phil Jones, Gerry Valentine, David Highes, Alan Crump, Chris Smith and chargehand linesman Garfield Johnson.





Ready to roll—a Dee Valley team leave Legacy depot.

were quickly restored. Other parts of the country were harder hit, and our colleagues in the North-Eastern, Midlands, East Midlands, South Wales and South Western Boards faced much longer struggles to restore things to normal.

So it was that no sooner had our own linesmen finished repairing our own damage than calls for help began to flow in from other Boards. And the response was magnificent!

With senior operations engineer Colin Ridley acting as co-ordinator at Head Office, repair teams drawn from our Mid-Mersey, Mid-Cheshire, Dee Valley and Oswestry Districts were soon on their way to points as scattered as Rochdale, the Peak District, Warwick and Grantham. One group from our Chester depot set off at 6.30 a.m. on the Sunday morning!

Some of the groups were away for several days, returning with the thanks of grateful colleagues in

other Boards—and of their even more grateful customers!

Commented Chief Engineer Jim Fisher: "I have received messages of thanks from many quarters for the magnificent way in which our men carried out their tasks. Their efforts were obviously much appreciated. I would like to add my own personal thanks to everyone who was involved. It is gratifying to know that when help is needed it is always forthcoming!"

OUR COVER PICTURE shows linesmen Terry Edge (Whitchurch) and Geoff Evans (Welshpool) working on the blizzard-swept hill above Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire.

BOARD THANKS.—At their May meeting, the MANWEB Board members expressed their warm appreciation of the splendid work of our staff, both "at home" and "abroad".

A Mid-Cheshire gang, in East Midlands Board territory. Left to right: Gillie Powell, Ray England, Peter Cooke, Dave Threadgold, Arthur Bell, Bob Love, Ian Taylor, Ted Dutton and Bob Waddilove.





SELLING ENERGY

Catering Exhibition in North Wales

Pictured left is Gwynedd District energy sales demonstrator Liz Hughes showing visitors some of the range of commercial catering equipment on display at a recent catering exhibition. The show was staged in co-operation with Anglesey Frozen Foods Ltd., in the Beach Hotel, Trearddur Bay, Anglesey.



Energy Sales Representatives who attended an energy sales refresher course at Chester. The course also aimed to stimulate the development of ideas for new markets. Course instructor Eric Richardson is in the left, and then there are: E.S. Reps Arthur Thompson (Clwyd), Barry Griffiths (Dee Valley), Arthur Jones (Gwynedd), Phil Youel (Mid-Cheshire), Tom Burt (North Mersey), Clive Garner (North Wirral), Steve Pryce (Liverpool), Alan Horrocks (Mid-Mersey) and course instructor Malcolm Cooper (Mid-Cheshire Energy Sales Engineer).

Energy Sales Representative and Design Engineers at Chester Meetings

Under the chairmanship of Head Office Heating Specialist Keith Hibbert, pictured extreme right, the energy sales design engineers held a "workshop" meeting at Chester to discuss new developments in heating, lighting and ventilation. Our picture shows Dee Valley 2nd engineer Reg Buckley presenting a paper to design engineers, left to right, Alan Dickinson (Aberystwyth), Robin Sharvin (Mid-Cheshire), Don Critchley and Alan Fox (Mid-Mersey), John Appleton (North Wirral), Arwel Humphries (student) and Barry Painter (Gwynedd), Roy Roughley (North Mersey), Jim Liggett and John Mayes (Liverpool) and Tony Patrick (Dee Valley).





The inviting frontage to our new supershop in Queen Street, Wrexham.

Board opens new Supershop at Wrexham

*Staff and customers
well pleased*

ANOTHER opening, another shop—this time at Wrexham. A busy first day at our new supershop in Queen Street last month heralded a couple of weeks' business which was 100 per cent up on the same two weeks last year at our former shop just across the road.

This was immediate justification of the Board's faith in the commercial future of Wrexham.

The new supershop is five times bigger than our former premises. Customers welcome the convenience of a wide range of electrical appliances being displayed on one floor. A much enlarged area for 'Customer Care' includes an advice centre, and easily-accessible accounts counters should—thankfully—see an end to the long queues which regularly trailed through the old shop, often spilling out into the street.

