

FLOYD AT MANWEB

TEACHERS of Home Economics and Domestic Science at schools within the Board's area gathered at our Head Office recently to gain a little more knowledge themselves and to enjoy the act staged by Keith Floyd, the well-known cook in the BBC TV series *Floyd on Fish*.

At this bi-annual conference for teachers, the presentation included talks on tariffs by Terry Brookshaw (*Tariffs and Economics Manager*) and on the story of electric cooking by Joan Dittrich (*Catering Development Engineer*).

The function of an electric heat-pump was described by Doug Gregg (*senior engineer, Energy Marketing*) and he was followed on the programme by the showing of the film *The All-Electric Picture Show*.

After lunch, the "star" took to the stage with his demonstration—"Floyd on Electricity"—and, for just over an hour, happily entertained his audience.

He "recruited" the services of the Belling Company demonstrator, Joan Roberts, as his stage assistant.



Showman cook Keith Floyd, with our own Joan Dittrich

To his audience of professional cooks, he announced that he was intending to have fun in preparing a number of dishes—then promptly poured himself a generous glass of wine! He then prepared and cooked a couple of fish dishes, roast lamb and some pancakes with exotic fillings.

Frantic moments ensued while he juggled with a motley mound of pans while exchanging unrehearsed, but

TOP OF THE 'PEPS'

Awards for industrial companies

TWO industrial companies from Wrexham area featured prominently in this year's "PEP" (Power for Efficiency and Productivity) Awards presented by MANWEB at a ceremony held in the Queen Hotel, Chester on 31st October. Other winning companies trade in Huyton, Liverpool and at Middlewich in Cheshire.

The trophies, in the form of the Greek letter "Eta"—the adopted symbol for efficiency—were presented to the representatives of the winning firms by the Under Secretary of State for Energy Alastair Goodlad.



Pictured at the "PEP" Award presentations, from left to right: MANWEB Chairman Bryan Weston, Jim McCauley (*Heartwood Furniture*), Alan Kassim (*BICC, Wrexham*) and Alastair Goodlad

"SCORE ELECTRIC"

WITH an already-proven track record as successful sponsors of British skating, The Electricity Council have now come forward with "Score Electric", the new name for the National Skating Association's computer scoring system.

It received its debut during the St Ivel Ice International at the Richmond Ice Rink, when "Score Electric" showed underneath the scores on the TV coverage of the event, which had viewing figures of over six million.

entertaining, banter with his assistant, Joan. As the wife of our own George Roberts from Head Office Commercial section, Joan was very well-informed to answer for MANWEB.

As each dish was ready to serve, members of the audience were invited to taste. Despite his unconventional approach and colourful descriptions, the verdict on his food was "excellent".

Not everything went according to plan, but the Floyd fun and food approach was most entertaining for his audience.

The conference closed with an Open Forum session with a number of interesting questions raised.

Britain must improve

"BRITAIN must improve its position as a major trading nation," said Sir Philip Jones, Chairman of The Electricity Council, when delivering the "McLintock Lecture" at the North East Wales Institute of Higher Technology in Connahs Quay last month.

On the theme "Industry and the Need for Competitiveness", Sir Philip saw productivity as the key to improving Britain's competitiveness. The electricity supply industry had shown what could be done. Since 1947, the number of customers had doubled, the consumption of electricity per head had at least quadrupled, while the numbers employed in the industry had been cut by half. He stated that electricity prices over the last five years had fallen in real terms and earlier this year there had been further price reductions.

Speaking of industrial electricity prices, he said that those in Britain were not out of line with those in the EEC countries. A short time ago, The Electricity Council had announced a scheme to help large users. Following agreement on coal supplies and prices

In the category for firms employing more than 200 people, the Wrexham works of BICC Power

Cables Limited received the first prize of the trophy, a cheque for £500 and a commemorative plaque for displaying in their factory.

The runner-up place was awarded to Air Products (UK) Limited for improvements at their factory in Acrefair, Wrexham.

In the section for firms employing up to 200 staff, the top award of a trophy, cheque and plaque went to Heartwood Furniture of Huyton in Liverpool. Runner-up in this category was Cranage Pre-Cast Concrete Limited, from Middlewich, Cheshire.

It was appropriate that BICC Power Cables should "Think Electric" for an important update of their plant and processes. By replacing steam-heat from a remote gas-fired boiler with 400 kilowatts of electrical energy in their vulcanising operation, maintenance costs have been reduced by £15,000 a year and process costs resulted in an annual saving of £62,000.

Energy wastage has been eliminated and it is now possible to operate the process at almost twice the old speed. Product quality has risen, and the fact that the new system—without the steam—is inherently dry enables the plant to produce cables up to 132,000 volt for both home and export markets.

Following consultations with the Board's Industrial Sales Engineers, Heartwood Furniture installed a 268-

made between the CEGB and British Coal, a certain amount of coal would be made available at world market prices for processing into electricity specifically for the use of energy-intensive customers.

Sir Philip said that fears about the safety of nuclear power were understandable. From these had come some suggestion that nuclear generation should be phased out. The supply industry could provide electricity by other means, and the lights would stay on, but the question that had to be asked was—"at what cost?". It was clear that Britain's industrial competitors did not intend to give up nuclear power, and to phase out our nuclear stations—which had an excellent safety record—would put British industry at a competitive disadvantage. "Can we as a nation afford to forego the benefits? I do not believe that we can," he added.



