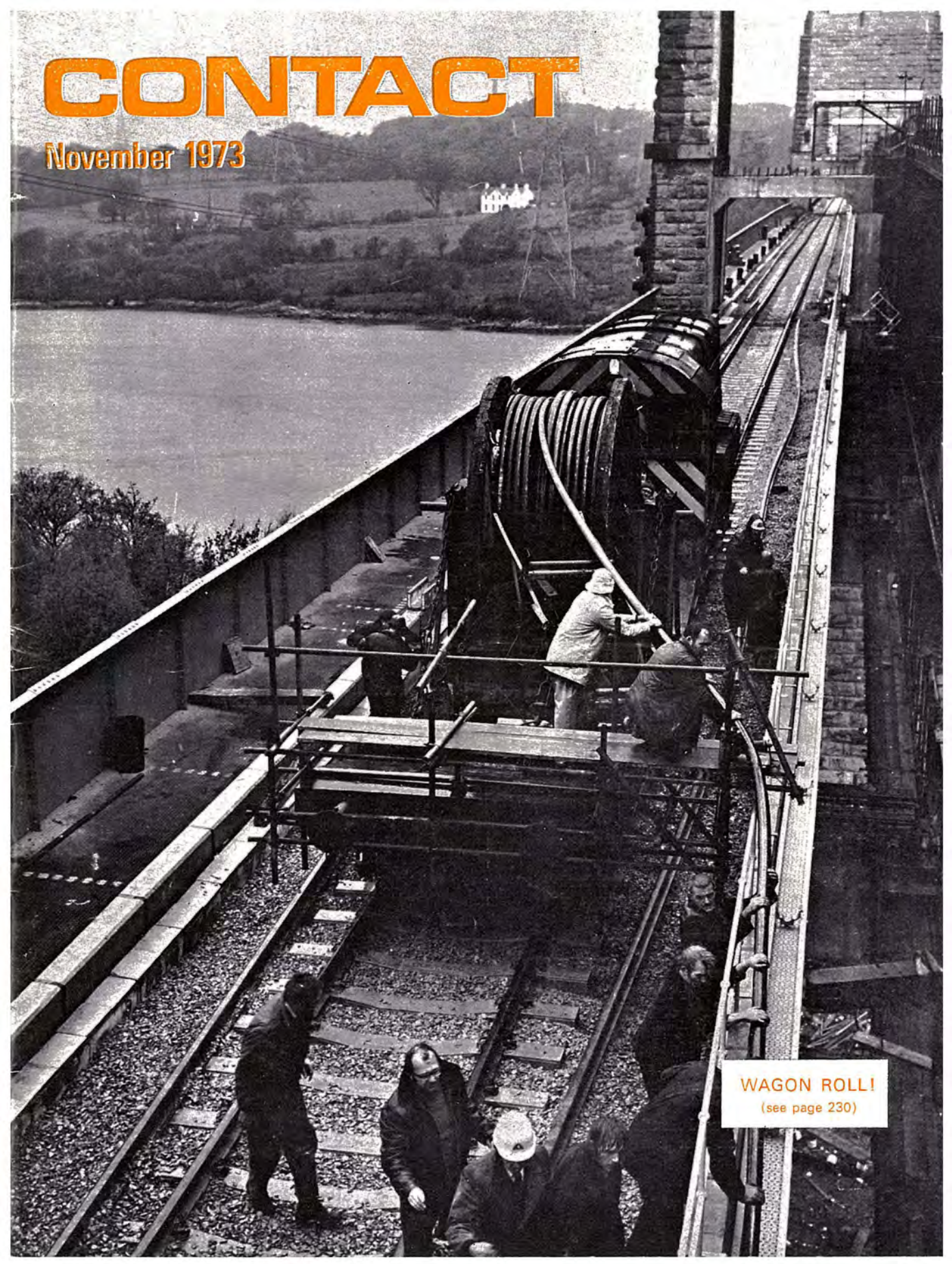


# CONTACT

November 1973



WAGON ROLL!  
(see page 230)



## CROSSING THE STRAITS

A TIGHTLY-scheduled programme to replace a 33,000-Volt cable across the Britannia Bridge, linking the Isle of Anglesey with the mainland, reached its peak earlier this month when a rail bogey crept slowly across the bridge, paying out the cable into prepared positions as it went.

Before fire wrecked the Britannia bridge MANWEB had three cables crossing the Menai Straits by means of the bridge, two in one tube of the bridge and one in the other.

One cable was burned out completely, but the other two survived, and are still operational. Those cables will have to be switched out to enable repair work to be done on the bridge section which carries them, so it was necessary to replace the burned-out cable to maintain reliable links between the networks on the island and on the mainland. The networks are also linked by a submarine cable sunk into the bed of the Straits.