There is a special "self-selection" display corner where small items such as fuses, plug tops and a variety of spare parts can be purchased.

In the design of the building, started before the current nationwide campaign for support of the disabled, there is a built-in ramp leading to easy-opening doors to help our handicapped customers.

Shop supervisor Mr. Tom Evans commented: "People in Wrexham are very discerning buyers, so, to get their business, we have to give value for money. After some of the traumas experienced in our old shop, my staff and I are highly delighted with this new supershop. We have room to move, it is bright, spacious and airy. Most of our customers find it a pleasure to come in—even if it is only to pay their electricity bill! I really do believe that our new shop will be another Wrexham success story."

'Contact's' cover picture last month showed our 'Girl from MANWEB', Miss Rosemary Tomlinson, being welcomed at the new supershop by supervisor Mr. Tom Evans. We now feature other members of the shop sales staff in the following pages.

Another welcome visitor on opening day was Mr. Warwick Saunders (Assistant Chief Commercial Officer), left, seen here with shop supervisor Tom Evans.





Left: Taking care of two lady customers on opening day were Don Biggs (senior sales assistant), left, and Ron Williams (District Commercial Engineer).

Below: In one of the busiest spots, behind the cash desk, we managed to picture Myra Pearson, foreground, and Chris Jones.

Sales assistant Sonia Wills, right, serves one of our first customers, Mrs. Anis Holmes, whose husband Fred is a records draughtsman at Rhostyllen.



Checking that the price is right is Ann Maddocks.



The Belling Company demonstrator, Iola Humphreys, shows off a range of cookers.





Chief Executive for Wrexham Maelor Borough Council, Mr. Sydney Tongue, is pictured here with Joyce Davenport, the Focus representative.

Hard at work in the special 'Customer Care' area, we see Cliff Robinson (sales representative).

Three smart girls, from left to right: Evadne Trask, Ella Mason and Jean Hargreaves (Toshiba demonstrator).



Sales assistant Margaret Haskey, right, has another satisfied customer.



And, finally, our photographer Mike Hall captured four-year-old Steven Higgins from Acton, giving our shop staff the "thumbs-up".



Responsible for most of the electrical installation work in the new premises was Dee Valley electrician Bill Samuels.

Our Wrexham shop, designed for Wrexham people by Wrexham men from MANWEB, seen here, from left to right: Dennis Perrin (1st engineer—Tech. Drawing Office), David Brown (1st engineer—Civil) and Bill Wakelin (Regional Sales Controller).





Talking Notes

ESPECIALLY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

MUCH is made by the news media of the misdeeds of young people. Mature citizens despair of "what youth is coming to". However, the malcontents and young criminals are in a minority; most young people are conscientious and hard-working, expressing themselves more articulately and with more confidence than previous generations. Parents and educationalists share some of the credit for these youngsters "turning out right", but much of it must go to the leaders of the many youth organisations.

Probably the largest and best-known youth organisation is the Scouting Movement. Founded at the beginning of the century by Lord Baden-Powell, it teaches young people discipline, self-reliance, leadership and how to best use an active mind and body.

Together with its sister organisation, the Girl Guides Associa-

Mr. Gordon Thompson.



tion, the good fellowship of the movement has spread throughout the world. It is run by unpaid volunteers, whose dedication makes the movement what it is today.

The top award for service to the leaders and members of the association is the Silver Acorn. A recipient of this rare honour was North Mersey District Senior Sales Representative **Mr. Gordon Thompson**, and his citation for the Silver Acorn reads "*For Especially Distinguished Service to Scouting*".

The award was presented to Gordon, who is 55, by the Chief Scout, Sir William Gladstone. He already holds the movement's Medal of Merit and long-service award, having spent over 40 years in Scouting.

Gordon attended this year's St. George's Day Queen Scout Ceremony at Windsor Great Park, with Her Majesty The Queen taking the salute and inspecting the Scouts on parade. The ceremony concluded with a special service in Windsor Chapel.

Scouting is quite a family occupation for the Thompsons. Gordon is the Group Scout Leader of the 2nd Fairfield Scouts, and has served as Assistant District Commissioner.

