

CONTACT

November 1971



SALES SMILES

(See page 218)



On Course at Wallasey

The 1971-72 series of Sales Training Courses started recently at the Wallasey Centre under the direction of Mr. Eric Richardson (*sales training supervisor*), who is assisted by Mr. Tony Dobson (*instructor*) and Miss E. V. Jones (*demonstrator, Marketing*).

There will be seven courses each of four weeks duration spread over a nine month period. Each course consists of about ten members of the Commercial staff, some part-time, others full-time.

COURSE 253

Here we see some of our sales staff taking a break from their studies to sit for our photographer on one of his recent visits to the Sales Training Centre.

They are, *from top to bottom, left to right* : Nell Jones (*Caernarvon*), Mary Lindley (*Chester*), Shirley Robinson (*Birkenhead*), Ivy Sowerby (*Mold*), Teresa Kelly (*St. Johns*), Desna Owens (*Llangefni*), Mary Hudson (*Northwich*) and the lone male representative, Stuart Evans (*Oswestry*).

OUR COVER PICTURE shows members of Course 252—the first of this season—and we see a galaxy of gals surrounding two lucky lads. *From left to right, back row* : Sheila Jones (*Shotton*), Olga Lightfoot (*Bootle*), Kathy Cull (*Whitchurch*) and Joan Jones (*Middlewich*). *Middle row* : Beryl Davies (*Llandudno*), Ronald Durkin (*Huyton*), Beryl Wilson (*Holyhead*), Terence Butcher (*Aberystwyth*) and Pam Smith (*Chester*). *Front* : Joan Cooley (*Wallasey*) and Kath Wilkinson (*Northwich*).

Whats on in MANWEB

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------|--|
| December 10th | . . . | Caernarvon Sports & Social Club Annual Dinner/Dance |
| December 11th | . . . | Childrens Christmas Party at Head Office. |
| December 15th | . . . | Final judging for the "Girl from MANWEB—1972" |
| December 17th | . . . | MANWEB (Chester) Sports & Social Club Christmas Party. |
| 1972 | | |
| January 4th/7th | . . . | "Electric Living" Exhibition at Aberystwyth. |
| January 21st | . . . | Liverpool District Employees' Conference. |
| February 1st | . . . | Catering Trades Exhibition at Llandudno. |
| February 17th | . . . | Mid-Cheshire District Employee's Conference. |
| March 24th | . . . | EEIBA Ball at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. |
| April 24th/28th | . . . | MANWEB Catering Exhibition in Liverpool. |
| July 12th | . . . | EEIBA Golf at Prenton. |
| October 20th | . . . | EEIBA Dance at Sealand Road. |



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Editorial Staff

Keith Baldwin
John F. Perry
Sam Doughty

EDITORIAL

The Drive on Heating

THIS YEAR the onset of Winter has probably been emphasised for most of us by two things—the return to the old practice of “putting the clock back,” and a spell of really sharp weather in the early part of November.

Winter makes us turn to all kinds of things in the search for efficiency and creature comforts in the face of conditions which quickly draw their absence to our attention. Now is the time for anti-freeze and electric blankets and more especially, for those not yet enjoying its blessings, for the installation of central heating in the home.

With an ever-increasing armoury of weapons, ranging from full “*Electricaire*” installations to the infinitely-variable storage radiator system, the electricity supply industry will be going all-out this winter to maintain and increase its share of the domestic heating market.

Despite its dominance in so many fields of energy-utilisation, electricity was an “also ran” in the central heating stakes until a few years ago, but this situation is now changing with startling speed.

A recent meeting between senior Commercial Department people and the Liverpool Corporation's Housing Committee (reported elsewhere in this number of *Contact*) is an indication of the energy with which our commercial colleagues are entering the fray on the home heating front, and this drive will be carried forward with vigour throughout the whole of the MANWEB area, and indeed of the country, during the rigorous weather of the next few months.

For many of those who take the trouble to read what Mr. Roy Stewart, leader of the energy sales team, had to say at Liverpool, it will perhaps come as something of a surprise to learn that already more than a million British homes enjoy the comfort and convenience of electric storage radiators.

This most popular and versatile form of electric heating is
(continued overleaf)



Mr. Roy Stewart

FACE TO FACE

Putting MANWEB'S Case

RECENTLY the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, (Alderman Charles Cowlin, J.P.) and members of the Liverpool Corporation Housing Committee accepted an invitation to meet senior members of the MANWEB Commercial Department, including Mr. M. R. Cowan, *Chief Commercial Officer*, Mr. W. N. Shires, *Deputy Chief Commercial Officer* and Mr. R. Stewart, *Energy Sales Manager*, supported by Commercial staff from North Mersey and Liverpool Districts.

Welcoming the Lord Mayor and Corporation representatives, Mr. Cowan said that MANWEB were fully appreciative of the many problems facing the Corporation such as slum clearance, modernisation and construction

of new modern premises which were basic to the task of improving their city. He said that in creating a new city, electricity supply was an essential commodity and that the services offered by MANWEB were always available. He exemplified the electrical opportunities available by reference to our new Head Office at Chester.

The "Heat Reclaim" System which it incorporated was unconventional but most effective and provided extremely comfortable working conditions at running costs which were also unconventionally low. He said that the new District Office for our North Mersey colleagues to be built at Bootle would also incorporate a similar system of heating with excess heat from the office block being used to warm the out-buildings.

