



## MANWEB CUT HEATING BILLS

... and easy ways to pay

OVER 50,000 of the Board's domestic customers already take the opportunity to make paying their electricity bills so much easier by taking out a monthly Bankers' Standing Order.

However, the majority of our domestic customers do not have bank accounts, so MANWEB have introduced a monthly easy payment plan for customers who prefer to pay by cash.

Ahead of us lie the colder months. MANWEB understand how hard it can be for many customers to raise a cash lump sum at the end of a "heavy" quarter.

With the monthly payment scheme, the Board's accounts staff take the customer's recent bills as a guide and work out how much electricity they are likely to use over a full year.

The total amount is then broken down into 12 equal monthly payments. The customer doesn't have to find a large amount when the electricity bill arrives—often with other accounts to be settled!

To announce this new MANWEB plan for easy payment, and to promote our existing Bankers' Order Scheme, explanatory leaflets are being distributed during the December quarter with every quarterly electricity account.

### CHAIRMAN REAPPOINTED

Mr. Ben Hastings, Chairman of MANWEB since the beginning of 1978, has been re-appointed for the further five years by the Secretary of State for Energy, with effect from 1st January 1983.

### New dual fuel system a success

"I HAVE always found electric heating to be most efficient and cost effective so, when we moved into a new home with oil-fired central heating, I contacted MANWEB to see if they had a system to suit me, utilising the existing radiator installation," commented Mr. Malcolm Gylee from Mold.

He was immediately put in touch with MANWEB specialist Doug. Gregg, a senior engineer in the Commercial section at Head Office.

Well-qualified to give advice on this matter, Doug. has been carrying out a lot of research and experiment into

dual-fuel systems as the cost of oil heating has almost trebled over the past few years.

He told Mr. Gylee that MANWEB's method for solving the problem was the simple installation of a well-insulated tank of water heated by low-cost 'Economy 7' electricity. To achieve optimum water storage and improve

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Satisfied customers Mr. and Mrs. Gylee outside their dual-fuel home.

## SPACE-AGE COOKING

—the best of British



Anne Williams, in our Chester shop, shows off the Board's new concept in cooking, with, from left to right: the Creda "Corniche" split-level, the Belling "Format" and the Tricity "Build Under".

TWO new "Best of British" electric cookers, the Belling 600X and the Tricity 2606, have joined the Credaplan Corniche for the Board's "Space Age Cooking" presentation to its customers.

All of these excellent value for money cookers are made in the United Kingdom.

The Belling Format 600X is a free-standing cooker, but with a difference.

In the trade it has been called the biggest step forward in cooker design for many years. Described as a "cook centre", it is adaptable for free-stand-

ing or built-in and can even be sited in a corner of a kitchen.

Its many features include a ceramic hob, a full-size, four-shelf, high-capacity, turbo-fan oven, an extra waist-level oven with a giant double grill, an angled illuminated control panel with electronic auto-timer and reminder timer.

The dramatic styling complements and harmonises with practically all of today's kitchen colour schemes.

Priced at £549.95 including VAT—with Extracare at £17.50—it may seem a lot of money, but it certainly is a lot of cooker!

The Tricity "build-under" oven, model 2606, and the shallow hob, model 2206, is the first BEAB approved oven giving the opportunity to site the hob in the work top directly above—a boon to customers with compact kitchens. The hob of course can be sited elsewhere on the split-level principle.

Attractively styled in brown, the "build-under" oven has a new-style flush handle on the "See Through" glass door of the large-capacity fan-oven with integrated high-speed grill. The attractive brown-glass facia panel has orange barrel indicators for the oven, grill, cook guide and push-button light switch.

The matching brown hob unit has anodised trims and the new "Reflecta"

★ TURN TO PAGE 3



Joint secretaries of the LJCC, David Rogers, left, and Sid Warburton, with guest speaker Geoffrey Barnes.

Oswestry District Manager Ron Williams, right, enjoys a laugh with his predecessor and namesake "J.L."



### Oswestry Employees' Annual Meeting

## FIGURING OUT THE BALANCE SHEET

SHOULD you wish to buy MANWEB it would cost you about £550 million—providing of course it was up for sale. This is the figure given by Chief Accountant Geoffrey Barnes as an approximate total of the Board's assets.

Mr Barnes was speaking at the Oswestry District Employees' Annual Meeting at the Pedigree Hotel on the outskirts of the town. It was the first to be held since the election of the new Local Joint Co-ordinating Council, and the committee had opted to retain the same format for the annual meeting that had been successful with the Local Advisory Committee.

Group Manager Norman Maden chaired the proceedings and after welcoming delegates,

guests from Head Office and retired members of staff, he introduced Oswestry District Manager Ron Williams to sum up the MANWEB year.

There was a very slight increase in electricity sales over the recent months with the sign that the depressed economy was improving. Oswestry had shown an increase in sales but it was still below the 1974 level for domestic units. The overall picture he painted was a mildly optimistic one with the price of electricity

rising less than that of gas and making it a better buy for MANWEB customers.

The economics and the balance sheet of a large organisation are often difficult for the non-accountant to understand, but MANWEB Chief Accountant, Geoffrey Barnes gave a very lucid explanation of the Board's financial position.

By Act of Parliament, Electricity Boards have to break even. In addition, the Government of the day controlled the industry's finances by setting targets and limiting the amount available for borrowing. During the last two financial years a

new method of recording the balance sheet has been implemented. "Current Cost Accounting" takes inflation into account when money is set aside for depreciation of plant, machinery, buildings, vehicles etc.

In 1981/2 MANWEB made an operating profit but after the paying of interest and other charges the profit turned into a small loss—small relative to the turnover. The loss was £1.4 million, a lot of money but in terms of the £551 million it was nearly breaking even, less than one quarter per cent.

The target set by the Government was to make an operating profit of 1.7%, the MANWEB figure was 1.9%—and the Board repaid nearly £6 million to reduce borrowing.

Meeting Government targets is one aspect of performance, another is the measure of how much MANWEB adds to the customer's bill compared with other Boards and the Retail Price Index. MANWEB internal operating costs added £37 to each customer last year—two thirds of which was accumulated at District level. It was one of the lower costs per customer of all Boards and showed the Board's determination to provide electricity as cheaply as possible.

In the open forum a request for banning smoking in the District Offices was denied. The installation of a new tie-line to Sealand Road was rejected on the grounds that it was not economic and another questioner wanted a variety in the safety footwear which was subsidised, which was again declined as the most popular and suitable footwear was on the list. There was some joy for an engineering employee who was informed that additional overalls could be provided in exceptional circumstances—over and above the annual issue.

Group Manager Norman Maden quickly brought the meeting to an end, nearly an hour late, but not before thanking the joint secretaries for their efforts and in particular principal assistant Sid Warburton for all his hard work.

## LJCC TEACH-IN

THE new constitution and role of the Local Joint Co-ordinating Councils, which replaces the former Local Advisory Committees, has been explained in great detail at a number of "Teach-Ins" held at various venues throughout the Board's area.

An initial session, especially geared for Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Joint Secretaries, of each LJCC, was held at Head Office. Talks were given by Arthur Priest (*District Industrial Relations Officer*), Norman Barr (*EEPTU*), Bob Blackburn (*EPA*), Keith Mann (*Nalgo*) and John Scudamore (*Board Secretary*).

MANWEB Joint Co-ordinating Council.

The format has been repeated, in briefer form, for all available members of the various LJCCs within the Board. Chaired by the relevant Group Manager, each session included an address from Mr. Priest and from at least one Trade Union representative speaker.