During the first few days of November an intense programme of activity, preparing the line of the cable's final location, modifying the bogey (*hired from British Railways*) to accommodate the cable drum, excavating a joint bay and installing a temporary anchorage point for the Caernarvon end of the cable, was carried through.

An engine was hired to pull the bogey, and when November 9th dawned all was ready for the "wagon to roll." Foot by foot throughout the day the bogey crawled across the bridge, and by the end of the day the renewed vital link was safely installed in its new bed.

The cable was later jointed into the network at both ends of the bridge, and now links our 33-kV substations at Treborth and Llanfair P.G.

OUR COVER PICTURE shows the new cable being laid alongside the rail track across Britannia Bridge.

## CHAMPION HAYMAKER

Second place in a nation-wide competition to judge the best quality hay produced by electric drying techniques went to Mr. E. D. Hughes, who farms 280 acres at Yoke House, Pwllheli, Caernarvonshire.

His entry first won a local contest organised by MANWEB and open to farmers throughout Merseyside and North Wales, and then went on to the national judging to be compared with the hay produced by winners from all the other Electricity Board areas. First prize went to a Lincolnshire farmer.

Mr. Hughes' farm includes 80 acres of rocky, bracken land, and 30 acres which are low-lying and wet. Despite this, last winter he was able to maintain his herd of 62 milking cows with his barn-dried hay crop, with only four tons of bought-in high protein meal. Other stock kept include 118 store cattle and calves, 200 Welsh breeding ewes crossed with a Suffolk ram for fat lamb production, and 280 store lambs brought in for fattening.

Crops grown this year include 38 acres of barley and oats, and 10 acres of kale. The remainder is down to grass. Mr. Hughes is confident that with these and 70 tons of high-quality barn-dried hay, his dairy herd will be almost entirely self-supporting. Only liquid urea and minerals will have to be bought in.

Mr. Hughes first used electric drying in 1967 when he installed an on-floor system for drying grain

in an old stable. This was powered by a 25 horse-power fan and proved to be economic and efficient. The following year he installed a mesh-floor storage system for barn-drying hay, powered by a 45 h.p. fan. Since then he has improved the installation by cladding the barn with plywood sheets, excavating the bottom of the barn, and installing a weld mesh drying floor.

Mr. Hughes, the MANWEB champion, busily working on his farm at Pwllheli.





THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE MERSEYSIDE  
AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

# CONTACT

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## EDITORIAL

### *A Golden Lining*

ONLY an ostrich would deny that dark clouds hang over Britain's fuel and power outlook for the coming winter. Already the by-now-familiar pattern of contingency plan and State of Emergency has asserted itself, while politically-inspired hands begin to close the taps of the oil reservoirs of the Middle East.

Against this unhappy backcloth it is essential that the British people in general, and we in the electricity industry in particular, do not lose sight of the fact that the clouds do have a lining which is not only silver but could fairly be described as gilt-edged.

Speaking a few days ago Mr. Arthur Hawkins, Chairman of the CEGB, reminded us that Britain is capable of becoming one of the richest energy-producing countries in the world. In not much over ten years, he said, Britain could become completely self-supporting in its energy requirements if coal, North sea oil and gas, and nuclear power, are developed with foresight and energy.

"This is no pipe-dream. It is a glorious opportunity that must be grasped" said Mr. Hawkins. "The paramount need is to ensure that the pace of development in the North sea is maintained . . . Britain must also develop its reserves of cheap coal, and put enormous sums into the rapid and orderly expansion of nuclear power. By the end of the century more than two-thirds of electricity production in this country could be derived from nuclear energy."

This then, is the opportunity before us, which can place Britain in a rock-solid position in relation to most other industrialised, energy-gobbling nations. Its realisation will call for the investment of vast sums of money. Some, perhaps, may ask whether we can afford it.

The answer seems to be, if we are not to slide slowly back to the dark ages, that we cannot afford not to afford it.



# Our Industry's Objectives

*SPEECH BY SIR PETER MENZIES  
AT A.M.E.E. DINNER*

THE problems created for the electricity supply industry by the subordination of its financial and commercial objectives to other policy objectives of Government were discussed by the Chairman of the Electricity Council, Sir Peter Menzies, at the annual dinner in Chester of the Association of Managerial Electrical Executives.

It was likely, said Sir Peter, that Ministers would continue to use the nationalised industries as agencies of their economic management of national affairs. The principal concern to the industry, once financial objectives were thrown overboard, became how best to achieve efficiency throughout the organisation by using other standards for measuring and promoting this.

Other means of maintaining the morale of both management and staff, and their claim to work in an efficient organisation, had to be sought, while the need to maintain the reputation of the industry with the public was of almost equal importance.

It would help enormously if Government were to define afresh—and publicly—the broad purposes which they wished the industry to pursue, but Government had so many diverse and serious matters with which to concern itself. So the industry must seek for itself the objectives against which its policies and performances could be tested.