Mr. Roy Stewart took up the running with a description of his own responsibilities in the utilisation field. He said that he had expert specialist staff to support him in his efforts to maintain a balanced development of load in the main sectors of use. At this meeting, he said, he was primarily concerned with the domestic sector. He was well aware of the implications of the decisions made by the Housing Committee which determined the type of fuel used by the tenants under their control.

"It is not unusual" he went on,

"for leading authorities such as yourselves to pioneer innovations in housing and housing facilities resulting in improved amenities and higher living standards and this frequently influenced developers in the private sector to follow suit."

He went on to say that more than 60 local authorities within the MANWEB area were regularly specifying electricity as the principle fuel for cooking, space heating and water heating.

"Success breeds success," he went on, "and as each month goes by, more and more authorities recognise the validity of our case and the benefits to themselves."

He illustrated how electricity had proved its own case, particularly in blocks of flats, by the high standard of comfort provided at low capital costs, low maintenance costs and low running costs compared with other forms of heating.

Another aspect of housing discussed by Mr. Stewart was the modernisation and improvement of older properties which lacked many of the modern amenities. Liverpool had some 40,000 houses in this category.

He reminded the Corporation delegates of the suitability of electrical appliances for this purpose, and of the simplicity of installation in occupied premises.

He said that in order to help local authorities in their decisions

The Drive on Heating—Continued

now supplemented by the more fundamental electrically heated warm air and hot water circulating systems, while floor-warming, fan heaters, and radiant electric fires all play their part in making life in winter more tolerable for millions of people.

Most of the fundamental forms of electric heating are designed to make use of cheap "White Meter" energy for storing heat during the night, and in total they make a substantial contribution to the efficient use of our industry's resources by reducing the differential in demand between peak and off-peak periods.

We wish our Commercial colleagues every success in their efforts. We all have some part to play in supporting and encouraging them in their work.

and to provide a suitable basis for discussion, the Board had brought out a number of package-type installations which included water-heating facilities, a fuel effect fire for the living room and a radiant heater for the bathroom, storage radiators and roof insulation, and all wiring, assembling and testing. For smaller type houses, three storage radiators would usually suffice with up to five in larger houses. The cost of these packages ranged from about £215 to around £275. He advised the Committee members that these prices were most reasonable.

He emphasised the use of storage radiators in these installations because as far as local



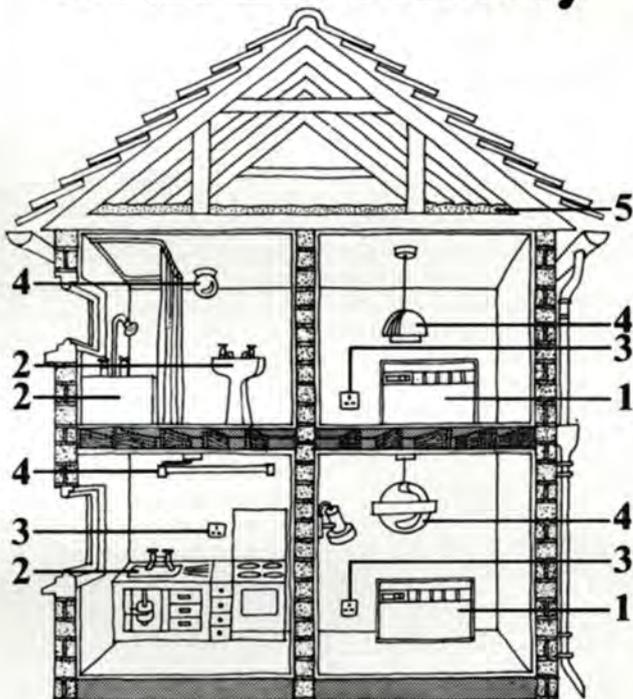
Mr. Shires and our Girl from MANWEB, Miss Hilary Panting with the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Alderman Cowlin.

authorities were concerned, this method of home heating was most successful. He quoted a recent "Which" report which said that there was a 90 per cent level of satisfaction among people who had storage radiators in their homes. This indeed was a very high standard.

Mr. Stewart said that in this country today over a million homes had automatic trouble-free heating by electric storage radiators at costs they could afford.

"Your tenants could also enjoy the same privilege and comfort, but the final decision rests in your hands," he said.

Money to MODERNISE with Electricity



Your local Council can provide up to *half* the cost for you to modernise your home.

Electricity can bring your home up to date. All homes need an ample supply of hot water. Electric water heating gives hot water whenever and wherever you want it.

Electric heating is clean, convenient, automatic - and can be run on special low tariffs like White Meter. Electric cooking is clean and easy to control. And every home looks better with improved lighting. Even your wiring can be modernised. If you use modern labour-saving appliances, you'll need adequate power points.

Do your family a favour - get some money to modernise with electricity.

1. Automatic warmth with storage radiators
2. Hot water on tap anytime
3. New, safe, more convenient wiring
4. Improved lighting
5. Insulation for cosy economy

We can show you the latest appliances. We can help with the planning too. In fact we've produced a colourful 16 page book telling you all about modernising with electricity - and how to get a Council grant for it. Get your free copy now! From your nearest electricity board shop.



QUESTIONS

IN THE

HOUSE

Electricity Charges (Old-Age Pensioners)

Mr. Dormand asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he will give a general direction to the electricity boards to exempt old-age pensioners from payment of the minimum quarterly charge made by the boards.