The theme throughout the sessions was one of encouragement to make the new Local Joint Co-ordinating Councils effective through participation by all members in full and free consultation.

It has always been emphasised that this new venture has had the full support and co-operation from management and trade unions.

Further sessions are now being arranged for members of the LJCCs who, for various reasons, were unable to attend the previous "Teach-Ins".

All are members of the

The theme throughout the

Members of three Local Joint Co-ordinating Councils at their "Teach-In", held recently at Macon Way, Crewe.

Right: Mid-Mersey District, from left to right, standing: Fred Clague, Gordon Bevan, Len Keogh, Roy Powell, Joe Kelvin and Barry Hayes. Seated: Albert Cooper (DE), Denis Hodgetts (DAO), Jean Seddon and Arthur Priest (DIRO).

Below, left: Mid-Cheshire District, from left to right, standing: Derek Senior, Ted Pickstock and Graham Zeiher (DE). Seated: Pat O'Neill, Bob Scott, Norman Walsh (DCE), Bob Blackburn (EPEA) and Norman Maden (Group Manager).

Below, right: Oswestry District, Norman Barr (EEPTU), standing, chats with, from left to right: Jean Evans, George Hawkins, Sid Warburton, Frank Jones and Owen Jones.



## Long Service

WE offer congratulations to the following members of the staff who have completed, during the month of October, 40, 30 and 20 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

40 YEARS: Dee Valley District—Thomas C. Evans (*1st engineer—System*). Head Office—Jim S. Burgoyne (*principal assistant—Management Services*).

30 YEARS: Dee Valley District—F. C. 'Stan' Spratt (*driver*). Mid-Cheshire District—Dan Oakes (*craftsman—jointing*). Clwyd District—Guierino S. A. Dallolio (*craftsman—o/h lines*). Gwynedd District—John H. Jones (*craftsman—electrical fitting*). Head Office—Hazel Bogle (*clerk—Revenue*) and Betty Jackson (*administrative assistant—Revenue*).

20 YEARS: North Mersey District—Vincent O'Sullivan (*craftsman—jointing*). Mid-Mersey District—Roy Balmer (*craftsman—electrician*) and Joe Ramsden (*craft attendant*). North Wirral District—Bob Barr (*craft attendant*) and J. Dave Fitch (*craftsman—jointing*). Mid-Cheshire District—Nancy Lythgoe (*salesperson*). Head Office—Norman K. Brooks (*3rd engineer—Technical Drawing Office*) and Frank M. Reynolds (*executive officer—Internal Audit*).



MANWEB Regional winner, Jane Lindop, with her headmaster, Graham Leech, left, when they were presented with the Tricity microwave oven by Ken Appleton (North Mersey DCE) and Cliff Kinrade (Tricity).

## 'Junior Cook' wins school microwave

WINNER of the MANWEB Regional Final of the "Junior Cook of the Year" competition, was 14-year-old Jane Lindop, a pupil at Range High School in Formby.

Jane was awarded personal prizes of a Tricity double-oven cooker, Ferguson portable television and a Kenwood automatic crockpot. She also won a Tricity micro-wave oven for her school.

The search for the "Junior Cook of the Year" began many months ago when boys and girls between the ages of eight and 14 were asked to submit imaginative menus and write a paragraph on why they had chosen their main course.

Tricity, Britain's largest manufacturers of electric cookers, sponsored and organised the nationwide competition in conjunction with Area Electricity Boards. From the hundreds of initial entries, 150 youngsters were selected to take part in the 15 Regional Finals held

throughout Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Recently, Jane joined the other winners from the Regional rounds to compete for the title "Junior Cook of the Year" in the final round held at the Savoy Hotel in London.

After a very tough and tiring day, the eventual winner was adjudicated to be a young lady from Manchester.

## Help for the elderly

AN electricity industry campaign to make life easier for elderly people during the cold winter months was launched with the publication of a new booklet entitled "Advice for Elderly People", available from Electricity Board shops and offices.

It aims to help the elderly keep warm and comfortable at a cost they can afford, giving easy-to-understand advice on home insulation, including low-cost measures such as draught-proofing and lagging, together with advice on value offered with off-peak electricity and Economy 7 tariffs.

Other topics covered include electric blankets, over-the-sink water heaters and showers, fuel economy in the kitchen and easy ways to pay. There is also advice on setting about getting help with heating bills, what to do if supply is interrupted, and home safety.

## Letter from India

DURING 1945-46, immediately after the end of the Second World War, a young Government of India trainee engineer spent a year working with the Liverpool Corporation Electricity Supply Department, gaining experience in his profession.

He asked to be kept in touch with developments here, and, every month for more than 30 years, CONTACT has been sent to Mr. H. K. Ramaswami, who, after his return home, worked his way up to the position of managing director of the South Madras Electric Supply Corporation, and is now a director of the Seshasayee group of companies, an Indian firm specialising in the manufacture of porcelain insulators.

Out of the blue came a letter from Mr. Ramaswami:—

*"I have been a recipient of CONTACT for over 30 years, and have greatly enjoyed reading it. There may be few of the 'old-timers' in MANWEB now—it is particularly good of you to send these magazines, which I read and also circulate to my friends."*

Do any "old-timers" remember Mr. Ramaswami? We are sure he would be interested to hear from them—at 9 Alexandra Road, Cantonment, Tiruchirappalli—620 001, India.

THE Electricity Council have carried out a review of pensions increases and have decided that pensions will be increased, with effect from 1st December, 1982, as follows:—

**For those who received an increase on 1/12/81:—** 11.0% of the basic pension as increased.

**For those who retired after 1/11/81:—**

Date pension commenced	% increase
After 1/11/81 but before 2/12/81	11.0
After 1/12/81 but before 2/1/82	10.1
After 1/1/82 but before 2/2/82	9.2
After 1/2/82 but before 2/3/82	8.3
After 1/3/82 but before 2/4/82	7.3
After 1/4/82 but before 2/5/82	6.4
After 1/5/82 but before 2/6/82	5.5
After 1/6/82 but before 2/7/82	4.6
After 1/7/82 but before 2/8/82	3.7
After 1/8/82 but before 2/9/82	2.8
After 1/9/82 but before 2/10/82	1.8
After 1/10/82 but before 2/11/82	0.9

Some pensions which commenced after 5th April, 1978, include a guaranteed minimum pension element comprising the amount of pension the Scheme is required to provide in respect of contracted-out employment. As the State will provide pensions increases on those guaranteed minimum pensions, the increases in such cases will be based on the Scheme pension less the guaranteed minimum pension.

Broadly, increases apply to pensioners aged

## 1982 PENSION INCREASES

55 years and over and to all widows, but, in addition, children's allowances will, from 1st December, 1982, be increased to:—

- (a) **£541.08** a year in cases where the person responsible for the child is in receipt of a widow/widower's pension from the Scheme in respect of the deceased member;
- (b) **£811.56** a year in cases where the person responsible for the child is not in receipt of a widow/widower's pension from the Scheme in respect of the deceased member.

In their review of pensions increases, Council were concerned about the very high costs of maintaining the purchasing power of pensions. These costs continue to make serious inroads into the resources of the Industry's Superannuation Schemes and, although everything possible will be done to provide pensioners with full protection against inflation, there can be no guarantee that the purchasing power of pensions can be maintained indefinitely. If it becomes necessary to consider changes, there will be full prior discussions with the Management Committees of the Industry's Schemes and with Trades Unions.

## Stork pays a visit

CONGRATULATIONS to Sandra and Peter Elphee on the birth of their daughter, Sarah. Peter is a foreman in the New Crane Street depot Chester, in the Dee Valley District.

