



HACKSAWING EXERCISE

STORES

CONTACT

November 1977

Collecting the tools
of their trade
(See page 248)



Up above the customers, the cleverly planned air-conditioning equipment.

Customer Comfort in Chester Toy Shop

AS LONG as children want toys there will always be toy shops. David Williams knows that. His shop in Chester is busy throughout the year and during the run up to Christmas the shop

in Bridge Street seems permanently crowded.

That, in some ways, is bad . . . because the large shop has no windows. Its only source of fresh air was through the door which,

confessed Mr. Williams, "does not provide an environment conducive to good buying, good selling or good tempers."

The long narrow shop (120 feet x 14 feet) did not enjoy ideal working conditions for its staff of six who, during hot spells, frequently complained of dry, sore throats and headaches.

But all that has changed now. After consultations with MANWEB Dee Valley District energy sales engineer Trevor Edwards an air conditioning system has been installed.

"It's an investment really," said Mr. Williams who bought the shop "David Williams Playthings" five years ago. "The cost will be recovered by shoppers who will visit and shop comfortably. "And during the early morning we can use the system for heating the shop for the first hour, if need be, and then cooling thereafter."

Mr. Williams, who has previously owned another toy shop and a stationers, added: "I've never had air conditioning in any of my shops before so I really only know what MANWEB tell me. Why did I go to MANWEB for advice? My father worked for the Electricity Board in Stoke so I know they are the experts."

SUPERANNUATION SCHEMES

The 28th Annual General Meeting of members of the Staff Scheme will be held at the offices of the Electricity Council, 30 Millbank, London, at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, 15th December 1977.

Copies of the Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting published last June are still available on request.

It is expected that the Reports and Accounts of both the Staff and Industrial Staff Schemes will shortly be published and these will be displayed on our notice boards. Individual copies will be sent to members, including pensioners, on request.

For copies of any of these publications, please write to The Assistant Secretary (Personnel), MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.



CONTACT

Vol. 29 No. 11

November 1977

Editorial

RESTORING SUPPLY

A TIME-HONOURED principle of the electricity supply industry lays down that when supply fails, for whatever reason, it must be restored as quickly as possible. Our engineering colleagues have had plenty of opportunity to practice this hallowed maxim during the past few weeks.

It is a matter for regret that recent years have seen employees of Area Boards grow experienced in the art of sharing out inadequate supplies on a rota basis, as a result of industrial action of one kind and another. The recent blackouts caused by labour troubles in some power stations involved not only our engineers (who had the against-the-grain job of putting them into operation) but also many colleagues in shops and offices who had to inform and reassure a bewildered and resentful public. The absence of any degree of anti-MANWEB backlash spoke volumes for the tact and efficiency brought to bear on this complex task.

Hard on the heels of this situation came the first vicious blasts of Winter, confronting our engineers and linesmen with their customary role of doing battle with the ancient enemy, the weather. Throughout our rural areas overhead line networks came in for a severe battering, and resources were again stretched by the traditional job of "getting the consumers back."

To the average man it matters little whether human or natural agencies are to blame for the fact that his home is cold and dark. The return of his electricity supply brings welcome relief, and the resumption of a normal life of comfort and safety. Here lies the justification for our industry's first commandment.

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

NORTH MERSEY DISTRICT
EMPLOYEES' ANNUAL MEETING

Heart to Heart Talk by Doctor Turner

SOME sound advice from Dr. Kenneth Turner, the Board's Medical Adviser, was freely offered to members of the staff—and their guests—attending this year's North Mersey District LAC. Conference at Bridle Road a few weeks ago.

As the main speaker, he quickly proved that his 'delivery' technique was perfect—especially when it came to recounting humorous stories scripted by his 15-year-old son.

With an attentive audience hanging on to every word, Dr. Turner cleverly switched to the serious and more important aspect of his talk.

He explained that his part-time work for the Board was as a medical adviser and not as a practitioner. "I have to look for health risks in the various jobs carried out by members of the staff," he said. "Often, the most difficult decision I have to make is on the fitness of an employee to continue with his normal job of work."

He said that the word "scrapheap" when applied to human beings was a 'most horrible expression,' going on to explain how, in an attempt to minimise the problems of ill health and early retirement, he endeavoured to change the living habits of the people under his care.

"I try to do this in order to prevent people suffering from serious illness in later life," he commented.

With the help of visual aids and charts he then presented some very dramatic statistics showing how heart disease affected a person's middle life—especially men. He said that many people had a fear of death through the effects of lung cancer but he quoted figures to prove that heart disease killed 30 people for every one killed by lung cancer.

He then spoke briefly of some of the main causes of heart disease—high cholesterol in certain foods,



Guest speaker Dr. Turner, left, receiving congratulations from Stan Gordon, who helped organise the Conference, watched by our 'Girl from MAN-WEB'—Jackie Pemberton.

genetics, smoking and obesity—pointing out that with the latter, insurance companies load their premiums when this is in evidence.