Sir J. Eden: No, Sir. Area Electricity Boards' tariffs are the responsibility of the Boards in consultation with their Consultative Councils and the Electricity Council.

Mr. Dormand: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that that is a very unsatisfactory reply and one which is typical of the meanness of this Government? Is he further aware that many old people experience great hardship in paying minimum quarterly charges of this kind, especially those who are deliberately sparing in their use of electricity? Is he aware, finally, of the anomalous position which is created, and which destroys the Government's argument, when some boards make the minimum charge while others do not?

Sir J. Eden: The hon. Gentleman overlooks the fact that boards are required by Statute not to show undue preference to any class of consumer. The problem of pensioners is one for the level

of pensions themselves. As the hon. Gentleman knows, pensions were increased in September of this year.

Dame Irene Ward: But is my hon. Friend aware that his replies are very unsatisfactory, in view of the fact that the electricity suppliers intend to put up their prices, which will result in the very old and the infirm being unable to get sufficient heating? If my hon. Friend cannot do anything under the Statute, would he like me to introduce a private Member's Bill so that we can help the old in this connection, because the situation is absolutely disastrous?

Sir J. Eden: I understand what my hon. Friend says about the position of elderly people, especially those whose incomes are limited. The fact remains that the electricity boards have to meet their costs, and they are not allowed by Statute to show undue preference to any class of consumer. I am sure that the right way to deal with the position of pensioners is by means of the various pensions increase arrangements, and not by this means.

Mr. Blenkinsop: As the Government impose this financial requirement on the electricity and other boards, why is the Minister not prepared to state now that he is willing to bring in legislation to alter the position?

Dame Irene Ward: No, I will do that.

Sir J. Eden: It is a matter for the boards to determine how their tariffs are best designed to reflect their costs. It is a fact that seven out of the 12 boards have already introduced a minimum quarterly charge.

Power Stations (Natural Gas Supplies)

Mr. Skeet asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) whether he will give general directions to the Gas Council and area gas boards to permit the Central Electricity Generating Board to pipe natural gas purchased in liquefied form from anywhere outside the United Kingdom and the United Kingdom sector of the Continental Shelf from the port of entry to power stations;

(2) whether he will introduce legislation to amend the Gas Act, 1948, to enable the Central Electricity Generating Board to pipe natural gas purchased in liquefied form from anywhere outside the United Kingdom and the United Kingdom sector of the Continental Shelf from the port of entry to power stations in selected parts of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Ridley: No such action is necessary. Proposals from the C.E.G.B. to use natural gas from overseas in power stations would have to be considered on their merits.

Gas and Electricity (Overcharging)

Mr. Meacher asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what conclusion he has reached following his further consideration of whether to introduce legislation to make it a criminal offence for a private landlord wilfully to over-charge a tenant for the use of gas or electricity.

Sir J. Eden: I hope to make an announcement shortly.

Obituary

Her many friends will mourn the death on November 3rd of Miss Nellie Holliday of Penybryn, Deganwy in Caernarvonshire. Until her retirement some ten years ago, Miss Holliday was a shop assistant with the Board at Llandudno Junction.

BONFIRE NIGHT BANG ON!!

On Saturday, November 6th, a crisp dry night, as chief firelighter **Tommy Dutton** set a match to the monster bonfire which had been set up on the field alongside our Sealand Road Offices, children of all ages—some 1,300 of them—crowded to the barriers in readiness for the great pyrotechnic display.

Amid the 'O-o-o-h's and A-a-a-h's,' Messrs. **Tony Thackray**, **Frank Astbury** and **John Swarbrick** went about their task of lighting the set pieces and the rockets and the whiz-bangs with military precision. They had previously worked out a detailed programme for a display to entertain the crowd for the best part of an hour.

People passing along Sealand Road stopped their cars and pulled in to the curb to watch the wonderful display.

The evening was organised by a Sub-committee of the **MANWEB** (Chester) Sports and Social Club and it turned out to be yet another resounding success.

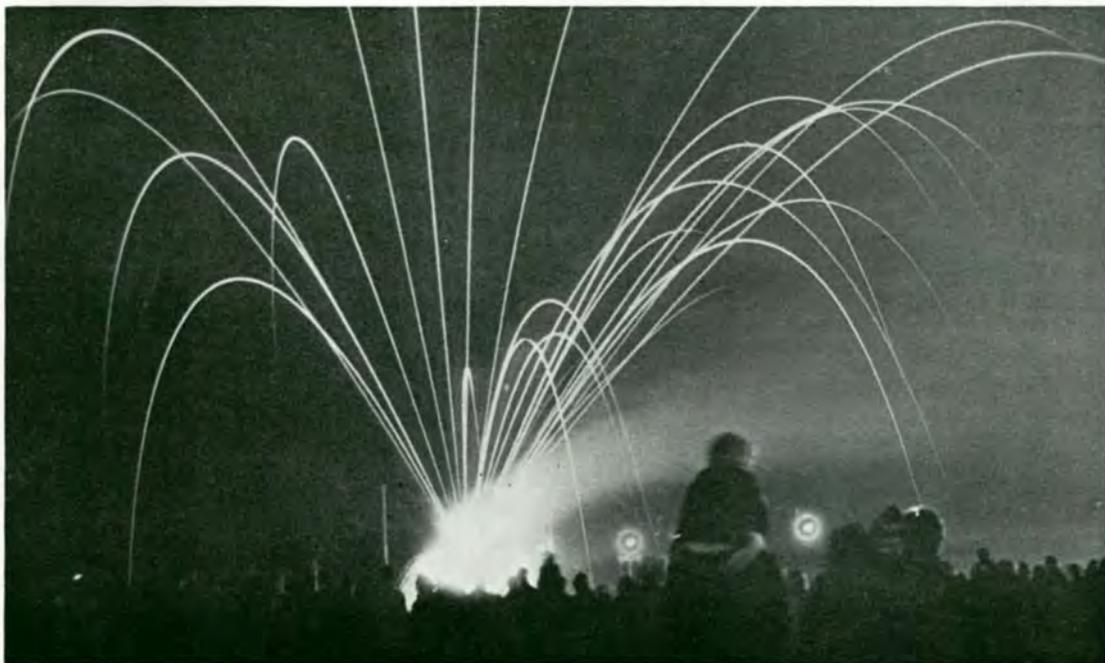
The huge bonfire had been built earlier in the day by members of the Sports Club football team—they went on to win their match in the afternoon by four goals to two.

