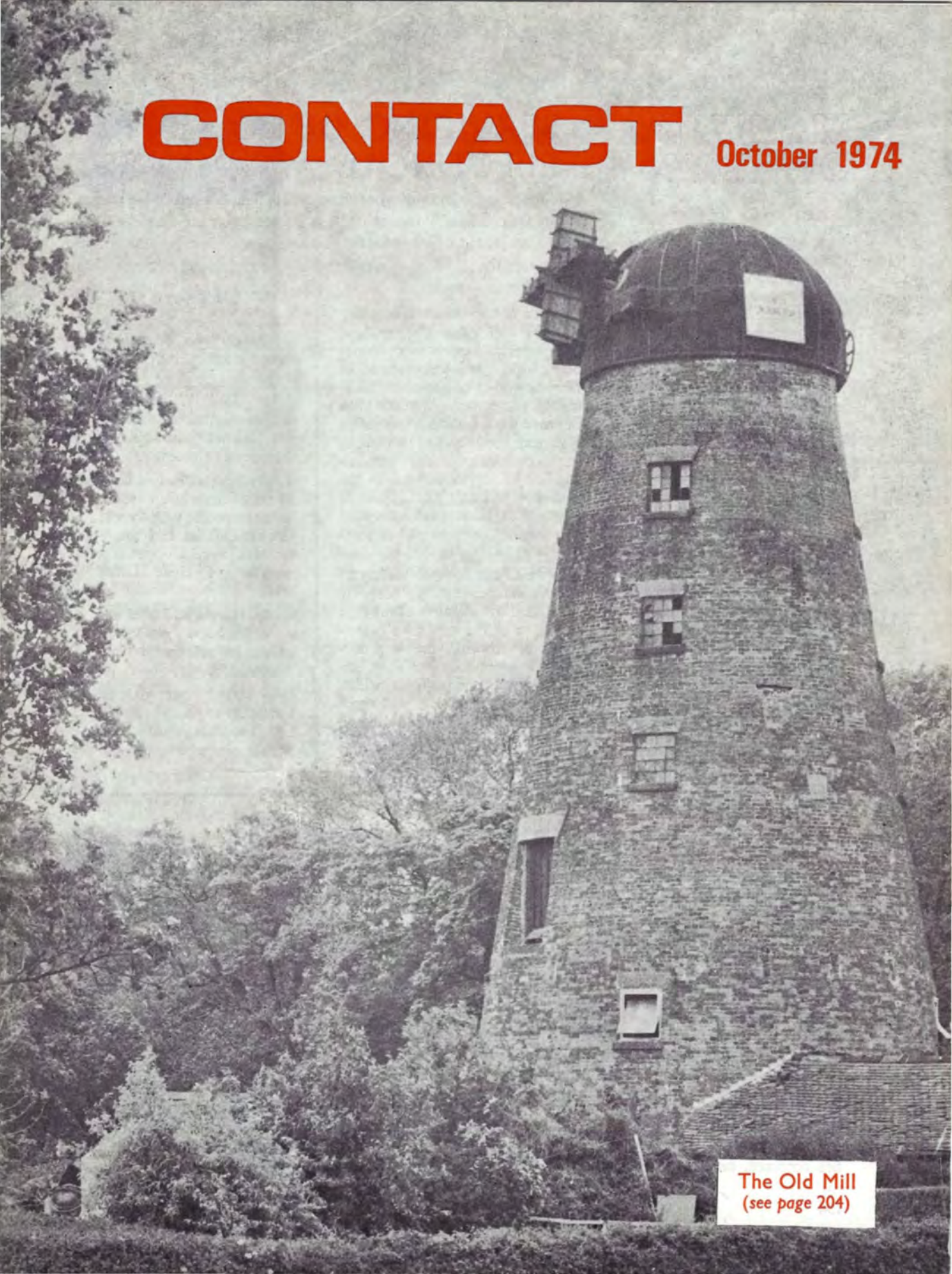


CONTACT

October 1974



The Old Mill
(see page 204)

MANWEB OWNER'S CLUB

As from 1st October 1974, customers who purchase 'Electra' brand appliances are to be offered and encouraged to enter into a maintenance agreement with the Board whereby, for a quarterly payment, the Board will maintain the appliance in working order and, at approximately twelve monthly intervals, will carry out an inspection and servicing of the appliance, except in the case of refrigerators where an annual inspection and servicing is not necessary.

The scheme will offer a maintenance agreement for a period of five years after the first one year guarantee has expired. No payment will be due in the twelve months period of the manufacturer's guarantee and quarterly payments will commence twelve months from the date of purchase of the appliance. The annual inspection and servicing (*except in the case of refrigerators*) will be carried out once in each twelve month period after expiration of the guarantee period.

FIRE DAMAGE OVERCOME

Emergency action by our Liverpool District contracting staff restored electricity supplies to a fire-damaged Liverpool ropeworks with only one day's lost production, a few weeks ago.

Messrs. Hutchison and Pollock Ltd., Mersey Ropeworks, Speke, make sisal and nylon ropes and twines in all sizes, supplying the shipping trade and industry. Their premises are all-electric, and for many years MANWEB has carried out the major electrical works at the premises. Lighting, heating, and distribution designs have been prepared by our colleagues at Lister Drive, and the whole works has electrical floor warming.

Twice, however, the firm has been unlucky enough to have been hit by fire. In February 1972 a serious fire occurred, and the whole electrical system was

SERVICING OF DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

With the range and variety of electrical appliances in use in the homes of Britain continually increasing, it is essential that servicing facilities are maintained at a high standard of efficiency to ensure that the public can obtain the standard of service required to minimise inconvenience when a repair is required.

In recent months the Electricity Council and Area Boards have been working closely in conjunction with the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances (AMDEA) to improve the standard of servicing electrical appliances. Discussions have centred on the administration of service as well as the provision of spare parts, which is vital to a successful servicing operation.

