



# CONTACT

November 1974

Swimming Sensation  
(see page 224)

### Production Problem Solved

McKECKNIE CHEMICALS, who produce aluminium powder, is a top grade firm with plans for expansion. With this in mind, our South Lancashire District energy sales team introduced them to the many advantages of electric furnaces for their melting process.

They were promised an order for an electric channel furnace provided the problem of keeping the channel free of aluminium deposit was solved.

Our friends at the Electricity Council Research Centre at Capenhurst were called in and, as usual, they came up with a simple solution which proved extremely effective.

McKecknies placed the order for a 100 kW furnace and our South Lancashire colleagues feel certain that this is the start of something big with this consumer who has already shown a desire to go all electric.

### TO-DAY'S COSTS

JUST TWO years ago, the Buckley U.D.C. (now incorporated with the Alyn and Deeside District Council) built 25 flats in 'Coppa View' as their first project to provide community accommodation for the elderly.

Space heating, provided by storage fan heaters and radiators, maintain a temperature throughout the homes at 70°F (21°C).

Water heating is also electric, each flat having a factory-insulated combination cylinder fit-

### HAT TRICK FOR DEE VALLEY

THREE jobs in succession is evidence of the excellent working relationship between the Alyn and Deeside District Council and our own Dee Valley District.

### OSWESTRY CLEARS THE AIR

AT THE Milk Marketing Board's Four Crosses Creamery just outside Oswestry, an environmental problem arose when part of the cheese processing plant became overheated.

This, combined with gases emitted from the milk and the water and steam in the cheese room formed a lactic acid solution which attacked unprotected ferrous metals.

Our colleagues in Oswestry District came up with the answer and cleared the air for their M.M.B. friends. They recommended the installation of five extractor fans situated in the roof, each protected from acid attack by a coating of chlorinated rubber paint and housed in a fibreglass dome. Also specified were specially sealed starters.

The fans solved the problem and brought grateful thanks from the M.M.B. and a contract worth over £1,500 for MANWEB.

ted with a 3kW immersion heater.

The initial costs of these installations averaged at just short of £250 for each of the 25 flats.

Recently, our Clwyd District colleagues produced some figures on the running costs for space heating and water heating in the flats. Based on the Off Peak Tariff "C," the single flats work out at £67 a year and the double flats at £81 a year.

Not bad is it in these days of 'so called' high priced electricity!

After completing a Council contract worth over £5,500, for Electricaire and water heating installations in 13 bungalows for the aged in the village of Penyffordd, the next contract was for a similar installation on an estate in Ewloe. This time the contract was worth £12,200 for a combination of homes for young families and aged people, plus a community centre.

Now, after complete satisfaction from the first two contracts, the Council have awarded MANWEB yet another job for the modernisation of 12 properties in Treuddyn village. This brings in work worth £3,534 and will realise a load of 464 kW.

### FROM COLD

STILL with McKecknie Chemicals, but going from hot furnaces to a cold canvass, our South Lancashire team sent out information and reply-paid cards as part of this season's lighting campaign.

The mailing shot resulted in a prompt reply with a request for our man to visit the works and submit a new lighting scheme.

This was done immediately and a scheme was designed, submitted and accepted. The job has now been put in hand.

### SALES CONFERENCES

On November 12th, the last of our District Sales Conferences will be held. In next month's "Contact" we hope to publish a summary of the Conferences and a Report on the C.C.O.'s address.



THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE MERSEYSIDE  
AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

# CONTACT

Vol. 26 No. 11

November 1974

## EDITORIAL

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### Warmth Without Waste

WE ARE at the start of a winter when the cost of keeping warm has risen to such an extent that it is a major factor in many family budgets, and there is much evidence that the British people are taking a long, hard look at their use of our ever-more-costly sources of energy.

For many years a discerning minority has made disparaging comparisons between the practices of the British building industry and of those who construct homes in parts of the world—such as Canada and Scandinavia—where winter lays a really icy hand on the land every year. But our winters are rarely hard in the accepted sense of the word, and although damp, windy and chilly conditions may prevail from September to April (*did someone say "And the rest?"*) until recently things have remained much the same. At the same time larger windows, glass-panelled doors, etc., have become more and more fashionable. The use of unseasoned timber has increased and the average new British home has become a first-class energy-wasting device.

At last times are changing. Spurred largely by the rocketing cost of fuel, and perhaps to a lesser extent by the universally-recognised need to conserve energy, large numbers of householders are hastening to insulate their homes. Do-it-yourselfers crawl in thousands around their attics, laying heat-conserving blankets, while the wall-insulating and double-glazing specialists are doing a roaring trade.

Our own industry's "Warmth without Waste" campaign, backed up in the MANWEB area by a series of local exhibitions organised by our commercial colleagues, offers advice and help to the many thousands who are at present pondering on the best ways to conserve energy to keep their heating costs within manageable bounds.