The Committee had also arranged for a hot dog stand, a 'chippie' and a soup stall to be opened for business during the evening.

Below : Over the heads of the crowds we see the light traces from a set pyrotechnic display.
(Picture taken by Mr. G. Lewer).



Above : Good use was made of the well dressed guy before he was ceremoniously placed on top of the bonfire. Here we see him seated in the restaurant at Head Office attracting attention to the poster appeal for the EEIBA.





Left to right: Guest speaker, Chief Superintendent Talbot with Mr. D. G. Gwyn, Deputy Chairman, Mr. H. Wilson, Vice-chairman, No. 11 L.A.C., and Board Secretary, Mr. M. M. Parker, Chairman, No. 11 L.A.C.



A busy time for No. 11 L.A.C. Secretary, Mr. A. Anderson.]

“CHILD SAFETY DEMANDS VIGILANCE”

*—police chief tells
H.O. staff conference*



No. 11 L.A.C. members pictured at the Employees' Conference at Head Office with some of the people they represent. More pictures on pages 226 and 227. Report opposite.



AFTER TUCKING into an excellent meal in the Restaurant at Sealand Road, 300 members of Head Office staff were welcomed to the meeting by the Secretary and Solicitor of the Board, Mr. M. M. Parker.

He thanked the delegates for attending in such large numbers, and said this was appreciated by the members of the Local Advisory Committee who had organised the meeting.

Mr. Parker stressed the value of joint consultation, saying it provided an opportunity for the staff to take part in the running of the Board. Matters dealing with health, welfare, training and efficiency were the terms of reference for the L.A.C., and the channels were open for any member of the staff to raise items within these terms, through his or her representative.

In certain cases representatives had raised matters outside the normal meetings, and Mr. Parker welcomed this, where there was a need for urgent action.

Mr. Parker then introduced the MANWEB Deputy Chairman Mr. D. G. Gwyn, who started by apologising on behalf of the Chairman Mr. Dodds, who was unable to be present.

MANWEB and Inflation

Each year the Board had to report to Parliament on the conduct of the Board's financial affairs, said Mr. Gwyn. This had been a difficult year. There had been an escalation in costs and materials which had affected MANWEB.

Power stations were 80% coal burning. Coal therefore accounted for a high proportion of our fuel bill. Between September 1969 and March 1971 coal had risen by 40% and this increase in fuel costs added £6.38 million to MANWEB costs last year.

During the previous year, ending in April 1970, the Board had a £1.75 million surplus. This had been turned into a deficit of £2.87 million in only 12 months, a difference of £4½ million.

Mr. Gwyn then put the question 'Why did we lose? Should we not recover our costs?'

The additional costs were beyond the control of the Board, he said, and before we could raise our tariffs we had a statutory requirement to consult the consumers' representatives, the Consultative Council. This was done in January 1970, and with the agreement of this body the Board took steps to increase charges by 19%, but Government policy decreed that we could only increase them by 12½%.

"It is probable that we shall have a loss in the present financial year and there is nothing we can do to stop it. The Confederation of British Industry has agreed to limit increases in cost to 5%, and the Government have directed nationalised industries to keep increases within this 5%," added Mr. Gwyn.

It was with great trepidation that the Deputy Chairman looked forward to this year's end.

Concluding on a more cheerful note Mr. Gwyn told delegates that there was quite a lot for MANWEB to be proud of in the achievements of the last year. We were well up the "league table" in most aspects of our work. The most important aspect was in the average cost of electricity to our customers, and MANWEB's were the lowest of any Board, with an average cost of 0.721p per unit.

Their lives in our hands

The main speaker of the evening was Chief Superintendent R. A. Talbot of the Cheshire Constabulary. His concern that evening was to draw the attention of his audience to the safety of children.

Whether in our jobs, or on the roads, the lives of small children were in the hands of all of us, he said, adding that he could not leave alone any opportunity to help save the life of a child.

Chief Superintendent Talbot described how, as a newly promoted Chief Inspector at Cheadle Hulme, he became involved with the search for a child.

He then went on to relate how, following the disappearance of a small boy and a small girl, a man and a woman were ultimately charged in what became known as the "Moors" murder trial, and described his own role in the police inquiries which preceded the trial.

He urged his audience to do everything they could where the lives of children were concerned, pointing out that someone, somewhere, might well have seen one of the children involved in the "Moors" case, given a lead to the police, and perhaps saved other lives.

