

Contact

November 1980

TEACH ELE

"Light Entertainment"
(See page 216)



BOARDS' MEMBERS

*From left to right, front row: Messrs. John Scudamore (Secretary, MANWEB), Derek Maddocks (Personnel Manager, CEGB), Arthur Priest (Secretary, DJAC and DIRO, The Electricity Council), Jim Craig (Chairman, DJAC and Director General, CEGB), Geoff Barnes (Chief Accountant, MANWEB), Jim McLennan (Personnel Manager, MANWEB) and Dennis Ashton (Secretary, CEGB). Back row: Messrs. *John Roberts (Assistant Chief Commercial Officer, MANWEB), *Adrian Walmsley (Assistant DIRO, The Electricity Council), Bob Brooks (Personnel Services Manager, CEGB), Harold Livingstone (Transmission Branch Manager, CEGB), *John Clements (Regional Safety Officer, The Electricity Council), Jim Barraclough (Group Manager, MANWEB), Kevin Boyd (Head of Personnel Services, Electricity Council Research Centre) and Gerry Haughan (Deputy Chief Engineer, MANWEB). *In attendance only and not members of the DJAC.*

THE FINAL MEETING OF No. 9 D.J.A.C.

TRADE UNIONS' AND LAC MEMBERS

From left to right: Messrs. Bob Shannon (LAC, Bromborough Power Station), Bob Scott (LAC, Mid-Cheshire District), John Morris (LAC, Wylfa Power Station), Harry Proctor (LAC, Oswestry District), Tom Larkin (Nalco), Roy Fallows (LAC, North Mersey District) and Ron Emery (LAC, Bold Power Station). Back row: Messrs. Ron Colclough (EPEA), Bob Blackburn (EPEA), Gordon Brown (AUEW), Don Tomsett (AMEE), Eric Vale (LAC, Central Maintenance Branch) and Gordon Bevan (LAC, Mid-Mersey District).



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Editorial

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NOTE

Change of internal
telephone numbers to
2106, 2107, 2108

NEW TECHNOLOGY

EVER since the Luddites wrecked the early machines, changes in working practices and production methods have usually been greeted with some reservation, and often with downright suspicion.

"The devil we know" is, at least, familiar. We have weighed up the extent of his devilry, but a new devil may have all kinds of devious tricks up his sleeve.

There is, of course, nothing new about "new technology". The history of scientific and industrial development is a never-ending, breath-taking succession of advance and innovation. Most of these advances have increased efficiency and eliminated drudgery—for the benefit of us all.

The arrival of the computer and its little brother, the silicon chip, is just another milestone along the road of technological progress. Many computer applications are already familiar to MANWEB staff—and customers. Others are in the pipeline. In a few years time, they too will have reached the stage of being almost "old hat".

The "paperless society"—foreshadowed by Management Services Controller Colin Leonard (reported in this number of 'Contact')—will be welcomed by many who think there is far too much of the stuff about anyway!

And if press-button access to information enables us to cut through bottlenecks and provide a better electricity service in a way which will make much of our work less boring, then there is no reason why any of us should feel apprehensive about it.

MANWEB pocket diaries (month to view) will again be on sale to staff this year at cost price (35p each). Separate arrangements are being made at Head Office and at each District.



Chief Commercial Officer Mr. Bill Shires 'Thinks Electric' as he welcomes the delegates to the Conference.

THE ELECTRIC EIGHTIES

Teaching the Teachers

SOME 450 teachers of home economics at schools and colleges all over the MANWEB area, together with representatives from about a dozen local education authorities, gathered at our Head Office recently for the fourth "Teach Electric" conference—an event which is held every two years.

Extending a warm welcome to the specially-invited guests, Mr. Bill Shires (*Chief Commercial Officer*) commented on the many subjects covered by the conferences over the years which had helped to keep teachers up-dated with modern developments made possible by electricity. He said that the wealth of knowledge gained would ensure good living standards for the future generations.

He spoke of his impending retirement after a lifetime of work in the industry, in which he had witnessed massive growth and achievement. "If all this is allowed to decline through our not being allowed to accept new technology when fossil fuels are being exhausted, the consequence will be reflected in our national prosperity," he warned.

Pointing particularly to the revolution in the teaching profession, he said, "Teaching today takes on a broader aspect. Your pupils have to cope with a life-style far removed from the old text-books." He then described the varied uses of television, audio and video equipment in the classrooms, automation, computer record banks and the world of micro-processors all affecting our dependence on electricity in life today and in the future.

Mr. Shires concluded his remarks by stating that all new technology, with its attendant extra leisure time for the worker, would require a considerable change in the individual's general philosophy. "A more flexible approach to life will require special promotion through our schools," he suggested.

He then introduced the first of the guest speakers, Dr. Geoffrey W. Brundrett, from The Electricity Council Research Centre at Capenhurst.

Speaking on the theme of living electrically in an energy-saving home, Dr. Brundrett commented that,

as gas runs out in the not-so-distant future, Britain will turn progressively towards an all-electric life-style. He said that this transition could be helped by engineers and builders providing better houses and new and improved equipment, but this could only succeed properly if the householder appreciated the key parameters of energy use.

"The home economist is the one person who can teach this perspective and guide our next generation to the wise use of energy," he stated.

The ways in which we use energy in the home were reviewed, methods of minimising waste outlined, and the importance of the behaviour of the householder emphasised.

"Building insulation is the first step," he went on. "Controlled ventilation with heat recovery comes next; hot water provision follows; and, finally, meal preparation and food storage."

"Such techniques, properly used, can reduce energy requirements to a third of the present needs," concluded Mr. Brundrett.

Let There Be Light

A little 'light' entertainment was then provided by Mr. Gerry Worthington, MANWEB's Lighting Specialist. He looked at the current state of lighting in the home and reminded his audience that the household electric-light bulb was born in Newcastle-upon-

OUR COVER PICTURE shows Mr. Gerry Worthington in the role as Joseph Swann . . . and here we see Gerry—as himself—at the experimental bench during his presentation.