Sir Peter said the industry was hoping to establish a corporate plan for itself, supported by plans for each major part of it, with objectives for each successive layer of management. Established right across the industry at realistic levels, these could become the basis against which subsequent performance was measured. The comparisons would yield further clues as to how this might be still further improved.

**All this would call for a close and friendly working relationship between officials and staff and, if successful, then the whole industry would achieve, and would be able to demonstrate that it had achieved, a satisfactory performance.**

Sir Peter pointed out that most of the industry's capital and operating costs were bought in—in the sense that it paid others for new engineering equipment, the fuel it burned, and so on—but there was much that could be done in the more efficient use of these materials.

Great pains were already taken over the programme for building new power stations and the corresponding programmes in the Area Boards for extending and reinforcing the distribution network. But as the industry's programmes were so large, it followed that errors, either in estimation in the first place or subsequently in the installation of the equipment, could have major consequences.

If the industry could operate with one new station fewer, then as much as £200 million could be saved. On the other hand, said Sir Peter, he need not spell out the consequences of having one large set too many out of service due to breakdowns or delays in completion.

Similarly, in an Area Board, too high a level of security meant that money which could be used for better purposes elsewhere was spent too soon—but of course the security of supply must not fall below the level the public expected.

**"One thing we must certainly do," stressed Sir Peter, "is to seek to achieve the highest standard of service with the minimum use of equipment and manpower. That is what corporate planning is all about."**

Sir Peter also referred to the efforts being made to induce industrial and commercial customers not only to use more electricity, but to use it more efficiently; to the search for new or better ways to use electricity; and to the efforts to improve the service to the industry's customers and at the same time to gain a larger and more diversified load for its product.

In closing, he thanked the members of the association for the contribution they had made to the industry over the years. "I hope I have been able to show you that there is even more which you can contribute in the future. I hope, too, that you will continue to enjoy the satisfaction which success in establishing higher standards of efficiency in the business and in service to our customers will bring," said Sir Peter.

This is the second year running that the Association of Managerial Electrical Executives (A.M.E.E.) have held their annual dinner in Chester.

Understandably, the majority of members attending were from MANWEB, but nearly every Distribution Board and Generating Region in the country were represented together with one or two members from the Electricity Council in London.

In addition to Sir Peter Menzies, the Association's other special guests and speakers were, Dr. A. T. Churchman (*Director, Electricity Council Research Centre, Capenhurst*), Messrs. D. G. Dodds (*Chairman, MANWEB*), D. R. R. Fair (*Director General, Midlands Region*), R. Mallet (*Chairman, Norweb*), G. T. Shepherd (*Chairman, M.E.B.*) and C. Wickstead (*Deputy Chairman, M.E.B.*).



# Sales Conferences at South Lancs . . .

Business and pleasure were catered for at the South Lancashire District Sales Conference held recently at the Esso Motor Hotel at Runcorn and ably organised by Messrs. Ken Appleton (*energy sales engineer*) and John Drewe (*2nd assistant engineer*).

After a buffet meal everyone settled down to see a film made by the District staff, featuring the Appliance Stores at Queensferry.

Then we heard some brief but very informative talks from Miss June Berry and Miss Sue Hodgson, energy sales and marketing demonstrators respectively, Messrs. Reg Whitfield (*senior clerk, Work Control*), Tony Standing (*2nd assistant engineer—Installation*) and Bill Royden (*super-visor, St. Helens shop*).

After another short film, Mr. R. G. Monk (*District Commercial Engineer*) spoke for a few moments on the Commercial aspect of the District and then Mr. M. R. Cowan (*Chief Commercial Officer*) presented Salesmanship Certificates to Maureen Condliffe and Margaret Knapton from St. Helens shop, Mary Atherton and Jane Russell from Widnes shop, Jean Ann Antrobus and Marion Hughes from Runcorn shop and June Berry.

A brief 'Open Forum' session ended the business side of the Conference and a swinging "Disco" session pleased everyone and went on until the early hours of the next morning.

## and at Clwyd

THE Commercial aspect of Clwyd District was the main theme of this year's Sales Conference held a short time ago at the Hotel Marina in Rhyl.

Mr. D. R. Mellor (*District Commercial Engineer*), welcomed special guests Mr. M. R. Cowan (*Chief Commercial Officer*) and Mr. K. Helliwell (*Group Manager*) and members of the District staff from all sections, Commercial, Engineering and Administrative.

He was followed by Conference organiser Mr. B. G. Baxter (*energy sales engineer*), who gave a most interesting talk in which he outlined the work of the energy sales team. He spoke of plans for the future saying that although the District was doing well at the moment, this was no time for complacency and all efforts should be channelled to

(continued)



Above: The team of speakers at the South Lancashire Sales Conference. From left to right, front row: Sue Hodgson and June Berry. Back row: Bill Royden, Reg Whitfield and Tony Standing.