## Cartoon by Brooks

*"You could have problems there, Madam. That's the instruction manual and it's in Japanese!"*



Ann Jones, right, seen here with her prize-winning customer Audrey Dufley and her son Gary, with their new Electra washing machine, safely installed and working hard.

## 'Regular' Wins Washing Machine

IT was pleasant to discover that the worthy winner of the Board's recent Electra/Persil promotion offer, Audrey Dufley, is a regular customer at the MANWEB shop in Banks Road, just around the corner from where she lives in West Kirby.

The win was equally pleasing to salesperson Ann Jones who sold the Electra automatic washing machine to Mrs Dufley and then encouraged her to enter for the competition to win her money back.

After carefully scrutinising all the entries submitted, Mr. Keith Sowden (Marketing Services Officer) had the joyful job of informing Mrs. Dufley of her success.

At first, she didn't believe it, thinking that someone was playing a joke on her. However, she went to West Kirby shop and walked up and down outside for a while before taking the plunge to go inside and ask if the news was true.

Her husband Brian, who works in the stores for the Gas

Board at Moreton, is delighted with the "free" washing machine, even though it is electric!

The other part of her prize is the 20 extra-large packs of Persil automatic washing powder—enough to do the first ton of washing. In Mrs. Dufley's case, with two young children in the house, Clare aged five and Gary just 20 months old, it will not be long before the ton is done!

Salesperson Ann, now at Moreton shop, was elated when she heard the news. "It is always nice to know that you have played a part in bringing a stroke of good luck to someone," she said. "I was particularly pleased for Mrs. Dufley for she is a good customer and I know that she and her husband have saved very hard for the new washing machine."

## Barratt build Medallion

AT the launching of the new Barratt Studio 2 flat in London a short time ago, Alan Plumpton, Deputy Chairman of The Electricity Council, complimented Barratt Developments on building the largest number of highly-insulated Medallion Award homes.

He went on to say that the new flat would provide homeowners, and particularly first-time buyers, with a comfortable, economical home that would be within their means to buy and run.

"Studio 2 purchasers can expect their total energy costs, for all purposes, including cooking, washing, lighting, as well as their heating and hot water, to average about £3.75 per week," Mr.

Plumpton said. "They will have the opportunity of being briefed at their homes, because their local Electricity Board arranges to call on them and take them through the system and its costs.

"Buyers will find it very comforting that Barratts, in using electricity to heat their new apartments, have chosen the lowest-cost fuel available to them".

FROM PAGE ONE

## ★ SPACE-AGE COOKING

savers which, in conjunction with the "Economiser" rings, can cut hob cooking costs by nearly 20 per cent.

The oven unit costs just under £280 and the hob sells at £99.95 both exclusive of VAT and fitting charge. Extra-care cover amounts to a modest £11.50 for each item.

Yet another good deal for our customers.

Finally, the classic elegance of the "Corniche", top of the

Credaplan range. Its neatly-designed brown-glass doors front the large capacity double oven in which hot air gently and evenly circulates all round the food being cooked. This means faster cooking and at lower temperatures resulting in a great saving of time and money.

The microelectric timer is so very accurate and controls both, or either, ovens, and a memory recall device allows the busy housewife to check the auto-

matic cook programme at any time. Credaclean liners in both ovens clean themselves and virtually eliminate the need to clean by hand.

Built to last, only the best steel and most carefully-made component parts are used throughout the Credaplan range with its unique choice of ovens and hobs.

The "Corniche" double oven can be yours for under £400, excluding VAT and fitting

charge. Neat and functional hobs—ceramic, vitreous enamel or stainless steel—are priced from about £150, again excluding VAT and fitting charge. Extracare—£11.50 for each item.

With these cookers, the slogan "Buy British—Buy Best" really means what it says.

**STOP PRESS—To date we have sold 150 Belling 'Format' Cookers to the value of £75,000 plus.**

## ● CUT HEAT BILLS



Doug Gregg, right, explains the bivalent system to John Griffith, a member of the Head Office staff who took the opportunity to view the display in the restaurant recently.

comfort conditions, a modulating valve would be incorporated into the system before connection to the existing oil-fired radiator installation.

This sophisticated control was an absolute essential for it helped to give about 15 per cent more energy than similar systems being tried out in other parts of the country.

"The MANWEB electric boiler can be used to over-ride, or even replace, an existing oil-fired or solid fuel boiler," continued Doug. "It does exactly the same job but, because it utilises low-price electricity, it is so much cheaper to run."

So now, the Gylees are using their oil-fired boiler only as a stand-by, if it becomes necessary, to top up the electric system.

"I am delighted that MANWEB understand the needs of its customers," Mr. Gylee told us. "I asked for help and advice and I received it in abundance and the service was first class. I was especially pleased with the back-up by the Board's staff who made sure that the heating installation worked perfectly and nothing was too much trouble for them."

Mr. Gregg informed us that for

homes above the average size, an extra tank, connected in parallel, could be installed to meet the extra heating requirements.

At present, there are approximately 50,000 oil-fired radiator space heating systems in use throughout the MANWEB area. In the past, the Board has had little to offer these customers as a viable alternative. However, about four years ago, the Load Development team at Head Office looked at the size of the potential market and took note of the energy price swing from oil. They began to further investigate the possibilities of an alternative system using the cheaper off-peak electricity.

They eventually came up with the slimline tank, highly insulated and specifically designed for installation in a garage or utility room. In trials it proved very successful, showing yet again, that simple ideas are the best! Being electric, it is clean, has no smells and does not require a flue.

The Board is now in the second phase of its promotion of the bivalent wet system with contacts being made with builders and architects in both private and public sectors.

# Job evaluation assessors

**ALL MANWEB Districts will be visited during November by a team of six "local assessors" who will have the job of making provisional assessments of posts under the NJB Job Evaluation Agreement.**

The 1974 Agreement introduced six new broad grades in place of the previous, much more complex, grading structure. The NJB recognised that this simplification, while it might reduce the number of disagreements about the grading of particular posts, would not eliminate them. They recognised, too, that from time to time, individuals' duties and responsibilities might be changed significantly and that, similarly, the effect of technical change within the industry might be to change whole series of internal relativities.

In order to deal with these problems, the NJB decided to establish a job evaluation scheme. Its purpose would be to determine the allocation of NJB posts to the six new grades. It was to be undertaken on a jointly-agreed basis throughout, and its method of operation was to be that all involved, particularly staff, should feel that the scheme was a fair and reasonable way of evaluating the relative weight of different jobs. The NJB came to the conclusion that this last requirement was more likely to be met if the scheme was tailor-made to the industry's circumstances.

The final scheme, which was agreed by the NJB on 25th March, 1981, was developed following exhaustive pilot, central and proving studies by the central Job Evaluation Unit in London. The Board and the EPEA have nominated the following representatives—"local assessors"—to be jointly responsible for allocating points to factors, ie "initial allocation process".

**J. D. Basford**, Management Services Department, Head Office

**G. A. Bent**, Personnel Section, Head Office

**J. C. Cave**, Technical Drawing Office, Head Office

**J. D. Neill**, System Section, North Mersey

**R. C. Hodson**, Assistant Personnel Manager, Head Office

**R. A. Owen**, District Engineer, North Wirral

The locally-agreed Assessments will be treated as provisional only, since, until the NJB have confirmed the assessments, no grading changes can be applied. Before being reported to the NJB, however, the provisional assessments will be passed to the central Job Evaluation Unit for vetting. This is so that the Unit can judge the assessments for consistency with the principles of the Job Evaluation Scheme.