MANWEB's team of demonstrators, from left to right: Christine Hughes (Clwyd), Marjorie Scregg (North Wirral), Maureen Edwards (Dee Valley), Eirlys Hughes (Gwynedd), Judith McIntyre (Mid-Cheshire), Anne Reney-Smith (Senior Home Economist), Jane Fairclough (Mid-Mersey), Margaret Boyle (North Mersey), Ceris Jones and Beth Owen (Liverpool) and E. V. Jones (Oswestry). One of our ladies, Rene Morris (Aberystwyth) unfortunately missed the picture.

Tyne round about a hundred years ago . . . "an invention every bit as revolutionary as the wheel," he commented.

One-time Thespian, Mr. Worthington then quickly changed into a 'look-alike' Mr. Joseph Swann, the pioneer of the electric-light bulb, and proceeded to gain the full attention of the teachers with mighty bangs and flashes from his experimental bench.

Reverting to his 20th Century guise, he demonstrated how lighting could be used to enhance and extend living-space in the home and how various light sources could affect our ability to judge colours.

"The means are now available to provide every house in Britain with excellent lighting conditions, if only we have the intention to attain them," he said.

Meet The Ladies

Before breaking for lunch, Mrs. Joan Dittrich, MANWEB's Catering Development Engineer, and Mrs. Anne Reney-Smith, Senior Home Economist, took the opportunity to speak briefly about The Electricity Council's "Understanding Electricity" series of

educational aids. Each of the Board's District demonstrators was then introduced to the teachers.

In the afternoon session, Dr. Clive Smitton, of the North Western Region of the Central Electricity Generating Board, spoke on the very topical and controversial subject of nuclear power in the next decade.

He said that the future for us all depended on our ability to ensure stable, secure and economic energy supplies. "Failure to do so will lead to huge world-wide problems of inflation, unemployment and political turmoil," he went on.

Dr. Smitton explained that national strategy was to exploit our very large coal reserves to the full, to devise more efficient machines and processes, to harness new forms of energy—wind, waves, sun, etc.—and to develop and expand our nuclear power programme.

"In the electricity supply industry," he continued, "our major contribution during the 1980's will be to start building a series of nuclear power stations. These,

Continued on page 220

The packed audience of Home Economists with, in the front row, from left to right, Messrs. Bob Jowett and Gerry Worthington and Dr. Clive Smitton and Dr. Geoffrey Brundrett. On the extreme right of the picture is Mrs. Joan Dittrich, who organised the conference.





NEW TECHNOLOGY

“A process of slow,
steady evolution”

*Mr. Colin Leonard,
Management Services Controller*

THE coming of the “paperless office” where word processors and visual display units will do away with a lot of the donkey-work . . . computer terminals in all MANWEB shops, with electronic wizardry conveying information without tears . . . these were just some of the future developments forecast by Mr. Colin Leonard (*Management Services Controller*), when he spoke to Dee Valley District’s staff conference on the topic of “*Technology in the 80s*”.

Mr. Leonard had plenty of words of reassurance for those who may look on the advance of the computer age with some apprehension.

“When you read what the press has to say about new electronic technology, you may perhaps think that you are about to be taken over by a race of robots, that you will come in to work one morning to find a silicon chip sitting in your chair, and that there will be a dramatic rise in unemployment figures as a result,” he said.

“The press and TV often give misleading impressions about such things, and I am sure this is the case with new technology.

“There is not going to be any micro-processing revolution in MANWEB. Changes will be slow, steady and evolutionary. There will be full consultation at every stage, with plenty of time to iron out any problems, and there will be no redundancy as a result of new technology in MANWEB.”

Mr. Leonard said that computer design and manufacture was going through a period of very rapid improvement, and that prices were falling. Pocket calculators and digital watches were dramatic examples of the strides being made. The new Head Office computer, which was expected to cost £1 million when it was ordered, had in fact cost only £600,000, and was a better machine as well.

Dealing with developments in the field of office work, the speaker said that there was nothing going

on in the office of today which could not be considered as potentially suitable for computerisation. The link between office workers and the computer was the VDU, and the trend in future would be for local computer intelligence to become available to people working in the Districts.

Electronic Mailing

The word processor, in its simplest applications, was an aid to the typist, but Mr. Leonard forecast the day when the VDU would become an electronic “in-tray”, when information from files could be called up for display, and when replies would be instantly despatched to their destination by “electronic mailing”.

MANWEB was at present evaluating word processing equipment, with the full co-operation of the staff involved. It was hoped to instal some equipment in the Head Office typing pool and to use the experience gained to instal more throughout the Board.

As far as our shops were concerned, Mr. Leonard said that “point-of-sale” computer terminals would be installed at Head Office and Birkenhead shop next year. This would be a pilot scheme in which the Head Office computer would “dial up” the terminals each evening and automatically extract all details of the day’s transactions. The system would eventually be extended to all shops.

He looked forward to the time when the shop terminals and the computer would be in permanent two-way communication, passing details to the shops of customers’ accounts and allowing the shops access to the Queensferry stores stock files in order to check availability of appliances, make reservations, and even arrange deliveries.

Turning to other areas, he said that micro-processors and computers would play a part in every aspect of the Board’s work, but he emphasised that every MANWEB job was an individual job. This meant that



Some of the delegates and guests at the Dee Valley District meeting.

new technology would not "take over" to the same extent as might be possible in factories, where much of the work was repetitive.

He described experiments in the use of mini-computers, currently being carried out in the South of Scotland, which made it possible for meter-readers to issue instant "doorstep bills".

"If such machines were used on a large scale," he said, "there would be considerable benefits from savings in postage expenses and improvements in cash flow."

Finally, he emphasised the need to adopt new technology and to allow all the steady evolutionary changes which he had outlined to take place. Problems would arise if this process was halted, with bigger changes—which would be harder to manage—becoming necessary in the future.

The conference, held in the Head Office restaurant, was attended by about 140 people, including a good sprinkling of retired staff.

Presenting his report on the work of the LAC during the year, committee secretary Mr. Keith Griffiths laid particular stress on the need for taking care to avoid accidents.