Below: Mr. Roger Monk opens his 'special delivery' box and out pops Pat, our "Girl from MANWEB."



## WEDDING

Appleton—Cadwallender



Mr. and Mrs. Appleton

Best wishes for a happy future to Miss June Cadwallender, formerly a senior clerical assistant in the Personnel Section at Head Office, and Mr. Ken Appleton, energy sales engineer in the South Lancashire District.

They were married recently at the United Reformed Church in Northwich and spent a honeymoon in Paris.

### Clwyd Conference

(Continued from page 233)

increasing the load by selling more and more units.

In similar vein, Mr. L. Price (*installation engineer*) gave his listeners an insight into the contracting side of our business. He said that the District's order books were buoyant and he felt that despite present difficulties in obtaining materials from some manufacturers, we could look forward to the future with every confidence.

Mr. R. Hewitt (*sales supervisor*) spoke on appliance sales and of the growing threat of discount houses but stated that at the moment our own sales figures were quite good although cookers and storage heaters were very slightly down on last year.

After these informative and honest talks, Mr. Mellor chaired a discussion group, who, often with help from the enthusiastic audience, talked on a number of diverse subjects. Following this very popular item on the agenda, Mr. Mellor expressed his sincere thanks to all members of the District staff for their very fine efforts during the past year.

Later, refreshments and dancing were enjoyed by one and all bringing to an end a most successful evening.

## THANKS A MILLION

Earlier this month, Mr. Anthony Jones, a driver/storekeeper at our Queensferry depot, was delivering engineering materials to our depots at Pwllheli and Blaenau Ffestiniog when he was involved in a road accident near Maentwrog.

He was taken to hospital and put on the 'danger list' for two days. However, Tony must be as tough as old boots for in a very short time he had recovered enough to be released from hospital.

Maybe his rapid recovery was brought about when he saw the bundles of 'Get Well' cards from his friends and colleagues.

Tony asked us, through 'Contact,' to send his sincere thanks to everyone for their kind thoughts and good wishes.

## TWO GENTLEMEN FROM MANWEB

A letter addressed to "*The Head of the Electric (Manweb)*" was received recently at our Liverpool District Office. It read: Dear Sirs,

This letter is to express my grateful thanks for the courtesy I received re. the final readings of 62, 64, 70 Princess Road, Liver-

pool 8.

Punctual as ever, Mr. Patterson came—he is a gentleman—and another fine gentleman is Mr. Norman Owen. They are a credit to MANWEB.

Every good wish

(Signed).

## IMPRESSED

Following a serious fire at the Grosvenor Hotel in Chester, one of the City's largest hotels, our Dee Valley District were asked to check on the electrical installation.

A team was quickly on the job and a report was prepared jointly by Messrs. **Roger Jones** (*installation inspector*), **David Condliffe** (*3rd assistant engineer*) and **Joe Forrester** (*installation engineer*).

Then, the following letter was received from the General Manager of the hotel:

Dear Mr. Forrester,

Thank you so much for your letter of the 25th of September containing your interim report on the electrical installation at the Grosvenor Hotel. I am impressed by the comprehensive nature of the document and thank you most sincerely for the splendid co-operation you have afforded the hotel.

I have passed your kind suggestions about providing a scheme and quotation for the proposed new work associated with our re-building programme to our Architect, and should he wish to take up your offer, no doubt, he will be in touch with you.

In the meantime, I should be very grateful if you could let us have an account for all the work undertaken by your staff at the hotel, so that I may pass this on to our Insurance Company without delay.

Thank you once again for your splendid co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed).



# FIREWORKS AT SEALAND ROAD



Over 1400 people attended the Guy Fawkes celebrations at Head Office. The huge bonfire built by the footballers of the Chester Sports and Social club, was lit and supervised by Messrs. Tom Dutton and Gren Roberts.

Tony Thackray, Jim Speed and Frank Astbury, organised and set off the excellent firework display. Our pictures show some of the spectators enjoying the display and the fish and chips on sale from a mobile shop.





# Apprentices at Hoylake - 1973/74



Another crop of young men are being introduced to the skills needed to be a tradesman with MANWEB.

This year, the 18th since the founding of the Hoylake Training Centre, there are fifty apprentices, forty-eight hoping to be electricians, one a fitter and one a telecommunications mechanic.

Our pictures show the lads learning how to use the tools and machinery of their trades, the basics of house wiring, and the working of domestic appliances and equipment.



Pictured are, top left, left to right, John French, Brian Chorley and Jonathan Evans. Left, Stephen Lloyd and Keith Jones. Bottom left, Frederick Wooder. Bottom centre, Peter Kiryczuk. Bottom right, Nigel Mills.