The programme for assessing posts will be:—

- (a) Outstanding grading claims (submitted prior to 17th February, 1981)
- (b) Districts (previously classified formations)
- (c) Head Office

To explain in greater detail the scheme itself, and how the "local assessors" will operate, a programme of District visits has been arranged as follows:—

North Mersey—11th November  
 Liverpool—9th November  
 Mid-Mersey—11th November  
 Dee Valley—3rd November  
 North Wirral—9th November  
 Mid-Cheshire—8th November  
 Clwyd—5th November  
 Gwynedd—4th November  
 Oswestry—2nd November  
 Aberystwyth—1st November

Once all District posts have been assessed, the "local assessors" will give similar presentations to staff in Head Office departments.

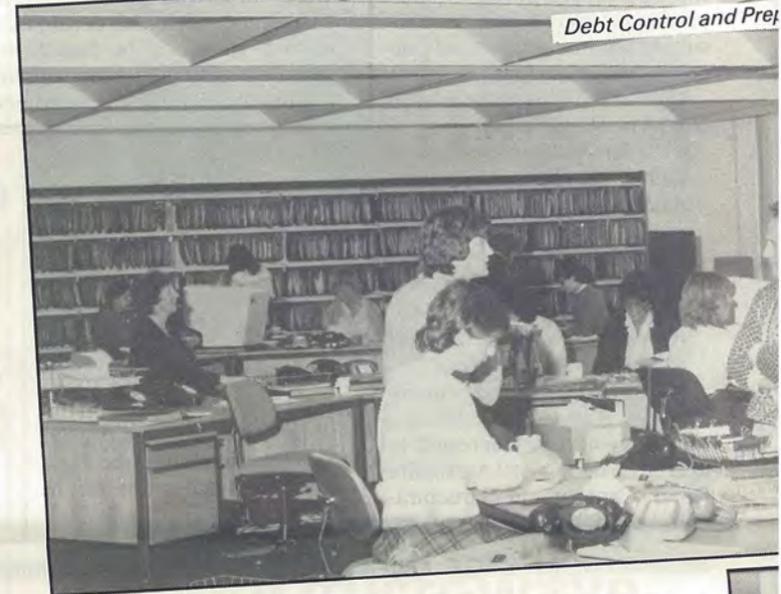
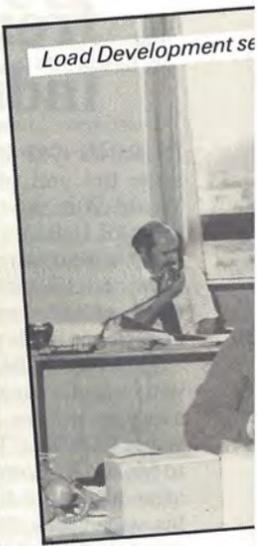
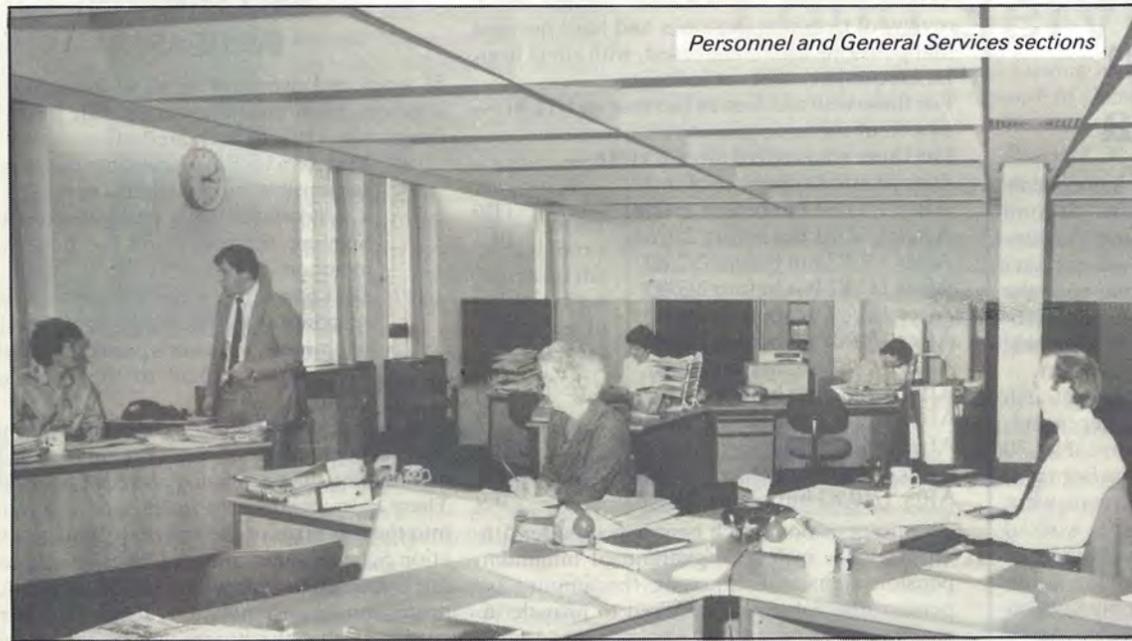
## OBITUARY

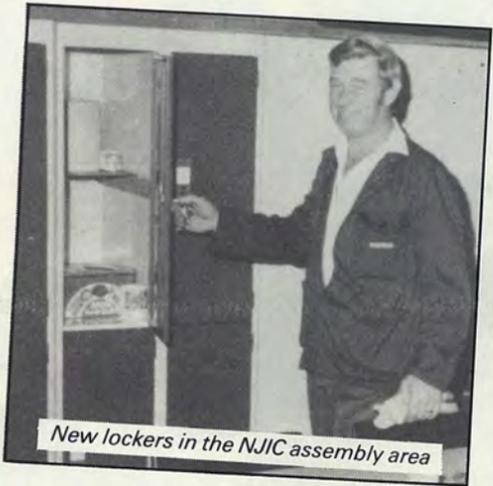
*It is with deep regret that we report the deaths of our former colleagues, and we extend our sincere sympathy to their families and friends.*

**Miss Ethel Vida Jones**, universally known as "E.V.", who retired from her job as appliance

marketing/energy sales demonstrator at Oswestry in March. "E.V." had been in the industry since 1945, joining MANWEB at Rhostyllen in 1949. She joined Oswestry District in 1973.

**Frank P. Robinson**, aged 79, who was a driver in the former Area 1, until his retirement. He was a long-serving member of the Scouting Movement.