The Electricity Supply Industry now welcomes the publication of the Appliance Servicing Aims by AMDEA, as indicative of the firm intention of the appliance manufacturers towards the improvement of appliance servicing, including the standards to which members of AMDEA will work in relation to the provision and availability of spare parts for the appliances they manufacture and for their field service operations.

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we report the deaths of three of our retired colleagues.

Mr. John A. Travers a former member of Warrington District, who died at the age of 81 recently.

Mr. Joseph Pinches, aged 78 was formerly an installation inspector with the old Chester District. His daughter Mrs. Sybil Cooper is a member of Head Office Staff.

Mr. Harold R. Lloyd was a chargehand electrician before his retirement from Warrington. He was 71.

We extend our deepest sympathy to those bereaved by the deaths of these former members of our staff.

cut off by extensive damage to the main distribution system. Industrial development engineer John Atkinson stepped in quickly with arrangements for temporary supplies, and on that occasion only three days' production was lost.

In August of this year fire struck again, in the same part of the works. Design engineer Jim Liggett was called out, and supplies were restored the following day. Negotiations to carry out permanent repairs included a plan to increase the quality of the lighting in the damaged section of the works.

Writing to Mr. Dave Chalmers, energy sales engineer, a director of Hutchison and Pollock, Mr. R. Strachan, says: "I would like to put on record our sincere thanks for the prompt and efficient manner in which your department dealt with our serious problem of electricity supplies as a result of our disastrous fire on August 5th. In particular we would like to thank Mr. Liggett and Mr. Atkinson for the tremendous efforts they made on our behalf."



CONTACT

Vol. 26 No. 10

October 1974

EDITORIAL

An Obligation Fulfilled

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SCORES of millions of electrical appliances, carrying out a wide variety of functions which make life more pleasant and convenient, are in regular use in the homes of Britain.

All of them use energy in one way or another, and although we can fairly claim that electricity is the safest of all fuels, as well as the most versatile, there always remains an element of potential danger in the use of any form of energy.

Everyone today depends on electricity, and on their electrical appliances, to sustain and improve their standards of convenience and comfort, and the public rightly looks to us to guarantee the highest possible standards of safety and reliability in the products we sell.

The way in which our industry shoulders its responsibility to the public in these important questions is described in space devoted in this number of *Contact* to the work of the Electricity Council's Appliance Test Laboratories, at Leatherhead, Surrey.

Visitors to the Laboratories are impressed—and sometimes amused—by the ingenuity displayed by the staff employed there in creating conditions which will subject the appliances to a thorough testing. To pack years of use into a few days of testing often demands much inventiveness, and not a few wierd and wonderful mechanical devices have been created to make such testing possible.

We can take considerable satisfaction from the fact that electricity, in these fields as in several others, sets standards which are an example to the industry of the entire nation.

MANWEB's own Test Laboratory—housed for many years at Pumpfields depot in Liverpool—now flourishes in more congenial surroundings at Queensferry. Next month we hope to show our readers something of the work carried out there.

Editorial Staff	Phone H.O.	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.
Keith Baldwin	2164	
John F. Perry	2167	
Sam Doughty	2166	

SAFE AND RELIABLE!

THE PRESS VISITS A.T.L.

Dozens of newspaper and magazine journalists from all over Britain—mainly leading women writers specialising in features of interest to the housewife—visited the Electricity Council's Appliance Testing Laboratories at Leatherhead, Surrey, recently, to see for themselves just how much care our industry takes in ensuring that the domestic appliances we sell are safe in use and reliable in service.

In these pages we feature the work of the Laboratories, where appliances sold through Electricity Board shops all over the country, and installed by the million in British homes, are 'put through the mill' to maintain electricity's jealously-guarded reputation as the most efficient, safe, and reliable source of energy used in the home.

Every user of domestic electrical appliances wants to be assured they are safe and efficient. At the Electricity Council's Appliance Testing Laboratories more than two thousand electrical appliances each year undergo searching tests, designed to protect the safety of the user.

As well as undertaking safety tests to British Standards for the BEAB (*British Electrotechnical Approvals Board for Domestic Equipment*), and safety work in other areas not covered by BEAB, tests are made for the Electricity Boards to ascertain the performance of electrical appliances. There is also continuous appraisal of means of ensuring adequate standards of safety as the range of home appliances continues to grow.

It is over twenty-five years since this vitally important work began and, with the growth and popu-

The 'knobbly knees' machine (a Leatherhead invention!), designed to simulate wear-and-tear stresses on electric blankets in normal use. The blanket passes back and forth over the large lower roller, which is fitted with hard rubber bumps, while the row of smaller "floating" rollers subject the blanket to a vigorous battering!



Right (top): A close examination is made of all small appliances after testing, checking for signs of dangerous wear or cracks.

Below: Engineers testing a Centralec heating unit.

larity of domestic electrical appliances, the scope and activities of the Laboratories have expanded. "Safety testing" now covers over forty different categories of electric appliances used in the home: the testing being concerned with potential dangers to the user such as shock, burns and mechanical injury, and testing for fire hazards.

The work of the Appliance Testing Laboratories is divided into nine main groups covering everything from heating to housecraft.

The first five groups are concerned with safety testing of small heating appliances, small motor operated appliances, the larger appliances like washing machines and cookers, thermal storage heaters and commercial catering equipment.

Another group tests control devices such as switches and thermostats. The housecraft group look at domestic appliances from the housewife's point of view, and undertake performance tests. A technical services group is responsible for devising tests and test equipment.