*Above left, John Burns. Above right, Peter Morley, William Pierce and Robert Watkins. Centre right, Stephen Jones and Philip Kuivala.*

*Below left, John Humphries and Paul Clare. Bottom right, Peter Marchbank and Stuart Kimberlin.*





# It's British Meat and MANWEB Heat

## Top Class Shows



Show compere Dick Hughes enjoys appetising dishes prepared by our demonstrators and served here by Lesley Taylor.

A TRULY professional presentation was staged by our Commercial colleagues when they joined forces with the Meat and Livestock Commission to put on a series of demonstrations in towns scattered round the MANWEB area.

Starting off in Chester, they did two shows a week calling at Birkenhead, Wallasey, Wrexham, Rhyl, Colwyn Bay, Bangor and Llangefni.

The show opened with the curtains parting to show a sparkling kitchen layout with gleaming cookers, refrigerators and a deep freeze cabinet. Soon the hall or theatre was filled with the beautiful and appetising aroma of meat being expertly cooked by Miss Jackie Luire, the senior home economist with the Meat and Livestock Commission. After a short film "British Meat," another demonstration followed before MANWEB took the stage with Lesley Taylor, energy sales demonstrator at Clwyd District expertly presenting the appliances to the audience, ably assisted by various colleagues as tasty dishes were presented for setting before the

compere, Mr. Dick Hughes of BBC Wales.

The carefully-timed, entertaining and free-flowing script for our part of the show was written by Mr. Ron Carter (*2nd assistant engineer*) from our Clwyd District.

About 5,000 lucky women, and one or two men, were privileged to see the free two-and-a-half hour show. The object of the venture was to show in a lively and interesting manner, the best way of getting full value out of meat by careful selection, correct cooking and the final presentation in an appetising way on the table.

The prime movers in getting the whole project off the ground were Mr. Roy Stewart (*Energy Sales Manager*) and Mrs. Joan Dittrich, our own catering specialist.

This was really a great show for MANWEB and all the staff concerned, including the electricians who did all the wiring jobs at the various venues, are to be heartily congratulated. We really should have more of this type of thing.

A section of the audience who enjoyed the show at Colwyn Bay's Prince of Wales theatre.







**The Presenters**

*Left: Jackie Luire, in foreground, assisted by our own Lynette Kemp.  
Above: Strawberries and cream from Eirlys Hughes.  
Right: On centre stage, a lonely place, is Lesley Taylor.*

The pictures on these two pages were taken at the presentation staged in the Prince of Wales Theatre, Colwyn Bay, and show some members of the company, 'doing their thing' in a most professional manner.

Other members of our staff who helped out at the other shows in our area were demonstrators Alma Burrows, Alison James and Florence Sweeney and the men who did a variety of jobs, Doug Gregg (*Head Office*), John Drewe (*South Lancashire District*), Clive Garner (*North Wirral District*), Stuart Smith (*Gwynedd District*), Roland Strange (*Dee Valley District*) and Bill Wakelin (*Gwynedd District*).



**Head Office staff**

*Behind the scenes, from left to right: John Ellis (house lights), Deiniol Williams (projectionist) and Norman Kenyon (sound). Above: John Edwards (spotlights).*







## DERBY HOUSE

*From this . . .*



The Dickensian type of office surroundings in which some members of the Liverpool District Accounts staff worked.







## to LISTER DRIVE

*... to this*

The spacious, well-lit and tastefully decorated and carpeted offices where they now work with the rest of their colleagues in the District.





# LIGHTING for LIVING

By  
**MR. GERRY WORTHINGTON**  
**LIGHTING ENGINEER**  
**ENERGY SALES**



## INDUSTRIAL LIGHTING

A national lighting campaign is being directed at the industrial lighting market where there is a considerable development potential.

Good quality lighting in industry can help increase profitability by improving working conditions, thus raising morale, reducing the risk of accidents and errors.

MANWEB district sales engineers will approach selected industries which it is thought will benefit most from improved light-

ing. Specially designed literature has been produced dealing specifically with industries, such as heavy metals manufacture, clothing, paper and board, food, glass and printing.

Industrial lighting is often inadequate and the industrial sales engineer must convince industrial management of the advantages to be gained from better lighting. Light meters are being used to show senior industrial lighting engineers whether their factory illumination is adequate for the work being done.

So far response has been good and it is hoped results will lead to the replacement of the outdated and inefficient hard ware that is abundant in the roof spaces and ceilings of so many factories.

## COMMERCIAL CAMPAIGN

A new commercial lighting campaign was launched in October. The objective is to make managers and specifiers for shops and offices aware of the benefits of good lighting and the handicaps of poor lighting.

The campaign is backed by national advertising, the main weight of which was timed to coincide with the end of British Summer Time—October 28th—the one time in the year when managers and staff take note of the quality of their existing lighting.

This advertising together with a direct mailing of shops and offices should prompt requests for guidance and information. This will be given in the form of a follow-up call by district energy sales engineers, presenting new Electricity Council publications 'Better office lighting' and 'Lighting for retailers.'