At the BETA Award ceremony we see, from left to right: Peter Hopkins (Commercial Director), Garth Brookfield (Architect, Lloyds Bank), Ieuan Llewellyn Jones (Deputy Mayor, Arfon Borough Council), Bryan Weston (MANWEB Chairman), Professor Heinz Wolff and the Reverend Berw Hughes (St. Seiriol's Church).

FIRST BETA AWARDS

A BOROUGH Council swimming pool, a High Street bank and a local church were among the diverse types of buildings to become winners of prizes in the MANWEB's Regional Finals in the first National BETA Award competition. The new trophies, and £500 cheques, were presented to the category winners by Professor Heinz Wolff, of the BBC "Egg Race" programme, at a ceremony held last month at the Crest Motel in Runcorn.

BETA is the title coined from a combination of the letter "B" for buildings and "Eta", the Greek letter which is used to denote efficiency. Sponsored by the electricity supply industry, the BETA Award is made to owners of commercial premises applying electricity to energy-saving projects.

Winner of the Award for buildings over 1,000 square metres was Arfon Borough Council's magnificent swimming pool at Bangor. Here, a heat-recovery system has been installed to warm the water and provide comfort conditions in the pool area. An annual saving of around £18,000 is attributed to the new scheme.

For premises under 1,000 square metres, the Award went

to Lloyds Bank in Warrington, where their first open-plan bank utilises a heat-recovery system in a well-insulated building. It is estimated that the annual consumption of electricity will work out in the region of 240 kilowatts per square metre, compared with their old gas/electric system which used 1,360 kilowatts per square metre per year.

A special Commendation Certificate was awarded to St. Seiriol's Church in Penmaenmawr. Before replacing their ageing oil-fired boiler with a new one costing around £6,000 to heat the church at a rate of £20 for each service, they took advice and installed electric quartz linear heaters at a cost of £2,225. These provide warmth and light, when and where it is required and running costs work

out at £5 a service.

Both category winners now go forward to compete in the National Finals to be held in London later this month.

With the interest already shown in this new competition for commercial business premises, the future for the BETA Awards looks very promising.

'HEATCARE'

THE first "HEATCARE" installation by the Board has been completed at the home of a 79-year-old widow living in our North Wirral District.

The plan, launched by our Chairman at this year's Annual Report press conference, is for the installation of an electric storage heater designed to keep one room warm during the cold winter months for old people who are "at risk".

Going to press, we hear that Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council and Halton Borough Council have confirmed their intentions of taking up the "HEATCARE" Scheme.

TOP OF THE 'PEPS'

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kilowatt electric convection tunnel oven in order to reduce time taken and the area covered in their factory for the drying process of the natural pinewood products.

The investment was £80,000 and the anticipated annual savings are approximately £90,000—a pay-back in less than 12 months.

Drying time has been reduced by 90 per cent and rejects amounting to nearly £50,000 in value have virtually been eliminated. On energy alone, the change-over from warm-air drying to the electric convection tunnel oven has produced a saving of some 35 per cent.

Air Products (UK) Limited make insulation pressure vessels for liquid gases. They have introduced a computer-controlled CNC plasma profile machine for cutting and working on a range of extremely hard metals of varying thicknesses. The fact that this new cutter requires a high input of energy is dramatically outweighed by the many advantages resulting from its installation.

Production improvements include faster cutting speeds, a better surface finish, more accurate products and less material handling. The capital outlay was £123,000 and, with expected annual savings of around £27,000, the pay-back period is about four years.

At Cranage Pre-Cast Concrete, they have introduced a new electric method which cuts costs, increases output and results in a consistently better product. Roof and flooring joists made from pre-stressed concrete are vital in modern buildings. The strength of the finished member is essentially dependent on the speed and evenness of the drying process.

With the new installation, an electric current is passed through the steel strands that lie embedded to reinforce the concrete member. Heat is generated inside, giving an even distribution to "cure" the joist. Output has risen by 37 per cent, resulting in an annual saving of over £19,000. As the original investment cost just over £20,000, the pay-back period is around 12 months.

Staff reaction in each of the companies winning our "PEP" Awards has been excellent and co-operative.

The judges for the MANWEB Competition were Robin Gardner (Regional Energy Efficiency Officer), Michael Hancock (Manager, Dinorwig Power Station) and Stephen Suckley (Industrial Editor, Daily Post, Liverpool).

Our two main category winners now go forward as MANWEB representatives in the National Finals to be held in London later this month, when more prize money—and prestige—may be won.

In a year designated as both "Industry Year" and "Energy Efficiency Year", the presentation of these "PEP" Awards to MANWEB customers is particularly appropriate.

PLACE OF HONOUR FOR SOUTHPORT RELIC

AN electricity feeder pillar installed in Manchester Road, Southport, nearly 70 years ago, will have a place of honour in the new gallery now being completed at the Greater Manchester Museum of Science and Industry. This veteran of the electricity distribution system has been presented to the Museum authorities by MANWEB.

A prototype of the pillar was patented just after the turn of the century by Reginald Sydney Downe and Arthur Smith Black. It was constructed at the BICC Works at Helsby. Reginald Downe was with the former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department prior to becoming Borough Electrical Engineer at Southport from 1901 to 1907.

His Chief Assistant during that time was Arthur Smith Black, who took over the senior post from 1907 until 1921.

The cast-iron pillars housed fuses governing local properties. They also provided a form of public lighting from the fitting on top of the

wrought-iron bracket. The original socket outlet and white glass globe have long since been vandalised on the unit going to the Museum.