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



**NORTHWICH.** Mr. Norman Walsh, Mid-Cheshire District Commercial Engineer, left, talks with Councillor Albert Lowe, Chairman of Vale Royal District Council who officially opened our first "Warmth Without Waste" Exhibition in the Memorial Hall. Also in the picture is Mrs. Lowe and Mrs. Lesley Taylor, our "Girl from MANWEB."

# WARMTH WITHOUT WASTE—

*Exhibition on Tour*



**ST. HELENS.** Here, the evening official opening of the Exhibition by the Mayor of St. Helens Borough Council, Councillor P. J. Gill, J.P., attracted some 60 members and officials of the Council. In the picture, above left, we see Councillor and Mrs. Gill with Mr. Roger Monk (District Commercial Engineer), left, next to Mrs. Lesley Taylor, our "Girl from MANWEB," and on the right is Mr. Ken Appleton (energy sales engineer). The other pictures show members of the South Lancs Commercial staff hard at work with the customers.





**NORTH WIRRAL.** Members and officials of the Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council spent an informal evening at the Board's Exhibition staged in the Harrison Hall, Wallasey. The top picture shows Messrs. Ron Jones (*industrial sales engineer*), left, and Norman Carew (*sales rep.*), right, with some of the guests. Next down we see Mr. Doug Willacy (*energy sales engineer*), left, and Mrs. Lesley Taylor ("*Girl from MANWEB*") and Council officers. Finally, Mr. Keith Hibbert (*2nd engineer, Head Office*), 2nd left, who is mainly responsible for the design of the exhibition, with some more guests.



**CLWYD.** The Assembly Rooms, Mold, was an ideal venue for the Exhibition on its visit to Clwyd District. On the right, we picture some of the District sales staff who were on duty. Below is Mr. D. Mellor (*District Commercial Engineer*), left, talking to Councillor Walter Williams, the Mayor of Delyn Borough Council, who officially opened the Exhibition. Also in the picture is Mrs. Lesley Taylor ("*Girl from MANWEB*") chatting with a customer. Below, right, Mr. Brian Baxter (*energy sales engineer*) talks to another customer.





The open forum panel, from left to right, Messrs. Albert Cooper (District Engineer), Glyn Dodd (District Administrative Officer), Vic Heard (Board Safety Officer), Harry Telfer (Group Manager) and Roger Monk (District Commercial Engineer).

## No. 3 LAC EMPLOYEES MEETING

# Board Safety Officer Urges More Care

THE ANNUAL meeting of the South Lancashire District Employees was held in the Stanneylands Restaurant next to the MANWEB Offices in Warrington. With an excellent turkey dinner tucked under their belts the delegates settled down to the business part of the evening.

Group Manager Mr. Harry Telfer chaired the proceedings in place of Mr. J. W. Trimble, who was unable to attend owing to illhealth. It was unanimously agreed to extend the best wishes for a speedy return to good health to Mr. Trimble from the meeting.

Mr. Glyn Dodd, District Administrative Officer, presented the annual report on the work of the Local Advisory Committee on behalf of Mr. Sherwen who was unable to attend.

The meetings of the Committee during the year had been well attended and Mr. Dodd congratulated the members on representing their constituents so

vigourously. Safety had played an important part in the years work. The L.A.C. had canvassed the staff for members to form a First-Aid Team.

Welfare, too, had involved a high proportion of the Committee's time. Visits had been made to sick employees and outings had been arranged for retired members.

Mr. Telfer then introduced the MANWEB Safety Officer Mr. Vic Heard, as the guest speaker of the evening. 'Safety—Do we care?' was the title given to Mr. Heard's talk. If we were honest Mr. Heard claimed that the answer would be 'No, not enough.'

It was incredible that such an answer was the truthful reply for it was us and our families which suffered from the result of any accident. There was too much of the attitude that it always happened to the other fellow not us.

More time and money was being spent on safety in work, in the home and on the roads than at any

Just a few of the delegates to the South Lancashire District Conference.





other time in history. The greatest contribution to safety that could be made was a change of attitude on the part of all of us, more care was needed to avoid accidents, fasten that seat belt, wear those goggles or other safety clothing, make sure our work place is tidy.

Injury statistics showed that lack of care was the major source of an accident. Over 70% of accidents in the industry fell under the headings of handling objects, persons falling, striking against objects, hand tools and objects falling.

It was odd that with handling objects the ladies, for reasons of modesty, lift correctly, bending their knees, whereas men bent their backs. Mr. Heard suggested that if men wore miniskirts it may improve their method of lifting!

He continued by giving a breakdown of the type of incident which was responsible for accidents. If the incidents sounded trivial he warned, 127 accidents came into these categories last year.