"Heart disease is a killer disease which is largely preventable," continued Dr. Turner. He advised those male members of his audience who were over 35 years of age, as a preventative measure, to make an appointment with their own doctor to have their blood fat measured to see if it was over the limit. He said that it was a simple process and it would show when action would need to be taken to restore a safe level.

He explained how high blood pressure could be treated and advised smokers to think very seriously about breaking the habit—"for that is all it is, a habit!"

"I used to be a smoker," he went on, "until I saw my first patient die of lung cancer. It was a horrible experience. It was not a very nice death. I gave up smoking after that!"

Dr. Turner went on to reiterate that, as a smoker, if lung cancer didn't kill you then the chances of dying through heart disease is thirty times greater. "And death could be just as agonising and painful," he said, "Not all heart deaths are quick."

He quoted figures to show that in 1958, some 60 per cent of all classes—managerial and manuals—smoked. "The most recent figures," he continued, "show that while management staffs were now down to 40 per cent, manual staff were still around 59 per cent."

Summing up, Dr. Turner said that the three contributory factors to death through heart disease were smoking, high blood pressure and high cholesterol content in the daily diet.

He concluded by showing a photograph of his two children. Pointing to the picture he said,

"Think of your own children. If you should drop dead through heart disease at 47, who is to look after those who are left? We all must take care of ourselves. We know that heart disease is a killer but we know what we can do to prevent it happening to us. We should do it for their sakes."

As he sat down, a brief pause followed before the burst of applause from the audience. No doubt this was because a great many people were deeply impressed by his remarks. This was further shown by the number of questions asked of Dr. Turner during the open forum session—which again was sprinkled with a few of the old chestnuts.

Earlier in the evening, an excellent meal, prepared and served by the Bridle Road canteen staff, had been enjoyed. Our Deputy Chairman, Mr. Ben Hastings, was invited to say a few words by the Chairman of No. 1 LAC, Mr. Sid Fairclough (Group Manager).

"Last year MANWEB made a profit," commented Mr. Hastings. He went on to forecast that this year we would probably make yet another profit, which



Group Manager Sid Fairclough, left, chats with pensioner Jimmy Wray. In the background is former Group Manager, Harry Telfer.

after our lean years, was something to look forward to.

He spoke of the encouraging signs in our industry. "We are consolidating now," he continued, "and we have a hard fight on our hands to win more sales—especially in the domestic sector."

All in all, a very good conference with an excellent choice of speaker.



Above: With glasses raised we see Joe Pritchard, left, and Sid Owen.

Below: District man, Les Rigby, left, in deep discussion with Jim Fisher from Head Office.



Above—and present—members of North Mersey District staff make up this happy group, from left to right: Bill Owen and Fay McDonough (both retired), Fred McHugh, Alec Cannon (retired) and Charlotte McKenna.

Below: Guests and District Officers, from left to right: Jim Fisher (Deputy Chief Engineer), Jackie Pemberton ("Girl from MANWEB"), Jack Pilkington (Welfare Officer), Bert Eyres (District Engineer) and Dennis Noad (District Commercial Engineer).



MID-CHESHIRE STAFF

LONG SERVICE RECOGNISED

“OUR industry is very much a service industry and, in the main, we in MANWEB have a good name with our customers,” commented Mr. Joe Winchester (*Group Manager*) at the ceremony held recently in Crewe to present Long Service Certificates to members of our Mid-Cheshire District staff.

“You, here today, and your colleagues who have put in many years of service with the Board, help to maintain this high standard of service,” he went on.

Mr. Winchester suggested that one of the reasons why so many people stayed with the Board for long periods of their working life was because of the satisfaction gained in doing a worthwhile job for worthwhile people.

“Those who have not got the Board’s and the customers interests at heart soon leave us and go elsewhere,” he said.

At the small informal gathering the Group Manager paid tribute to the ‘home partners’ of those who had given so many years of service to MANWEB. He thanked them for their co-operation especially when experiencing the irritations of the irregular hours of work by so many members of the staff, of call-outs at all odd times and of disturbing telephone calls often in the middle of the night.

On behalf of the Board, he then thanked all the recipients of the Certificates for their loyal service.

Members of our Mid-Cheshire District staff who received their Long Service Certificates at a recent ceremony.



Smiles all round as Group Manager Mr. Joe Winchester, left, congratulates 40-year man Mr. Norman Woodall. Completing the picture is a very happy Mrs. Woodall.

The awards were as follows:

40 Years: Mr. Norman Woodall (*mains foreman, Crewe*).

30 Years: Messrs. Fred C. Astle (*driver, Crewe*), Edward Beauchamp (*switchboard attendant, Northwich*), Enoch Bratt (*driver, Northwich*), Arthur Kettle (*electrician, Northwich*), Ron Pennistone (*driver, Crewe*), and Anthony Sheen (*switchboard attendant, Crewe*).