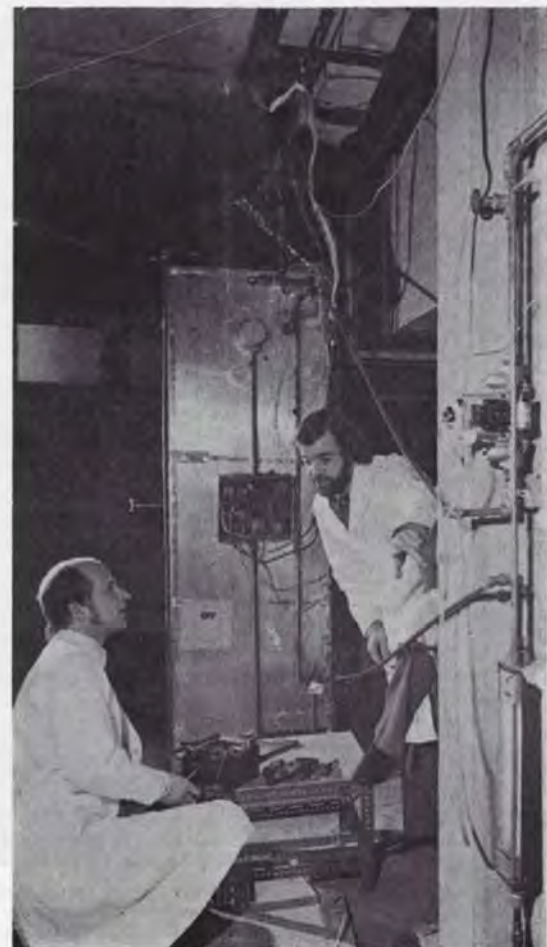
There is also test equipment to deal with noise measurement in a special anechoic chamber (room without an echo), appliance endurance tests, and environmental tests simulating conditions in use. Each of the laboratories is purpose-fitted for its work and they are all serviced by a photographic studio with its X-ray rooms and an instrument section and workshop.

Testing Heating Appliances

Testing space heaters and large and small heating appliances is an important part of the Laboratories' work. Room heaters, kettles, coffee percolators, portable immersion heaters and the smaller cooking appliances such as toasters and grills are all put through a series of usage and abusive tests.

Electric Blanket Tests

Electric blankets are scientifically abused—pushed, pulled, twisted and bent—to ensure that they will not break down or become dangerous in normal service. They are also X-rayed, their heat output carefully determined, and their durability evaluated. For the customer this means that an electric blanket carrying the BEAB seal of approval is a safe and effective aid to home comfort. Also BEAB, and electric blanket manufacturers advise that older blankets should be inspected and overhauled by the manufacturer, and they also urge replacement of blankets not made to the revised





The noise measurement chamber could have come straight from "Doctor Who." Wedge shaped pieces of foam, covering walls, floor and ceiling, kill all echoes stone dead, making accurate measurement of noise from appliances possible.



Safety test on a blender, with the jug lid removed. Appliances must be able to stand up to various misuse tests of this kind.



Testing a storage radiator's performance in a 'calorimeter' chamber.

British Standard 3456, Section A4 1971, which is now the rigorous standard used at the Appliance Testing Laboratories. If an electric blanket does not have a BEAB label, then you should take it to the Electricity Board or local dealer immediately for their advice.

Motor Operated Appliances

Large appliances—washing machines, cookers, refrigerators—undergo tests in two laboratories where there are temperature and humidity controlled rooms to check insulation of refrigerators and food freezers and measure performance of drying cabinets.

Motor-operated appliances such as extractor fans, hair dryers, shavers and food mixers, and small controls like wall mounted switches and room thermostats, are tested and subjected to durability tests designed to simulate wear in use.

Vacuum cleaners have their air inlets blocked, floor polishers are kept running for hours at a time, food mixers tackle repetitive cake mixes, so simulating conditions of use and abuse with which the machine must cope without excessive temperature rise or other defect in order to pass the safety tests.

Flexible cords, too, are tested—they are flexed up to 20,000 times through ninety degrees. Switches and connectors are monotonously turned on and pressed mechanically to duplicate years of use in a few hours.

Housecraft

The Housecraft Group, staffed by trained home economists, is devoted to the performance testing of domestic appliances—from electric cookers to hair rollers.

Food mixers are tested to find the maximum quantities they will handle for even mixing. Crisp brown toast of the same even colour is needed before a cooker grill will pass the performance test and delicious looking cakes made in the oven to a British Standard recipe have to meet a colour standard. Plates are covered with a food mixture of an agreed international standard of "stickiness" in order to measure the performance of a dishwasher, and washing machines have to wash specially soiled test fabrics that are then checked for scientifically measured "whiteness."

Another task for the home economists is to check the usefulness, clarity and accuracy of the maker's instruction books. All this carefully controlled testing is aimed at making labour-saving electrical appliances not only safe but reliable in use.

THE MARK OF SAFETY

The wise shopper for household electrical equipment should always look for the yellow and blue label of the British Electrotechnical Approvals Board (BEAB) or the seal which is printed on the rating label. The BEAB mark is proof that a sample of the product has been tested to the British Standard for electrical safety.

Testing of practically all domestic electrical appliances, except sound and vision equipment, is carried out in the Appliance Testing Laboratories at Leatherhead. After an appliance is approved for safety BEAB arrange for periodic visits to be made to the factory to check that production models maintain the same safety standards. Testing of random samples is also carried out.

The BEAB scheme with its distinctive label, started in 1960. Its principal sponsors are the trade associations of manufacturers of electrical and radio

appliances, the electricity supply industry and the British Standards Institution. The scheme is open to almost all household electrical equipment including imported models.

BEAB approval is given only to appliances which meet the requirements of British Standard 3456 or B.S. 415 : 1972. These exacting British Standards are designed to protect the user and are continually being updated and extended to cover new appliances. Where appliances are still to come within the scope of the British Standards and Appliance Testing Laboratories carry out their own safety tests. Appliances that pass these tests are included on a list—"The Electricity Council Supplementary List of Appliances" which is circulated with the BEAB list, both being published annually with quarterly supplements. As a general practice the shops of the Area Electricity Boards stock only appliances which are on these lists.



Some of the wide range of small appliances tested at the Laboratories.