Gordon's wife, Audrey, is the Divisional Commissioner of North East Liverpool. Their son, Alan, who is 22, is a Venture Scout Leader, and 18-year-old Ann, their daughter, is an Assistant Guide Leader, and she has attained the highest Guides' Proficiency Award and is a Queen's Guide.

Long-service in the Scouting Movement is duplicated by long-service to the electricity industry, for Gordon has completed 40 years this year. He started as an office boy with Liverpool Corporation, became an apprentice electrician, then an electrician, before military service. He became a sales representative in 1956.

NALGO GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, 26th June, 1981

This year's John Greenhalgh Memorial Trophy Competition will be held at the Padeswood and Buckley Golf Club. The contest will be an 18-hole individual Stableford, and is open to all MANWEB Branch NALGO members.

Further details and entry forms are available from your local Branch Executive Committee member, or from the Sports Secretary, George Harrison, at Head Office, internal telephone 2140.

Award for Apprentice

The City and Guilds of London Institute top award—the Bronze Medal—first prize for Electrical Installation Work, Course A, 1980, was recently presented to **Kevin James Hurley**, an apprentice electrician in our Clwyd District. Making the presentation was **Walter Jones** (*Installation Engineer*), who was attending his first meeting as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of Llandrillo Technical College.

The medal, the only one awarded by the Institute last year, was for his results achieved on day-release during the initial two years of his apprenticeship, first at Birkenhead Technical College and latterly at Llandrillo Technical College.

Just 19 years of age, Kevin lives at Abergele. He has an elder brother, Shaun, an auto-electrician, who also won an award during his apprenticeship some years ago. They also have a younger sister, Keri.

Kevin is a keen motor-cyclist and he enjoys a game of Badminton from time to time. He also has a young lady to keep him company—**Jane Wightman**, from Ellesmere Port. Readers may remember that we featured Jane in the pages of 'Contact' as one of our duo of female apprentices at Hoylake this year.

The Merseyside Regional Chairman of the C.I.B.S., Mr. Laurie Thistlewood, left, with Denis Noad, centre, and Bill Shires.



Kevin Hurley, right, receives his medal from Walter Jones, watched by Messrs. W. G. Sparrow (Principal) and A. Hill (Head of Dept.), Llandrillo Technical College.

They met when Kevin returned for a three-week jointing course, and were able to get together again when he went back recently for further training.

He is now preparing for the rigours of a Mid-Wales Outward Bound Course in November.

Thank You

Two retired MANWEB managers received an award for their services to the Chartered Institute of Building Services. Although the Institute is a fairly

new organisation, it is an amalgamation of two long-standing institutions, the Illuminating Engineers Society and the Institute of Heating and Ventilating Engineers.

Former Chief Commercial Officer Mr. Bill Shires and Mr. Denis Noad, recently retired North Mersey District Engineer, were presented with practical mementos to mark their service over many years to the CIBS and the former IES.

Although they have retired from MANWEB, both men have continued with the CIBS, Mr. Noad being a committee member and Mr. Shires the new chairman of the Lighting Section of the Institute.

Champion Come-Back

After a seven-year lay-off from competitive athletics, Head Office Accounts clerk Elizabeth Pendry returned to the running track in April, 1980, and, 12 months later, at the end of March this year, won a Welsh Amateur title.

Liz started her running at

school, where, at the age of 12, she became North Wales Champion—a title she held for nine years as she progressed through the different age groups. At 13 she was the second fastest junior in the country.

She was in the Welsh training squad, from which the 1970 Welsh Commonwealth Games Team was selected for the Edinburgh Games, but had to withdraw due to injury. It was because of recurring injury that she decided to retire from athletics at the ripe old age of 21.

Now, at 29, she has returned to the track and won the Welsh Indoor 300 Metres Championship in her first competitive run over the distance. She first ran a "300" in January, and only took



Liz Pendry in full stride in a training run, followed by her sister-in-law, Babs, a fellow Deeside Athletic Club sprinter.

Electricity Supply (Staff) Superannuation Scheme

Minutes of 31st Annual General Meeting are available to members on request from the Head Office Personnel Section.

to the distance to build her stamina for her normal events, the 100 and 200 metres.