Southport was one of the first towns in the country to enjoy the benefits of electricity. Just before the turn of the century, the Corporation had a generating station built at Blowick, just outside the town. Electricity cables brought the generated power to light the arc-lamps illuminating the world-famous Lord Street.

As people experienced the wonders of electric lighting, the demand for home installations grew rapidly. The supply system was extended and involved the establishment of several brick-built sub-stations to transform the power down from 6,600 volts to 2,200 volts. As the supply lines continued, the first of the street pillars were installed near underground chambers where the electricity supply was further transformed from 2,200 volts to domestically useable 220 volts.

Around 150 of these feeder pillars were sited in the streets of Southport. They have been progressively removed as the Board's distribution system has been updated over the years. The pillar taken from Manchester Road was the last of the breed.

However, it will live on—albeit inactive—in the National Electricity Gallery at the Greater Manchester Museum of Science and Industry.

The last of Southport's street-feeder panels, with the ornate ironwork on top, which once carried a lighting globe, is ready for despatch to the Manchester Museum. The transfer was instigated by former engineer with our North Mersey District, Gordon Woodward, right. Withdrawing one of the huge porcelain fuses is North Mersey District System Engineer Roy Osborne. Completing the group, left, is Jack Pownall (foreman, Engineering) who is based at the Southport depot





Pictured outside the new cultural centre are, from left to right: Geoff Thomson, Andrew Owen Lambert and David Bennion

Men from MANWEB throw new light on old Tabernacle

The Machynlleth Tabernacle, a former Wesleyan chapel, once again held a capacity audience one Saturday last month, when celebrating its re-opening as a new cultural centre for the Dyfi Valley—the very heart of Wales.

MANWEB electricians joined a team of other specialist craftsmen in the frantic rush to restore and conserve, with great care, the historical Tabernacle building, erected over 100 years ago, during its conversion as a cultural centre, boosting the arts in Owain Glyndwr's capital.

The Machynlleth Tabernacle Trust, who took

possession of the building last spring, have initiated a wonderful project which preserves the Tabernacle as a lovely building serving the community in upholding the Welsh language and culture.

It now boasts an open stage facing a raked auditorium and a majestic horseshoe gallery. The beautiful pitch-pine seating accommodates over 500 people and the acoustics in the hall make it well suited for a wide range of arts presentations.

Over two miles of electric cable has been installed for the lighting, sound and emergency circuits. The MANWEB contract originated from a simple enquiry from Andrew Owen Lambert, the energetic and dedicated Appeal Secretary for the Tabernacle Trust, to Alan Dickinson (2nd engineer, Energy Marketing) from our Aberystwyth District.

As plans for the Tabernacle unfolded, Geoff Thomson (2nd engineer, Installation) took over and, with initial assistance from the Rank Strand Lighting Agents, he provided a design for lighting the stage area and the tasteful internal and external installations. He also produced plans for sound and power circuits as well as the emergency and fire-alarm systems.

After discussions with Andrew and the project architect, Thomas Faire, agreement was quickly reached and quotations accepted on the final designs. Craftsman electrician Ron Thomas started the installation work last August in preparation for completion on 11th October.

In the final weeks running up to the opening ceremony, Ron was joined by craftsmen electricians Trevor Williams, Steve Hulme and Geraint Williams. During the weekend before completion, the Men from MANWEB put in 12-hour days at the Tabernacle and Ron and Trevor worked feverishly until midnight prior

positions in the Tabernacle.

Exit lights also operate as emergency lighting in the event of power circuit failure.

The special stage lighting consists of 57 separate circuits, each capable of supplying two kilowatts of lighting. Each circuit is wired back to the Control Room and can be separately plugged into the stage lighting dimmer system. The array of socket outlets for the stage lighting fit neatly below some removable floorboards at the front of the platform.

Microphone and loudspeaker points have been installed, together with an induction loop for people who use hearing-aids.

Everything has been thought of and catered for.

"This has been a most fascinating job," said David Bennion (Installation Engineer). "All of the Board's staff involved showed keen interest in the work they were doing on this very worthwhile project, which should prove to be an excellent tourist attraction for the town."



Electrician Ron Thomas

to opening day, in order to finish some additional wiring on the stage lighting.

"All our electricians did sterling work on this contract," commented Geoff.

The general lighting inside the Tabernacle consists of eight uplighters illuminating the redecorated ceiling with moulded plaster roses picked out in pink. Specially-made plaster casts will cover the lighting fittings.

Low-voltage Thorn Lightstream halogen spotlights illuminate the ceiling under the gallery to provide a soft light to blend with the main ceiling lighting. Six brass fittings mounted on the gallery fascia have been refurbished and refitted, helping to retain the character of the building.

The general lighting is connected to dimmers which can be controlled from three different



Electrician Steve Hulme

A final word of thanks to the installation team from our Aberystwyth District was voiced by Andrew Owen Lambert, who said: "I have the highest praise for the Men from MANWEB who carried out the work from start to finish. They proved to be of tremendous help with their professional know-how in the initial planning, and then worked most competently and quickly to see the whole job through on time. The Trust is deeply indebted to them all."

The Tabernacle Trust and MANWEB are now preparing for the second phase of the project, and tenders have been submitted for power and lighting supplies to auxiliary buildings—dressing-rooms, toilets, storage, etc.—to be erected on vacant land adjoining the Tabernacle. Funds are urgently required!

Thumbs up for 'Medallion'

WITHIN three months of the first bricks being laid on a Cheshire building site, all the dwellings were sold.