20 Years: Mrs. Dot Goulding (*cleaner, Northwich*), Messrs. Robert H. Cowgill (*electrician, Crewe*), Robert Edgeley (*senior draughtsman, Crewe*), Wilfred Everall (*linesman’s mate, Crewe*), Austin Hughes (*jointer, Northwich*), Robin D. Sharvin (*2nd eng. energy sales, Crewe*), William H. Southern (*chargehand storekeeper, Northwich*), John Summers (*electrician, Crewe*) and David A. Threadfold (*linesman, Crewe*).



YOUNG MEN WITH A FUTURE



A trio from North Mersey, from left to right: apprentice electricians David Messham, John McAvoy and Brian J. Murray learn from Mr. John Bailey (assistant senior electrical instructor).

Each of our ten Districts supplied their quota of young men to make up this year's intake of 43 apprentices who recently began their working life at the Board's Training Centre at Hoylake. Since the apprentice training section was opened in 1956, the staff of instructors at Hoylake, under the expert guidance of Mr. Ron Slack, have had a hand in moulding the careers of nearly 1,400 youngsters.

Many of the young men have gone on to further studies and gained University degrees. Many more are holding important engineering and commercial appointments with our own Board or with other organisations in the electricity supply industry.

Right: Not spacemen, but apprentices from our Mid-Mersey District at a lathe in the workshop. From left to right: Graham T. Davies, John Overton (fitter). Neil H. Goulden and James D. Dunning.

Below: From Liverpool District we have, from left to right: Gary Wilson, Gary Moore, Alan Phillips, John Crawford, Michael F. Toborne and John Orme. Alan is training to become an electrical fitter while his colleagues are apprentice electricians.





Above: Our Dee Valley District contingent, from left to right: Christopher G. Allen, Ian Trevor, Christopher J. Douglas, Mark Price, Ian Parry and David M. Quinn. All are apprentice electricians with the exception of Ian who is in training as an electrical fitter.



OUR COVER PICTURE shows Mr. Joe Naisbett (*storekeeper*) handing over a tool box to apprentice meter mechanic Francis Shaw, from Liverpool. Waiting his turn, is a tall young man from Machynlleth, apprentice electrician, Sean Kenny.

Left: In the Appliance Repair section, Mr. Maurice Grisenthwaite (assistant electrical instructor) teaches two apprentice electricians from Mid-Cheshire District, Philip L. Bridgewater and David S. Langdon.

Below: A quintette of apprentice electricians from our North Wirral District, from left to right: Alistair S. Clynych, Andrew Stewart, Jeremy P. Harding, Paul S. Kelly and Carl S. Realey.





Senior mechanical instructor Mr. Doug Jones, in the centre of the six young men from our Clwyd District, from left to right: Stephen Walkden, Steven T. Davies, Paul Roberts, Derek N. Eardley, Stephen M. Tomkins and Floyd Boka. All are under training as electricians with the exception of Floyd, who is on an electrical fitter's course.

Left: Learning the basics of electrical installation work from Mr. John Seymour (senior instructor electrical) are four young men from our Gwynedd District, from left to right: apprentice electricians Wyn Morris, Kevin A. Read, Kevin Hughes and Geoffrey I. Roberts.



Below: A trio of trainees, based on Head Office. From left to right: James Connolly, Audie D. Murphy and Timothy J. Wickes.

Below: Mr. Stan Evans (assistant mechanical instructor) with a duo from Oswestry, apprentice electricians, David I. Smith and Russell Humphreys.





Some of the delegates attending the Conference at Head Office.

DJAC Conference

“Commercial Fast-Breeder Needed”

—*Chairman*

“IF WE are to avoid the energy gap looming up in the 1990's, there is no practical alternative to the rapid development of nuclear power,” said Mr. Dennis Dodds, MANWEB Chairman, at the Annual Conference of the Industry's Merseyside and North Wales District Joint Advisory Council at Head Office earlier this month.

“Exact estimates about energy use towards the end of this century cannot be made, but the range of possibilities is known,” he said. “The country's present total energy use is the equivalent of about 325 million tons of coal a year. If industrial production expands at only 2.7% per annum, the total amount needed in twenty years will lie in the range of 500/650 million tons of coal equivalent. British supplies of coal, gas and oil might supply about half this need. The balance will need to be found from oil imports, conservation, benign sources and nuclear electricity.”

“Wind, wave and solar energy might contribute the equivalent, at most, of about 40 million tons of coal. This leaves a deficit of roughly 300 million tons to be found elsewhere. Nuclear power is the only technology which exists to meet this need.

Pressure groups at present spreading anti-nuclear propaganda must, in the end, accept that the alternative to nuclear development (when the North Sea oil and gas runs out) would be a severe fall in our industrial production and our standard of living. It is inconceivable that windmills, waves and other benign sources could do more than make a modest contribution," added Mr. Dodds.