In conclusion Mr. Heard told delegates that it was something that we all had to work at to alter our attitude to safety. Think at all times or we could be responsible for injuring someone very dear to us or a colleague or even ourselves.

The meeting was then open to questions and a draw was held, with prizes drawn by the 'Girl from MANWEB,' Mrs. Lesley Taylor.

After the meeting it was Disco Time, with chat and records provided by the RJ Sound. 'R' for Ron Neil and 'J' for John Drew, a member of the M.S.U. and Commercial engineer from South Lancs. They soon had the delegates swinging the night away with an ideal blend of music and very professional sound.



Top right, "The Girl from 'MANWEB' presents draw prizes.

2nd on right, D.J's. Ron Neil and John Drew, and



3rd on right, organisers of the evening Mr. Mike Caird and Mrs. Nan Kirkham.



Other pictures show delegates listening and dancing at the Conference.



# HOYLAKE '74 - Under Instruction

Since the opening of the Board's Craft Apprentice Training Centre at Hoylake, some 1,350 young men have passed through its gates to receive their initial training.

A few weeks ago, the 19th intake of 42 youngsters, straight from school, began their apprenticeships as electricians, meter mechanics, fitters, motor vehicle mechanics and electricians telecommunications.

We picture some of them on this page.

Senior instructor Mr. John Seymour checks the first lighting switch wired by apprentice electrician Stephen Matson. Steve, 17 next month, was educated at Bebington Secondary Modern School.



Senior instructor John Bailey, inspects the tool kit belonging to Robert Roberts from Bootle. An apprentice electrician, Bob, aged 17, is a keen swimmer and supportsp Everton.

Mr. Maurice Grisen-thwaite, (assistant instructor, electrical) shows two apprentices how to check a MAN-WEB fan heater. In the centre is Andrew L. Allcock, aged 17, from Warrington. Andy, who is training to become a fitter, is a keen fisherman and was a school champion at table tennis. On the right is Anthony Luigi Colli, aged 16, from Chester. Known as Louis, he is an apprentice meter mechanic. He too likes fishing and tells us he is a 'heavy rock' fan.



Mr. Ted Parks (storeman), hands out tools for the job to apprentice electrician John J. Duggan who comes from Widnes. Educated in Liverpool, John, aged 17 next month, is a 'soul music' fanatic and supports Liverpool.



At work on the lathes we see in the foreground, senior instructor Doug Jones with apprentice electrician Keith G. Dyer, a local boy, aged 16. Keith played a trial match for Liverpool as a schoolboy and has played in Austria. In the background assistant instructor Stan Evans helps apprentice electrician Steven Lawrence from Bootle. Aged 16, Steve plays bass guitar at week-ends in a local group.







At various stages of medium voltage jointing we see, from left to right: Messrs. G. Evans (*Dee Valley*), B. Robinson (*North Mersey*) and J. A. T. Edge (*Oswestry*).

## **TRAINING COURSE FOR JOINTERS**

Board jointers on a medium voltage jointing refresher course at our Hoylake School under the guidance and direction of Mr. Geoff Parry (*senior instructor*). Coming from various Districts, the men learn new techniques and bring their jointing methods up-to-date.

Jointing can be warm work as we see in this picture which shows, from left to right: Messrs. N. Bird and R. Withers (*North Wirral*), T. M. Mole (*Dee Valley*), and N. Hart (*North Mersey*).



# OUR TEST LABORATORY WATCHDOGS AT QUEENSFERRY

Around 200 different models of domestic electrical appliances are stored in MANWEB's central appliance stores at Queensferry, prior to being delivered to our customers over a wide area. And in an adjacent building a group of hawk-eyed MANWEB employees spend much of their time ensuring that our appliance stocks are constantly checked for safety, performance, reliability, and general quality.

Every six months a sample of every appliance marketed by MANWEB is taken from stock into our own Test Laboratory and subjected to a thorough examination and check-up by the labora-

tory's staff, headed by Test Engineer Tom Owen. And this watchdog process undoubtedly saves us a lot of problems, and our customers a lot of trouble and inconvenience.

Any major fault discovered leads to checks on further samples from the same delivery batch, and if similar faults come to light the Board's stocks of that particular appliance are 'frozen' while the manufacturer takes action to put the problem right.

In addition, new types of appliances being added to the range sold by MANWEB shops are critically examined, not only for safety and performance, but also for servicing, manufacturer's information, user's instructions, and publicity.

Most of the work carried out by the staff at the laboratory is routine and unspectacular—troubleshooting in the interests of customer satisfaction—but every now and then their work has implications of a more far-reaching nature. For example, there was the occasion when a manufacturer modified the design of a fire-cum-surround—leaving a gap in the assembly through which little fingers could reach live terminals! The vigilance of our colleagues resulted in the alarm being raised throughout the country, and the danger was put right before any harm could result.