For their new project at Pulford, near Chester, Barwise Construction Ltd. chose to build homes to Medallion standard. Barry van Nierop, company co-director, was delighted with the rapid sale of the properties.

He commented: "I think we could have sold these houses several times over. It is my first experience of building Medallion Homes, and it has been a good one. I very much appreciate all the assistance and the excellent co-operation I have received from MANWEB."

The man from MANWEB responsible for negotiating the deal and organising that co-

operation was energy marketing engineer Doug Houlbrook, of Dee Valley District.

Doug told 'CONTACT': "All builders seem to know what is going on in an area, and Barry had seen how well houses on a Medallion site just down the road at Rossett had been selling. He contacted me and we met in Sainsbury's car park in Chester to exchange plans."

On the site there are 11 town houses—a block of five and a block of six. They have two bedrooms and a large living-room, a kitchen and a dining area, and of course a bathroom. Four storage radiators heat the downstairs and landing, with a panel heater in each of the bed-

rooms. In the bathroom there is a down-flow heater. The large 46-gallon hot water storage cylinder is heated by two side-entry immersion heaters controlled by an Economy 7 programmer.

Set in the grounds of an old school, which is to be converted into three homes, the houses have been designed to blend in with the old building.

One of the houses is occupied by Head Office Commercial administrative assistant David Hayes. He liked the location and the style of the houses and—being Medallion—he knew that he was on to a good thing, so he bought the last one. He moved in recently with wife Sharon, to make their first home together.



On the "Medallion" Home site at Pulford, from left to right: Barry van Nierop, David Hayes and Doug Houlbrook



The attractive and inviting frontage to our shop at Crewe, illustrating the new image on the fascia panel

New shop at Crewe

AFTER nearly 30 years of trading from premises in Victoria Street, Crewe, the Board's shop has now moved to new, larger premises on an attractive corner site in the town's first enclosed shopping area, the Market Centre Development.

For comfort of customers—and staff—heat pumps have been utilised to create an ideal atmosphere within the shop, no matter what the weather conditions outside. Another innovation is the low-glare lighting which is concentrated on the appliances on display and avoids dazzle in the customers' eyes. In addition to the extra space

afforded in the new shop area for the display of a large range of attractive and economical appliances for the home, more room is available on the upper floor for the storage of stock. The Board's new image—in design and colour—is displayed on the fascia of the premises.

Special offers were made to customers for a period following the opening of the new shop last month, with free gifts avail-

able with the purchase of particular appliances. Over the weeks prior to the move, thousands of leaflets were delivered to homes in Crewe area detailing a free competition for customers with prizes of a microwave oven, vacuum cleaner and electric kettle.

Shop supervisor John Bostock is very pleased with his new accommodation. "We were inundated with customers for days following the opening; some came just to look, others to buy. Since then, we have settled down to a steady run, with business doing very well."

Senior sales assistant Graham Slatter, left, and part-time sales assistant Janet Wilkinson



District Manager Ken Crabtree, second left, presents prizes to the winners of the free competition—Iris Hill, left, in runner-up spot with a vacuum-cleaner, and Joan Cotton, centre right, who won the microwave oven. Shop supervisor John Bostock completes the picture



ENERGY FOR TOMORROW

THE vital role which electricity will play in meeting the energy needs of the future was featured on the British Electricity stand at the Plant and Equipment Exhibition staged with the 13th Congress of the World Energy Conference held in Cannes, France, last month.

The stand took up the electricity supply industry slogan "Electricity—Energy for Life", to explain how the adoption of cost-effective electrical methods are able to smooth the inevitable transition from declining reserves of fossil fuels.

The British Electricity exhibit embraced displays presented by The Electricity Council, the CEB, the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board and British Electricity International—the company which directs, organises and promotes commercial overseas consultancy

activities of all the British Electricity Boards.

Through this organisation, the electricity supply industry makes available to overseas countries and utilities the considerable technical facilities at its disposal, as well as experience and skills it has accumulated through the development and operation of a highly-integrated system of power generation, transmission and distribution. Some examples of the ways in which British Electricity International has helped client utilities in more than 76 countries were shown on the stand.



Taking the cash are Betty Stepniewski (part-time sales assistant), left, and Sally White (sales assistant)

... and the rest of the shop staff ...

Sales assistant Carol Latham. Part-time sales assistants Pat Benoy, Joan Curtis, Margaret Fisher, Kate Hoggan and Nora Wilkes. Junior sales trainee Robert Valentine.

Advice for elderly people

WINTER brings one of the bitterest enemies—cold—to our country's elderly citizens. Thousands suffer unnecessarily each year through not keeping themselves warm.

In addition to help afforded by MANWEB's "Heatcare" scheme, a new leaflet, "Advice for Elderly People", has been produced by The Electricity Council in co-operation with Age Concern.

It provides valuable information on keeping warm and comfortable at an economical cost and is available, free of charge, from all MANWEB shops and offices.

"Advice for Elderly People" offers heat-saving ideas, costs of draught-proofing, aid in choosing the right tariff, the right electrical appliance and helpful ways of paying electricity bills.

There is a section on electrical safety, too—important for everyone, not just the elderly.

CASH FOR BURNS UNIT

NORTH Mersey engineer John Swarbrick was very badly burned in an explosion in a Bootle sub-station. He was taken to Whiston Hospital Burns Unit, where he received every possible attention, but died a few days later.

District staff who liked and respected John wanted to show their concern in a tangible way. They collected cash which totalled £250—this was sent to the Burns Unit at Whiston in John's memory, to help in the Unit's work.