Prototype Essential Now

"If we, in addition, wish to avoid dependence on imports (including uranium) a prototype Commercial Fast Reactor (breeding its own fuel) must be developed as soon as possible. The construction of such a prototype in the 1980's is essential if the Fast Reactors, likely to be needed in the 1990's are to be constructed on well-established technology. A prototype would not automatically give rise to a commitment to larger numbers later, but failure to order a prototype in time, would effectively destroy the option of having larger numbers at a later date. This is a quite unacceptable risk."

The two other principal speakers at the conference (organised for employees of MANWEB, the CEGB and the Electricity Council) were Mr. W. J. Prior, a member of the Electricity Council, and Mr. W. F. Cusworth, Director General of the CEGB's North Western Region.

Mr. Prior, who has special responsibilities for industrial relations, spoke on the topic of "*Where are we in Industrial Relations, and where are we likely to go?*"

He said that the present national agreements had changed very little since they were drawn up in 1948—a tribute to those who had shaped them. There had been improvements in terms and conditions of service, and changes brought about by technological innovations.

On the subject of pay Mr. Prior said: "Everybody has suffered during the period of pay policy. It was clearly the Government's intention that everybody should."

The industry's procedures for dealing with problems and grievances had stood us in good stead, said Mr. Prior. Recent legislation was forcing other industries to come into step with electricity, which had always been to the forefront.

Commenting on the setting up of the new National Joint Co-ordinating Council, which was expected to come to joint agreement on policy matters in the industry, Mr. Prior said that the new body would concentrate on discussing the problems themselves, and not on consultation on management's solutions to those problems. He hoped to see similar changes in the scope of the present DJAC's and LAC's.

Reporting on behalf of the Generating Region, Mr. Cusworth said that last year was one of record



Messrs. Denis Dodds and Ben Hastings, our Chairman and Deputy Chairman, 'batting' during the Open Forum session.

Answers to Questions

Group Manager Mr. Joe Winchester, poses a question on behalf of his syndicate.





Group Manager Sid Fairclough's syndicate 'in session.'

output, spearheaded by a great effort from Fiddlers Ferry power station, which produced over 10,000 million units—5% of the country's total demand.

Thermal efficiency improved by about 0.5%—the equivalent of a saving of £25 million, and the major task facing the Region today was the commissioning, on time, of the Region's three new stations at Heysham, Dinorwic, and Ince 'B.'

Joining in the nuclear debate, Mr. Cusworth pointed out that 1977 was the 21st anniversary of the peaceful generation of nuclear power, and in that time not one person had been seriously injured as a result of a nuclear accident. Nuclear power had thus proved itself to be completely safe.

The nation's four top "Magnox" stations (including Trawsfynydd) each produced last year more units of electricity than any other nuclear power station in the world—and they turned out the units at two-thirds of the cost of electricity produced by conventional power stations.

There was an urgent need for clear decisions on our future medium-term and long-term nuclear programmes, emphasised Mr. Cusworth.

"These decisions, particularly those affecting the fast breeder, will be affected by the climate of public opinion. There is little doubt that those opposed to nuclear technology are skillfully outmanoeuvring those who are in favour. Nuclear power has an image of danger which bears no relation to the facts, and it has proved to be efficient, reliable, economical, and, above all, safe. Everyone in this industry can be an advocate for nuclear power."

The main-speakers each dealt with a variety of questions raised by the delegates. The generation and distribution sides then divided for syndicate discussions, which were followed by lively "Open Forum" sessions dealing with a wide variety of topics.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT?

It considers whether changes should be made to Joint Management/Trade Union bodies at district and local level.

IT RAISES QUESTIONS IT INVITES COMMENTS

- Any changes eventually made could affect you.
- You are invited to read the document and send your comments direct to the NJCC Secretary.
- Views are wanted from individual members of staff as well as from Boards, Trade Unions, DJAC's and LAC's before 1st February 1978.

Copies of the document available from—

**Mr. David Buchanan,
Secretarial Department,
Head Office.**

Talking Notes

DISPLAY OF CONFIDENCE

TO PROMOTE public and staff confidence in "White Meter" off-peak electricity coupled with the efficiency of electric storage heaters, our North Wirral District energy sales engineer **Doug Willacey** has arranged for special displays at the Birkenhead and Wallasey shops.

A storage heater, in daily use as part of the heating system in the respective shops is wired into a "White Meter" which in turn is fixed to a well-designed board displayed in a prominent position in the shop.

Neat lettering on the boards

Two customers at our Birkenhead shop attracted to electric heating demonstration display.

details the weekly running costs—with the number of units used by the heater and the actual cash cost—and another figure gives the cumulative cash total from 1st October, when the scheme began.

Doug has also included a forecast figure with an estimate

of £34.00 as the total cost of electricity used by the heater during the full heating season from 1st October to 1st May.