Throughout the Chief Superintendent's talk the audience had been spellbound. Not a cough or a whisper interrupted him.

Open Forum

The open forum, the next item on the agenda provided the opportunity for the delegates to put their questions.

The questions were dealt with, at Mr. Parker's direction, by management representatives present. The subjects included the allocation of office space, a commemorative stamp for the Board's 25th Anniversary, the odour outside the building, meals in the staff restaurant, staff morale, working hours, access to the building from Sealand Road, long service awards, fire drills and a suggested ban on smoking.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by the vice-Chairman of the No. 11 L.A.C., Mr. Harold Wilson, the representative from Head Office Engineering (not the member for Huyton)!



LADIES NIGHT?

—no, but they were well represented at the Head Office Employees' Meeting





GENTS CAME TOO

*—but it was difficult to
keep the ladies out of the picture*



WEDDINGS

Spring, the traditional time for weddings, seems to have come a little late this year for some members of our Liverpool District staff who signed the marriage contract recently.

Our man at Lister Drive sends us his report on no less than five new partnerships.

JONES—SEMPLÉ

Everyone will remember our "Girl from MANWEB" of a couple of years ago, Miss Ann Semple. Well during her year of office she met a free-lance journalist, Mr. Alan Jones and a romance blossomed forth.

We are now pleased to congratulate them both on their wedding which took place a short time ago on a beautiful day at St. Peter's Church in Woolton. Many of Ann's demonstrator friends turned up to wish her well.

After a honeymoon in Scotland, Mrs. Ann Jones returned to her job as energy sales demonstrator in the Liverpool District.

WEBB—ALLEN

Best wishes for a happy future to Mr. Eric Webb who works in the Material Control section and Miss Irene Allen, who works for Liverpool Corporation, who were married recently at St. Mary's Church, West Derby.

Colleagues at Lister Drive presented Eric and his bride with a dinner service.

COOPER—MERRILL

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. John Cooper on the occasion of their recent wedding which took place at St. Oswald's Church in Old Swan, Liverpool recently.

The bride, formerly Miss Irene Merrill, is a clerk in the Hire-Purchase section at Lister Drive. Her friends and colleagues at work presented her with a MANWEB kettle as a wedding present.

DAVIES—SANDERS

We wish a happy future for Mr. Brian Davies, a teacher, and Miss Alex Sanders, an accounts clerk in our Liverpool District, who were married a short time ago at All Saints Church in the bride's home town of Walsall.

Alex was presented with a steam iron from her colleagues.

PEERS—BYRNE

Our congratulations go to Mr. and Mrs. George Peers who were recently married at St. Margaret Mary's Church in Dovecot, Liverpool.

Mrs. Peers was formerly Miss Gerry Byrne who is now back at work as a clerk in the Liverpool District Accounts section.

Gerry was presented with an electric fire from her friends at the office.

* * *

Former 'Contact' correspondent in the Northwich area, Mr. C. P. Booth, sends us this report of his son's wedding.

BOOTH—LITTLER

Our best wishes for a happy future go to Mr. Roger Booth, one of our electricians based at Northwich, and his new bride, Miss Joan Littler, who comes from Winnington.

They were married recently at Holy Trinity Church in Northwich.

Roger is certainly a very lucky man for Joan is the head of the Home Economics Department at Woodford Lodge Comprehensive School at Winsford.

* * *

... and from deep in the heart of Wales ...

PRITCHARD—BEE

We send our best wishes for a very happy future to Mr. Owen Pritchard, a television engineer,



Mr. and Mrs. Pritchard

and Miss Carol A. Bee, a telephonist/clerk at our Gwynedd District Office in Caernarvon, who were married quite some time ago.

The ceremony took place at the 14th Century Llanbeblig Church in Caernarvon.

SPEAK UP !!

Enter the Public Speaking Competition

You've nothing to lose - everything to gain . . . money, prestige and lots of fun.

Anyone under 35 can enter.

Full details are in a booklet which you can get from your District Sales Superintendent or from the Marketing Department at Head Office in Chester.

COOK-FREEZE CATERING

*with
newly-developed
techniques*

FOR A LONG TIME, the best chefs in our hotels and restaurants have been preparing excellent meals from refrigerated and frozen foods. Now, newly-developed electric catering techniques have made it possible for food which has been prepared

COOK-FREEZE

... is a system of preparing and cooking high quality food in economic quantities, retaining it in a state of "suspended" freshness by rapid freezing and freezer storage, later serving it when and where required from finishing kitchens requiring low capital investment and minimal staffing.

and cooked to be blast-frozen and then stored ready for serving weeks or even months later.

Cook-freeze, as the new method is called, has been made possible with the introduction of suitably-sized blast freezers. Trays of prepared food are placed inside and cold air is then forced round the trays at velocities of more than 1,000 feet a minute. This ensures rapid cooling down to a temperature of -20° Centigrade, the process taking between one-and-a-half and two hours.

However, the preparation stage still requires good quality food in order to produce first class meals at a later date. But with the blast-freeze method, the chef's skills can be used more economically and wastage is cut to a minimum.

Providing food is properly cooked, frozen quickly and put into freezer storage, there is no loss of either quality or vitamin content. Equally, dishes should be served as quickly as possible after re-constitution, as with conventionally cooked food, if quality and vitamin content is to be maintained.