On the day of the explosion, as John ran from the substation with his clothes and hair ablaze, it was kindly folk living in the Percy Street area of Bootle who ran to his aid, doused the flames, comforted him and summoned help. They, too, wished to show their respect for the engineer they tried to help, and collected £33 amongst themselves.

This was added to the District collection and a cheque for £283 was sent to the Whiston Burns Unit by Dr. Jim McLennan, North Mersey District Manager.

He told the Hospital Administrator: "A tragedy such as this makes those of us working in the electricity supply industry aware that accidents like this can happen, and reminds us of the vital—but not normally well-known—work that units such as yours undertake."



Former YTS students now back with the Board as full-time craft apprentices. They are pictured at the Birkenhead Technical College, where they are studying for their City and Guilds Certificate. From left to right are: Michael Randall (Gwynedd), Paul Stevenson (Liverpool), Ken Brassington (Mid-Cheshire), David Roberts (Clwyd), Paul Penhale (Oswestry), Antony Ralphs (Mid-Cheshire), Ken Savage (Dee Valley), Edward Rigby (North Wirral), Simon Coulston (Clwyd) and Head of the Training Centre Alex Smitton



A group of former YTS recruits now starting their craft apprenticeships at Hoylake. They are, from left to right: Michael Williams (Dee Valley), Paul Coogan (Mid-Mersey), Ivor Edwards (Clwyd) and Philip Corner (Liverpool)

MANWEB CRAFTSMEN OF THE FUTURE

ON course at our Hoylake Training Centre are 57 young men making up this year's intake of craft apprentices. Coming from all Districts of the Board, the group includes 13 former YTS students.

Two teenagers returning to the Centre, John Dawson (Mid-Cheshire District overhead linesman) and Nigel Jones (Clwyd District overhead linesman) began their careers 12 months ago on the 1985 course. However, they were involved in a serious accident in a car and their training was interrupted. They both now start again and join the new recruits, who are:—

North Mersey District: Stephen Baxter, David Goadsby and Robert McIntyre (electricians); Christopher McAvoiy (joiner).

Liverpool District: Phillip Corner, Andrew Horne and Paul Owens (electricians); Daniel Caldwell and Paul Stevenson (joiners); Rodney Fairclough (electrical fitter); Robert Mansley (motor vehicle mechanic) and Peter Stanley (overhead linesman).

Mid-Mersey District: Paul Coogan, Andrew Corless and David Litherland (electricians); Leslie Mather (joiner).

Dee Valley District: Michael Barnard, Christopher Jones, Mark Newbrook and Michael Williams (electricians); Arthur Hughes

(joiner); Jonathon Knott (electrical fitter); Steven MacKenzie (motor vehicle mechanic), Neil Mason (meter mechanic); Philip Jones and Kenneth Savage (overhead lines).

North Wirral District: Paul Bardy, Michael Nicholls and David Salem (electricians); Derek Norman and Edward Rigby (joiners), Peter Bowker and Peter Jones (electrical fitters).

Mid-Cheshire District: Nicholas Bloor and Jonathan Spencer (electricians), Kenneth Brassington and Antony Ralphs (joiners); Fraser White (overhead linesman).

Clwyd District: Ivor Edwards and Gwynedd Roberts (electricians), Simon Coulston and Simon Roberts (joiners), David Roberts (overhead linesman).

Gwynedd District: Mark Bennion and Glyn Jones (electricians); Robin McBryde, Michael Randall and Paul Williams (overhead linesmen).

Oswestry District: David Davies and Peter Morris (electricians); Stuart Jones and Paul Penhale (overhead linesmen).

Aberystwyth District: Richard Gethin and Elfyn Jones (electricians); Stephen Davies (overhead linesman).



Above: Working in the installation section at the Training Centre are a trio from Dee Valley District, from left to right: Jonathon Knott, Michael Barnard and Mark Newbrook

Left: Learning in the "Electrical" section at the Training Centre are some of this year's apprentice intake. From left to right: Paul Owens and Robert Mansley (Liverpool), Stephen Baxter and David Goadsby (North Mersey), Rodney Fairclough and Andrew Horne (Liverpool) and Robert McIntyre (North Mersey)

Below: A full MANWEB class pictured during a tutorial session at the Birkenhead Technical College





Enjoying some liquid refreshment, we see, from left to right: Denzil Ellis, Gwyn Roberts, Don Seliyaerts, Lyn Price, Martin Benson, Eric Barrow and Sue Swindells

OSWESTRY LJCC

Praise for District staff

FOLLOWING tradition, our Oswestry District started this year's run of Local Joint Co-ordinating Council Meetings for staff throughout the Board, when a mainly male representation of the District staff gathered at the Pedigree Hotel last month.

After an enjoyable meal, Terry Edge (*craftsman linesman*) as Vice-Chairman of the Oswestry LJCC, then welcomed everyone and introduced the specially-invited guests from Head Office, The Electricity Council and Nalgo. He had a special welcome for the handful of retired District staff who were present. He remarked that everyone was looking forward to hearing from the guest speaker Tomos Davies, a Commercial assistant from our Aberystwyth District.

Returning to Oswestry as the

the Board's staff who had efficiently brought electricity supply to the site and advised the new home-owners.

Lyn brought his remarks to a close by thanking all the District staff for their efforts and looked forward to a successful future.

Next came the guest speaker, Tomos Davies, who, in his own inimitable style, recounted the *Ballad of William Jones*. This highlighted the hazards met by members of the Board's staff when working in customer's premises.