Then there was the batch of Italian washing machines, delivered under new arrangements. At first it was thought that perhaps they had come by submarine, as the cartons were soaked and water had penetrated to the contents, but inquiries revealed that the tarpaulin sheetings on the transport lorries had been inadequate. Back went the consignment to the makers.

In addition to their work in ensuring that electrical appliances delivered to the homes of the MANWEB area are up to scratch, Tom Owen and his merry men also do a number of other specialised and interesting jobs, including fault-location work on electrical floor-warming installations throughout the MANWEB area.

The comparative performances of three models of over-sink water-heater being examined by electrician Mr. Don Richardson.



Starting a critical examination of a new model tumbler-dryer, from left to right: Tom Owen (2nd engineer), Phil Swift (electrician) and Harry Sharples (3rd engineer).



## APPLIANCES UNDER TEST

In the Test Laboratory's kitchen, a new microwave oven is checked and tested for the quality of its cooking by Miss Ann Rennie-Smith (marketing demonstrator, Dee Valley) and Mrs. Joan Dittrich (2nd engineer, Head Office).



Below. In the "controlled temperature room" installation inspector Mr. John Whittle checks the instruments used to test the performance of a freezer under high external temperatures. The temperature of the room is raised to 90 degrees Fahrenheit while the appliance's ability to 'fast freeze' foodstuffs is put through its paces.





No not Larry Grayson and Everard, our cameraman catches North Mersey Men in jocular mood, *l to r*, Eric Lea, then a picture crasher, John Leatherbarrow, Roy Roughley and Roy Harley. *Above* Cath Munro and Hilda Volynchook.

**OUR COVER PICTURE** shows attractive Personnel clerk Miss Cora Roberts completing a length on her leg of the sponsored swim.

Head Office swimmers, *l to r*, Cora Roberts, Sheila Hockinhull, Carol Swinton, Jane Wills and Tom Jones.



## Sponsored Swim

Mrs. Hilda Volynchook, the glamorous grandmother from North Mersey District was one of 13 MANWEB swimmers to raise £279.24 in a sponsored swim\* for the British Heart Foundation.

Hilda and the five other North Mersey swimmers were sponsored by colleagues in the District and their total was £124.55. Head Office had seven swimmers, six lovely young ladies and Tom Jones—no, not the sexy singer—but Welfare Section's all round veteran sportsman. They raised the balance of £154.69.

Two more Head Office team members Linda Littler, *left* and Jean Whittle.



# Talking Notes

## BIRD FANCIERS

**T**WO MANWEB men who have a way with the birds are Messrs. **Ainsley Griffiths** and **Dave Jackson**. They have sixty beauties working for them. But before you get the wrong impression, the only seedy thing about these birds is in the food that they eat. They are the feathered variety.

Ainsley is the Head Office foreman in charge of security and other administrative functions and Dave is a Head Office courier—no he does not use pigeons. They have developed a show winning partnership with their many varieties of domestic and exotic birds.

Dave has been interested in birds and the breeding of them for about fifteen years. Ainsley has been actively concerned for about three years. Both joined forces as partners to enter their birds in local shows.

At the moment they enter in the novices classes and seem

to be carrying all before them.

At their last show, the Deeside Cage Bird Society Show at Connah's Quay, they entered seven birds and all seven won prizes, four first, two seconds and a third.

The birds are entered in their various classes. The MANWEB duo enter birds in three classes, British Birds, Foreign Birds and Border Canaries. This gives them a variety of interest, as they can enter shows all year round and supervise the breeding of their stock.

Most of their birds are foreign and their favourite is a

tiny Australian Gouldian Finch. It has seven colours in its magnificent plumage, red, two shades of green, blue, yellow, purple and black.

Jack the jackdaw, is their favourite British bird. He causes a sensation at shows by pecking at inquisitive fingers poked through his show cage. Ainsley hand reared him, literally, by feeding the fledgling with food on his finger. So when Jack sees a finger he thinks 'Grubs up,' and woof—one pecked finger.

### A Goal in Goal

A great chance for fame and maybe fortune is being taken by tall, good looking and still single, 22-year-old **Mr. Philip Griffiths**, who has just given up his job as records draughtsman at Head Office in order to play full time for Wrexham Football Club.

Philip started playing football as goalkeeper for Ruabon Grammar School. Then he played for Rhos F.C. Youth team and helped them win a couple of cups. Wrexham scouts spotted him and soon signed him to play for them in the Northern Floodlit League Competition.

Last season, he was faced with a problem as both Rhos F.C. and Wrexham F.C. Reserves went into the Welsh Coast League. He could not play for both teams, so he went between the sticks for Rhos.

When the season ended, he was again approached by Wrex-

The Birdmen of Head Office, Messrs. Ainsley Griffiths, left, and Dave Jackson.