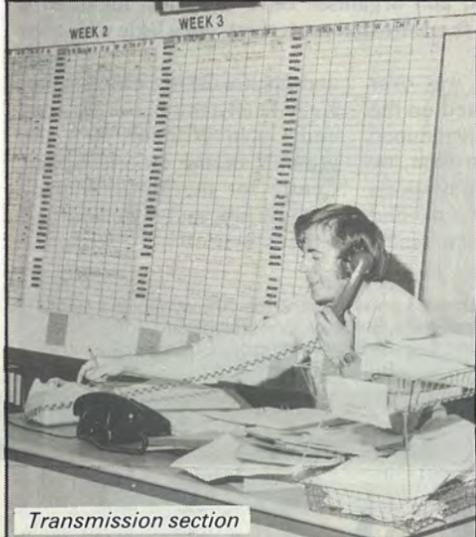
New lockers in the NJIC assembly area



Reporting area for meter readers and collectors



# COLLEAGUES AT NORTH WIRRAL DISTRICT SETTLING IN AT PRENTON



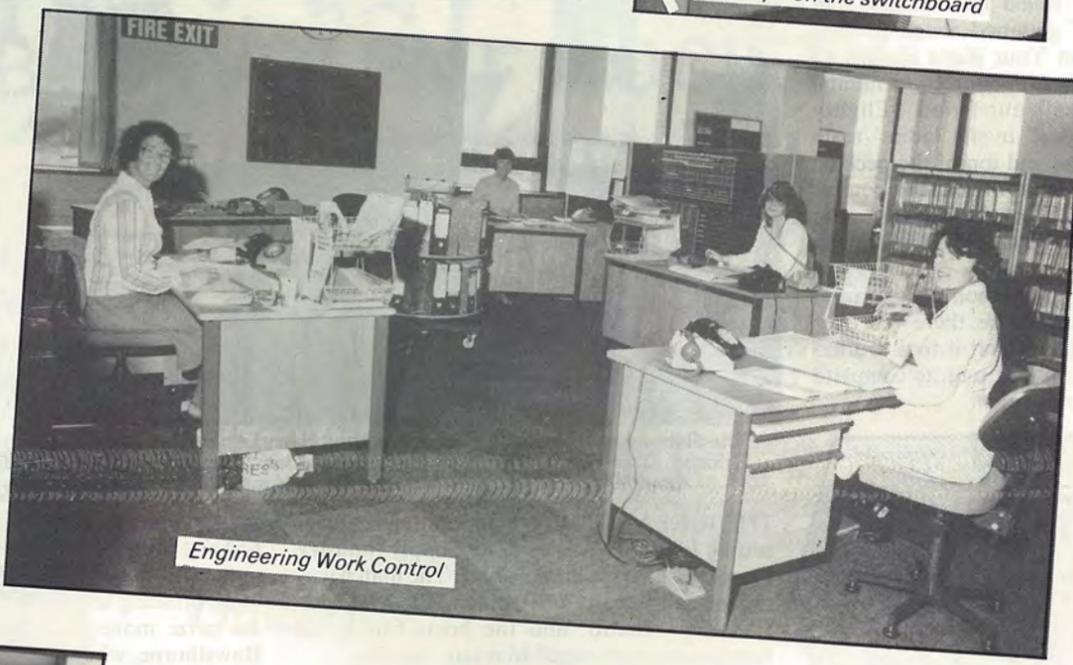
Transmission section



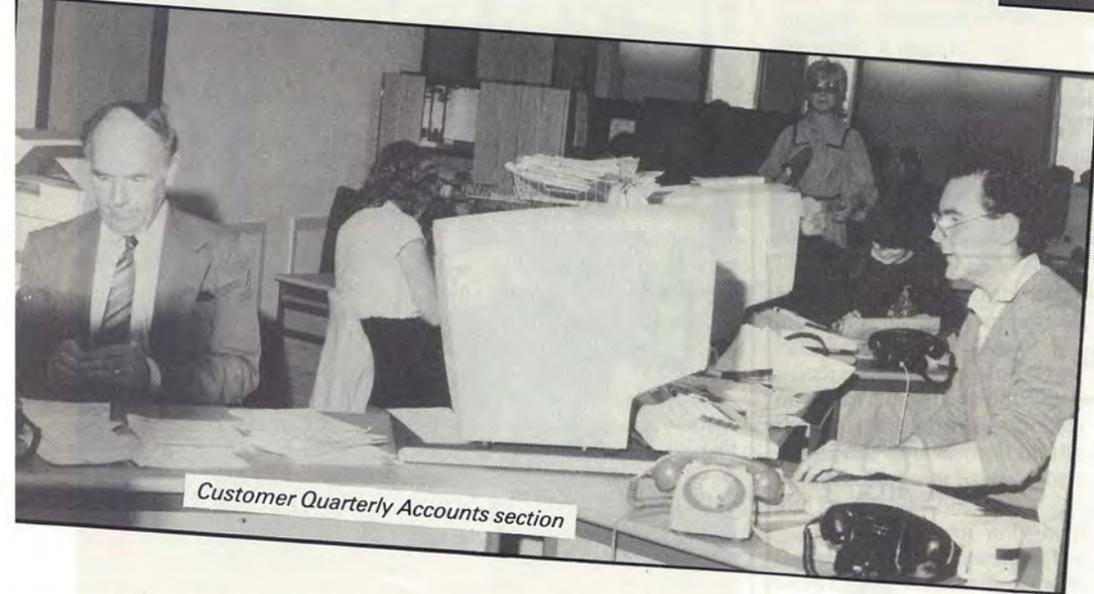
Teleops on the switchboard



Drawing Office



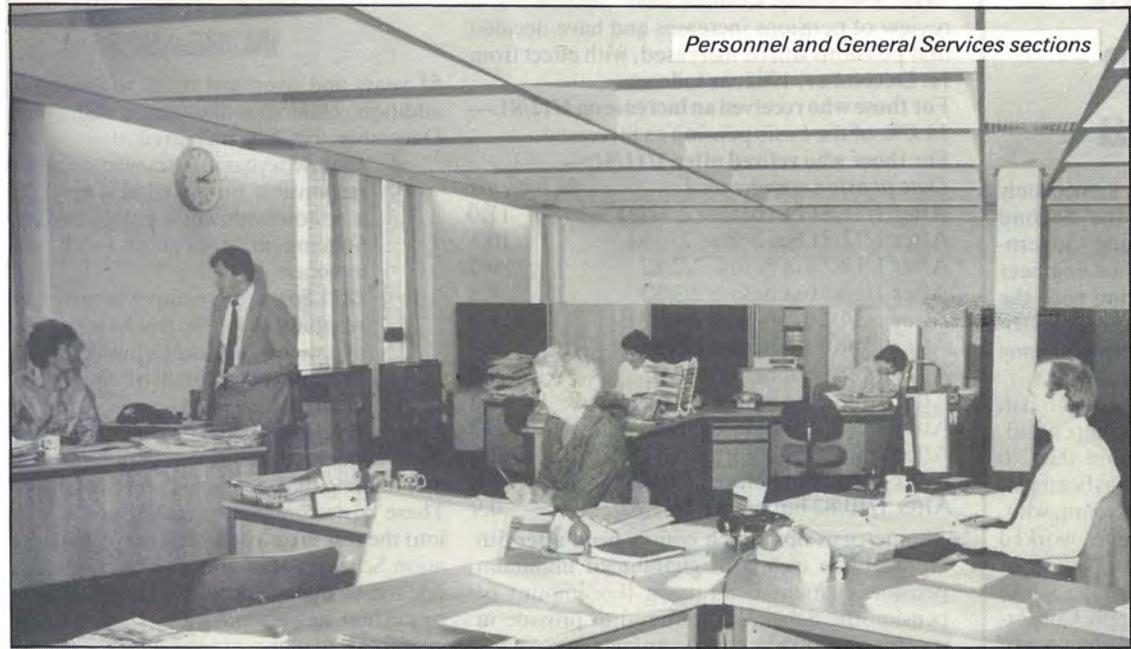
Engineering Work Control



Customer Quarterly Accounts section



Gardner Merchant canteen staff



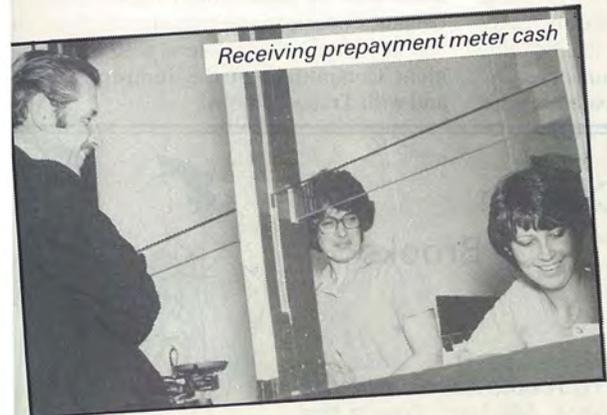
Personnel and General Services sections



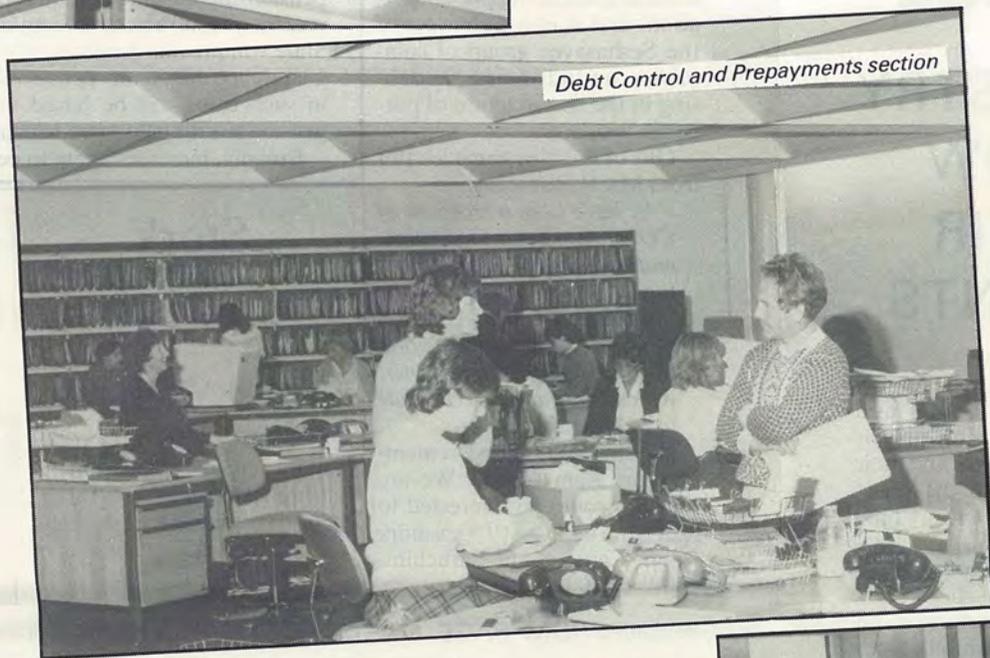
Load Development section



New lockers in the NJIC assembly



Receiving prepayment meter cash



Debt Control and Prepayments section

# COLLEAGUES AT NORTH WIRRAL DIS SETTLING IN AT PRENTO



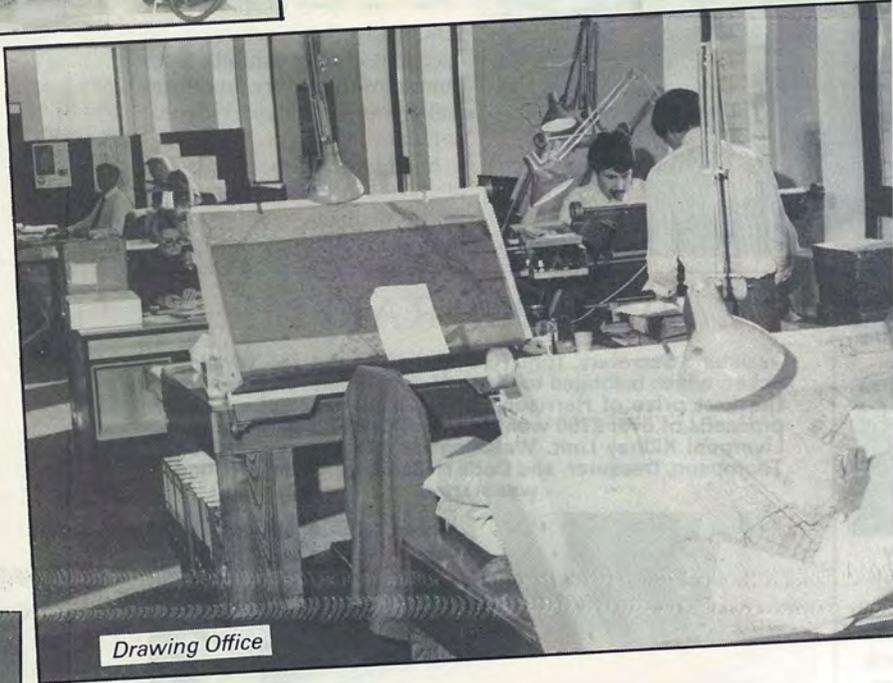
Stores staff



Registry and Mailing section



Typist section



Drawing Office



Transport Maintenance Unit (The Garage!)



Customer Quarterly Accounts section



Dave Cowhig fronts his team, as they take the strain in the tug-o'-war.



Carol Morris, captain of the winning team, shows how it's done.



Above, the exhibition organisers, left to right: Stephen Mason, Brian Pryce, Jean Hall and Sid Warburton.

# North Mersey Knock-Out

## CHESTER CHUCK-IN CHAMPS

THIS year's Chester Sports Club darts tournament attracted 200 contestants in five separate competitions. Engineer Bill Rogers won the men's title, beating Pete Harburn in the final.

Two members of the Head Office restaurant staff fought out the ladies final, with Mair Davies coming out on top, beating Thelma Hoyle. A four-man team called the "Bengal Lancers" galloped ahead to beat "What Your Right Hand's 4" in the men's doubles; "Cunning Lasses" out-foxed "Flighty Females" in the ladies' team contest and top of the pecking order in the mixed team contest were "Cocks and Hens" who beat "Tops and Tips" in the final.