All foods can be frozen, but some freeze more successfully than others. Strawberries do not de-

COST SAVING FOR CATERERS

A brochure published by the Electricity Council provides a short guide to a number of newly developed electro-catering techniques which help bring down the costs for the industrial and institutional caterer.

Emphasis is put on the economies to be gained from using food which has been prime cooked, portioned, packed, sealed and blast-frozen in centralised kitchens.

Single copies of the booklet are free and may be obtained from the Electric Catering Centre 45 St. Martin's Lane, London, W.C.2.

frost to their original texture and some sauces, notably hollandaise, separate out. But most goods freeze well and can be stored for long periods. At -20° C. most foods keep for at least six months.

Much of the pioneering work in the blast-freezing process has been carried out by our friends at the Electricity Council Research Centre at Capenhurst.

At the opening of a special exhibition held at the Electricity Council's Catering Centre in London, and featuring cook-freeze and other electro-catering developments, Mr. G. J. Hughes, Deputy Marketing Adviser said, "Cook-freeze is one of the important changes now taking place in the catering industry. It is one of several new concepts that have challenged traditional thinking.

"A new generation of thought is entering the kitchen as evidenced by many students from catering colleges who visit this Centre.

"The new cooks want predictable work patterns as well as improved working conditions. Cook-freeze provides all these."

FRYING TONIGHT

Fish and chips still rank high as the people's choice for a tasty meal. On Fridays and Saturdays the local 'chippy' is usually packed tight, but during the rest of the week, business just ticks over.

For owners of these businesses, who wish to expand to have a shop full every night, the Electricity Council have published a booklet which contains a wealth of information to help them.

Copies of this brochure "Fryday's Profit Every Day" may be obtained from the Electricity Council's Marketing Department, Trafalgar Buildings, 1 Charing Cross, London, SW1A 2DS.



Some of our colleagues who received their 35-year awards.



Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, *left*, presents a 45-year Long Service Award to Mr. Peter Hughes as Mrs. Hughes completes the picture.

Long and Loyal Service Rewarded

Presentations
at Rhostyllen

Recipients of awards for 25-years' service are joined by members of their families, and Mr. Helliwell (*Group Manager*) who is seated on the front row.



A HANDFUL of members of our former Area 4 staff, some accompanied by their families, recently travelled from as far afield as Crewe and Caernarvon to be at the Rhostyllen offices to receive their Long Service Awards from the hands of our Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds.

Gold watches, radios and beautiful clocks were just some of the tangible awards on view. Recipients who had chosen large electrical appliances such as cookers and tumbler dryers had them delivered direct to their homes.

After extending a cordial welcome to everyone, Mr. K. Helliwell (*Group Manager*) said how pleased he was that our industry recognised the long and loyal service given by so many of its employees. He hoped that the awards which were being presented would remain as treasured possessions to those receiving them for many years to come. He

also hoped that the 'youngsters' who were getting their 25-year awards would be back again in the future to receive their 35-year and 45-year awards.

Then MANWEB Chairman Mr. Dodds rose to make the individual presentations but before doing so said how pleased he was to be able to make the awards and meet so many people who had given so much fine service to the industry. He expressed the Board's sincere thanks to each and every one who were to receive awards.

He then added his personal thanks to the families of the Board's staff for their help and encouragement over the years.

Mr. Dodds spoke of the 45 years service given by Mr. Peter Hughes, a jointer from our Dee Valley District. He said that this long period of service represented more than half the life span of the industry itself.

The other awards presented were as follows:

25 Years: Miss L. I. Millican (*comptometer supervisor, Rhostyllen*), Messrs. F. Basford (*linesman's mate, Mid-Cheshire*), J. T. Boswell (*electrician, Dee Valley*), L. C. George (*higher clerical assistant, Clwyd*), J. M. Griffiths (*higher clerical assistant, Rhostyllen*), T. W. Jones (*foreman, Mid-Cheshire*), J. C. Lloyd (*assistant consumers' engineer, Clwyd*), W. O. Mawby (*jointer, Clwyd*) and R. H. Williams (*sub-station attendant, Clwyd*).

35 Years: Miss E. V. Jones (*senior saleswoman, Head Office*), Miss I. West (*senior clerical assistant, Mid-Cheshire—now retired*), Messrs. G. O. Dogan (*linesman, Dee Valley*), R. H. Hughes (*fitter, Dee Valley*), E. James (*records draughtsman, Dee Valley*), E. Jones (*linesman, Gwynedd*), E. B. M. Jones (*electrician, Dee Valley*), T. G. Jones (*linesman, Gwynedd*), J. Nuttall (*labourer, Clwyd*) and H. Parry (*meter reader/collector, Clwyd*).

NORTH WIRRAL 'OLD PALS'

Our "Keeping in touch after retirement" articles brought a letter from Mr. F. G. Jefferies, of 3 Roland Avenue, Bebington, Wirral, with news of the spontaneous formation of a MANWEB pensioners' club in the North Wirral District.

It all began with the retirement, within a short space of time a couple of years ago, of a number of long-serving MANWEB people. Ten of the old-timers got together for lunch at a New Brighton hotel, the word passed around, and in no time the group had grown to 28, boasting more than a thousand years' service between them!

As Mr. Jefferies comments in his letter to us—"What a record!"