Talking Notes

JOINS THE REDS

After 18 years' service with MANWEB, a life-long love of football has led **Mr. John Bennison**, a meter-reader/collector at Liverpool District, to say "farewell" to his friends at Lister Drive to take up a full-time coaching appointment with Liverpool F.C. at Anfield.

More than 20 years ago John played for Liverpool as an amateur, later turning professional and playing for a number of local clubs including New Brighton, South Liverpool, Rhyl, and Flint Town. During his spell with Flint he won a Welsh Cup medal, and played for Wales against the Scottish F.A. in a representative match in 1955.

At the end of his playing career he became a qualified F.A. coach, and has been with Liverpool F.C. as a part-timer for the past three years. He has also been Chairman of the Liverpool Football Coaching Association, and trainer of the

Liverpool F.C. Youth (under 18) Team, reaching the Final of the F.A. Youth Cup a couple of years ago.

At a farewell presentation Mr. Reg Adams (*Administrative Assistant*), presented John with an auto-toaster and an electric shaver, and the hope (from some of them at least!) that the coming season would once more see the "Reds" high up among the honours!

Return Visit

In a return of hospitality with an effort designed to establish an association with retired employees from the various Electricity Boards, our own very active Liverpool

Group recently entertained colleagues from the Midlands Electricity Board at the Thingwall Road Clubhouse.

Following a superb lunch, the assembly heard a few words from Messrs. Harry Telfer (*Group Manager*), Eric Taylor (*Club Chairman*), Alf Kinrade (*Vice Chairman Retired Members' Group*) and Mike Sanderson (*Group Secretary, Birmingham Social Club*).

Then came some entertainment provided by Mr. Len Annett, whose clean wit was very well received, and Mrs. Cathy Costly (*piano*) and Mr. Jimmy Cushing (*piano accordion*)—both standing in at the last moment.

Before leaving for home, Mr. Bill Newbould (*Chairman MEB Retired Group*) said that his party had enjoyed a marvellous day out and he looked forward to further get-togethers of the pensioners' groups.

Meter readers at Liverpool District give Mr. John Bennison (*centre, light suit*) a good send-off.



Promotion was achieved through the concerted effort of all the players under the captaincy of **Tom Dutton** (Secretarial) and **Robin Collier** (Estates and Wayleaves).

The most spectacular innings was played by Robin in a match against Shell when he knocked up 43 runs in 17 scoring shots, including three mighty sixes. It was in this game that the team achieved its highest total of 138 runs for six wickets in the allotted 20 overs.

Bev Johns (Computer Operations) took 22 wickets in six games at a cost of 9.4 runs per wicket and the 'evergreen' Tom Dutton, in only three innings, took nine wickets for 52 runs.

Our congratulations to all who played in this great team.

Wedding

Our congratulations go to **Mr. Leonard Jones**, a linesman based at our Ruthin depot,



Mr. and Mrs. Len Jones

who was married recently to **Mrs. Eirwen Roberts** of Llanfynydd.

Lots of happiness in the future to you "Len Bach" and to your good lady.

Off to Philadelphia

Everyone who so generously contributed to the "John Nolan Fund" will be pleased to see the picture (below) of two-year-old John with his Father and Mother boarding the plane to take them to their appointment with the American physicians and therapists in Philadelphia.



FOR SALE

Mitsubishi Memory V Tape Deck, 11½" x 10½" x 4", with external microphone. Mains and/or battery operated. £25, including two 5" tapes. 'Phone 051-336 1682.

Leak Point One Stereo 20 Amplifier and Leak Point One Tuner in Leak walnut cabinet. £20. 'Phone Wrexham 53752.

All to fit 4' 6" bed. Embossed candlewick fitted valanced bedspread in lemon and white. Cost £15, will accept £6. Rose pink eiderdown (feather and down filling), near new £6. Plain shell-pink diamond quilted valanced bedspread, tones with the above eiderdown—only in use for six weeks £3. 'Phone: Weaverham 2337.

Oatmeal mouquette 3-piece suite 3-seater settee. Fully sprung and in excellent condition. £45. 'Phone: Wrexham 54225.

1965 GT Cortina. Stage Two balanced motor 2000E box. Uprated suspension. Two high-backed seats full harnesses. Cibies. Hella driving lamps. Heated rear window. Selmar air horns. Recent respray. All condition. 'Phone: Chester 27635 (after 6 p.m.).

Exchange and Mart

Don't forget "Contact's" Exchange and Mart service. Advertisement space is free to all members of the Board's staff, past and present. You can buy, sell, let, hire or exchange almost anything by putting an ad. in our columns.

Just jot down what you want to say on a piece of paper, add your name and home address or telephone number and send it to *The Editor*, "Contact," MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

Please use block letters and keep it brief.

The Moor Lane Mill

PRESERVATION OR DESTRUCTION — by Peter Wrigley B.Sc.

THE OLD MILL, as it is fondly called, has captured the hearts of the people of Crosby, both old and young. It has come to mean more to them than the Town Hall or the Alexandra Hall or any other building in Crosby. When friends come to Crosby, it is to the old mill in Moor Lane and the boulder stone in Coronation Road, and the parks with their glorious displays of flowers, that they are taken. It is viewed with interest by the thousands who pass it on their way to and from Southport or Preston. Like Tennyson's 'Brook,' people expected it to go on forever. Crosby without its old mill—unthinkable! Indeed, in 1952 it was included in a Ministry of Housing and Local Government List of buildings in Crosby of special architectural or historical interest, and Crosby breathed a sigh of relief.

But then came the shock in October 1969, when the news leaked out that the owner, announced his intention to retire and to sell the Moor Lane Mill to a building contractor, who had applied for planning permission to build houses on the one acre site on which the mill stood.

This would have meant that the mill, the miller's

Peter Wrigley discusses a point with electrician Ray Rogers (right)



cottage, and the outbuilding would be demolished.