Shop supervisors **Keith Leonard** at Birkenhead and **Bob Buckingham** at Wallasey who have co-operated in the venture inform us that they and their staff have had numerous enquiries about electric storage heating since the display had been in position.

They have the additional and practical advantage of utilising an electric heater in use to heat the premises, to demonstrate the true running cost.



First-Aiders

At a recent meeting of the No. 8 LAC at Caernarfon, Committee Chairman **Mr. Jim Barraclough** (Group Manager) congratulated members of the District staff who had qualified for their first-aid certificates.

He was able to present these to Messrs. **Hugh Hughes** and **W. Arthur Jones** from Caernarfon, Messrs. **Alun E. Griffiths**, **Arwel Humphreys**, **T. John Owen** and **Paul E. Valencia** from Llangefni.

Unable to be present at the ceremony to receive their Certificates were Messrs. **Ernie Rogers** from Caernarfon and **Steve F. Hayward** from Llangefni.

Steve, we hear, is still in hospital following his accident in which he broke his kneecap. We join with his many friends in Gwynedd District

in wishing him a speedy recovery and hope that he will be home for Christmas.

Sponsored Swim

A team of swimmers from Head Office raised £219.86 for the British Heart Foundation, in a sponsored swim at the Liverpool University Swimming Pool recently.

The thirteen volunteers averaged 15 lengths, and the two stars of the event were Mark and Suzanne Bradbury aged 9 and 6 respectively. Between them they raised over £50.

These two proficient young swimmers are the grandchildren of **Bill and Barbara Boylin**. Bill works in Head Office and Barbara in Mid-Mersey District. Bill is rightly



The 'Atlantis' youngsters—
Mark and Susanne.

proud of his aquatic duo whom he has helped to coach—one of his part-time activities!

Congratulations to the team of swimmers, and thanks to their sponsors, who almost doubled last year's total in aid of this worthy cause.

Just Walking in the Rain!

Despite some rather inclement weather conditions—the rain was pouring down—14 determined and hardy members and friends of our Clwyd



Never mind the rain! These sponsored walkers from Clwyd District completed their task to raise money for charity.

District staff, trudged from Rhyl to Prestatyn, and back, when taking part in a sponsored walk a short time ago.

They successfully raised a grand total of £173.60 from their sponsors and the money was later presented to the North West Cancer Research Fund.

Top money-spinners were **J. L. Hughes** (*System Engineer*) and his wife Bett, who between them raised a magnificent £71.

Thanks also go to **Bill Silvey**, who acted as the scrutineer and saw that every inch was covered, and **Diane Morgan**, who supplied the refreshments and administered a cold sponge to affected areas!!

Badminton Tournament

The 1977 MANWEB Annual Badminton Tournament will be held on a Sunday in December or January at a venue to be decided at a later date. All players (experienced and beginners) will be welcome. A charge of about 50p will be made to cover the cost of the courts.

Please let your Head Office or District representatives know as soon as possible if you wish to take part in this event, or alternatively get in touch with **Tony Thackray** at Head Office (Tel. 2549) or **John Foster** at North Wirral District (Internal tel. 241).

The organisers especially ask Districts which have not taken

part in previous events to make a special effort to participate this year.

Note for your diary—the South Wales Electricity Board will be organising the 1978 Electricity Supply Industry Badminton Championships at the National Sports Centre for Wales, Cardiff, on April 7/9th.

'200' Club

In the Accounts for the year ended 30th September 1977, recently published, the '200' Club members winning monthly prizes are named as **Messrs J. S. Burgess, P. D. Smallman, H. W. King, Miss L. Gillibrand, Messrs. P. Byrne, H. J. Bird, J. T. Lornie, Miss B. C. Pays, Mr. B. Nield, Mrs. C. Haresnape, Messrs. J. S. Buck and J. T. Lornie.**

The annual prize, which this year amounted to £424.76, was won by **Mr. Frederick Hannath**, our former District Administrative Officer at Gwynedd prior to his retirement.

Members of the '200' Club, even those who have not yet collected a prize, will no doubt be gratified to know that their subscriptions this year have meant a donation of £842.77 to the Electrical and Electronics Industries Benevolent Association funds. Since the formation of the '200' Club some five years ago, a total of £3,580 has been donated to the fund.

Champion Haymaker

A Mobberley farmer has produced the best electrically-dried hay in the country. He beat 170 other farmers from all over the nation at the Electricity Council sponsored 'Farm-Electric' Hay Drying Championship recently.

Mr. Ernest Royle, who farms 20 hectares at his Blakeley farm had one of the smallest farms in the competition. Not only did the judges select his hay as the best exhibited, but 50% of his fellow-finalists and their wives, in a separate contest, picked out the Royle bale as their choice of champion fodder.

Representing farms in the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board Area, Mr. Royle picked up first prize of £50 as winner of the regional final and the national championship boosted his winnings to £300.

Mr. Royle is one of a growing band of farmers who recognise the importance of electrically dried hay. There are 14 million acres of grassland in this country, which, if dried and stored

could make a significant contribution to winter feeding.