"During the year we received no less than 244 injury reports," he said. "This is an indictment of us all. We just do not pay enough attention to what we are doing."

The guest speaker's talk was followed by a lively *Open Forum* session, under the chairmanship of Mr. Glyn Dodd (*Group Manager*). Topics raised included the criteria for assisted travel, work opportunities for young people, tailor-made uniforms, the interviewing of staff over sickness absences, the NJIC pay structure and the purchasing of transport spares.

In support of Mr. Leonard's talk, representatives of some of the leading manufacturers of computerised aids were on hand to demonstrate some of the latest developments in the field.

OUR NEW C.C.O.

MANWEB's new Chief Commercial Officer, appointed to succeed Mr. Bill Shires, is 40-year-old Mr. Peter Hopkins, Deputy Commercial Manager with the Eastern Electricity Board.

Mr. Hopkins joined the industry as a craft apprentice electrician with the MEB in 1955, later transferring to a student apprenticeship. After completing his M.Sc. degree at Aston University, Birmingham, and studies for a management diploma, he joined Eastern Electricity at Luton in 1967 as second assistant engineer (construction).

Engineering appointments at Wembley and South West Essex followed and, in 1972, he moved over to the commercial side as first assistant commercial engineer at Cambridge. In the following year he was appointed DCE, but soon moved to Head Office, first as assistant commercial manager (contracting and servicing) and, finally, in 1977, as Deputy Commercial Manager.

Mr. Hopkins is married with three children and his hobbies include sport (particularly golf) and do-it-yourself!



INCREASES FOR PENSIONERS

The industry's Pensions (Increase) Scheme empowers The Electricity Council to determine the rates of increases to be granted to those who receive pensions from the industry's schemes. The Council have carried out a review of pensions increases and have decided that pensions will be increased, with effect from 1 December 1980, as follows:—

For those who received an increase on 1 December 1979:

16.5% of the basic pension as increased;

For those who retired after 1 November 1979:

Date pension commenced	Percentage increase
After 1 Nov. 1979 but before 2 Dec. 1979	16.5
After 1 Dec. 1979 but before 2 Jan. 1980	15.1
After 1 Jan. 1980 but before 2 Feb. 1980	13.8
After 1 Feb. 1980 but before 2 Mar. 1980	12.4
After 1 Mar. 1980 but before 2 April 1980	11.0
After 1 April 1980 but before 2 May 1980	9.6
After 1 May 1980 but before 2 June 1980	8.3
After 1 June 1980 but before 2 July 1980	6.9
After 1 July 1980 but before 2 Aug. 1980	5.5
After 1 Aug. 1980 but before 2 Sept. 1980	4.1
After 1 Sept. 1980 but before 2 Oct. 1980	2.8
After 1 Oct. 1980 but before 2 Nov. 1980	1.4

In principle, the above scale follows the current Annual Review Order applicable to retired Government servants.

Some pensions which commenced after 5 April

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

Broadly, pensions increases apply to pensioners aged 55 years and over and to all widows but, in addition, children's allowances will, from 1 December 1980, be increased to:

- (a) **£447.00** a year in cases where the person responsible for the child is in receipt of a widow/widower's pension from the Scheme in respect of the deceased member;
- (b) **£670.44** a year in cases where the person responsible for the child is not in receipt of a widow/widower's pension from the Scheme in respect of the deceased member.

In their review of pensions increases, the Council was concerned about the very high costs of maintaining the purchasing power of pensions. With the continuing high level of inflation, these costs are making serious inroads into the resources of the industry's Superannuation Schemes and, although everything possible will be done to provide pensioners with full protection against inflation, there can be no guarantee that the purchasing power of pensions can be maintained indefinitely. If it becomes necessary to consider changes, there will be full prior discussions with the Management Committees of the industry's Schemes and with Trade Unions.

THE ELECTRIC EIGHTIES (Cont'd.)

together with existing nuclear and modern coal-fired stations, offer the best chance of providing reliable and economic supplies of electricity so vital to our prosperity and progress in an energy-hungry world."

He stated that, at present, over half our energy supplies came from oil and gas, but soon these reserves would run out. "Today, coal used in generation provides us with about 75 per cent of our electricity," he went on. "However, it is unlikely that any new coal-fired stations will be built in the immediate future, since adequate capacity already exists to burn all the available coal."

"At the present time, units from nuclear power stations are cheaper than those from comparable coal-fired stations and I believe that this margin will continue and will widen significantly in future years," he forecast.

Dr. Smitton explained, with the use of slides, how a nuclear power station functioned and he emphasised the stringent safety aspects associated with the running of these modern stations.

The conference closed with a brief 'Open Forum' session, chaired by Mr. Bob Jowett (*Energy Sales Manager*), who took a variety of questions from the audience.

HALVE ENERGY COSTS

Delegates attending the Institute of Baths and Recreation Management Conference, held recently at Southport, were able to assess the energy savings that heat recovery using electric heat pumps could provide for their own swimming-pools. Two specially-programmed calculators were available on The Electricity Council exhibition stand to provide operators with print-outs of their potential cost savings.

The principle of electric heat pump recovery has now been adopted by 75 swimming-pool operators, and savings of up to 50 per cent of conventional energy costs are being obtained.

A model heat pump showed how heat is reclaimed from any readily-available source which, at a swimming-pool, is usually the exhaust air which is otherwise wasted. The reclaimed heat can then be used to heat the air to the pool hall and the pool water. In some cases, shower water can be pre-heated and even radiators can benefit from the reclaimed energy.

Complete heat recovery packages for large and domestic pools illustrated the physical size of the equipment needed to incorporate electric heat pumps in new or existing pools.

Cook/Chill

Flexibility in meal planning and service, the effective use of labour and closer control of finance are the main selling points of the system of cook/chill catering. All these are very important factors for caterers who realise that quality also needs to be cost effective.

Cook/chill catering has been successfully established in hospitals, industrial canteens, school meals services, banqueting and many other catering outlets.