It was her coach at her Deeside Athletic Club who persuaded her to enter the "300" at the Welsh A.A.A. Championships, held at R.A.F. St. Athan, near Cardiff. She won the gold medal in the 300-metre final, making her Champion of Wales, and finished third in the 60-metre dash, taking the bronze medal.

The Welsh A.A.A. hold their Outdoor Championships in June, at Cwmbran, and Liz has her eyes set on winning the 100- and 200-

metre events, her target being a place in the Welsh team.

Liz is married and her husband, Dave, although not an athlete, is a keen sportsman. Golf is his game, and he is pretty good too, playing off a seven handicap, having come down from 21 in three years.

Before she was married, Liz's maiden name was Lloyd, and her Dad was Jack Lloyd, an engineer in the Clwyd District Commercial Department, until his premature death after illness in 1975. He would have been proud of Liz's champion's medal.

Sue Rowlands, immediately behind the huge card, with friends and colleagues and their gifts.



Happy Event

Staff at our Liverpool District offices were very generous in providing lots of presents for **Sue Rowlands** when she left her job as a clerk to prepare for the arrival of her first child at the end of June.

Sue joined the Board about eight years ago and worked at Derby House in Liverpool, before transferring to Lister Drive.

Soon to be a proud father is her husband, **Ronnie**, a meter reader in the District, who has been with us for the past three years.

From left to right:
Messrs. Colin
Leonard, Jim
Barraclough and
Jack Bradley.



No. 5 LAC EMPLOYEES' MEETING

The Chips are Down

MICRO-TECHNOLOGY TO CHANGE THE OFFICE

WITH OVER 2½ million unemployed in the country and the unemployment rate exceeding 15 per cent in many parts of the MANWEB area, it is natural even in the comparatively secure electricity industry that the word "redundancy" should raise a certain amount of unease.

New developments in machinery and automation have in the main been directed towards the factory floor. The new computerised micro-technology brings the office into the firing-line. The mass of paper that is produced in the form of letters, memoranda, files and documents will be superseded in the paperless office with electronic mailing and filing, with typing as such transferred to word processors.

Will these new developments which are coming mean redundancies among office staff in MANWEB? This was a question put to Management Services Controller Mr. Colin Leonard by a member of the North Wirral District staff at their employees' annual

meeting at Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight, in April.

Mr. Leonard, who was the guest speaker at the meeting, gave a very definite "No" to the question of redundancies. He said that some actual jobs would be lost, but new ones would be created by the new technology—maybe not exactly the same number, but any discrepancy would be accounted for by natural wastage.

He told delegates that the Board intended to introduce the new technology gradually, and, if there were no obstacles to the smooth introduction of the micro-chip-based equipment, there would be no redundancy problems.

Some of the equipment to be introduced into MANWEB shops and offices was on display at the meeting. A word processor was due to be delivered to Head Office shortly. This would ease the job of the typist. The word processor is a typing-style keyboard with a visual display unit with a small computer.

The keyboard is used to type in the same way as a typewriter, but the printed work is on a display screen. Single letters, words or whole paragraphs can be altered, added or deleted simply. Standard phrases can be placed in the typing from the computer's memory, spacing and width set automatically and even a spelling-aid can be made available to the operator. Finally, a printed copy is run off in seconds, if required.

By linking two or more word processors, and adding extra terminals, the originator of a report could call up the document on his screen without having a paper copy, and another person at another location could also call up that report on his visual display unit. This was the basis for electronic filing and mailing.

The shops, too, would have new equipment. Philips

Mr. Peter Hopkins, Chief Commercial Officer, with
Philips' demonstrator Ms. Maggie Smith.





North Wirral District Meeting



were in the process of developing a receipting machine to replace the ones presently in the shops. One had just been delivered to Head Office and was about to be used. Not only did the new machines receipt the customer's account, but by the use of an electronic wand, all the details would be noted by the machine's computer and recorded on disc. Then, by connection to the telephone, the Head Office computer would ring the shop computer overnight and extract all that day's information and update the customers' accounts.

Relating the new developments to the North Wirral District, which had been a pioneering District as far as new technology was concerned, Birkenhead shop would probably be the first with the new receipting machines, and the Board would take advantage of the new District office under construction to include the latest in micro-technology.