The traditional method of field haymaking means that 30% is lost through turning and tedding to ensure that 80% of the moisture content is removed to make the hay safe for winter storage. Gathering is also subject to the inconsistency of the British weather. At Blakeley Farm a 30kw unit electrically dries the hay, which is cut at peak growing and nutritional value. It is then stored safely ready for winter feeding the Royle's 65 Friesian milkers and 30 followers.

FOR SALE

Well maintained, three-bedroom semi-detached house in Newton Park, Chester. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, extra large garden, not overlooked at rear. Detached garage. £12,500. 'Phone Chester 45267.

Girl's Raleigh 18 inch bicycle—almost new. Suit 8-11 year-old. Cost £66 new, but will accept £40. 'Phone D. Jones 051-677 3786 (evenings).

News from Aberystwyth

by Maldwyn Evans
'Contact' Correspondent

Bowls Knock-out Trophy

Ten bowling enthusiasts entered the lists for the trophy in a competition organised by the District's Sports and Social Club towards the end of the season.

After the early hard-fought rounds the finalists were Alan Galbraith and Emyr Griffiths. The first half of the final match was just about level pegging, but during the later stage Emyr pulled away to win. Congratulations to all the competitors for a good competition, and thanks to Mrs. Jennifer Galbraith for the refreshments on the day.

Touring South America

At present on a tour of Argentina, Patagonia and Brazil with the "Cor Godre'r Aran" is Dick Edwards, an electrician based at Dolgellau.

The "Choir of Aran's Slopes" springs from the village of Llanuwchllyn, nestling at the foot of Aran Mountain just above the waters of Bala Lake. Over the years the people of the farmsteads sprinkled along the slopes of the mountain have gathered to sing the traditional songs of their forefathers at village hall and chapel gatherings, and the choir formally came into existence in 1949.

Since then the choir has won widespread fame, featuring regularly on TV programmes, with successful tours of the USA and Canada already accomplished. Dick Edwards sings first tenor.

At the prize presentation ceremony in London, champion haymaker Mr. Ernest Royle, left, seen here with his wife and Dr. Keith Dexter (Director General, Agricultural Development and Advisory Service).





Guest speaker at Clwyd Conference
Mr. Ben Hastings (*Deputy Chairman*).

THE FUTURE of everyone in the electricity supply industry is bound up with the future of nuclear power, declared our Deputy Chairman, Mr. Ben Hastings, speaking at the annual Clwyd District staff meeting organised by No. 7 Local Advisory Committee.

The meeting, held at the Derbyshire Miners' Holiday Centre, Rhyl, was attended by well over 100 people, including a good sprinkling of retired colleagues. In the chair was Group Manager Mr. Jim Barraclough.

Guest speaker Mr. Hastings painted a broad canvas of the past and future progress of the industry, with special emphasis on likely developments during the next 25 years.

He said that Britain's total energy consumption today amounted to the equivalent of 325 million tons of coal a year, and forecast that this figure might well rise to around 550 million tons in 25 years' time. During the intervening period North Sea oil production was likely to reach its peak and begin to decline. Coal would continue to play a major part in the energy scene, but much of our coal production might by that time be used to replace oil as a source of transport fuel and chemical feedstock.

Optimistic Assessment

While the so-called "benign" sources of renewable energy—sun, wind, tides and waves—might all make some contribution, the most optimistic assessment of the potential of these sources was that they might contribute up to 40 million tons of coal equivalent by the end of this Century, and it was essential that

CLWYD DISTRICT STAFF CONFERENCE

**"NUCLEAR
POWER
IS OUR
FUTURE"**

—DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

we should plan for a very substantial nuclear capability in order to meet our future needs, he added.

"One can understand the anxiety in some quarters to find an alternative to nuclear power," continued Mr. Hastings. "After Nagasaki and Hiroshima nuclear power has sinister connotations, and the disposal of nuclear waste still raises some problems.

"Although some unscrupulous critics of nuclear power create terrifying pictures with little or no regard to truth and fact, the fact remains that nuclear power has been with us for decades, and the safety record of our nuclear stations is splendid. If nuclear power does not bridge the energy gap by the end of the Century the world is heading for chaos," he added.

Referring specifically to the fast-breeder reactor, Mr. Hastings went on:

"There is no question of it being anything but inevitable. The only question is how quickly it will be developed so that at the end of the day it is absolutely safe. We cannot afford to lose this argument by default. The job of this industry is to explain patiently, to its staff and the general public, what the true risks are, and why we believe them to be acceptably small."

Pictures on this page show some members of the Clwyd District staff at their annual conference.

In conclusion the Deputy Chairman stressed that the E.E.C. estimated that by the end of the Century electricity's share of the energy market would have risen from 25% to 50% of the total—a much bigger share of a bigger cake.