To further promote this system of catering, our Commercial colleagues at Head Office recently held a very successful one-day seminar. Over 50 specially-selected delegates heard from speakers who had a practical involvement in the manufacture, design, installation and production of cook/chill units.

A new film, produced by The Electricity Council, "Time and Temperature", highlighting the numerous benefits of the cook/chill system was also shown.

Junior Cook of the Year

A nation-wide search for the "Junior Cook of the Year 1980" has resulted in the title going to 14-year-old Michelle Wood, a pupil from Range High School, Formby.

Michelle, representing the



Organisers of the Cook/Chill presentation, Joan Dittrich (Catering Development Engineer), left, and Anne Roney-Smith (Senior Home Economist) seen here with delegate Tony Rigby (Cheshire County Police) and guest speaker Michael Swerdlow (MKE Liverpool).

Merseyside and North Wales region, prepared and cooked her own special three-course meal for two people at the grand final of the competition held at London's famous Savoy Hotel.

Here she met and talked with HRH Princess Margaret, and later picked up a number of fabulous prizes, including a holiday for three in Cannes.

After becoming "Junior Cook of the Year 1980", Michelle appeared on TV and was interviewed by John Dunne on radio.

Recently, she was joined by her parents and her home economics teacher, when they were luncheon guests of MANWEB.

Later they were taken on a conducted tour of our Head Office building and, before leaving for home, Michelle was presented with a suitably inscribed gift bracelet from the Board.

Medallion Homes

It is three years since the electricity supply industry launched the Medallion Home Award Scheme. Now some 6,000 dwellings on over 250 sites throughout the country have been, or are being, built to specified Award standards.

A few weeks ago, a number of local builders from all over the MANWFB area attended a semi-



"Junior Cook of the Year 1980," Michelle Wood, receives her gift bracelet from John Scudamore (Secretary). Also in the picture, from left to right, are Ken Appleton (North Mersey DCE), Mr. and Mrs. Nigel Wood, Miss Owen (teacher) and Anne Roney-Smith (Senior Home Economist).

nar at Head Office. They were addressed by two specialists from The Electricity Council, John Grear and David West, and also heard from Cyril Jenkins, a builder from Aberystwyth, our very first Medallion Award recipient.

In the meantime, the builders' wives were conducted around our Training Centre, where they were shown items of modern electrical equipment for use in the home.

Liverpool Bowling

After a very successful season, members of the Electric Supply Bowling Club in Liverpool were congratulated on their fine efforts by **Ernie Tupman** (*foreman meter reader*), who is the Club Chairman and Captain.

He made his comments at the trophy presentation ceremony following the Club's Annual Picnic and Mixed Bowls Competition held a short time ago on the greens at Thingwall Road Club.

The trophy winners were **Claree Jones** (*Fairclough Cup*), **John Mitchell** (*Club Champion*) and **Denis Underhill** (*H. Budd Cup*). The team trophies and the Fairclough Cup were presented by Mrs. F. Robertson (widow of Harry Robertson) and the Horace Budd Cup was presented by his widow, Mrs. M. Budd.

The Liverpool City team, playing in the second division, finished in third place and just missed promotion by the odd point.

Trophy winners from the Liverpool Bowling Club. From left to right, back row: John Mitchell, John Williams, Sid Owens, Brian Roberts, Eddie Hawley, Ernie Tupman, Jimmy Woods and Sid Green. Front row: Claree Jones, Bill Shipley, Gordon Dixon, Colin Edwards (captain) and Denis Underhill.



Guest speakers at our Medallion Award Seminar, from left to right: Cyril Jenkins, John Grear and David West.

They also reached the semi-final of the St. Bruno Cup, one of the premier team competitions. The Combination team held their place in the league and the Aigburth and District team won the Knock-Out Competition and finished third in the first division.

Golden Days

We offer our belated congratulations to **Jimmy Mills** and his wife, Phyl, who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary a few weeks ago. Jimmy was a foreman meter reader in our North Wirral District prior to his retirement 13 years ago, when he and Phyl went to live in Mold, North Wales.

In his younger days, Jimmy was a professional boxer and fought many contests at the Liverpool Stadium. No doubt his nippy footwork led him naturally to his

next interest—this time in company with his partner Phyl. While living in Wallasey, the couple became well-known ballroom dancers and, for many years, they taught the art of dancing in a studio above the Grosvenor ballroom, where they took novices up to medal and competition standard.

We hear that Jimmy looks forward to getting his copy of 'Contact' every month, so we hope that he and Phyl will be around to read our report on their Diamond Wedding anniversary!

Firefighters

Calmly going about their job of installing some additional fuse-gear in a customer's garage in Formby in our North Mersey District, **Norman Hart** (*joiner*) and **Bill Jones** (*mate*) were interrupted when in dashed the next-



**CHESTER AND HEAD
OFFICE RETIRED
STAFF ASSOCIATION**

**Christmas Dinner Dance
at Head Office
18th December, 1980**

Tickets £2.50 each from Mr.
Del Hall, 127 Hartington
Street, Handbridge, Chester
(Tel.: 300249)

door neighbour, stating in no uncertain terms that her kitchen was on fire.

Norman quickly entered the house, but was unable to get into the kitchen, as flames beat him back.

He then nipped around to the back of the house and forced the kitchen door open, and proceeded to quell the flames with the fire extinguisher from the van.

Later, the customer took the trouble to write a very nice letter of appreciation for the timely and brave efforts of our two men from MANWEB.



A 'Candid Camera' shot taken on a visit to Liverpool District Office recently. We see an attractive duo of clerks in Janet Roberts, left, and Sandra Shepherd during the 'cashing-in' time in the prepayment section. Also in the picture are John Ashley (collector) and Dave Golbourne (clerk).

Trout Fishers

There was no doubt about who won the Dee Valley District Sports and Social Club's Trout Competition fished at the CEGB lake at Tanygrisiau recently. Fishing ledgered worm, **Frank Evans** (*Work Study assistant*), having bought a second permit, landed 11 fish weighing in at a total of 16¾ lb.