The marathon contest used ten dart boards, there were over 300 games and it took from 5 p.m. until 11 p.m. to complete the tournament.

THE sky was overcast, but it stayed dry for the North Mersey Knock-Out sports afternoon. There were six teams competing, playing seven games, and organiser Dave O'Meara included a water-carrying game to ensure that contestants got a little wet, even if it did not rain!

When all the fun was over and Kath Munro totted up the scores, it was a team captained by Carol Morris that won, by two points. The Sunday sports day started at 11.00 a.m. and finished at 2.30, when teams

and hard-working officials Jim Kelly, Bill Taunton, Bert Briscoe and Gwyn Williams, left the grounds of the Bootle Sports Centre for the North Mersey Social Club, and a well-earned buffet lunch.

**Winners all—Kathryn Lyons, Charlotte Shaw, Dave Lewis, Wendy Calcott, Ann Briffa, Barbara Jones, Maureen Donaldson, Mair Davies, Brian Sheppard, John Oxtan, Colin Hughes and Bill Rogers.**

Charles and Beryl Ellis from Anglesey, who judged the Horticultural and Literary Sections. Other judges were Lyndsey Richards (Housecraft), Bob Morris (Handicrafts) and John Perry (Arts and Photography).



## OSWESTRY SHOW THEIR TALENTS

YET once again, the highly successful Arts, Crafts and Horticultural Exhibition for Oswestry District staff and their families was staged at the Maesbury Road offices a short time ago.

Thanks to the persistent efforts and push of the organisers, led by Sid Warburton, an excellent show of exhibits, from pumpkins to pottery, and from leatherwork to limericks, competed for the prizes.

In addition to the Mums and Dads taking part, entries in nearly a dozen sections came from the children.



The Fishermen from MANWEB, left to right: Harry Lee, Robert Jones, Chris Simm, Alan Royle, Roy Briscoe, Dave Garratt, Norman Rawsthorne, John Tyreman (captain), Dave Lewis, Stan Wright, David Rawsthorne, Stan Hughes, Derek Gorton and Dennis Williams.