Soon the first lunch-time gathering had developed into a regular lunch meeting at a hotel at Oxton—with an average attendance of twenty or so. Summer-time coach outings—including trips to the Trawsfynydd and Wylfa power stations—have been on the programme, together with a Christmas dinner and visit to the pantomime in Liverpool.

Occasionally they are joined at their luncheon meetings by someone from North Wirral District office who is "still in harness," and every member of the group has the names, addresses and phone numbers of the others so that they are able

to keep in touch between meetings and outings.

Next item on the programme is a meeting on December 8th (with a Christmas dinner!)

Any retired MANWEB people in the North Wirral area, who have not yet heard of this group, should get in touch with Mr. Jefferies.

... AND ONE WITH A PROBLEM

Another note from a colleague retiring this month comes from Mr. H. E. Rummens, an EHT jointer at Lister Drive, Liverpool.

Mr. Rummens, who has 44 years' service to the industry behind him, has a problem.

He writes "I have been let down rather badly with a retirement residence, and would be very grateful if anyone would inform me of a small house or a cottage to rent or buy which would enable me to carry on my hobbies of gardening, fishing, or possibly boating."

Mr. Rummens would be very pleased to hear from anyone who can help—at 38 Grosvenor Street, Wallasey, Cheshire.

LIVERPOOL PENSIONERS

Enrolment (10p per member) and Election of Committee, Thingwall Road, Wednesday, December 8th at 2-30 p.m.

WEEK-END IN LLANGOLLEN FOR EPEA STUDENTS

The Electrical Power Engineer Association held their 1971 Annual Residential School at Llangollen a few weeks ago.

After an inaugural address from Mr. Joe Forrester, President of the EPEA, a short speech of welcome on behalf of the local membership of the Association was offered by Mr. Cyril Vosper, Chairman, Chester and North Wales Section, EPEA.

Then the 50-odd students were organised into three study groups before listening to lectures from Mr. Arthur Palmer, M.P., the School Director, Mr. George Millett, Deputy General Secretary, EPEA, Mr. M. W. Leonard, Secretary of the Council of Engineering Institutions and Mr. Ralph Pritchard, Vice-President of the EPEA.

During the period of the School, MANWEB and the North West Region of the CEGB invited everyone to a reception and buffet supper at a local hotel.

Reports from the three study groups brought a very successful week-end to a close.



Receiving the guests and their ladies and welcoming them to the Board's area are, from left to right: Mr. Denis Dodds (Chairman), Mr. R. Houghton (Group Manager, CEGB), Mr. Joe Forrester and Mrs. M. M. Parker (wife of the Board's Secretary and Solicitor).



Mr. Cyril Vosper and Mrs. Vosper with Mr. Arthur Palmer, M.P.



Mr. Jim Fisher (Deputy Chief Engineer), left, chats with Mr. George Millett.

MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club

CHARTER FLIGHT, MANCHESTER - TORONTO

August 4th to 24th, 1972

£68 per seat

A few seats still available, but hurry

Contact: Mr. J. G. Roberts,
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FOR SALE

Hillman Super Imp
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Immaculate Condition
£545 o.n.o.

(H.P. can be arranged)

Contact: Mr. J. E. Robbins,
Room 4S1, Head Office.
Internal Telephone 2175

RETIREMENTS

from Liverpool . . .

Miss M. COBB

Joining Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department in 1936, Miss Mamie Cobb worked at the Whitechapel shop before moving over to the Display Section at Paradise Street. For many years she was the Board's "Hostess" at the Southport Flower Show, and probably through her interest and ability in the field of amateur dramatics, Mamie was always cast in the part of the "awkward customer" at set demonstrations.

Now that her time is her own she intends to do a lot of reading and—when funds allow—a lot of travelling.

Her friends in Liverpool presented her with a set of wine goblets as a parting gift.

Mr. J. DUFFY

Another member of the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department, Mr. Joe Duffy worked at the Pumpfields Depot as a foreman until he was taken into hospital in 1965 for a serious operation. On his return to work he was given light duties at Hatton Garden. Now that he has retired, he just wants to settle down and enjoy life.

He too received farewell gifts of a toaster and an electric iron from his colleagues.

Mr. F. JACKSON

A man who has moved around a little during his 37 years' service, Mr. Fred Jackson recently ended his career with the electricity supply industry.

Fred was with the meter department of the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department at Pumpfields in 1934 and later served in the armed forces for six years. He returned to 'Meters,' this time at Lister Drive and then transferred to the consumers' records section at Hatton Garden.

His friends at work subscribed to present him with a parting gift as he left them to devote more of his time to his hobbies of radio and fishing.

Mr. W. J. BUTLER

Moving from one District to another seems to have been the lot of Mr. William John Butler, known to his friends as Jack, before he retired from his job in the accounts section in Liverpool.

Jack started with the Board at Frodsham and for seven years travelled daily from his home in Liverpool until he was transferred to Marsh Lane, Bootle. After five years here, he had another transfer, this time to Lister Drive.

Earlier this year, Jack had to undergo an operation and he was still on 'sick leave' at the time of his recent retirement. His friends subscribed to present him with a farewell gift of an electric clock and wished him improved health in the future.

Friends in Liverpool say their farewells to Mamie Cobb, seated, flanked by Mr. Duffy, centre left, and Mr. Jackson, centre right.





Mr. Roger Monk (*District Commercial Engineer, South Lancashire*) left, joined by colleagues from his department, wishes Mr. Ratcliffe a long and happy retirement.

... from South Lancashire ...