Mr. Leonard saw, in the not-too-distant future, each District with its own computer, with much of the information now kept at Chester stored locally—especially that related to the individual Districts. This information would be available to other Districts and Head Office by the telephone or linked terminals.

There were about 150 members of the North Wirral District and their retired colleagues, plus guests from Head Office, attending the last annual meeting orga-





Pictures of Delegates & Guests

nised by the Local Advisory Committee. The new Local Joint Co-ordinating Councils were about to be formed, and they would remove the need for the present consultative machinery, replacing it with a council which had to make decisions.

The secretary of No. 5 LAC, Mr. Jack Bradley, who had been responsible for organising the meeting, gave his last report regardless of whether the LAC itself continued, as he planned to retire in the coming year. He reported to the meeting the year's activities of the committee. He was concerned that nearly half of the 49 accidents reported in the District were due to tripping.

A "dream realised" was how Mr. Bradley described the construction of the new North Wirral District office. It had begun 12 months ago, and was on schedule. Changes were coming and he wished his colleagues well with the new technology and their new offices—in which he would not be working.

The chairman of the meeting was Group Manager Mr. Jim Barraclough. He introduced Mr. Bradley and later thanked him for his years of loyal and efficient work for the Local Advisory Committee. The meeting closed with an 'Open Forum', and was followed by a disco, arranged by the District's sports and social club.





EASTER SOCCER

SOUTH WALES BOARD VISIT CHESTER

A football team from the South Wales Board played two MANWEB teams over the Easter holiday. On the Saturday, they played a team from Clwyd District and, on Easter Sunday, competed against the Head Office team.

The visitors managed to beat the Clwyd team by a single goal, but came unstuck against the more formidable opposition of the Head Office team. Three goals were scored by the MANWEB men—or, rather, man, for it was a hat-trick by Ron Lloyd, wearing the No. 9 shirt, that won the game. He is normally the first team goalkeeper!

After the Head Office game, the South Wales team were entertained to lunch by the Head Office Sports and Social Club, followed by a visit to a Chester hostelry.



Top picture: The visitors from South Wales, pictured left to right, back row: J. Bradley (Manager), D. Bohlin, J. Gubber, Mark Burnett, A. Millard, J. Whiley and P. Millard. Front row: R. Welch, C. Green, K. Mitchell, P. Cowley, J. Bucknell and J. Plevey.



Centre picture: Clwyd District team, back row, left to right: D. R. Miller, P. Hitchcock, W. Owen, A. T. Londe, C. Blundell and G. Whalley. Front row, from the left: R. Durkin, T. Griffith, S. Walkden, S. Hilton, D. Robinson and B. Williams.

Bottom picture: The Head Office team, from left to right, standing: R. D. Jones, N. C. Crossley, R. Lloyd, B. Hart-Davies, J. Rowlands, M. Thomas and A. White. Kneeling: I. C. Jones, P. Turton, K. Dyers, I. Willis and G. Griffiths. Their mascot is David White.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. J. W. FORRESTER

Over 200 people packed the Llay Miners' Welfare Club a few weeks ago, to pay their tributes to the friendship and service to the industry given by Mr. Joseph W. Forrester, who was retiring from his post as Dee Valley District Installation Engineer.

His very full life in the industry started in the 1930's, when Joe, a Manchester lad, following in his father's footsteps, set out to become an electrical contractor. He did his practical training with a local firm, while his academic qualifications were gained at Newton Heath Technical College and, later, at the Manchester College of Technology.

In the war years he served for a short time with the Manchester Fire Service, before going to work at Vickers Armstrong shipbuilders at Barrow-in-Furness.

During this time, his father had become blind, and the family business had to close down. So, on his return home, Mr. Forrester obtained a post as installation inspector with the former Stalybridge, Hyde, Mossley and Duckinfield Transport and Electricity Corporation—yes, *there was such an undertaking!*

Nationalisation of our industry soon followed, and this meant a move to the Manchester Central District of Norweb as senior sales representative. He soon realised, however, that the grass was much greener in MANWEB, and became Commercial assistant at Shotton.

Then, after a spell as 1st assistant Commercial Engineer with our former Wrexham District, in 1970 he took up the appointment as installation engineer in Dee Valley District.