THE River Avon at Evesham was the beautiful setting for the 1982 Electricity Supply Industry Coarse Fishing Championships. The match was organised by last year's winners, the Midlands Electricity Board, and the hosts fishing on familiar water managed to retain the title.

The competition attracted teams from all over the country, including one from MAN-

WEB, and the Board's 15-strong contingent finished fifth. Approximately 170 anglers took part, with the MANWEB captain, John Tyreman, finishing in the top ten—seventh. Also in the prize money was Mid-Mersey's Norman Rawsthorne, who was third in his section.

The presentation of the prizes to the winners was made by Electricity Council Chairman Austin Bunch—himself a keen fisherman.

## £750 FROM RAFFLE

Assistant Secretary Tom Hamilton picks out the winning ticket, which belonged to North Mersey's Harry Rimmer, for the first prize of Harrison Fitted Mirror Wardrobes. The proceeds of over £750 went to the MANWEB Appeal for the Liverpool Kidney Unit. Watching the proceedings are Ron Thompson, treasurer, and Doris Holland, for whom the fund was started.



## MANWEB FISHING TEAM

## THE SPORTING CHANCES

by MITCH



*Just a few hairy moments but—*

# River Crossed Successfully

A SUDDEN surge of water nearly took a 60-metre raft of pipes down the River Mersey to the sea. MANWEB contractors Wade Construction had lowered the raft into the water, to float into position, before sinking it to span the river and form a new route for electricity cables.

The plan had been to wait for high tide, which would slow down the flow. The raft was lowered into the river a couple of hours before high water, to be ready for the slacker current. Instead, the river began to flow faster, and rose about a foot, causing the raft to strain at its moorings. Upstream, a lock had been opened, and water was pouring into the Mersey.

Head Office Construction Engineer Hubert Evans raced to the lock gates, and persuaded the lock-keeper to shut off the water for half an hour or so, to allow the work to be completed.

The supply of electricity feeding Warrington is carried over the river in a coal conveyor duct, which brought coal from the railway on a conveyor belt into the partially-demolished Howley Power Station. The bridge is now scheduled for demolition, and a new route was needed for the electricity

cables.

Further along the same river, a similar project had been performed several years ago, when supply was needed at Thames Board Mills, and this method was selected for Warrington.

A ten-foot wide and deep trench was cut in the river bed, using a crane and an RB excavator. The bank was shored up by using 120 20-foot metal piles driven deep into the ground to prevent collapse of the bank.

The trench was then checked for sharp stones and an even cut by divers from Shoreline Engineering. Meanwhile, on shore, the 60-metre raft was made up of six-metre lengths of eight-inch diameter pipe, jointed into seven 60-metre lengths. The flexible PVC pipes were then fitted with a draw-rope in each, to pull the cables through, and the ends were then sealed.

When the water did slacken, the raft was floated into position



A dramatic picture by Mid-Mersey Engineer Brian Fitton, as the raft of pipes is carried by the fast flow of the river, with the pontoon just holding it and stopping it from racing off downstream.

Right: Head Office Engineer Hubert Evans checks the 60-metre raft before it is lifted from the bank.



and the ends lifted into the piled slots in the bank by a crane either side of the river. The divers then placed bags of concrete along the raft to stabilise it, before the seals were removed from the pipes and they were pumped full of water.

The raft slowly sank into the trench, and the divers checked and added more concrete bags on top and on the side of the pipes. The trench was then filled. The ends of the pipes were cut and sealed in concrete blocks.

The work was completed successfully, despite a few "hairy" moments, and the pipes are ready for the electricity, control and telephone cables, with a couple of pipes to spare for future expansion.

The burst of activity over, and the pipes are correctly sunk into position, with the ends out on to either bank. In the background, the coal conveyor bridge which houses the present cables.



**A**LL MANWEB employees now have the opportunity to join the MANWEB Benevolent Society, which aims to help members and their dependants in times of difficulty. The new Society takes over from the former Manual Workers' Benevolent Society, which was previously restricted to industrial staff.

The new organisation caters for all. Its object is to assist, as speedily as possible, members and their dependants in times of need, by giving help, either in money or in kind. This assistance is also available to widows/widowers and retired members of staff.

The former Manual Workers' Benevolent Society was formed 23 years ago and, since then, has dealt with 2,600 cases, and has spent £94,000 relieving circumstances of necessity and hardship.

Help takes many forms, but the most common methods are by cash grants, by short-term interest-free loans, and advice—personal, financial and domestic. Many cases have covered routine help for families, such as grants to cover school clothing, help with house repairs and replacements, fuel bills and arrears, and alleviating distress when employees have spent considerably beyond their means, due to the easy availability of credit. Grants have also been made for the provision of items such as wheelchairs, and help towards the cost of long-term hospital visiting.

The MANWEB Benevolent Society will run alongside its

sister organisation, the Electrical and Electronic Industries' Benevolent Association. The two bodies will complement each other and, where appropriate and where particular cases warrant it, both will become involved. The EEIBA, being a national organisation, has wider facilities with regard to convalescence and residential accommodation.

Applications for assistance are considered by local sub-committees in each District (secretaries named below). All applications are treated in the strictest confidence. If you feel you need help, or know of anyone who does, please contact your local secretary, who will help you.

Subscriptions to the MBS are made by deduction from salary, at the rate of twopence per week (weekly paid) or ninepence per month (monthly paid).

The Society needs additional



by

**JIM WILCOCK**  
(Welfare Officer)

visiting panels to keep in touch with those who might otherwise "slip through the net".

### SUB-COMMITTEE SECRETARIES

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| North Mersey | Jean Corrin       |
| Liverpool    | Chris Edwards     |
| Mid-Mersey   | Gisela Sutherland |
| Dee Valley   | Stan Colley       |
| North Wirral | Lil Martland      |
| Mid-Cheshire | Pat O'Neill       |
| Clwyd        | Wynn Hughes       |
| Gwynedd      | Malcolm Donaldson |
| Oswestry     | Sid Warburton     |
| Aberystwyth  | John Hughes       |
| Head Office  | Gren Roberts      |

financial support, especially in view of the wider coverage of MANWEB staff and the ever-increasing cost of supporting beneficiaries. The Board will match subscriptions of members on a £ for £ basis, and it is hoped that all staff who are not already members will complete the "Deduction from Salary" form and support the Society.

The Society can only help those to whom its attention has been drawn, and staff—especially retired staff—will be given every encouragement to form

## BENEVOLENT SOCIETY NOW OPEN TO ALL!

### MANWEB BENEVOLENT SOCIETY APPLICATION FORM

To The Secretary, MANWEB Benevolent Society, Welfare Section, Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester.

I wish to enrol in the MANWEB Benevolent Society and hereby authorise the deduction of 2p per week/9p per month (*delete which does not apply*) from my pay as subscription.

NAME (BLOCK CAPS) .....

EMPLOYEE No. ....

HOME ADDRESS .....

EMPLOYMENT ADDRESS .....

SIGNED ..... DATE .....

If you do not wish to cut out this coupon, similar forms are available from the DAO (CSM or P/A Admin) in each District, or Welfare Section, Head Office.

# RETIREMENTS

Farewells to friends  
and colleagues



Stewart Griffiths, holding his personalised farewell card, is flanked by Derek Holman and Warwick Saunders, on the left, and Bob Jowett, right.

Mr. S. G. GRIFFITHS

THE Principal Engineer from the Head Office Load Development Section, Stewart G. Griffiths, has retired early after nearly 40 years service to the Electricity Industry.