In goal, Mr. Philip Griffiths.

ham F.C. with an offer for full-time football. He talked things over with the Club Manager, Mr. John Neal, and then spent a few weeks thinking it over.

He decided to make the move and spent his last day with the Board, for the time being anyway, on October 11th.

Philip said, "I can give it a go. I enjoy football and I think I can make a success of this opportunity. I've always got something to come back to anyway."

Without being unkind, we don't want to see you back here too soon Philip, but hope to be reading of your great saves in the Wrexham goal as you add your talents to a fine team.

### Still Blowing Strong

Seventy-five-year-old **Mr. Reg Williams**, slid notes from his trombone for the last time when playing for the Llandudno Town Band at their final concert on the promenade bandstand a few weeks ago.

Reg has been a part-time musician with the Band for the past 64 years. For forty of these years he was also a cable jointer with the Board at Llandudno, retiring in 1964.

He has kept himself fully active in retirement for in

addition to his band work, he was caddy master with the North Wales Golf Club.

Reg joined the Town Band at the age of 11 as programme boy, but soon took his place on the bandstand playing the soprano cornet.

During the first world war, he served in the army for a short time as a bugler—then the authorities found out his real age. He was sent home where he returned to the Town Band in 1916, this time as their trombonist. A year later he enlisted in the Royal Navy—now being old enough—and in addition to his active service, he found time to play in various ship's bands.

Since joining the Llandudno Town Band those 64 years ago,



Man of brass, Mr. Reg Williams.

Reg must have played in well over 4,500 concerts. "Now I feel it is time I made way for the younger generation," he commented.

### Batswana to Bulgaria

Since his retirement in 1972, **Mr. E. Emyln James**, a former member of our Clwyd District Engineering department, has done quite a lot of travelling.

Last year, he and his wife took a trip to Batswana to visit their son, daughter-in-law and grandson. Emyln has also been to Bulgaria for a couple of weeks with a Wales T.U.C. delegation.

He was recently awarded the Gold Badge by the E.E.P.T.U. for services to the trade union movement and the community generally over a number of years.

### Works Outing

An unusual outing for 14 members of the Head Office Sports and Social Club was arranged recently by **Mr. Don Holmes** of our Drawing Office when he took them to the B.I.C.C. works at Wrexham.

Here they saw the production of the wave conal cables used in MANWEB's underground medium voltage network. Starting out as three pieces of aluminium, they are bound, insulated and armoured in their distinctive wave form.

### Golf Match

There was a record number of 63 entries for the Bernie Green Memorial Shield, organised by the MANWEB (Chester) Golf Society. The event was held at the Oswestry Golf Club and entrants were from most of the Board's Districts and Head Office.

The winner, after the handicap had been deducted from the score, was **Mr. Dave Morris** of M.S.U., Head Office. Only one point behind in joint second place were three golfers,

Mr. Dave Morris, left, receives his prize from Mr. Arthur Jones.



**Messrs. W. Taylor**, Clwyd District, **C. Reid**, M.S.U., North Mersey, and **E. Griffiths** Head Office.

The Secretary of the Society, **Mr. Arthur Jones** presented the winner with the Shield and in turn the Club members presented him with a pair of binoculars and a lighter in recognition of his service to the Club.

Arthur retires from the Board next April.

### Mark the Fisherman

Armed with a selection of worms, flies and spinners, 14 anglers from the Head Office Sports and Social Club travelled to Dinas reservoir near Aber-



Mr. Dave Cousins, right, presents the trophy to young Mark Dittrich.

stwyth recently in search of the mighty rainbow trout.

Star of the day was a certain Peter Ross who claimed at least twenty fish, the largest weighing in at 3½ pounds. Fishermen will know however, that Peter Ross is the name of an artificial fly, so despite the large catch, he did not qualify for the trophy. This went to the youngest member of the party, 15-year-old **Mark Dittrich**, whose Mum **Joan** is our Commercial Catering expert.

Mark landed five fish, each over one pound, on spinners kindly loaned to him by another

angler. Great sports these fishermen!

Everyone enjoyed the trip and even those who returned empty-handed joined the rest of the party in expressing the opinion that the well-stocked reservoir and the extremely helpful bailiff, Mr. Mason, put Dinas to the top of the list for next year's fishing fixture.

### Comings and Goings

Our "Girl from MANWEB 1973," **Mrs. Pat Reed**, left the Board a few weeks ago, but she is still with us!

To explain. The neat and petite Pat, who has worked for us in the Southport shop for the past three-and-a-half years, has now left MANWEB to join Electrolux as their saleswoman in our shop at St. Johns, Liverpool.

She was welcomed with open arms—literally—by **Mr. Jim Brown**, the shop supervisor, who was very happy to have Pat in his shop, but was unhappy to lose another member of his staff, **Mrs. Madge Murray** (senior saleswoman) who was leaving him to join Newholme Cookers as their area supervisor.