This aroused a storm of protest from many Crosbeians, as well as from the Crosby Borough Council, and several Merseyside Historical Societies.

When the application came before Crosby Town Planning and Development Committee in October 1969, they decided to reply that as the mill is on the list of buildings of special architectural or historical interest, they deplored any suggestion that it be demolished and objected to the proposed redevelopment of the site.

The decision to demolish or to preserve the old mill was not an easy one. The owner of the mill, was over 70 years of age, his health not good, and, naturally, he wished to enjoy the remainder of his life in retirement. The cost of running and maintaining the mill was extremely high, his capital was locked up in the business and he had found it impossible to sell the mill as a going concern. And it must not be forgotten that the mill had been in his family for three generations and during that time they had spent and done a great deal to preserve and maintain the mill.

Eventually a third planning application was made by the mill owner involving the retention of the mill and the miller's cottage and the use of the remainder of the site for the erection of four dwellings. This was considered by the Town Planning Committee, and the Borough Council in July 1971 gave their consent to this application subject to the condition that the new dwellings had no direct pedestrian or vehicular access to the trunk road. Mr. Harold Waterhouse, the mill owner, on hearing of this decision, remarked that "... he was very pleased with the results, but was sorry it had taken so long."

During 1972 "The Mill" was acquired for use as a home by Mr. Ian Gearing of Southport. The unusual construction of the building, height 21 metres, diameter of base of the mill 10 metres, with brickwork at the top 0.5 metres thick, gradually

OUR COVER PICTURE shows the famous Old Mill in Crosby. Even without its sails, it is still of great architectural and historical interest. The serenity in our picture hides the bustling activity going on inside the Mill as our electricians help in its conversion to a domestic dwelling.

increasing to 0.75 metres at ground level, meant many problems for it to be converted into a domestic dwelling.

One problem was how to heat the building. The solution was by "off-peak" electricity of course!

North Mersey District's Energy Sales team were asked to prepare a scheme based on the conventional hot water panel radiator system. This proved more difficult than it at first seemed due to the building having a heat loss of 30kW/hour and that the water would have to be pumped up 10 metres beyond the natural head level of water (9.75 metres) to supply radiators at the top of the building.

It was decided to use an Aquavolt system, specially strengthened to withstand the head of water necessary. The Aquavolt system is a low pressure hot water radiator system in which a heat storage generator heats a large volume of water, stored in insulated tanks, by low cost electricity and circulates it at a controlled rate. The system requires

no routine servicing. There is no dirt, fumes, smell or noise. It can be left in an unoccupied dwelling for long periods without danger from frozen pipes because it will switch itself on automatically at a preset low heat level in frosty weather. The system is completely automatic, the heat can be turned off at any time in any room to suit requirements. The unused heat will remain stored in the generator. Only heat actually used is replaced during the next "off-peak" charging period.

The installation of the Aquavolt system was quick, efficient and working within several days.

With summer now upon us the system will not be in full use, however the owner of the mill is confident he has made the right decision to "go electric."

Acknowledgement

Our thanks to Mr. F. Tyrer for permission to reproduce part of his article from "The Windmills of Crosby" publication.

The interior of the Mill showing the amount of work to be done to make the premises fit to live in.



Author, Mr. Peter Wrigley, former design engineer with our North Mersey District. He joined the Board as a student engineer in 1968 and went to Salford University where he read Electrical Engineering and gained his B.Sc. (Eng.) in 1972.

Peter left us recently to join Cooperheat (Southport) Ltd. He lives in Crosby, but with his new job is ready to travel anywhere.

He enjoys a game of squash or rugby—the Union code! He also likes to do his own motor maintenance.



Healing Power

A CUSTOMER in our Oswestry District grateful for MANWEB's service is the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital at Gobowen. In return, we, together with thousands of others, are most indebted to the hospital staff for their service to those afflicted with crippling disorders.

Security of electricity supply is of great importance to the hospital and its patients, especially in the spinal injury and intensive care units where 'life-line' apparatus such as the turning bed for the completely paralysed patient, have to be kept going.

Oswestry District Commercial Engineer Mr. Ron Williams told us that despite the fuel crises over the past couple of years, our District staff had managed to maintain the essential electricity supplies to the hospital. "Because of this," he went on, "a good working relationship has been established with Mr. Albert Crane, the Group Engineer at the hospital.

The hospital was founded at Baschurch in September 1900 by Dame Agnes Hunt and moved to its present site at Gobowen in August 1921. Dame Agnes, crippled by osteomyelitis from the age of ten, became known as "The Florence Nightingale of Orthopaedics." She was a trained nurse and her determined character coupled with her immense faith in the hospital project inspired all who worked with her with the spirit of true dedication. She died in 1948 shortly after her 80th birthday.

Her partner, Sir Robert Jones, a pioneer in orthopaedics, was years ahead of his time. A skilled surgeon who only operated when absolutely neces-

sary, he qualified at the Liverpool School of Medicine. He became consulting surgeon at Baschurch in 1904 and following war service, he was knighted in 1919. Sir Robert died in 1933 aged 75.

From the original "Cripples Home" in Baschurch, to the now internationally famous and foremost orthopaedic hospital in Europe, the progressive attitudes of Dame Agnes and her surgical colleague Sir Robert have always been maintained by those concerned with the development of the hospital. It has grown from strength to strength, not only in the service of the crippled and disabled but also as a training centre for doctors, scientists and nurses who choose to apply their skills and knowledge in the field of orthopaedics and accident surgery.

At Gobowen, four surgical teams, each specialised in a particular branch of orthopaedics, work closely together. They do not deal in magic or miracles, but only in the skills, intuition and sincere love of every member of the staff.

It is the largest specialised hospital of its kind in the world—just as it was when it opened in 1900 as the world's first open-air hospital for cripples—and it still maintains the reputation of making the lame walk again and bringing purpose back into life.