"The future is all-electric—all-electric homes, all-electric surface transport—with nuclear power as the only practical answer to the world's energy problems," he declared.

After LAC secretary Mr. Erroll Griffiths had made a comprehensive report on the Committee's work during the year, Mr. Barraclough commented on the Board's results during 1976/77.

Turning Point

He said that the year marked a turning point for the industry after six very lean years. Although the return to economic pricing had meant that the domestic consumer used less electricity, there were heartening signs on the industrial front—a favourable trend for the country as a whole.

The conclusion of the formal side of the business was followed by a more-than-usually-interesting



Open Forum Session, with a barrage of questions ranging from the wider topic of the world's energy resources and their utilisation to more domestic issues. The latter category included fresh air in the District office, "live-line" working, filing facilities, the changeover from nylon to cotton overalls, transport, appliance spares, the taxation of travelling allowances, and bad debts by consumers—all of which combined to keep the "top table" more than a little on their toes!



Preparing and Cooking Poultry for Christmas

by Irene Morris (sales demonstrator, Aberystwyth)

THE main ingredient of almost everyone's Christmas dinner is the bird, whether it be turkey, chicken, duck or goose. Today, most of our poultry is sold as 'oven-ready'—that means it has been hung, plucked, drawn and trussed. You buy it in a frozen lump. However, I must give a word of warning—*all frozen poultry must be thawed very slowly before putting it into the oven for cooking.* It should be left in its film wrapping and placed in a refrigerator or cool larder, or even a bowl of cold water, to slowly thaw for 24-48 hours according to the size of the bird. It must never be thawed out by dipping it into hot water.

Poultry should be well cooked yet left nicely moist. To achieve this it must be cooked over a fairly long period at a low temperature.

The various types of poultry require their own special stuffing accompaniments when going through the roasting process. Chicken and turkey, since they both lack fat, should be covered with a piece of fatty bacon and regularly basted during cooking.

Duck and goose, on the other hand, are rich in fat and should be served with a sharp sauce, usually made of apple, to counter the richness of the bird.

A stuffing improves the flavour and appearance of poultry. It also makes the meat go further! Stuffings are made from bread crumbs, meat and rice to which butter or chopped suet is added together with herbs and seasoning.

As the stuffing expands during cooking, it is necessary to pack-or stuff-the bird loosely. A basic four ounces of stuffing or forcemeat mixture is usually sufficient for a three or four pound chicken.

Preparation

First, remove the bird's innards. Wash the outside thoroughly and rinse the inside. Wipe and dry the bird. Stuff with the correct mixture

then truss up the bird neatly and securely.

Place it on a trivet in a roasting tin, cover with foil and cook in a moderate oven (375°F/200°C). The cooking time will vary with the size of the bird

Remove the foil about twenty minutes before your estimated cooking time is complete and allow the bird to gently brown.

For cooking chicken or duck allow approximately 20 minutes to the pound. For turkey, about 15 minutes to the pound and for goose, 25 minutes to the pound.

Stuffing and accompaniments for the various types of poultry are as follows:

Chicken—any good forcemeat, serve with gravy, bread sauce, sausages and bacon rolls.

Duck or goose—sage and onion stuffing, gravy and apple sauce.

Turkey—sausage, celery, chestnut or other forcemeat, serve with gravy, bread sauce and bacon rolls.

Finishing the Christmas Cake

Cover worktop with icing sugar and take two-thirds of the almond paste and use a rolling pin to flatten it into a strip deep enough and long enough to encircle your cake. Press on to the sides of the cake.

Roll out the remaining paste into a circle to cover the top of the cake. Smooth out all joints with a knife or rolling pin to get a level top and a sharp edge to the sides. Cover with grease-proof paper and leave to dry for at least a day.

Prepare your Royal icing. You need two pounds of icing sugar, the whites of four eggs (*you used the yolks for the almond paste*), two teaspoons lemon juice and two teaspoons of glycerine should be added to keep the icing soft.

Lightly beat the egg whites, add lemon juice and glycerine. Sieve icing sugar and add half to the egg whites. Beat well. Add remainder of the sugar gradually, beating well until the mixture is stiff enough to stand in peaks in the bowl. Keep the basin covered with a damp cloth as the icing quickly hardens if exposed to the atmosphere. Care must be taken not to overbeat the icing.

Then you can take it from there for icing a cake is yet another story!

RETIREMENTS

"LEW" and "SGIAFF"

LEAVE GWYNEDD

Two long-serving colleagues from Caernarfon retired recently on health grounds.

Mr. Lewis Morris, a bricklayer by trade, joined the Board 20 years ago as a storekeeper, being promoted chargehand a few years later. He served on both Local Advisory and Works Committees for the past four years. "Lew," as he was known to all, was something of a poet, and many humorous incidents have been uncovered by his pen.

Mr. J. G. Roberts—or "Sgiaff" as he was better known to his colleagues—joined the former North Wales Power Company as a linesman many years ago. In 1971 he was transferred from the main section to the commercial department as a linesman/street lighting attendant.