Madge joined the Board four years ago, coming from Hotpoint Ltd.



A happy quartette from St. Johns. From left to right: Mrs. Joan Pickersgill (Tricity demonstrator), Mrs. Madge Murray, Mr. Jim Brown and Mrs. Pat Reed.

However, she will not be deserting Jim entirely for in her new job, St. Johns shop comes in her area.

### La Dolce Vita

Two weeks in Monza, a zone in the Milan District, another two weeks at the Milan District Office and a final couple of



Arrivederci, Mr. Arthur Jones weeks at the Rome Head Office of the Peu L'Energie Electrica, with all expenses paid.

Who is the lucky man?

**Mr. Arthur Jones** a 2nd assistant production engineer in our Dee Valley District.

But wait a moment. This is not exactly a holiday with pay, for Arthur is in Italy on the Electricity Council's Overseas Interchange Scheme and he is there specifically to study the Italian methods of cable jointing and their distribution network.

He will also be able to pass on to his hosts information about our methods in these fields for he is a member of the MANWEB Jointing Panel.

Arthur has holidayed in Italy, picking up a smattering of the language. This was just as well for before he was selected for

the trip, he had to satisfy the Council that he had an adequate working knowledge of the language.

Joining the former Hawarden R.D.C. Electricity Department 31 years ago as an apprentice electrician, Arthur later worked with MANWEB in the former Wrexham District before his transfer to the Dee Valley District in 1969. At one time he was section engineer at Connah's Quay.

On his last two weeks in Italy, he will be joined by his wife **Marjorie**. Also during his stay, his daughter **Ruth**, aged 17, will be flying out to spend some time with him. His other daughter, **Marian**, aged 20, will unfortunately have to wait for Dad to come home as she is a student at Gloucester College of Education and is saving her pennies as she prepares for her marriage next year.

#### Retiring Artist

A two-day exhibition of drawings by **Mr. Ron Preston** (*inst'n engineer*) in our Mid-Cheshire District was held at Macon Way, Crewe, recently.

Mr. Ron Preston, now retired, with some of his excellent drawings.



About 50 beautifully-executed drawings, some in black and white, others in colour, ranging from delicate and colourful flowers to local historical buildings and self portraits, served to show Ron's remarkable artistic ability.

The exhibition was staged a few days prior to his retirement after more than 40 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

During his school days, Ron was always top in the art class, but his talent really matured during the war years when he served with the Royal Signals in the Normandy campaign and on into Germany.

He was often called upon by his service companions to make birthday and Christmas cards by drawing reproductions from photographs of themselves or their wives and girl friends.

When the war ended so did Ron's desire to draw and 27 years went by before he started up again. This happened when he was convalescing after suffering a heart attack.

Other than at school, Ron has never taken a drawing

lesson in his life. Knowing this, and after seeing his great work, everyone agrees that he has a wonderful gift.

#### Wedding Bells



Mr. and Mrs. Edwards.

Our best wishes for a happy future go to **Miss Linda Wilkinson**, a clerk at our Mid-Cheshire District Office in Crewe, and **Mr. Grenville Edwards**, an inspector with the Royal Vention Company at Middlewich.

The knot was tied at the Methodist Church, Coppenhall, Crewe.

Linda had a 'dressed-up' send-off from her colleagues who also presented her with wedding gifts.

Among the many congratulatory messages was one in rhyme from **Mr. George Currie**, (*supply engineer*).

#### Double Celebration

A MANWEB husband and wife team from our South Lancashire District, **Arthur and Ethel Parr**, had a double reason for celebration at the recent Employees' Conference.

First, it was Ethel's birthday, her last before she retires next year, and second, it was the couple's 34th wedding anniversary on the following day.



Arthur, a meter reader/collector based at Runcorn, has been with the electricity supply industry for the past 37 years, and Ethel, a clerk at District Office in Warrington, has been



"We've been together now for 34 years" Ethel and Arthur Parr.

with us for 33 years. So, they have clocked up 70 years' service between them!

They have a married son Andrew who, with his wife Alison, has made them proud grandparents with a son, Nicholas.

#### Take the Kettle off!

A theft report recently submitted to our Insurance Section stated that a kettle had been stolen from the main window display at one of our shops.

It was "**MANWEB's Bargain of the Week**," the report concluded.

Oswestry District farewells to Messrs. N. Evans, fourth from left, and D. Jones, centre. Also in the picture, Messrs. G. E. Davies, 6th from right and R. A. Owen, 4th from right.



#### Electricity to Water

Colleagues in our Oswestry District gathered together recently to say their farewells to two of their friends, **Mr. Dennis Jones** (chargehand mechanical fitter) and **Mr. Norman Evans** (fitter's mate), who were leaving the Board to take up new jobs with the Severn-Trent Water Authority at Welshpool.