Lighting is just one factor in creating the right business atmosphere essential to success, and good working conditions. MANWEB energy sales engineers will also advise on the other aspects of the business environment, heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

## Brussels lighting conference

I was a delegate at the second European Lighting Conference held in Brussels a few weeks ago. The theme of the meeting was to show how lighting contributes to the amenities of our towns and cities, and embraced almost every aspect of internal and external lighting.

It was not intended this would be simply a platform for new research material, but should be a promotional event giving delegates an opportunity to keep abreast of current lighting practice.

With the number of cities with a population of over one million doubling in the next 11 years, there is a common need to plan our resources which influence the environment, and modern lighting technology is one aspect which can influence our lives.

Judging by the conference

presentations it seemed that British lighting engineers fail to exploit their art and expertise to the same degree as their continental counterparts. With few exceptions, too many lighting schemes bear a distressing similarity, displaying a lack of imagination in applied designs.

There is a need to educate the public in the use of better lighting, and gatherings such as this one in Brussels, help evolve the ideal visual environment. However, care must be taken to avoid over standardisation as has happened in many of the worlds hotels—with similar buildings, air-conditioning, furniture, radio, telephone, etc. no matter which country you are in.

This conference helped remind lighting engineers that lighting is for people not buildings.



# Road Crossing at Crosby



**P**LANS to construct an underground storm-water overflow chamber, at the corner of Endbutt Lane and Liverpool Road, Crosby, as part of the Council's flood relief scheme, recently involved MANWEB in a crash programme of work on underground cables in the vicinity.

Two high-voltage and three medium-voltage cables had to be diverted round the chamber, and this work involved the crossing of the main Liverpool Road. To restrict inconvenience to the normally heavy traffic flow, our engineers planned to open the road, install cable ducts and reinstate all in one day. They choose a very quiet Sunday, but their hopes to complete the job were soon dashed when it was

discovered that a foot of solid concrete lay just beneath the top road surface!

Slowed by this obstacle, our workmen nevertheless managed to finish the job by the following Tuesday lunchtime. Mr. Bill Sutton (2nd assistant engineer) in our North Mersey District, who was in charge of the operation was full of praise for Bert Holland and his gang for the work they did. "They pulled out all the stops to get the job completed as soon as possible even though they had to cope with the heavy traffic and torrential rain on the Monday."

But, to Bill and to Bert and his men, this was simply—another MANWEB job suitably completed!

*Left: The cable ducts laid in the trench and below, Sunday afternoon and despite the tough concrete below the road surface, good progress is being made.*





## RETIREMENTS

### Mr. J. HARDING

An exceptionally large gathering of friends and colleagues, representing all departments, joined together at North Mersey District office recently to say farewell to Mr. John Harding (*foreman installation inspector*) on the occasion of his retirement after serving the electricity supply industry for over 47 years.

They heard Mr. D. E. Noad (*District Commercial Engineer*) pay sincere tribute to Mr. Harding's long and loyal service since he started work in 1926 as a messenger boy with the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department. Two years later he began his apprenticeship as an electrician.

He became a journeyman electrician, then a meter fixer inspector and just before the outbreak of war in 1939 he had been promoted to inspector. Then he joined H.M. Forces and served in the Royal Engineers with the British Expeditionary Force and the evacuation from Dunkirk. Later he served in the Far East where he was taken prisoner by the Japanese and held in the notorious "Changi Jail" at Singapore.

During his war service he was twice Mentioned in Despatches and one in particular was quoted by Mr. Noad to sum up the qualities of Mr. Harding. "*Unselfish devotion to duty under adverse conditions, for the benefit and welfare of his fellow prisoners.*"

Repatriated in 1946, he returned to his former job and soon became chargehand inspector, moving up to his present post in 1957.

Many more friends paid their tribute to Mr. Harding as a friend and colleague, and among these

was Mr. J. R. Rawes (*Supply Engineer*) who referred to Jackie as "one of the old school," who, like himself, had started work as an office boy at Hatton Garden.

Mr. Rawes revived memories of the early thirties when everyone seemed to work hard and play hard and enjoy the simple pleasures of life. He spoke of many of their old friends, most of whom were now retired themselves and had been unable to attend. One in particular, however, who did attend, was Mr. Alec Cannon now aged 74 and looking as sprightly as ever. Mr. Rawes concluded by saying that Jackie Harding had always been a true colleague and a good friend to a great many people.

Something like a record collection came from his colleagues in the North Mersey and Liverpool Districts—yet another tribute to his great popularity. Parting gifts chosen by Mr. Harding were a gold dress ring and a nest of tables. Other gifts from various sections included a pewter pot, a cut glass vase, a pair of cuff-links and last but not least, a pair of slippers from the cleaning staff.