When we visited the hospital a few weeks ago, we were able to talk to Mr. Henry Rothery, a linesman from our Gwynedd District, who had met with a very serious accident in the course of his duties. Henry was completely paralysed to start with, but through his own determination and the skill and care of the hospital staff, we saw him at a stage where he was managing to feed himself.

A younger man, former substation fitter based at

Richard Griffiths, now an expert in his wheelchair.



Henry Rothery enjoying his lunch, is visited by Ron Williams, left, and Doug Cruttenden.



Vauxhall and Legacy, Mr. Richard Griffiths, was in a wheelchair. Richard crashed his car, practically at the gates of Gobowen, last December, and became paralysed from the waist down. We saw him expertly manoeuvre his wheelchair round the ward and in good spirits as he looks forward to his marriage in December to Miss Margaret Jones.

Our final link with Gobowen is through Mr. Brian Johnson, who was a linesman's mate in the Oswestry District before he became crippled with rheumatism. He went into hospital to have an artificial hip-joint fitted and is now back at work. Mr. Eric Davies, Oswestry District's Engineer told us that he could

vividly remember Brian as he struggled to get to work at the Whitchurch depot. "Now," said Eric, "I see him relieved from his terrific pain and very active once again. The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital certainly changed Brian's life style."

Mr. Douglas Cruttenden, the recently retired Hospital Secretary, said, "A long experience in many types of hospital has taught me that a real concern for people and their well being is the vital need of the health service. Only a well-motivated, competent and cheerful staff can provide the standard of service that we need in a hospital, and indeed in any public service."

A PATIENT'S POEM

There is nothing the matter with me,

I'm as healthy as healthy can be,
I have arthritis in both of my knees,
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.

My pulse is weak, my blood is thin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for both of my feet,
Or I wouldn't be able to be on the street.

Sleep is denied me night after night,
But every morning I feel alright!

My memory's failing, my head's in a spin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is this, as my tale I unfold,

That for you and for me who are growing old,
It's better to say "I'm fine," with a grin,
Than to let folk know the shape we are in.

How did I know that my youth is all spent?

Well my get up and go has got up and went!
But I really don't mind, when I think with a grin,
Of all the grand places my get up has been.

Old age is golden I have heard it said,

But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,
With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in the cup,
My eyes on the table until I get up.

As sleep overtakes me I say to myself,
"Is there anything else I should put on the shelf?"

I get up each morning and dust off my wits,

And pick up the paper and read the obits.
My name is still missing, so I know I'm not dead,
I have a good breakfast and go back to bed!

On the Food Front

Patients at the hospital choose their own meals from individual menu cards which are then sent down to the kitchen area where they are put on trays, together with the cutlery required. The trays are then placed on a 26 foot conveyor belt which moves them past various sections on either side of the belt, when the chosen food, in special dishes, is placed on the trays which are then despatched to the wards on special trollies.

The food is kept piping hot by means of pre-heated stainless steel base plates underneath the dinner plates (*very similar to the night storage heater principle*). Soups and sweets are despatched in heated insulated bowls.

Meals can be served in something like four minutes per ward of about 20 people.

Then follows the inevitable washing-up! But, here again electricity comes to the rescue!

As the trays are returned to the kitchen, the

conveyor belt is put into reverse and the dirty dishes and cutlery are removed and fed through an automatic dishwasher which not only washes and double rinses, but also sterilises!

The conveyor-belt kitchen.



Is there oil in the Irish Sea?

By ALAN SAMPSON (*Computer Services*)

The fuel crisis of last winter marked the end of cheap oil imports for Britain and emphasised our dependence on foreign oil-producing nations. The rate of discovery of new oil fields in the North Sea, however, has now ensured that we will become self-sufficient in our demands for oil within the next decade, and will have the opportunity to develop a stable fuel policy based mainly on indigenous sources.

Now it is the turn of the Irish Sea to come under the scrutiny of the oil companies and in August 1974 the drilling ship *'Offshore Mercury'* moved into position 26 miles out into the Irish Sea off Blackpool to begin the first well in a programme of test drilling by Hydrocarbons Great Britain Ltd., a company which has been involved in several major discoveries in the North Sea, and is owned by British Gas. During the course of the next few months several wells will be drilled in promising locations; licences are held to drill in five blocks, one of which covers the inshore part of Liverpool Bay. A consortium of oil companies is also said to be planning test drillings in the area later this year.

It is, of course, impossible to predict that oil or gas will be found, but there are several reasons for believing that a major discovery will be made in the Irish Sea. Firstly the number of large oil and gas fields now discovered in the North Sea shows that the geological conditions around the British Isles were favourable in the first place to the formation of oil and gas, and that provided suitable underground 'structures' exist to trap these riches, test wells in other offshore areas of Britain stand a fair chance of success. In the case of the Irish Sea, ship-borne seismic surveys have proved that a deep basin of suitable rock formations exists between the Lancashire coast and the Isle of Man. The surveys have also shown the existence of the structures most likely to contain oil and gas, and it is into these structures that the test wells of the present exploratory programme will be drilled.

Secondly, oil has already been found by BP in Lancashire—over 10,000 tons were produced from a small oilfield situated just within the Board's area at Downholland, near Formby. The oil was found at a depth of only 200 feet below the surface, and tests revealed that it had leaked upwards from a source buried thousands of feet below. However, despite a lengthy and expensive search which involved the drilling of over 25,000 feet of exploratory boreholes in the Southport and Formby areas, this original source was never found. It could well be