Both men had completed over 20 years' service in our industry, and presentations were made on behalf of their friends by **Mr. R. A. Owen** (production engineer) who thanked Dennis and Norman for their past efforts and devotion to their work for MANWEB.

**Mr. G. E. Davies** (District Engineer) added his tribute to the men and wished them success in their new employment.

#### Ladies in Blue

After consultation with the ladies of our sales force, a new business dress has been designed for them to wear on duty.

It has a back zip fastening, no belt, no collar and short sleeves. A matching jacket goes with the outfit.

The material is washable, drip-dry, non-iron plain crimp-lene and is in dark blue (Marine blue) with red trim on neck, sleeves and pockets of the

dress and jacket. It is of course exclusive to MANWEB.

#### Stork Visits

Congratulations to **Mr. Stewart Ashcroft** (senior clerical assistant) at Lister Drive, and his wife **Marie**, on the birth of a son—name still undecided!

Also to **Mr. Owen Ifor Jones** (shop supervisor) at Llangedfni, and his wife **Eileen**, on the birth of a son, **Gerallt**.

#### For Sale

Van Der Molen Stereophonic record player. 10 watts per channel output. Smoked perspex hinged cover. New cartridge also extension lead. £40. 'Phone: 051-652 0477.

Modern Town House on three floors in pleasant residential area (Newton, Chester). Integral garage, hall, laundry, cloakroom with w.c., large kitchen, 'L'-shaped lounge/dining room, boxroom, two double bedrooms with large fitted wardrobes, one single bedroom, bathroom. Full gas central heating, wired for storage heaters. Small gardens. Offers in region of £10,000. Tel. Chester 48097 (after 6 p.m.)

#### Wanted

Reasonable, full size, electric sewing machine for teenager's Christmas present. 'Phone: 051-228 7051 (evening or week-end).



Mr. Bert Middlemiss, centre, surrounded by friends from North Wirral District, receives their parting gift, presented to him by Mr. Tomsett.

## RETIREMENTS

from

... North Wirral ...

### Mr. H. MIDDLEMISS

Administrative assistant in the Work Control Section in our North Wirral District, Mr. Herbert (Bert) Middlemiss retired recently after completing 43 years' service in the industry.

He joined the former Birkenhead Corporation Electricity Department as a junior clerk working in the meter test and consumer records sections. In 1940 he joined the Royal Artillery and served in Persia and Iraq.

After demobilisation he returned to the Corporation and subsequently MANWEB.

Tributes to Bert's long and loyal service were paid by all three of the District's senior officers and on behalf of friends and colleagues, Mr. D. G. Tomsett

(District Administrative Officer) presented him with a 400-day clock and an electric shaver.

Later, over 80 colleagues attended a farewell party at the North Wirral District Sports and Social Club, of which Bert is the Chairman, and revelries continued well into the night.

Everyone wishes Bert many years of happy retirement and a special wish for good health goes to his wife who is at present in hospital. Staff sent her a bouquet of red roses and freesia as she could not be at the farewell party.

... South Lancashire ...

### Mr. L. WOODHEAD

An early retirement through ill-health was taken recently by Mr. Lewis Woodhead, a painter in our South Lancashire District.

Lewis, a former member of the Warrington Corporation Electricity Department has served in the industry for 31 years. We wish him improved health in his retirement.

... Mid-Cheshire ...

### Mr. M. L. HUNT

After many years of service with the Board, Mr. Maurice L. Hunt retired recently due to ill health.

At a farewell gathering at the Verdin Arms, friends and colleagues—some retired—heard Mr. N. Walsh (District Commercial Engineer) pay tribute to Maurice's service before presenting him with a parting gift from his colleagues at work.

From notes in pure copper-plate inscribed on the backs of empty cigarette packets, Maurice replied and thanked everyone for their kindness.

Another farewell gift presented to him was an ashtray and stand carved from a single piece of wood by Mr. Frank Brian, a retired installation inspection engineer.

### Messrs. G. COOKE and F. WEBB

Two of our shift substation attendants, among the last to man the Knutsford Grid in our Mid-Cheshire District, retired recently having completed a total of more than 87 years between them.

Mr. George Cooke, started his long career in the electricity supply industry over 48 years ago when he

joined the Mid-Cheshire Power Company. He was employed on a variety of jobs including services, street lighting and office duties until 1955 when he became a shift substation attendant.

Mr. Frank Webb was also a former member of the Mid-Cheshire Power Company and has worked in the industry for over 39 years. He was promoted to shift substation attendant in 1940 and he manned the first shift at Knutsford Grid and it was he who closed and locked the door behind him at the end of the last shift there.