Good catches were also recorded by **Colin Bowyer** (*installation inspector*) with six fish and **Terry Mole** (*joiner*) with five fish.

Twin Town

During his two-year period of office as Mayor of Oswestry Town, **W. Owen Jones**, a member of our meter reading section at Maesbury Road, was also chairman of the committee set up to organise the twinning of Oswestry Town with Combs La Ville, a French town situated just south of Paris.

As part of an exploratory visit earlier this year, a delegation from Combs La Ville visited our Oswestry District offices.



Mr. and Mrs. W. Owen Jones.

The formal "twinning" ceremony was held in France at the end of September, when Owen and his wife were presented with a bronze medal to commemorate the event.

Engaged

Our congratulations go to a young couple at Head Office who recently announced their engagement, **David Garratt** (*Salaries*) and **Sharon Carrigan** (*Cash Control*).

We join with their many friends in wishing them future happiness.

Oswestry Exhibition

The poor response to last year's Arts, Crafts and Horticultural Exhibition for our Oswestry District staff and their families did



"... and a teeny-weeny storage heater for Monty."

not deter the organising committee from trying again this year. The reward for their faith—and untiring efforts—was an entry of around 150 exhibits.

Sid Warburton (*Administrative assistant*), as Chairman of the Committee, commented: "At last our exhibition seems to have got off the ground, with everyone—exhibitors and visitors—well-pleased with the event. It was gratifying to see so many entries coming in from our retired colleagues and family members."

Appreciation was also shown for the nine judges, who did such a splendid job in sorting out the prizewinners. They were unanimous in their praise for the very high standard of the wide variety of exhibits in the 30 sections.

**Electricity Supply Staff
Superannuation Scheme**

**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

Thur. 11th December 1980
Millbank London

New Job

Recently appointed as our Mid-Mersey District energy sales engineer, **David Tinsley** has spent all of his working life—nearly 20 years—with MANWEB. As a student engineer, he completed his training and became an Associate Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

He worked in the Commercial section as an assistant consumers' engineer at St. Helens and Runcorn, before taking up an appointment at District Office as development engineer in both the Commercial and Industrial fields.

David is 37, married and has two boys aged seven and 11. He enjoys all kinds of sport, especially football, and, in his spare time, he manages an amateur football team. He also likes reading and the theatre. Family holidays are usually spent camping—mostly in France—and being able to speak the language helps them enjoy the Continental way of life to the full.



Energy Sales Engineer David Tinsley.

For Sale

(Marc) Lloytron Pathfinder 12-band AM-FM radio. MB, LW, MW, 4xSW, 4xVHF, UHF. Double conversion and BFO etc. Ten weeks old. £120. 'Phone Menai Bridge 714759 after five p.m.

CUSTOMER CARE

Mr. Duncan McGrouther, a central member of The Electricity Council, was a welcome guest observer at the last meeting of the MANWEB Customer Relations Working Group, held at Head Office recently.

He heard the group members discussing a wide range of 'Customer Care' topics, including customer satisfaction surveys, staff training programmes, plans for improved public information services in Board shops, and the involvement of staff in 'Customer Care' discussions.

Our picture, below, shows, from left to right, standing: Messrs. Eric Richardson (*Education and Training*), Arthur Ellinson (*Management Services*), Tom Hamilton (*Assistant Secretary—Admin.*), Bob Hodson (*DCE, Liverpool*), Dennis Hodgetts (*DAO, Mid-Mersey*), Norman Maden (*Group Manager*), Gerry Haughan (*Deputy Chief Engineer*), Dick Owen (*District Engineer, Oswestry*) and Derek Holman (*Deputy Chief Commercial Officer*). Seated: Messrs. Keith Baldwin (*Information Officer*), John Scudamore (*Board Secretary and Group Chairman*), Duncan McGrouther (*Electricity Council*) and Ken Leach (*Deputy Chief Accountant*).



Sure and Safe Future for Nuclear Power



Mrs. Gisela Sutherland welcomes guest speaker Mr. Harry Whetton to the Mid-Mersey District Employees' Meeting. In the centre of our picture we see Messrs. John Sherwen and Norman Maden.

THE fears and misconceptions put into people's minds by scaremongers attacking the nuclear power programme and the 'so-called' dumping of radio-active waste were alleviated by Mr. Harry Whetton, an electrical development engineer with the CEGB, when he addressed members of our Mid-Mersey District staff at their annual meeting held recently at the Crest Hotel in Runcorn.

He briefly explained the functions of the magnox and advanced gas-cooled reactors and spoke of the vast amount of energy which could be produced by nuclear power.

Comparing this country's fuel situation 30 years ago with today, Mr. Whetton said that coal supplied 90 per cent of our total energy needs, and oil a mere

five per cent three decades ago. Today they account for 40 per cent each.

"Nuclear power did not exist 30 years ago," he went on. "Today, we get four per cent of our total energy requirements from that source."

Despite efforts at conservation, he said: "All predictions show that there will be an energy gap situation, not just for us but for the whole world, including the emerging nations. We have to become self-sufficient in the face of increasing competition for declining reserves," he warned.

Accepting the limit of available fossil fuels, Mr. Whetton then dealt with, and commented on, the known alternative sources of energy. Geothermal—"only possible in certain areas in this country . . .

Interested listeners at the Mid-Mersey District Employees' Meeting.



limited and costly." Solar—"could contribute to the provision of domestic hot water, but then, think of the summer we have just experienced!" Windmills—"visually obtrusive, noisy and many needed to match the output of a power station. Certainly not very economic on present costings." Wave-power—"in a land surrounded by water, there is scope for some development here, but there are many technical problems to overcome, as well as the risks to shipping in bad weather." Tidal-power—"the idea of harnessing tidal variations in estuaries such as the Severn has been around for a long time, but the economic case is unfavourable and there are environmental problems." He concluded that if all these sources were developed and harnessed, they would only contribute about five per cent of our total energy needs by the turn of the century.