We join with his many friends in the Liverpool area in wishing Mr. Harding and his wife, many well-earned years of happy and healthy retirement.

### Mr. C. C. HICKEY

A labourer with the South Lancashire District mains section for the past 15 years, Mr. Charles Cambell Hickey, retired recently.

Friends and workmates presented Charlie with a transistor radio and some cigarettes as they wished him many years of happy retirement.

Mr. Harding, seated centre, surrounded by a host of friends and colleagues at his farewell ceremony held at North Mersey District Offices in Bridle Road.





### Mr. R. MADEN

After 40 years' service in the electricity supply industry, Mr. Reg Maden retired recently from his job as chargehand jointer in Mid-Cheshire District.

Some of his colleagues joined senior engineers in the District to give Reg a good send-off and present him with some parting gifts which included an electric razor.

Reg now hopes to be able to devote more time to buying and selling horses.

Senior engineers in our Mid-Cheshire District, from left to right, Messrs. R. H. Woodall (*Systems Engineer*), G. Zeiher (*District Engineer*) and T. W. Cash (*Production Engineer*), say their "Goodbyes" to Mr. Maden.



### Mr. W. G. EVANS

Over 50 years' service in the electricity supply industry came to an end recently with the retirement of Mr. William G. Evans from his job as 2nd assistant Commercial Supply engineer in our Dee Valley District.

To mark this special occasion, over 70 friends and colleagues gathered together at a Marchwiel hotel to say their farewells to him and present him with some parting gifts.

Before the presentations however, some fine tributes were paid to him. First Mr. J. A. Winchester (*District Commercial Engineer*) said that Bill was a fine example to prove that hard work helped to keep one young.

"At one time," he continued, "he was known as Mr. Public Lighting, and in the area he served, he knew personally every Councillor and Council official concerned with that side of the business."

Mr. Winchester then outlined Bill's career stating that he started his working life over 50 years ago as an apprentice electrician. He then worked for a local contractor in Wrexham. He was too young for the first war, and in the last war he did essential work with Vickers Armstrong and Monsanto Instruments.

He joined MANWEB in 1953 at Oswestry and did a tremendous amount of work on the Board's

rural development programme.

In conclusion, Mr. Winchester thanked Bill for the work he had done and for his ever-cheerful spirit. He then handed over a beautifully inscribed certificate entitling Bill to a most honorable discharge.

Then Mr. E. T. Peters (*District Engineer*) spoke of Bill's cheerful good humour, his patience and his tact with our consumers. He wished that all members of the staff could inherit some of his qualities. He then handed over,

on behalf of the staff, a nest of tables and a coffee percolator.

Finally, Mr. R. A. Williams (*District Commercial Engineer, Oswestry*) who once had Bill on his staff, told some interesting and amusing stories of their time together on the rural development programme. He said that Bill had every reason to be proud of his work in the industry, and went on to ask the company to join him in a toast to Bill and his wife Mary, wishing them both many happy years in retirement.

William and Mary Evans surrounded by their family and some of the men from MANWEB.





Mr. P. W. WATSON

Another faithful and long-serving member of the Board's staff, Mr. Peter W. Watson has just retired after serving the industry for close on fifty years.

Peter joined the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department as an office junior in May 1924. He soon became a fully fledged clerk working in the meter department.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 he joined the Home Guard and attained the rank of sergeant before going in to the Royal Navy in 1943. Three years later he was demobilised from—the Royal Australian Navy!

He returned to Liverpool as an assistant senior clerk. Shortly after nationalisation in 1948, he became a senior assistant and later administrative assistant—still with meter reading section.

Many friends gathered at Lister Drive to say their goodbyes to Peter. Before making the farewell presentation Mr. T. D. Hamilton (*District Administrative Officer*) spoke of the enthusiastic way in which Peter had carried out his job. He had worked at full stretch right up to the moment of

## A Pensioner writes . . .

Dear Editor,

Thank you for 'Contact' which I receive regularly.

With reference to the October issue I note that two old colleagues of mine are now retired.

Through your publication may my wife and I give them our very best wishes for a long and happy retirement. They have been good and faithful servants to the Industry and I am sure they have bowed out feeling that they have done a very good job, satisfying and meaningful.

May I also correct you on the title Mid-Cheshire Power Com-

pany. The late W. Fennel toyed with such a title pre-1926 but did not adopt it. Maurice, Sam and I, with many others were employed in those days by The Mid-Cheshire Electricity Supply Company.

There was of course The MERSEY Power Co.

I am now on my seventh year in my second term of employment, promoted at 65 years of age to Technical Librarian.

With regards to all,

Yours sincerely,

Cyril Harrison.

*Nice one Cyril — Thanks — Ed.*

retirement.

He said that it was Peter's philosophy that he enjoyed doing what he did—and got paid for it into the bargain!

"He takes a keen interest in living," he went on, "and lives life to the full."