At an informal presentation gathering in the control room at Knutsford, Mr. G. Zeiher (*District Engineer*) thanked them both for their long and loyal service, and in particular for the way in which they had dealt with the public and liaised with their MANWEB colleagues during the difficult periods of the restoration of supplies out of normal working hours.

Mr. T. W. Cash (*Production Engineer*), who had



**Farewells at Knutsford Grid. From left to right: Messrs. T. W. Cash, George Cooke, Frank Webb and G. Zeiher.**

been associated with both men for many years also paid his personal tribute to them.

In passing on everyone's good wishes for a happy retirement to Mr. Cooke and Mr. Webb, Mr. Zeiher then invited them to join the pensioner's section of the Mid-Cheshire District Sports and Social Club.

### ... and Gwynedd District

#### Mrs. M. PEARSON

A dinner party and dance held recently at the Stables Restaurant, Llanwnda, marked the special occasion of the retirement of Mrs. Margaret Pearson from her job as shop supervisor at Bangor. A great time was had by the large number of colleagues from the Gwynedd District who attended.

Margaret joined the Bangor City Corporation as a clerk in 1940, and in the war years that followed, she took on many other jobs including meter reading and collecting. In 1948 she transferred to MANWEB as a Service Centre assistant. Eight years later she left for a short break to have her second daughter.

The pull of the shop was too strong and she came back to us in 1957, this time as shop supervisor at Bangor, the job she held until her retirement.

At a presentation ceremony at the Bangor shop, Mr. N. Maden (*District Commercial Engineer*), on behalf of colleagues and friends, presented Margaret with parting gifts including a china Shire horse—to add to her collection.

She is looking forward to spending her leisure hours catching up on her gardening and sewing and just being at home so that her grandchildren can visit "Nain."

**Sales staff from Gwynedd District Office and Bangor shop gather round as Mr. Maden presents a parting gift to Mrs. Margaret Pearson.**



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## Obituary

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### Mr. R. A. McMINN

Friends and colleagues, past and present, throughout the Board, will be saddened to hear of the death, after a long illness, of Mr. R. A. (Bob) McMinn.

He joined the industry in Liverpool as a meter reader in 1932, and many years later he became a tariff surveyor, the job he retired from last April when he decided to help his son Ian run a sports goods business.

Bob, a well respected gentleman, had a quick wit—an asset in any exacting job—and was most popular with all his colleagues who knew him to be an honest man who spoke his mind, and always found time for a laugh and a joke.

From his youth, he was actively engaged in all sports. But his first loves were football and cricket. Many goalkeepers have felt the power of Bob's right foot shots as did the bowlers who suffered from

his aggressive batting.

On hanging up his boots, Bob served on the Football Section Committee of the Liverpool Electric Supply Club and became secretary and then chairman, a post he held until his untimely death.

In 1946 he was elected to serve on the Committee of the Liverpool Shipping Football League and in 1963 he became the Assistant Secretary. He was popularly known as "*Mr. Football of Electric Supply.*"

But most of all, Bob was loved by so many for his unselfish approach to life—working and giving his all for the benefit of others.

As a sincere tribute to his popularity, over 150 friends attended his funeral.

Our condolences go to his widow Anne and their son Ian.

### Mr. T. H. WILLIAMS

It is with deep regret that we report on the death, after a very long illness, of Mr. Tom H. Williams, a 2nd engineer with the Head Office Technical Section. He was 51.

Tom joined the Board in 1950 as a linesman working from our Pwllheli depot. He applied for a

Board-sponsored scholarship and went to Salford University where after much hard work and study he was successful in gaining his B.Sc.

We extend our sympathy to his widow and daughter on their sad loss.

### Mr. J. EVANSON

A man well remembered getting on for 15 years after his retirement died a short time ago. He was Mr. John Evanson, who had served the electricity supply industry for over 40 years, ending up as a storekeeper at the former Pumpfields depot in Liverpool.

At one period in his life he has served in the police force—hence his nickname "Bobby."

He also played in the brass band formed by the Liverpool Corporation many years ago and often gave concerts on special sports days at the Thingwall Road ground.

We are indebted to Mrs.

Evanson, to whom we extend our written by another retired condolences, for sending us the league, Mr. James Buckley, a following poetic tribute to John, former meter test assistant.

#### IN MEMORY

Jack, as he was called, by many who did know him, and  
Often found at times he was very hard to understand,  
He was not a chap who wore his heart upon his sleeve,  
Now the Lord has called him, leaving those behind who grieve.

Electricity workers in the days gone bye, they called Jack "The Bobby,"  
Very good player in a band, for music was a hobby,  
Always strict but fair, towards his fellow workers,  
Never had much time at all, for those who were known shirkers,  
Such a chap was Jack, now departed from us all,  
Over his pain and suffering, for he did heed God's call,  
Now on his widow Nell, may God's compassion fall.