As usual, his audiences en-

of the overhead line network on to promised deliveries of appliances sold through the Board's shops; fees payable to obtain personal data; the payment of dirt- and water-money (an old favourite, which has long since been buried) and, finally, the £100 incentive to staff changing to monthly pay.

The excellent and well-run meeting closed on a happy note, with a vote of thanks on behalf of all who attended to all concerned, proposed by Martin Renson (*2nd engineer, System*), joint secretary of the LJCC.



Above, from left to right: Gareth Joseph, Enid Thomas, Gary Smith, Phil Keable and Paul Hughes

Below, from left to right: Phil Harvey, Alex Murr, Ern Preston, Brian Speaks, Mair Davies (in background) and Malcolm Watson



recently-appointed District Manager, Lyn Price then addressed the gathering by picking out highlights from the past year's achievements.

He mentioned the commendable lighting contract on the Oswestry by-pass and stated that work in all sections of the Commercial Department was making good progress. He also said how delighted he was with the humane approach from all members of the Accounts section staff in their dealings with the bad debt problem and in

guiding and counselling customers.

On the Engineering front, he said that the District's 54,000 customers had been kept on supply for 99.9 per cent of the year. "Quite an achievement, considering the amount of overhead lines we have to contend with."

He then spoke of his visit to the Galliers housing site at Wem a few days previously, on the occasion of the sale of the 50th Medallion Home. He said that the builder was full of praise for

joyed the humour while appreciating the points brought home. The spontaneous applause recorded how well received his comments had been.

The lights were then dimmed as, with fluttering heart, Sid Warburton (*principal assistant, Administration*), joint secretary of the LJCC, switched on the projector to show the film *The All-Electric Picture Show*.

Question-time brought up a number of topics, ranging from the District's programmed target of inspection and maintenance

Long Service

WE offer our congratulations to the following members of the Board's staff who have completed, during the month of October, 50, 40, 30 and 20 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

50 YEARS—Head Office: **Joseph Holden** (*foreman, Meter Test Station*).

40 YEARS—Liverpool District: **Gerry Haughan** (*District Manager*) and **Abraham Slater** (*craft attendant, Civil*). Dee Valley District: **Barbara Jones** (*clerical assistant*). North Wirral District: **John Blackburn** (*craftsman joiner*). Mid-Cheshire District: **Harry Hargrove** (*1st engineer, System*). Head Office: **Vernon Collard** (*principal assistant, Appliance Marketing*) and **George Grady** (*principal engineer, Installation and Service*).

30 YEARS—Mid-Mersey District: **Joe Allen** (*craftsman joiner*). Dee Valley District: **Glyn Davies** (*foreman, Engineering*) and **Jack Jones** (*general duties assistant*). Mid-Cheshire District: **Phil Watts** (*administrative assistant*) and **Bill Yarwood** (*craft attendant*). Gwynedd District: **Ted Dewhurst** (*switchboard attendant*) and **Robin Jones** (*storekeeper*). Oswestry District: **Gwyn Roberts** (*craftsman overhead linesman*).

20 YEARS—North Mersey District: **Eric McAlinden** (*meter attendant*). Liverpool District: **Leslie Dalby** (*meter attendant*), **James Danby** (*meter operative*), **George Deakin** (*craftsman joiner*), **John Drew** (*craftsman joiner*) and **Bernard Jackson** (*meter operative*). Dee Valley District: **Richard Dod** (*meter attendant*), **John Lawson** (*meter attendant*) and **Kathleen Sadowski** (*clerical assistant*). Head Office: **Fred Owen** (*principal assistant, Legal*).

NEW POSTS

The key objective of this new post will be the conveying of ideas and information on new and existing technology, with particular emphasis being given to the efficient and cost-effective use of electricity.



TAKING up the newly-created post of Electricity Utilisation Manager in the Commercial Department at Head Office is Ken Appleton, who has moved from his post as Customer Services Manager in the North Mersey District.

Ken will be responsible for the initiation and maintenance of a close liaison with major customers, higher education establishments, The Electricity Council and Research Centre, our own District energy marketing staff and other relevant agencies and organisations, with a view to increasing the utilisation of electricity by technology transfer.

Our Board's new Technical Engineering Manager is John Turner, who joins us from Norweb.

John was the Principal Engineer (Measurements) with our neighbouring Board, where, being highly-qualified, for the past 12 years he has held a variety of appointments at Area level and at Head Office.

He has also worked for the East Midlands Electricity Board.

We extend a welcome to John and his wife, and their two teenage sons.

Local committee at Aber

Members of the Oswestry/Aberystwyth Local Committee of the Electricity Consultative Council for the MANWEB area held their recent quarterly meeting at the Board's District Office in Aberystwyth

Our picture, below, shows members of the Committee with Dave Price, seconded as District Manager, centre, flanked by Philomena Symon (*Committee Deputy Chairman*), centre left, and Jill Hart (*Consultative Council Secretary*), centre right. MANWEB representative on the local Committee, our Oswestry District Manager Lyn Price, is on the right



RETIREMENTS

Farewells to friends and colleagues

Mr. K. L. JONES

AFTER 37 years with MANWEB, Ken Jones (2nd engineer Construction) has retired.

Based at Head Office, Ken worked from the Gwynedd District Office on the construction and surveying of overhead lines. In his early days in the former Area 4 during the rural electrification programme, he gained a reputation as a sort of MANWEB "Blaster Bates". He

became very proficient with the use of explosives for blasting holes in rock to erect poles.