Waste Disposal

Turning to the question of radio-active waste and its disposal, Mr. Whetton said that all radio-active materials decayed with time and that we were not dealing with vast quantities. "Since the opening of the first nuclear station at Calder Hall some 24 years ago, the amount of high-level radio-active waste accumulated from all the nuclear stations in this country, together with that from the military programme, is very small indeed," he said. "It would just about fill an average four-bedroom detached house."

He explained that in the longer term it was proposed to reduce the waste in volume and mix with ingredients which would seal the contents against leaching by water. A further precaution was to encase the glass in stainless steel tubes for long-term storage underground or under the ocean bed.

The guest speaker brought his informed talk to a close by picturing a future without electricity for heat and power, drawing the conclusion that an urgent full nuclear power programme was essential for our future generations.

"Nuclear power is cheaper," he said, "and—more important—it is very safe. No other comparable industry



At the Conference, from left to right: Messrs. Dennis Hodgetts (District Administrative Officer), Jim Fisher (Chief Engineer) and Albert Cooper (District Engineer).

has the same level of safety and protection—every process is checked and controlled."

Mr. Whetton encouraged the idea that our natural resources of oil and gas were more valuable for transport and chemicals rather than 'waste it' as fuel for electricity generation. "It is very difficult to imagine a stable future without adequate energy supplies," he concluded.

The time then came for questions from the audience, and, although this started rather slowly, it developed into a lively discussion—particularly on the safety aspect of nuclear power.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Whetton was proposed by Mrs. Gisela Sutherland in her capacity as Vice-Chairperson of the LAC.

Chairing the meeting was Mr. Norman Maden (Group Manager), who earlier had welcomed the District staff, guests from Head Office and the trio of Trades Union representatives. He commented on the excellent turnout of retired members of the Mid-Mersey staff, going on to say that half the benefit gained from the meetings was the friendly get-together of individuals and groups during the evening.

He thanked Mr. John Sherwen, as Secretary of the No. 3 LAC, for his concise report, which covered a very wide range of topics dealt with by the Committee during the year.

Right: Another section of the audience. Below: Guests from Head Office, Messrs. Arthur Ellinson (Management Services Officer) and Ken Leach (Deputy Chief Accountant).



Small Tribute to a Big Chief

Special guest at the Oswestry District Commercial Department annual review of trading performances was Mr. Bill Shires (*Chief Commercial Officer*), paying a final visit prior to his retirement.

The 'Bard of Oswestry', Mr. Henry Blackwell (*foreman—Commercial*), was called on to welcome Mr. Shires and, as was expected, did it in verse, as follows:—

This conference, you'll note, is for us to promote
More sales and service to buyers.
And, as everyone knows, we've been kept on our toes
By the chief of the tribe—who never tires.

It is with pleasure and zest that we welcome our guest,
And honour that he found us time
To met us at the "Crown" in Shropshire's small town,
So this tribute I'll pay him in rhyme.

Over years, we have seen, his interests are keen,
For Power we know he will fight;
And, as Commercial's Big Chief, it is my belief
He's given Indian good "pow-wow" tonight.

He has shed lots of light on this subject tonight
And told of the tribe's future crisis:
With our nuclear stations Indians have "reservations",
Irrespective of those rising prices.

HOW? I'll tell you!

With this problem we're faced: what to do with the waste
That comes from all these reactors?
Perhaps someday we'll find—and get peace of mind—
A solution that deals with all factors.

When God opens that door we must all be quite sure,
Hoping to make no more slips.
Whenever Energy Commission has ordered nuclear
His reply has been "Silicon chips". [fission,

In this month's "Circuit News" he has given his views
Of the desperate situation we're in;
And, after 41 years, to me it appears
He suggests that our future is grim.

And we accept it's our lot. A mammoth struggle we've got,
No use looking through "rose-tinted" specs.
When we're down to brass tacks, we must face all the facts,
Taking care not to stick out our necks.

HOW? I'll tell you!

Chief say we fall in deep ruts if our Government make
In our system of fuel and manpower. [cuts
'Twill be much to our sorrow if it's needed tomorrow,
And we find our production turned sour.

So, if Government speak with fork-tongue every week,
Braves and Brothers, he knows it will grieve us.
But on other hand, Chief might heave sigh of relief
Because from tribe he's going to leave us.

So, from the Cheyenne and Sioux, from Newtown,
Whitchurch to Crewe,
With Iroquois and Apache you'll see me.
"May the cruel winter weathers never ruffle his feathers,
And may wind never blow down his tepee."

But, in our Oswestry way, I would just like to say
His conscientious long-service inspires.
It's not just for the beer that you'll find us all here—
But to say "Thanks once again, Mr. Shires!"

It was just over a year ago that Henry spent some time in the U.S.A. with his daughter. We think this trip may have influenced him when penning his poem.

ADVICE ON ACCOUNTS

The variety of easy payment facilities offered by Electricity Boards in England and Wales is being publicised on some ITV regions. They are showing the short commercial at peak times, inviting customers to visit their Electricity Board shop for free advice.

The Electricity Boards operate various schemes to help people budget in advance for their electricity bills.

These include electricity savings stamps, which can be bought from Board shops and some sub post offices; a flexible payment plan, which allows customers to go in at any time and pay any amount towards their next bill; and a budget payment plan, which offers the opportunity for payment to be made on a regular monthly basis. Prepayment meters are also available where it is safe and practical to install one.

Electricity Boards have no wish to disconnect their customers. Every possible consideration, including

the opportunity for a reasonable arrangement to pay, is given to customers by Electricity Boards before any disconnections take place. The proportion of customers disconnected in any quarter is very small—less than two in a thousand.

The message of the new publicity campaign is that if customers anticipate difficulty in paying electricity bills, they should contact their Electricity Board as quickly as possible.



Mr. Bill Shires, centre left, is presented with his special farewell card by Mr. Ben Hastings (Chairman)

POPULAR C.C.O. RETIRES

A lifetime of loyal service to the electricity supply industry came to an end for our very popular Chief Commercial Officer, Mr. William N. Shires, when he retired recently.

In the weeks leading up to his departure, many tributes to his helpfulness, cheerfulness and true friendship during his 41 years' service were paid by a host of individuals and groups of people.