Mr. R. RATCLIFFE

Although he has only been with MANWEB for the past 13 years, Mr. Reginald Ratcliffe, a member of the Energy Sales team at Warrington, has made many good friends.

Reg. has had a varied and interesting career—working in the cotton mills at Leigh, poultry farming at Whitley and jointing with the Admiralty at Stretton airfield.

He joined MANWEB as a meter fixer and in less than a year he changed his job to become an outside sales representative, later to merge into the energy sales squad.

He is happily married and has a son Peter who is a planning engineer with the CEGB. Reg. enjoys gardening and odd-jobbing.

... and from Mid-Cheshire

Mr. S. LITTLEWOOD

A very proud Yorkshireman, who has lost none of his accent even after working and living on this side of the Pennines for the last twenty years, retired from his job with our South Lancashire District recently.

Many of our Commercial colleagues will already know that we are talking about Mr. Stanley Littlewood who began his working life as an apprentice electrician with a building contractor in Barnsley, his home town. Five years later he joined the town's electricity department and completed his apprenticeship to become a qualified electrician and later an installation inspector.

He came over the border in 1952 when he joined MANWEB to work in the then Northwich District as an assistant commercial engineer. In 1961 he went to the former Area 2 Offices at Sandiway House and four years later returned to Northwich as first assistant District Commercial Engineer.

After a couple of years, he went to Area Office at Sealand Road as a 3rd assistant Commercial engineer and was seconded to the South Lancashire District working for varying periods at St. Helens, Runcorn and Warrington.

Stan's main interest outside his work is swimming. In his younger days he swam and played water polo for the Barnsley Swimming Club, of which he is now a life member. He is Vice-President of the Northwich Amateur Swimming Club and a past President of the North Midlands Amateur Swimming Association. He is a holder of the Royal Life Saving Society's Award of Merit.

He still goes for a daily dip—at 7.30 a.m.—and now in retirement is looking forward to more time in the water.

Mr. L. FLETCHER-BODEN

Another popular member of the South Lancashire District staff, Mr. Leslie Fletcher-Boden, retired recently after a lifetime of service in the industry.

For many years he worked at Runcorn attending to the clerical requirements of an active engineering department. During the war years he served with the Royal Air Force as a photographer.

For a few years in the early 60's, Les took on other responsibilities in giving clerical assistance to the District Senior Clerk at Runcorn.

In recent years, during the reorganisation of the District, he has continued to keep the wheels oiled and turning at the Runcorn end.

We wish Les and his wife good health for a long and happy retirement.

Mr. R. HARDING

A third member of our South Lancashire District staff to retire in recent weeks was Mr. Ronald Harding, a 3rd assistant engineer, who had served the electricity supply industry for over 40 years.

He joined the Worcester Corporation Electricity Department as an apprentice electrician in their meter test section way back in 1929.

Six years later he moved to a job as a meter tester with the Southampton Corporation.

Ron arrived in our area in 1942 when he joined the St. Helens Corporation Electricity Department where he remained until the industry was nationalised in 1948 when he became a member of the Area 2 Technical Department. In recent years he was based at Warrington.

For a couple of years during the war, Ron served with the Manchester Regiment in Burma.



Above: Mr. Littlewood, kneeling, receives his parting gift from friends in the District Commercial Section.

Left: Mr. Fletcher-Bowden, second from right, accepts a farewell gift from his colleagues.



Mr. Harding, centre, surrounded by colleagues from the Engineering Section at Warrington, receives a parting gift from Dr. J. M. Cowan (Assistant Chief Engineer, Technical).



Manweb is THE GIFT PLACE

Christmas is almost upon us and along with its many pleasures comes the problems of choosing and finding the right gifts for our families and friends. Cash too, or the shortage of it, can be another problem to face.

With these problems in mind our Commercial boys have come up with a great theme to promote sales of electrical appliances during the next few weeks.

**"Save Money at MANWEB
—The Gift Place"**

This message will be posted on all our shops—the window displays are already in and they look good. The slogan will also be flashed over Granada TV in 15-second spots, followed by 7-second reminder spots. Press advertisements will appear early in December.

Your MANWEB Shop really is The Gift Place where everyone in the family can be fixed-up.

Men! Just think how popular you will be if you give the lady in your life a set of heated hair curlers—it saves you a packet on hair do's!

Ladies! How about an electric shaver for your favourite man? Or, if you have any jobs lined up around the house—a power drill would come in very handy.

No teenager is complete without a transistor radio, a record player or tape recorder, and of course there is a choice of records.

Grandma would welcome a tea maker, to wake her up with a fresh brewed cuppa. A shaving mirror with light would brighten Grandpa's Christmas too.

Another ideal gift for a lady is

a hairdryer and to make her life easier in the kitchen there are lots of labour saving devices and aides. The foodmixer and it's many attachments, the toaster, the kettle, the steam iron, the plate warmer, the coffee perculator, the knife sharpener, and the auto timer, are just a few.

Then there are the gadgets like electric tooth-brushes, carving knives, trouser presses, or maybe a soldering iron or a nice table or standard lamp.

Of course there is no need to stick to the smaller appliances. Such things as cookers, dish-washers, freezers and washing machines make ideal gifts and all are available on MANWEB easy payment terms with low deposits . . . leaving you with extra cash in hand for other presents.

"So that's where Santa gets his lovely presents!" (Scrapboard drawing by Mr. S. Jones, Legacy)