In parallel with his progress in MANWEB, Mr. Forrester was making a name for himself in the Electrical Power Engineers' Association, where, in 1970, he was involved in the setting-up of the NJB structure in the re-organised MANWEB. Twelve months later, he reached the "top spot", when he was honoured as the Association's President. Further recognition of his devoted service to the EPEA came in 1977, when he was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal.

He has lived for the industry in which he has had wide and interesting experiences. It was most appropriate that one of his proudest achievements was to head the Dee Valley Installation and Service section in the year 1979/80, when they became the first MANWEB District to pass the £1-million turnover figure.

We join with the host of people throughout our industry in wishing Joe and his wife, Peggy, many years of happy retirement.

Mr. D. G. CHALMERS

Opting for an early retirement, Mr. David Gibson Chalmers, our energy sales engineer in the Liverpool District, received a variety of parting gifts from friends and colleagues.

Before making the official presentation, Mr. Bob Jowett (*Assistant Chief Commercial Officer*) outlined Mr. Chalmers' long career in our industry.

Friends and colleagues gather round Mr. and Mrs. Joe Forrester, pictured centre, holding a card and bouquet respectively. They saw Mr. Ron Williams (Dee Valley D.C.E.), front left, make a presentation of retirement gifts, on their behalf, to Mr. Forrester.





Shaking hands in the centre of the picture are, on the left, Messrs. Bob Jowett (*Assistant Chief Commercial Officer*) and Dave Chalmers, at a ceremony to mark Mr. Chalmers' retirement.

Born in Glasgow, he gained a B.Sc. Degree at Manchester University, before returning home to work for the Rolls-Royce Company during the war years. In 1946, he moved south, when he was appointed as development engineer with the former St. Helens Corporation. Two years later he worked at the Warrington power station, before moving to Norweb in 1949. Here, he held a variety of posts in a number of Districts until 1961, when he took up an appointment as senior assistant engineer with MANWEB's former No. 1 Sub-Area in Liverpool. In November, 1970, he took on the job from which he has now retired.

After writing and photographing the happy gathering which marked Mr. Chalmers' retirement, it is with deep regret we have to report the death of Mrs. Joyce Chalmers, Dave's wife, after only a couple of weeks. We extend our sincere sympathy to him.

Mr. H. W. KING

A quiet presentation ceremony marked the retirement of 2nd engineer Mr. Harry King, a popular member of the Head Office Civil Engineering Section, after 27 years' service.

He served in the Merchant Navy as a ship's carpenter, before working for several building firms and eventually joining MANWEB.

Handing over a retirement gift to Mr. Harry King is Mr. Harry Foreman, light suit, right of centre, to mark Mr. King's retirement.



Harry enjoys playing golf, and this will be one of his major pastimes during his retirement, along with generally enjoying himself and dancing.

A widower, Harry has a married daughter and two grandchildren, and we join with his colleagues in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

Mr. F. WILDING

Chief Accountant Mr. Geoff Barnes had pleasure in presenting a cheque for £120, a total of subscriptions from colleagues, to Mr. Frederick Wilding, marking his retirement from his job as principal assistant in the Stores Accounts section at Head Office.

Earlier, Mr. Peter Falcon (*Assistant Chief Accountant*) spoke of Mr. Wilding's working life in our industry, starting as a clerk with the former North Wales Power Company in 1936. His career was interrupted by the war, when he enlisted in the Paymaster's Office with the Royal Engineers. He was posted to France in 1940 and, following the dramatic evacuation through Dunkirk, he served in Palestine, Sicily and Italy.

He went back to Rhostyllen in 1946 and, a year later, married Miss Netta Williams, who worked in the same office. As their family of two daughters grew up, Netta returned to the Board and stayed until her own retirement a couple of years ago.

On MANWEB's re-organisation in 1969, Mr.



Farewell to Mr. Fred Wilding from Chief Accountant Mr. Geof Barnes, front left, watched by Mrs. Wilding and friends and colleagues.

Wilding was transferred to the Financial department at Head Office, and has successfully worked up to his present post.

The high regard in which he is held was proven at his retirement presentation ceremony, when many messages of goodwill were received from Stores sections throughout the Board, and from Queensferry and various sections at Head Office.