Commercial colleagues organised a special "This Is Your Life" presentation for their 'Chief', recalling friends and happy occasions from the past. They even had a recorded greeting from actress Thora Hird.

At the 'official' farewell presentation held at Head Office, a large gathering of colleagues, past and present, heard Mr. Ben Hastings (Chairman) briefly outline Mr. Shires' career.

After starting life as an errand boy in Bolton, he became an apprentice electrician with a local contractor. In 1939, he joined the former Lancashire Electric Power Company, but soon afterwards went on to serve with the RAF at a training school in Wiltshire. After the war, he rejoined the Company and worked as an ACE (Area Commercial Engineer) at Ormskirk.

Nineteen forty-eight saw him with Norweb as District Commercial Engineer at Macclesfield, and, later, at Stalybridge, prior to spending five years at Headquarters in Manchester.

He came to MANWEB as the former Area 4 Commercial Officer in 1963 and, four years later, he was appointed as Assistant Chief Commercial Officer at Head Office, then in Liverpool. On the move to Chester, Mr. Shires became Deputy Chief Commercial Officer and was appointed as C.C.O. in 1978.

Over the years, he played a prominent role on many committees—most recently as a member of the electricity supply industry's Domestic Energy Marketing Group, Chairman of the Domestic Energy Working Party and Vice-Chairman of the Chartered Institute of Building Services.

Mr. Hastings said that Mr. Shires was an exceptional character, who tackled every job he held—including his last—with youthful zest and vigour. "An evergreen in a forest of deciduous trees," he commented, continuing: "he always seemed to have a smile and was a wonderful colleague to have with you in adversity."

He also spoke of how Mr. Shires had overcome many personal problems, which would have brought down a lesser man.

The presentation of a video recorder was then made on behalf of the many colleagues who had contributed towards the gift. A bouquet of flowers for Mrs. Sybil Shires, who, unfortunately, was unable to be present, was handed over by Miss Beth Tinsley, secretary to Mr. Shires.

In reply, he thanked everyone for their good wishes and for the very handsome present chosen, he said, as a forward-looking gift to reflect the Board's Commercial future. He had enjoyed his years in the industry—particularly with MANWEB—and was grateful for all the help and support he had received from many people over these years. He said he had been overwhelmed with cards and goodwill messages coming from people he had worked with over 30 years ago.

We join with the hundreds of others in wishing Bill—an excellent colleague—and his wife, Sybil, many, many, happy years of retirement.

MORE RETIREMENTS

Mr. D. E. NOAD

More than 25 years in charge of MANWEB's commercial affairs in North Liverpool and Bootle came to an end recently with a notable retirement ceremony at Bridle Road.

Centre of attention was District Commercial Engineer Denis Noad—a man who, himself, over the years, has made literally hundreds of presentations to retiring and departing colleagues.

Friends and colleagues, past and present (including two retired Group Managers) gathered at North Mersey District office to pay their tributes and wish 'happy retirement' to a man who has made his mark on the MANWEB scene in the Merseyside area in such an inimitable way.

By the time Deputy CCO Derek Holman came to present Mr. Noad with a handsome carriage clock, there was little left for him to say. As he put it—*"Everyone else has said it all!"*

Mr. Noad, a Londoner by birth, served during the war with the Royal Navy Transport Service as an engineering officer. From 1945 to 1950, he was Scottish and N.E. England area sales manager for Venner's Time Switches and Meters, and joined the electricity

supply industry as an Area commercial officer with the North of Scotland Board. After a short spell as District Commercial Engineer at South Shields, he came to MANWEB—and Bootle—in 1954, and has remained with us ever since.

At the retirement gathering, many tributes were paid to the personal courage of Denis and his wife in overcoming and coming to terms with more than their fair share of life's adversities.

Mrs. E. WILLIAMS

After seven years with MANWEB, Mrs. Betty Williams, a clerk in the Hire Purchase section at our Dee Valley District offices, retired a few weeks ago.

On behalf of her friends, she was presented with some items of Wedgwood pottery by Mr. Des Lock (*District Administrative Officer*). In retirement, Mrs. Williams will be able to devote more time to her interests of gardening and flower arrangements.

Mr. G. A. JONES

A former police sergeant in the area, Mr. Griffith A. Jones joined the Board ten years ago as a storekeeper at Mold. He later transferred to our Queensferry depot, where he became an appliance assembler—a job from which he has recently retired.

Presenting him with a portable TV as a farewell gift from friends and colleagues, Mr. Steve Reynard (*workshops engineer*) commented on Mr. Jones's popularity and his 'civilising influence' on the staff and joined with them in wishing him many years of happy retirement.

Mr. Derek Holman (*Deputy Chief Commercial Officer*), centre right, has a farewell handshake for Mr. Denis Noad, surrounded by North Mersey District staff, past and present.





A big smile on the face of Mr. Peter Moore, centre, and some of his many friends in North Mersey District on the occasion of his recent retirement.

Mr. P. MOORE

After completing more than 44 years' service in the electricity supply industry, Mr. Peter Moore, a charge-hand driver mechanic in our North Mersey District, has now had to retire from active service prematurely because of ill-health.

Mr. Moore joined the former Southport Corporation Electricity Department as one of their two vehicle drivers in the days when the larger items of electrical equipment such as transformers and switchgear were moved on a horse-drawn float.

For six years during the war, he served with the Royal Armoured Corps, before returning to take up his job again at Southport.

His record as a driver with the Board is excellent, being the proud possessor of a 30-year Safe Driving Award plus three bars.

The many friends made over the years at the Southport depot and at District Office honoured Mr. Moore and his wife Joyce with two farewell ceremonies. At Southport, Mr. Bill Sutton (*1st engineer—Production*), on behalf of colleagues at the depot, presented Peter with a farewell gift and a bouquet of flowers for Joyce. At the presentation made at Bridle Road, Mr. Roy Osborne (*Production Engineer*) made one presentation, while Mr. Eric White (*transport foreman*) made yet another.