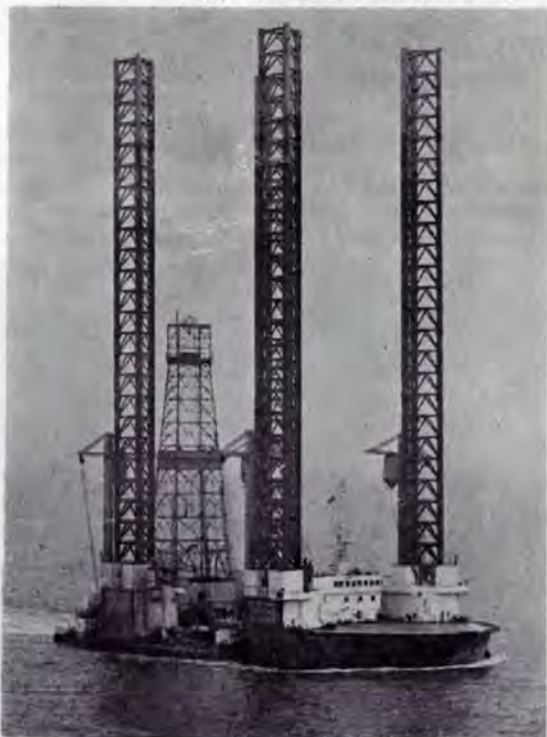
that the source of this oil lies far out under the Irish Sea and will be found by the present test drillings.

Lastly, in 1969 Gulf Oil drilled two test wells very close to the location currently being drilled by British Gas. After initial tests the Gulf wells were plugged and abandoned and the licences were surrendered to the Government. Press reports now claim that the Gulf Company has tried unsuccessfully to recover the licences as a re-examination of the results of the two wells drilled in 1969 has shown indications that oil and gas may in fact have been struck. An interesting parallel can be drawn with the discovery of the Argyll oil field off Scotland, when Hamilton Brothers drilled a test well down to 9,000 feet, were unsure of the results obtained and returned later to drill again at the same location. This time a major oil field was discovered, although the second well was in fact drilled only 10 feet deeper than the first before the oil was found!

If oil or gas is found in the Irish Sea, the effect on the economy of the North-West region could be significant. Apart from the drilling ships or rigs

(continued opposite)

The drill ship *'Offshore Mercury'*—276 feet long and 130 feet wide—en route for the Irish Sea.
(reproduced with permission British Gas)





Chief Superintendent Coombes, surrounded by award winners, congratulates Mr. R. Pennistone on his 19-year safe driving record.

Awards for Crewe Safe Drivers

Chief Superintendent R. Coombes, of the Cheshire Constabulary, congratulated the recipients of safe driving awards at the Mid-Cheshire District Office, Macon Way.

He told the Crewe based MANWEB drivers that he thought the standard of driving was improving, despite the fact that there were more accidents. There were more vehicles on the road and this was a

major reason for the increase in the statistics.

The Chief Superintendent considered the key to safe driving to be tolerance and awareness of other people on the road. He was pleased that an organisation such as MANWEB took such an interest in safe driving.

Mr. Harry Telfer, Group Manager, had welcomed the Chief Superintendent along with other guests Mr. G. E. Eccleston, Crewe and Nantwich Road Safety Officer, and Mr. N. H. Phillips a representative from R.O.S.P.A.

Mr. Ronald Pennistone was the driver with the longest accident free record, he has clocked up 19 years and received a special bar to add to his 15 year brooch.

Winners and Awards:

Corresponding Bar to 15 year Brooch: Mr. R. Pennistone.

15 year Brooch: Messrs. E. J. Everall and F. Warburton.

Oak Leaf Bar to 10 year Medal: Messrs. F. J. Broadhurst, P. Roche, G. D. Steele and L. Waltmaier.

10 year Medal: Mr. W. F. Butler.

Bar to 5 year Medal: Messrs. P. Davenport, D. W. Jones, W. H. Jones, G. J. Lathom, W. J. Salmon and K. E. Sandlands.

5 year Medal: Mr. J. B. O'Hara.

Diploma: Messrs. F. P. Baldwin, E. Bebbington, K. Brassington, D. J. Brookshaw, F. Cliffe, K. Foster, J. Harrison, W. Holland, E. C. Jones, G. Newbrook, W. K. Penhall, G. W. Purcell, T. Williams and C. Young.

Is there oil in the Irish Sea? *continued*

which require a shore base and constant replenishment of stores by supply boats and helicopters, convenient locations would be sought for the fabrication of the necessary production platforms and pipelines. Permanent shore bases would be necessary for servicing the oil field equipment, and controlling the flow of oil or gas into the onshore pipelines. The Merseyside Development Corporation is alive to the possibilities created, and has arranged a conference in Liverpool to ensure that all interested companies will get a 'share of the action.' the now-vacant South Docks area of Liverpool is favoured as a possible base for the oil operations.

The oil exploration business, despite its use of the most up to date scientific methods is still based largely on chance, and these plans may all come to nothing if the test wells are unsuccessful. It is heartening, however, to recall that it was said of the North Sea in 1970 when the exploration programme was beginning that 'there won't be a major oil field there.' Luckily for all of us this statement has since been proved wildly wrong.

Back to School

A report by MR. T. J. H. D. JONES (Caernarfon District)

CORPUS Christi, dating back to 1340, is one of the oldest colleges, and has a reputation for producing many fine scholars and people of note. Accommodation is excellent, each student being allocated a comfortably-furnished bedsitter, with good facilities for spare time recreation.

A total of 106 employees—ten ladies and 96 men—forming a cross-section of our industry, attended the School. The programme consisted of a series of lectures on a variety of subjects, followed by discussion group meetings to formulate questions.

Quite apart from the knowledge obtained from the lectures, everyone benefits greatly from the interchange of views and ideas, during both discussion group meetings and off-duty periods.

The School is extremely well-organised. Most afternoons visits

are arranged to such places as Ely Cathedral, Power Station, Electrical Manufacturer and the Colleges making up Cambridge University. Cambridge is a town noted for its building architecture and many students come here to study this subject.

Recreational activities include

punting on the river, (several of our members fell into the water, probably forgetting they were not participating in the Boat Race).

The town has a good shopping centre and many places of interest to explore.