After an apprenticeship with an Acrefair firm, he went into another form of "ship"—those that sail the seas. He was in the Merchant Navy from 1944 to 1946, serving in Australian and East African waters.

He held several land-based engineering appointments be-

fore joining MANWEB in 1949. He started at Welshpool before moving to the Caernarfon area, joining the Head Office staff in 1970.

As one of his colleagues put it: "Ken is a happy sort—lively and friendly. You always knew when he was in the office."

Many friends and colleagues gathered at Chester to bid him farewell, and he had been delighted by a surprise dinner given to him by his friends from Gwynedd District.

He was given a Black & Decker planer by Head Office colleagues as a parting gift, to help along his D-I-Y activities. He also enjoys gardening. To celebrate the start of his retirement, Ken and his wife, Dilys—an Energy Marketing representative in Gwynedd—have gone off to Australia to see his mother and two sisters.



Colleagues from the Printing and Stationery section at Head Office wish a happy retirement to Mair Lowndes, centre left

Mrs. M. LOWNDES

THE kindly lady who looked after all the stationery needs of the Head Office staff, Mair Lowndes, has taken early retirement after 36 years' service.

Mair joined the MANWEB staff in 1950 as a junior clerk in

the stationery stores in the former Area 4 offices at Wrexham. With re-organisation of the Board in 1970, she transferred to Sealand Road and became a member of the stationery stores team.

Away from the office, Mair enjoys the quiet life; she is an avid knitter and likes gardening. A subscription by friends and colleagues enabled her to be given a painting as a farewell gift.

Stan Roberts (Plant and Construction Manager), right, has a farewell handshake for Ken Jones, surrounded by friends on his last day at work



Mr. N. SOUTHERN

"RETIREMENT is like having a load lifted from my shoulders," was the comment made by Norman Southern on the occasion of his farewell to colleagues in the Liverpool District.

Norman, an Energy Marketing representative, began his working life as a 14-year-old page-boy in the former Liverpool Corporation's Whitechapel shop. Soon, he took off his maroon uniform and cap in exchange for a pair of overalls, when he became an apprentice electrician.

He qualified before serving for five years with the REME during the last war, returning to the Corporation for 12 months prior to transfer to MANWEB. In 1953 he became a sales assistant in the Bootle shop and, later, sales representative working from the former Area 1 Office at Hatton Garden. On re-organisation, he moved to Lister Drive.

Wishing Norman and Marion, his wife, many years of happy retirement together, District Manager Gerry Haughan said:

"Norman has always done a good job and, for over 49 years, has been a conscientious worker for the electricity industry."

Until quite recently, Norman was a drummer with a local band, but a bout of ill-health overtook him and put an end to this activity. However, still working with his hands, his main hobby now is woodworking—he has started going to night-school again! Farewell gifts of a power-planer, a lawn-edger and a "do-it-yourself" book all point to what Norman will be doing from now on.

His partner, Marion, once worked for us as a demonstrator based at the Bootle shop. She is now quite talented at plate-painting.

Norman Southern, left, receives retirement gifts and his long service certificate from Gerry Haughan



Mr. H. JONES

A SWITCHBOARD attendant in our Clwyd District, Howell Jones, retired recently after completing 37 years' service with the Board. He served his apprenticeship with a local firm in Colwyn Bay and, as a young man, was active in the Territorial Army.

He served throughout the war years with the Royal Artillery.

Soon after his return to civilian life, he joined MANWEB as an electrician at the former depot in Colwyn Bay. Later he moved on to duties in the Grid sub-station before his transfer to District Office.

Howell came back from his retirement leave to receive a presentation of a book of his choice from the LJCC and, later in the day, he faced a huge crowd of colleagues who had gathered to pay their tributes to him, as David Needham (Production Engineer), on their behalf, made another presentation of an electric drill with accessories and an amount of cash for the purchase of a stand.

David recalled that in his early days Howell was an electrician and a capable plumber. "He did



Howell Jones, left, says goodbye to his boss, David Needham

sterling work on the old Simple Hire Scheme in wiring and plumbing immersion heaters in customers' homes. Later, as a switchboard attendant, he was always in control and never 'flapped'," he commented.

Howell, a widower, has a daughter, two sons and a granddaughter living close by him in Rhos-on-Sea. He enjoys taking pictures and likes listening to the "Big Band" sound.

Mr. B. H. COLEY

FRIENDS at New Crane Street depot said their farewells to Bernard Coley when he retired from his job as a general duties assistant recently.

Bernard, a blacksmith by trade, served with the "Cheshires" and, later, the Parachute Regiment. He was in the Territorial Army for 12 "peacetime" years.

Life begins at . . .

by MITCH





NORTH MERSEY 'A' TEAM

Before the break-up of this North Mersey District "A Team" of five members of staff with the surname "Appleton", we managed to get this picture, showing, from left to right: John (1st engineer, Energy Marketing), Les (Installation Engineer), Janet (clerk, Customer Accounts section), Ray (1st engineer, Installation) and Ken (Customer Services Manager)

*HUGHES YR HEDDLU

AS he worked at his job as a clerk in the Customer Accounts section in our Aberystwyth District office, 23-year-old Hugh Hughes dreamed of becoming a full-time policeman. He devoted many hours of his spare time patrolling the streets of the town as a Special Constable with the Dyfed Powys Police Force.