The familiar face of a very popular colleague will be sadly missed in our North Mersey District and we join with Peter's many friends in wishing him improved health and a long and happy retirement.

Mr. H. THOMAS

Staff at our Chester shop in Northgate Street did their level best to give colleague Mr. Herbert Thomas a 'send-off' to remember when he retired from his job as cashier.

After a get-together in the shop, when Mr. Thomas was presented with their farewell gift of a carriage clock by Mr. Tony Owen (*supervisor*), they adjourned to a local hotel, where a dinner was held in honour of Mr. Thomas and his wife, Nancy.

Before he joined MANWEB 31 years ago, Mr.

Thomas worked on the Duke of Westminster's estates around Chester. When war broke out, he joined the Coldstream Guards and served with a tank regiment in most of the hot spots from Dunkirk onwards.

He came to the Board and worked at our former offices in Newgate Street prior to moving to New Crane Street. Later he went to the Chester shop.

In his youth, Mr. Thomas was an accomplished runner and was close to selection for the Olympic team. Now he has retired to his beautiful cottage and garden at Aldford . . . the village in which he was born.

RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION FOR OSWESTRY

It has always been thought that the geographical problems and distant depots in our Oswestry District would present difficulties if an association for retired members of staff was to be formed. However, recent events lead us to think differently.

The Oswestry District Sports and Social Club sent a letter to all their retired member colleagues inviting them to a day by the sea. In no time at all, no less than 40 acceptances were received. So, a few weeks ago, a coach started out from Whitchurch depot and then proceeded to pick up passengers at Oswestry, Welshpool and Newtown en route for their day trip to Aberystwyth.

From letters and comments received since then, it would seem that everyone enjoyed their day out and meeting up again with some of their former colleagues.

Now we think that an Oswestry District Retired Members' Association is feasible. We could start with those living within easy travelling distance from Oswestry Town itself. It doesn't matter if you didn't work specifically in the Oswestry District—if you are a former employee of the electricity supply industry and live in the area and would like to be in at the start of the new association, then please drop a line to Mr. Sid Warburton, Administrative Assistant, MANWEB District Office, Maesbury Road, Oswestry.

He will start you on the right lines . . . then it's up to you and your retired friends and colleagues!

ELECTRIC VEHICLES CONTINUE TO PROSPER

“DRIVE Electric 80” shows that the UK has a strong vehicle technology base and that it can meet customer demand now with products which incorporate the experience of an industry that has shown its paces since the beginning of the century, has grown to maturity and has continued to prosper alongside the motor manufacturer giants.”

With these words, Lord Ironside, President of the Electric Vehicle Association of Great Britain, welcomed 400 delegates to the “Drive Electric 80” Exhibition at Wembley Conference Centre.

“Here is another chapter in the story of the electric vehicle. Prince Philip will be taking delivery of a Lucas Electric seven-seater limousine on loan to extend the functional range of the royal fleet of cars. The electric limousine is one of the fleet of Bedford CF electric vans which are now covering over 30,000 miles a month in commercial service with British fleet operators as part of the Lucas Development Programme,” continued Lord Ironside. “We are all concerned about the energy options on the road and I think that everybody here believes that electric vehicles will have an important role to play in our domestic and working lives. This means that we must pay serious attention to ‘he problems now, so that we are armed for the future.’”

Speaking at an Exhibition dinner, Sir Francis Tombs, Chairman of the Electricity Council, said: “A hundred years ago, the electric vehicle was poised to become a major transport mode and it succeeded for three or four decades before it succumbed to the internal combustion engine.

“Let us make no mistakes this time. The technology must be right, the performance must be right and the price must be right. If these objectives are met, then the electric vehicle will go a long way in every sense. And it will stay to ensure a secure and pollution-free transport mode for the future.”

Thousands In Use

Sir Francis continued: “In this country, there are already some 45,000 electric road vehicles and 130,000 industrial trucks in regular use. The economic and environmental benefits of these vehicles, which are used for specific duties such as door-to-door milk deliveries, are unambiguous and well-

established. What we are now aiming to do is to extend these advantages gradually into the road vehicle market through improved technology, leading to better vehicle design and improvements in operating characteristics and economic benefits.

“But what of the electric car? This is a subject which readily catches the imagination of the press and the public, but which also involves operational requirements which are most difficult to meet.

“Here in Europe we see the electric car as a long-term development, but we should not forget that the private motorist, who is the most vulnerable to oil-supply problems, gives high priority to personal mobility and will make great sacrifices to retain it.

“An interesting alternative is the hybrid vehicle, incorporating a petrol engine as well as an electric motor. There are formidable engineering problems associated with the development of this type of vehicle but, if these can be overcome, then we would agree that the hybrid certainly seems to offer a solution to bridging the gap between the internal combustion engine and the wholly electric vehicle.

“The advantages of electric trains, trams and trolley buses are well-established: low running costs, good performance and lack of pollution. We give every support to the expansion of the electrified rail system and we shall also encourage any serious endeavours to re-introduce trolley-buses in this country.”

Heat Pumps New Film

“Heat Pumps—The Energy Savers”, a new Electricity Council film, provides a non-technical introduction to the only heating and cooling system for buildings that produces more usable energy than it consumes. An air-to-air heat pump can extract enough heat from the atmosphere to keep a building warm, even when the outside temperature dips below freezing-point. Its reliability and running cost (about one-third the normal rate) makes it attractive to commercial users. The same pump can be re-

versed in summer, to cool the building.

The film shows heat pump installations in a “Mothercare” shop (one of 30 this chain has installed), a large C & A store in Manchester’s Arndale Centre, the offices of the Cameron Iron Works at Leeds, a Royal British Legion club at Solihull, and schools in Essex and the Scottish Highlands. The film (16 mm) runs for 18 minutes and is available on free loan from The Electricity Council Film Library, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD.

OBITUARY

Mr. R. H. Comyn, former System Engineer at Chester, prior to his retirement in 1973.

Mr. Charles G. Harrison, who retired from his job as installation inspector at St. Helens depot in 1965, after 48 years’ service.