I, for one, really enjoyed myself and feel that I have gained much benefit from the experience. If anyone has any qualms, let me dispel these immediately. The Board pay for travel to and from the College, provide all meals and accommodation, give you an out-of-pocket allowance, provide three 'bus tours and even free newspapers—what more could you ask for?

Outward Bound at Rhowniar and Brathay Hall

By YVONNE J. JONES

(Head Office Revenue).

During my Outward Bound course at Rhowniar, activities included rock-climbing, canoeing, and hill walking. The school was a pleasant place, surrounded by forest land and fields. There was one instructor for each group of twelve girls, and all the instructors were considerate and understanding.

Rock climbing was a marvelous experience. The highest rock face we climbed was about 50 feet high—we were well tied with a safety rope so there was no fear of falling!

Canoeing was another enjoyable activity—we all learned how to use the canoe, and to capsize and right it on the river, and then we did surf-canoeing in the sea.

The hill-walking I enjoyed the most. Even though we climbed 3,000 feet to the top of Cader Idris, the view from the top was well worth it.

During the course we must have covered at least 60 miles on foot. Other activities included assault courses, cross-country, orienteering, drama, public-speaking, and building a canoe.

By MIKE ARTELL

(Head Office Superannuation).

During the week before I was due to go to Brathay Hall in the Lake District for a month's Outward Bound course, people in the office began telling me of all the terrible things I would have to do . . . such as cross a waterfall (I had visions of crossing Niagara!)

Alone on the train, I found myself wondering what it would be like, and while waiting at Windermere for transport to take us to Brathay all the lads started joking about the course, telling each other about the tales they had heard! We nervously laughed and hoped they weren't true!

Once we got into the full swing of things, however, involving ourselves in fell-walking, rowing, sailing, art and drama, we all began to enjoy ourselves. The days quickly disappeared as we were busy doing something from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. By the end of the course I found I had thoroughly enjoyed myself, and wished that the course could have gone on for a lot longer . . . especially when I thought of returning to work on the following Monday!

SCHOOLS IN '75

Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. 18th—26th March.

Royal Holloway College, nr. Staines. 8th—16th July.

Loughborough University of Technology. 30th July—7th August.

Queens' College, Cambridge. 2nd—10th September.

Queens' College, Cambridge. 10th—18th September.

Whatever your job, wherever you work in MANWEB, you are eligible for a place at one of these Schools.

You will find them enjoyable and informative as well as social and recreational.

All expenses paid too!

Ask your Local Advisory Committee Secretary for further details.

RETIREMENTS



Best Wishes for Mr. Appleton, (left) from Mr. Arthur Perry Asst. Chief Engineer watched by Mr. Dennis Hughes Chief Draughtsman.

Mr. R. W. APPLETON

After 45 years' service in the electricity supply industry, Mr. Richard W. Appleton retired from his post as section leader in the Records Drawing Office at Board Headquarters.

Starting his career as a draughtsman in his native Norwich with the Corporation Electricity Department Dick moved on to several other electricity undertakings before joining the North Wales Power Company in 1936 as their Chief Draughtsman. On nationalisation, he moved over to MANWEB, holding the same appointment, with the former Area 4 Sub-Area at Rhostyllen.

He is a keen painter and photographer and enjoys motoring. We also hear that he is quite an expert at joinery.

Mr. A. JAMES

A mains foreman in our South Lancashire District, Mr. Arthur James, aged 58, retired recently on the grounds of ill health. His career in the electricity supply industry began some 40 years ago when he joined the Mersey Power Company at Runcorn.

In those days he was a very keen sportsman and played football for the Company team and cricket for Widnes. In 1940 he joined the Army and saw war service in the Western Desert and Sicily before his demob. in 1946.

In the early 1950's Arthur was made up to foreman in charge of h.v. cable jointing and for the last 18 months or so, has worked from our St. Helens depot.

At one time his two daughters worked for the Board, Jennifer, at Head Office and Marsh Lane, and Valerie in the South Lancashire District.

Friends collected to buy him a present as a token of their regard and respect. "There are not many left like Arthur," was a comment from his boss Mr. Bill Jones (Production Engineer).

Mr. W. T. WILLIAMS

A senior clerical assistant in the Material Control section at Clwyd District Office, Mr. W. Trefor Williams said farewell to his friends and colleagues recently on the occasion of his retirement after 26 years' service.

He joined MANWEB in 1948 as a linesman's mate at Holywell, later working as a substation attendant and then as a storekeeper clerk at Mold depot before his move to Rhyl.

During the war he served at home and abroad with the armed forces.

At a farewell ceremony Mr. George Cooksley (District Administrative Officer), presented Trefor with electrical goods as parting gifts from his colleagues.

PENSIONS

On 1st December each year, pensions are reviewed by the Board and are increased on the basis of the percentage increase in the cost of living for the year ended on the previous June 30th, as announced by the Minister for the Civil Service.

The Pensions Increase (Annual Review) Order 1974* made by the Minister on 12th August, 1974, provides for pensions to be increased from 1st December, 1974 by the following percentages, according to the date on which the pension began:

<i>Pensions beginning on or before</i>	
1st July 1973	Increase 16.5%
<i>Pensions beginning 2nd July</i>	
1973 to 1st January 1974	Increase 18.1%
<i>Pensions beginning 2nd Jan.</i>	
1974 to 1st July 1974	Increase 12.3%

All eligible pensioners will receive the increase in the payment of their pension in respect of December 1974 and details of the increase and the revised rate of pension will be included in the pension advice for that month.

To be eligible, a pensioner must be (a) 55 years of age or over (unless he/she was retired on the grounds of ill health); (b) a widow must be 40 years of age or over (unless she has dependent children); and (c) the pension must have begun before 2nd July, 1974.

* This Order (SI1974 No. 1373) can be purchased from H.M. Stationery, Office, price 6p plus postage.



"Aber Falls." Picture by Mr. Mike Hall, Head Office
(Exposure 1/15th second at F11 on FP4 film)