In his private life, Mr. Wilding is a deacon and secretary of his local Presbyterian church. When not engaged on church activities, his hobby is his garden. It was fitting, and will be a constant reminder of his friends in MANWEB, that he chose to buy a greenhouse as his farewell gift. In addition, his close colleagues in the Stores Accounts section presented him with a cigarette lighter and a cut-glass beer mug.

Everyone extends their best wishes to Fred and Netta for a peaceful, long and happy retirement.

Mr. T. R. PORTER

Featured as one of our 50-year men a short time ago, Mr. Thomas Reginald Porter has now retired from his job as an electrician engaged on appliance deliveries in our North Mersey District.

His long career began when he became an apprentice electrician with the former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department on 1st December, 1930. Except for the war years, when he served and travelled



with the Royal Navy, he has spent all his working life in Liverpool.

After a spell in the workshops, he became a member of the delivery teams and, in 1976, on transfer to Bridle Road, he partnered Mr. Barney Rice.

Every day he made the journey to work from his home in West Derby by bicycle, regardless of the weather conditions. This, no doubt, helped to keep him fit and active for his hobby of gardening.

A number of parting gifts from his colleagues, including a radio cassette player, was presented to him by Mr. Les Appleton (*Installation Engineer*), who wished Tommy many years of healthy retirement.

Mr. A. T. STUBBS

After more than 30 years' service with the Board, Mr. Albert T. Stubbs, a member of the consumer accounts team at Mid-Cheshire, retired recently.

Albert joined the staff as a meter-tester at Crewe, transferring to clerical work when the test-bay closed. A keen radio "ham", he was presented with an aerial to improve his reception, and also with a work bench, by Mr. Tom Johnson (*principal assistant—Consumer Accounts*).



Last day—Mr. Tom Porter, left on left picture, with driver Mr. Barney Rice. Right picture: Messrs. Albert Stubbs, left, and Tom Johnson.



Mid-Mersey mini-holidaying pensioners in Newquay, Cornwall, recently.

News from the Pensioners

The thriving **Mid-Mersey** group have made a cracking start to the season's activities, with trips to London and to a local theatre, plus a spring mini-holiday at Newquay, Cornwall.

The theatre trip included tea at St. Helens, together with a "bingo" session and plenty of "chin-wagging" about old times. The journey to London, on a glorious spring day, involved a picnic lunch on the way, and the stay in the capital included shopping, a much-enjoyed visit to the theatre for *Oklahoma*, a visit to the Hanover Square Diamond Centre, a sight-seeing coach trip and the *Changing of the Guard*!

Splendid weather accompanied the Cornwall holiday, which included outings to Falmouth, Truro, Perranporth and local centres of interest.

The **Clwyd District Retired Staff Association** has come to a disappointing end. At the recent AGM, it was decided with regret that, due to lack of support and failure to appoint a committee, the Association would be disbanded. Trustees were appointed to wind up the group's affairs.

If at any future time anyone wishes to restart this group, *Contact* can be used for publicity purposes.

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we report the deaths of the following former colleagues. We extend our sincere sympathy to their families and friends.

Mr. Alfred D. Heagan, aged 84, who was the District Manager of the former Crewe District until his retirement.

Gordon A. S. Lewer, aged 57, who was the Display Leader at Head Office. He died suddenly after a short illness.

Mr. Gwilym H. Parry, aged 82, who was the former Area 4 cashier at Rhostyllen until his retirement. He was also a long-serving councillor and former Mayor of Wrexham.

Mr. Eurwyn Peters, aged 66, was the former District Manager of Wrexham District and the District Engineer of the Dee Valley District.

Miss Patricia Stubbs, aged 59, was an administrative assistant in the cash office at Sealand Road. She was secretary to the former Board Chief Accountant. She served as a Wren during the war

and was the First Officer in WRNVR at HMS Eaglet training establishment, Liverpool.

Mr. Thomas H. Williams, aged 68, worked at the Vauxhall Construction Depot until his retirement. He died suddenly on holiday in Malta.

Mr. Dewi W. Jones, an electrician based at Caernarfon prior to his ill-health retirement in 1974, after 24 years' service.

Mr. William Owen, a linesman based at Llangefni for 20 years, until his ill-health retirement in 1970.