Mr. Hamilton said that Peter liked to see a good job well done. "He could be hard on his staff at times, but he was always keenly interested in their welfare and

would fight to the last ditch for their rights".

We join with the many friends he has made during a lifetime's service in wishing Peter many more years of good health—with plenty of time for walking and a spot of gardening.

Farewell gifts included a car radio, a Hoover dustette and a book of maps presented to him by his staff in the meter reading section.

Friends say their farewells to Mr. Watson, *centre left*, as he receives their parting gifts from Mr. Hamilton, with radio, and Mr. J. Calvert (*prepayment meter foreman*) with road atlas. Group Manager Mr. H. Telfer, is to the right of Mr. Calvert.







A young lady who brought pleasure into the lives of her colleagues with her pleasant personality, Mrs. Jenny Knowles, *centre*, left Bridle Road to await the arrival of her first child. She joined MANWEB in 1967 at Love Lane, later moving to Hatton Garden and then to North Mersey. She was a member of the First Aid team and a finalist for "The Girl from MANWEB" competition last year. Jenny is a member of the Maghull Ladies Circle and does quite a lot of work for charities. Friends presented her with suitable parting gifts.

## Departures from Bridle Road



Staff from the engineering section offered their best wishes to Mr. Stephen R. Wilson, seen here, *centre left*, on his leaving to take up a new job with a TV retailer. Stephen once worked at Southport where he gained office experience in many sections. He likes listening to modern jazz music, horse riding and travel.

Another popular young man, Mr. Alan Pleasant, has left his job in Consumer Liaison section to take up another post as assistant manager with a firm of builders' merchants. While with MANWEB, Alan has gained a wide experience in office work. His outside activities include lay preaching and Sunday School teaching, badminton, tennis, dancing and wine making.

Mr. G. Shoesmith (*District Administrative Officer*) made the presentations on all three occasions.





# Electricity Supply (Staff) Superannuation Scheme

## *Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Scheme*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting will be held at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 11th December, 1973 at the Electricity Council, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD.

The Annual report of the Committee of the Scheme and the Statement of Accounts will be available shortly in booklet form and will be posted on notice boards in MANWEB's offices.

Pensioners may obtain a copy by writing to the Chief Accountant, MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

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### Obituary

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#### Mr. P. SMITH

It is with deep regret that we report the tragic death of 18-year-old apprentice, Paul Smith.

Paul went into the sea at New Brighton on September 28th and was drowned. His body was washed up a few weeks later at Llandudno.

He was in his third year apprenticeship as a motor vehicle mechanic and worked from our Pumpfields depot in Liverpool.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his parents and family on their sad loss.

#### Mr. K. LEWIS

It is with deep regret that we report on the sudden death of Mr. Kenneth Lewis, aged 48.

Ken, who joined the Board in 1968, was a storekeeper at our Queensferry depot where he made many good friends.

He was a very jovial character and his popularity was proved by the large gathering of colleagues who attended at Hawarden Church for his funeral service.

He will be sadly missed by everyone who had the good fortune to know him.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his widow and to his brother Ray, who also works in the Stores at Queensferry.

#### Mr. E. CLAYS

We deeply regret to report on the sudden death of Mr. Edward Clays, aged 61, an assistant storekeeper in the Printing Section at Head Office.

Ted, a pleasant and jovial man, will be sadly missed by his friends and colleagues.

During the last war he served with the Royal Artillery and on his return to civilian life he went to work at Gresford colliery. In 1966 he joined MANWEB at Rhostyllen, transferring to Head Office in 1970.

He was a keen bowler and his skill with the 'woods' brought him a number of trophies. He also had a great love for choral music.

Mr. Clay leaves a widow, son and daughter and four grandchildren.

#### Mr. ERNEST COVINGTON

The many friends which Mr. Ernest Covington made during a lifetime of service to the electricity industry in Liverpool, and latterly at Head Office at Chester, will be sorry to hear of his death so soon after his retirement last year.

Beginning as assistant to the Domestic Consumers' Engineer

at Liverpool in 1926, he served later in several departments and in 1939 joined the Industrial and Domestic Heating Department, designing and installing heavy duty equipment.

He became First Assistant DCE with MANWEB's Liverpool Central District in 1951, later joining Area 1 Commercial Development section, turning his inventive skills to every kind of heating and lighting problem.

Moving to Chester in 1970, he very soon became the authority on the heat-reclaim system pioneered at Head Office, and introduced the new system to many consultants from home and abroad.

He was able to give an intelligent answer or opinion on almost any subject, a quality appreciated both by young students attending his training lectures and also by his senior colleagues who placed great value on his knowledge. Invariably his words of wisdom were tempered with his inimitable wit, which earned him a reputation as a first class raconteur. His premature death leaves a gap in all our memories, and our sympathies are with Mrs. Covington and their son Brian.

*D. S. Webb Jones*