Sadly, short-sightedness had prevented him from becoming a member of the Regular Force. "I was shattered when I found this out," said Hugh. "I was depressed, but I never gave up hope."

Then came a call from his aunt, who works at the Moorfield Hospital in London. She advised Hugh to go for tests for a new operation, pioneered at the hospital, which aimed to cure short-sighted vision. Hugh followed the advice and then waited a year for the radial keratotomy operation.

Earlier this year, Hugh was called to London to undergo the operation. Three days later he was on his way home, fully cured of his affliction. He has now been accepted by the Thames Valley Police Force and is on an initial training course.

Hugh was a very popular member of the District staff at



P.C. Hugh Hughes

Lluest. He was a hard-working member of the Sports and Social Club and served terms of office as Social Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

His father, John, who retired some years ago, was the head of the Administration section

in the District. He is very proud of his son's achievements.

Colleagues at Lluest wished Hugh every success in his new career as they presented him with a parting gift of a stereo-radio cassette to keep him "in tune" while pounding the beat as a fully-fledged police constable.

*Hughes the Police

POOL WINNER

CONGRATULATIONS go to Dilys Edwards, a clerical assistant in the Material Control section in our Gwynedd District, on her winning the very first Ladies Annual Pool Tournament in the District.

After battling through the qualifying rounds, she beat Linda Owen, a supervisor on the General Services section, in the final.

Dilys feels confident that she would do well against the winner of the Pool Tournament for the men of Gwynedd.

Board host Bridge Tournament

THE annual Bridge Tournament for the electricity supply industry was held at the MANWEB Head Office for the first time. The 37 teams of four players competed over the nine-hour session in the spacious restaurant. Our Board contributed five teams, with one finishing in a creditable ninth place—a very respectable per-

formance when considering the class opposition.

The prize for the winning team from the North Eastern Region of the CEGB was presented by MANWEB Secretary Colin Leonard. In second place came Cottam power station, and, in third spot, The Electricity Council Research Establishment at Leatherhead.

Our Board's top team, from left to right: Keith Prowse, Dave Croston, Sally Baker and John Rogers



£2,000 WALK

A VERY successful six-mile sponsored walk, organised by Dave Walsh (administrative assistant, Accounts) and colleagues Julie McCartney (clerk) and Jane Orford (supervisor), all from our Liverpool District, resulted in cheques for over £2,000 being handed over to the Damion Brady Appeal Fund.

After their day's work, the 82 gallant walkers gathered as the skies darkened to herald a rainstorm. Several donned oilskins, while others utilised umbrellas in an endeavour to keep dry. Some called in at the various



Fund-raisers, from left to right: Jane Orford, Dave Welsh and Julie McCartney

hotels en route—"to partake of a spot of something to keep out the cold"—they said!

Waiting to welcome the walkers as they arrived at Thingwall Road Clubhouse was Damion, in his new wheel-chair, with his mother and father.

A buffet and disco helped to get the circulation going once again, and the joyful evening brought to an end a very worthwhile project.

Dave thanks everyone—all the walkers and the sponsors—for their great efforts.

GIFT FROM MANWEB

AN excited and very thankful group from the Mountain Venture Outdoor Education Community for Liverpool organisation are pictured, below, receiving their gift minibus, which was officially handed over by our Liverpool District Manager, Gerry Haughan, centre left.

The group are part of the project that has taken a number of Liverpool's unemployed and

given training to enable them to work on outdoor activities with various community groups from within the City.

They appealed to various business organisations for help and the Executive Committee Members from our Board offered the minibus, which had reached the end of its service days with MANWEB.



THE EVENT
Liverpool District Inter-Departmental Bowls Competition Prizegiving

THE DATE
Friday, 14th November

THE TIME
8.00 p.m.

THE PLACE
Thingwall Road Clubhouse, Liverpool

THE PRICE
Tickets at £2.00 each, which includes buffet, from Reg Owens or any member of the Committee.

A disco-dance will follow the prizegiving ceremony.

Late bar applied for.

FREE ADS

FOR SALE

FOLDING BICYCLE—Lady's model. As new. £65 o.n.o. Tel Oswestry District internal 315 (Joan Kemp).

LADDERS—Small quantity of 4.87/9.00m timber push-up ladders at £40 each. They are available for inspection at the Engineering Stores, Queensferry. For further details telephone Malcolm Arthur, Head Office internal 2464.

PLANE—Combined plow and beading plane, Stanley "45", 20 cutters. Tel 051-733 0382.

COMPUTER—Amstrad CPC 464, with TV monitor and games, complete with furniture. Desk unit. Eight months old. £250. Tel. Dee Valley 2255 (Trevor Edwards).

KNITTING MACHINE—Incl. weaving attachment, lace carriage, table, wool-winder, manual and knitting patterns. Punch-card oper'td, Brother/Jones model KH 810. As new. £150. Tel. Mid-Cheshire 233 (Angela Johnson).

HOLIDAYS ABROAD

FRENCH RIVIERA—Six-berth caravan on site with all amenities. Within easy reach of Monaco, Monte Carlo, St. Tropez, Cannes, Nice, etc. Golf, horse-riding close by. For details, s.a.e. to Malcolm Williams, The Lodge, Lingen, Bucknell, Shropshire, or telephone 0544 267579.

BRIGHOUSE & RASTRICK BRASS BAND in concert at MANWEB Head Office Restaurant, on Thursday, 13th November 1986, at 8.00 p.m.

Tickets £2 each, available from Gren Roberts, Welfare Section, Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester. Internal Tel. H.O. 2084.