Their many friends in Gwynedd wish them both every happiness in retirement.



Above: Mr. Lewis Morris, writer of descriptive poems.

Below: Mr. J. G. Roberts—with his ventriloquist dummy at a recent party. 'Sgiaff' is on the left!



Mr. S. GRIFFITHS

A general foreman based at our New Crane Street depot in Dee Valley District, Mr. Stan Griffiths, retired recently.

His long career in the industry began in 1927 with the North Wales Power Company. During the war years he worked with a Wrexham firm, returning to our industry in 1951 when he joined MANWEB as a

linesman at the Vauxhall depot. He worked on the North Wales Development programme and became a foreman in 1953.

Four years ago he transferred to New Crane Street where his many friends contributed towards the cost of a greenhouse as his farewell gift.

Some of our staff based at New Crane Street gather round as Mr. Norman Clarke (*Production Engineer*), centre right, presents their farewell gift to Mr. Stan Griffiths.



CALLING NORTH MERSEY PENSIONERS

Are you aware that there is an active Sports and Social Club at Bridle Road? A Membership Card is available for you on application to The Secretary, Mr. W. Tubey.

It is hoped you will take an active part in the Club by forming your own Committee.

Mr. E. NEARY

After 47 years' service to the industry Mr. Ernie Neary, a mains foreman with Liverpool District, retired recently.

Ernie joined the industry as a labourer, later becoming a jointer's boy in 1932, a 'mate' a year later and a plumber/jointer after a further year. He was appointed foreman in 1960. Ernie's father was an HV jointer before him.

Friends and colleagues joined in presenting him with cash gifts and their good wishes for a long and happy retirement, to enjoy his hobbies of playing snooker, reading—and supporting Everton!

ELECTRICITY AT THE ENERGY SHOW

THE VITAL role that electricity plays in the national economy was shown on the Electricity Stand at the 1977 Energy Show, staged at the Empire Hall, Olympia, a short time ago.

The exhibit emphasised that electricity can be good value for money when used wisely for all forms of heating, and that's when properly installed with adequate levels of thermal insulation electricity not only compares favourably in running costs with other fuels but, in many cases, shows substantial savings.

A modern power station is a relatively efficient converter of low grade fuel into high grade energy, operating at a conversion efficiency of about 35%. This is more than twice as efficient as motor transport and, what may be more to the point, more efficient than most domestic central heating boilers which use high grade fuel in summer time to provide hot water only.

A great deal of the coal and oil used by power stations is of a very low grade. In fact, if the electricity supply industry did not use so much coal with a

high dirt content it would probably stay in the ground and never be used.

The electricity supply industry has adopted the concept of the Minimum Resources Home where reasonable comfort standards can be achieved using the minimum of energy and other resources. The exhibit showed by the use of models how the concept could be used in practical terms, with examples of the performance and running costs achieved by houses built to the much higher standards of thermal insulation recommended by the electricity supply industry.

Taking into account capital cost and interest together with likely all-in energy costs over a five year period, most electric central heating systems and especially storage heating, using the cheaper off-peak tariffs, compare favourably with other systems. In every electrical case there is no fuel to store, and the absence of fumes and ash ensure cleanliness of both the home and its environment. Because no ducts are required for fumes or combustion air supply, the adoption of electric central heating in new buildings can reduce the construction costs as well as giving the architect complete freedom in planning the layout of the premises.

OUTING

The last outing of the year for the Mid-Mersey Pensioners' Association took them for a visit to Morecambe, and Blackpool Illuminations.

On a day with very mixed weather the coach picked up members at St. Helens, Warrington, Runcorn and Frodsham taking them on to Morecambe to be received by Mr. Russell Henri (one time *District Senior Clerk* at Warrington) now *District Administrative Officer*, Lancaster, Norweb. A friendly reception by the staff at Morecambe, followed by an excellent meal, set the seal on a very enjoyable outing.

Leaving Morecambe for a short stay in Blackpool before a leisurely run through the 'lights' the coach then took the pensioners on a good run home.

Obituary

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

Mr. John James Balmer, who was employed at our St. Helens Depot as a switchboard attendant for 46 years prior to his retirement in 1974.

Mr. Jack Boulger, affectionately known as 'Bull' whose death after 16 years of retirement is deeply felt by many of his friends in North Mersey District. A most respected mains foreman, 'Bull' was at one time in charge of all the m.v. and h.v. cable laying on

the Kirkby housing development.

Mr. James Bradshaw, aged 74, a former electrician's mate and cooker assembler at St. Helens depot in our Mid-Mersey District.

Jim retired in 1967.

Mr. Edward Phillips, who retired from his job as a joiner with our former Area 4 in 1966.

Mr. Idris Roberts, a former linesman's mate at Legacy, who took voluntary redundancy in 1971. Idris had worked for the industry for 36 years.