He served an apprenticeship as a wireman, initially at St. Helens Power Station in 1943, later becoming an engineering apprentice, and then a graduate trainee. He joined the Commercial Department as a junior commercial assistant in 1952 at the former St. Helens District, moving to Warrington a year later.

He became a member of the Head Office staff in 1955 and has been actively involved in selling, publicising and marketing of appliances. He is respected for his forthright views on

marketing policy and has assisted three Marketing Managers with his expert knowledge.

Stewart has been associated with the Public Speaking Competition in MANWEB for many years—which he won as a young commercial engineer. Apart from judging their efforts Stewart has been instrumental in helping younger members of the staff develop their talents.

In his last twelve months he has moved into the Load Development section and brought a fresh mind to the work, and has made a considerable impact.

In retirement, Stewart and his wife Mary, who have a married daughter, will be touring in their new caravan and air-conditioned car. We join with their many friends in wishing them well.

## "THE CANTEEN LADIES"

THE move from Craven Street to the new District office and depot at Prenton was marked by the retirement of three familiar faces—the ladies who had run the Craven Street canteen for so many years, looking after the needs of the "inner man" (and woman) of many District colleagues.

The trio, who stayed on to hold the fort until the big move, were Ruth Minnie Jackson (*canteen supervisor*), Elsie Criggall (*assistant cook*) and Iris Williams (*canteen attendant*).

Ruth (22 years service) and Elsie (18 years) both started

Customer Service Manager Des Lock, seen here with, from left to right: Iris Williams, Elsie Criggall and Ruth Jackson.



with the Board at the former Head Office canteen at Love Lane, Liverpool, moving to Birkenhead on re-organisation in 1970. Iris began as office cleaner in 1960, later becoming one of that almost-vanished breed, the "tea-lady with the trolley" and switching to canteen duties in 1970.

On behalf of many friends who have reason to be grateful for their ministrations they were presented with cheques and "Happy Retirement" cards by DAO Des Lock, amid the scenes of upheaval as the removal men carted off the Craven Street furniture.

Mr. J. METCALFE  
AFTER 45 years in the electricity industry, Head Office 2nd engineer Joseph Metcalfe has retired from the Technical section of the Chief Engineer's Department.

He started with the Liverpool Electric Supply Department as an office boy in 1937. In 1942, he joined the Royal Armoured Corps and became a fitter, returning to the Electric Supply Department on demobilisation in 1947.

With nationalisation in 1948, he was with the meter test section, and moved to the Yorkshire Board in 1955 for about one year, before returning to MANWEB. In the former Area 1, he worked on protector equipment for the electricity network, and continued with this and radio maintenance and operation at Chester when the Board was re-organised.

On behalf of his many friends and colleagues, Assistant Chief Engineer Dennis Farquhar presented Joe with a stereo radio cassette player.

## DEE VALLEY RETIREMENTS

Mr. W. Cartwright—Jointer Bill Cartwright has retired from Legacy depot after 29 years' service with MANWEB. He started work at the Willow Road District office, moving to Legacy some years ago.

Mr. D. J. Sutton—With 20 years' service in selling for MANWEB, Marketing representative Jack Sutton, who has worked in all the Dee Valley District shops, has retired.

Mrs. M. Thomas—Retiring from her post in the customer accounts section on ill-health grounds, Marjorie Thomas was presented with a picture of Llyn Gwynant, Snowdonia, on behalf of her colleagues.

Mr. T. Williams—After 13 years' service, initially at Legacy depot and more recently at Rhostyllen District office, Tom Williams, a clerical assistant in the Timekeeping section, has retired.



Mr. and Mrs. Mick Connor say farewell to their friends.

Mr. M. CONNOR

AFTER a varied career spanning 35 years with the electricity industry in Liverpool, Mick Connor, head of the debt-collecting/tracing section at Liverpool District, has retired.

After six years with the RAF as a sergeant in the Far East during the Second World War, Mick joined us in 1947 as a labourer/cable hand. He moved on to be a meter-reader/collector, and later as an outside enquiry assistant at Lister Drive. Taking charge of the cash office at Derby House was his next assignment, before returning to Lister Drive.



Friends and colleagues surround John Foster, centre left, as he receives a farewell handshake from Dick Owen.

Mr. J. E. FOSTER

"A REAL GENTLEMAN", was just one of the many tributes paid by colleagues, past and present, to John Foster, North Wirral District's System Engineer, on the eve of his retirement.

That "he inspired confidence and made decisions," was yet another comment made and Gerry Haughan (*Deputy Chief Engineer*) said, "John is an engineer who makes me proud to be an engineer."

In making the farewell presentation, Dick Owen (*District Engineer*) spoke of John's career in the electricity supply industry which began at Cleveland Street, Birkenhead, in 1936. His apprenticeship covered jointing, meters, contracting and electrical fitting. By 1948, when MANWEB took over the Birkenhead Undertaking, John had become an assistant section engineer.

Later he was with the Operations section at Head Office and, in 1970, had the difficult task of introducing the new Production/System scheme to the Districts. Despite the initial unpopularity of the project, John's approach was such that he made many friends throughout the Board.

Known as "Mr. North Wirral", it was inevitable that he should return to the District, which he did in 1973 when he took over the job from which he retires.

A keen sportsman, John is a qualified badminton coach along with his son Stephen and his daughter Margaret. He initiated

the MANWEB badminton teams taking part in the industry's National Championships and winning on three occasions under John's leadership.

He is now a successful golfer having, on one occasion, won the IEE Championship. He is President of the Merseyside Electrical Golfing Society and has been asked to continue as an active player and secretary with the North Wirral District Golf Society.

In retirement however, it will not be all badminton and golf for John as his wife Peg has plenty of "home-work" lined up for him. Son Stephen even presented Dad with a retirement gift of a pair of white overalls for use when decorating!



On leaving his post at Head Office, Jim Lornie, striped tie, is presented with parting gifts by Derek Holman (*Deputy Chief Commercial Officer*).

Mr. J. T. LORNIE

DUE to ill-health, James Taylor Lornie has been forced to relinquish the position of Load Development Engineer at Head Office. He was, until its close earlier this year, responsible for the operation of the Board's Test Laboratory.

Jim Lornie started his career as a student apprentice, with an engineering company in his

native Edinburgh. With the outbreak of war, he volunteered for the Navy, and became an Electrical Sub-Lieutenant, later becoming a Lieutenant. He served in this country and in the USA, and also aboard mine-sweepers.

Back in civilian life, he joined the electricity industry, initially in Middlesbrough, moving to

Edinburgh before working for three years in Trinidad. In 1953, he became a member of MANWEB staff, as a 3rd assistant engineer.

Jim and his wife, Rosemary, have one son—a computer expert with an insurance company. We hope that Jim's health will improve and that he will have a long and happy retirement.

Mr. T. H. BURT

AFTER nearly half a century in the Electricity Supply Industry, North Mersey Energy Sales representative Thomas H. Burt has taken early retirement!

It was a young Tom in short pants that started in the Liverpool Corporation as an office boy. Two years later he became an apprentice electrician and in 1939 he donned his short pants again to fight Rommel in the desert—he served in Egypt in the Second World War.

"Civvy Street" saw him back with the Liverpool Corporation as a wireman. In 1948—the year of nationalisation, Tom became ill and was off work for three years.

A rousing "send-off" for Tommy Burt, in light suit.



A rousing "send-off" for Tommy Burt, in light suit.

Very much the family man, Mick is married with two sons, one daughter, and three grandsons. He takes a keen interest in the prowess of his Rugby-playing sons, who play for Waterloo—one as Captain and also as a member of the Lancashire County team.