

Jackie and Friends
(see page 225)

CONTACT

October 1977



for "Tea-Cosy" Homes

ENERGY-saving all-electric homes, insulated to use one-third less energy than houses built to normal Building Regulations standards, will qualify for the electricity industry's "Medallion Award Scheme for Energy Saving Homes," now being launched.

The scheme will be introduced to builders, architects and estate agents throughout Merseyside and North Wales during the next few weeks, through presentations in each MANWEB District.

To win the energy-saving home "medal" new houses will also have to include lighting and socket-outlet provisions superior to those laid down by the

National House Builders' Registration Council.

These snug "tea-cosy" houses of the future will have high-efficiency roof insulation, wall insulation of one kind or another, floor insulation and comprehensive draught-proofing. These aids to comfort can be more than paid for by the money saved on chimneys, fuel stores and heating pipework.

Space and water-heating installations will be so designed that at least 50% of their total consumption will be off-peak electricity, with a White Meter water heating system incorporating a cylinder of at least 40 gallons capacity. Heating systems and equipment will take the form of storage radiators, storage fan heaters, "Electricaire," floor-warming and ceiling heating installations.

Lighting and socket installations will include a front outside light, a light and twin socket outlet in the garage, a light in the roof space, a fluorescent fitting in the kitchen, and twin switched sockets throughout.

Developers who accept the scheme will receive support by way of local press advertising, site display boards advertising the Medallion Award Home scheme, display material and other back-up help and advice.

Buyers of these new super-homes will be presented with an "Energy-Saving Home" medallion, as evidence of the high standards of insulation and electrical installation. They will also have a high standard of after-sales service and advice from MANWEB.

Mr. Matt Cowan, our Chief Commercial Officer, commented:

"Good insulation is the key to energy-saving in the home. Already people who have improved the insulation standards of their homes use these improvements as effective selling points when they move house. There is no doubt that the new "Medallion" home will be an attractive proposition to the far-sighted home owner who has long-term values, as well as fuel economy and comfort, in mind."

New Leisure Centre at Oswestry

AFTER 18 months of construction work, a site which was formerly a field and a couple of tennis courts has now been turned into a modern leisure centre in Oswestry, housing a large swimming pool, learners' pool, sports hall, four squash courts, gymnasium, table tennis facilities and a bar and snacks area.

The contract for the complete electrical installation, which involved lighting, a three-phase power supply, fire alarms, tannoys and emergency lighting was won by MANWEB.

Against competition Oswestry District's John

Evans (2nd Engineer—Installation), prepared the quote and supervised the work which followed the consultants' designs.

The contract meant a year's work for electricians Mal Jones and Jim Brierley whose programmes complied throughout with the building schedule.

The £½-million centre provides the only public swimming facilities in the market town of Oswestry. The sports facilities are also welcomed by a growing membership who previously had to travel ten miles to the leisure centre at Plas Madoc, Wrexham, for their recreation.



CONTACT

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Editorial

NUCLEAR DECISIONS

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IN THE relatively near future vital and far-reaching decisions will be made in relation to Britain's future policies in the field of nuclear power generation.

In the Nuclear Debate the electricity industry is already a committed partisan. At the recent area DJAC conference (to be fully reported next month) our own Chairman called for an early commitment to the construction of a commercial-sized fast-breeder reactor, to pave the way for the string of such power stations likely to be needed within the next two or three decades. At the same conference Mr. W. F. Cusworth, the CEB's Regional Director, warned that those who oppose nuclear technology are out-manoeuvring those who support it.

Mr. Cusworth's warning was timely. Indeed, some of the scaremongering of the prophets of doom is so emotive and distorted that the public might be excused for gaining the impression that the electricity industry is in favour of nuclear war. Impractical and far-fetched ideas are earnestly put forward—and sometimes hailed—as offering miraculous solutions to problems on which they can have only the most marginal impact.

Blood-curdling prophecies and extravagant fantasies are headline material. The carefully-considered opinions of experts, and the impeccable safety records of our existing nuclear stations, are less exciting.

Our job is to provide society with a reliable and adequate electricity supply. If we should fail—for whatever reason—there will be no shortage of critics.

The decision on the fast breeder is likely to be much influenced by the climate of public opinion. It is the business of every one of us to acquaint ourselves with the unemotional, unembroidered truths of the situation. By so doing we can help to ensure that public opinion is formed of logic and fact, and not of fantasy and fear.

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

Minister Visits Head Office

Mr. Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy paid a visit to Head Office recently.

He met the members of the Local Advisory Committee with whom he had an informal discussion.

Questioned about the Severn Barrage Scheme the Minister answered that no final decision had yet been taken, and that many interests had to be considered before the scheme could go ahead. Should the decision be in favour then it would only form part of the Country's energy needs.

The Dinorwic Scheme in Gwynedd was another using some of the most advanced technology to produce electricity from water power.

Asked whether the huge reserves of coal would effect the development of nuclear power, Mr. Eadie explained that coal could be used in other ways than burning, and stated he had seen experiments where petrol had been produced from coal and a technological breakthrough was needed now to make it economically viable.

The current debate on the fast breeder reactor and nuclear power should ensure that people were aware of the problems of providing energy. Public discussion and the reduction of secrecy was healthy.

The Minister then toured the building with Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds, and saw the computer operated accounts system in operation.

The latest method of direct input to the computer by the Districts was demonstrated by Mrs. Margaret Brent of North Wirral District.



Above: Explaining the operation of the punch card room, is supervisor Mrs. Wendy Calcott, with Mr. John Peaker, (Computer Manager), The Minister and Mr. Alex Whyte (Chief Accountant).

Below: Mrs. Maureen Lloyd Jones demonstrates the use of the visual display unit to show the computer record on a consumer's account. Left to right, Messrs. John Burnett (Private Sec. to Minister), Alex Eadie, Denis Dodds and Len Walter.





Pictured left, Mrs. Carolyn Wright demonstrates a microfilm viewer watched by Messrs. Mike Metcalf, Len Walter, Alex Eadie and Denis Dodds.

Below centre, A direct computer input demonstration for Mr. Eadie by Mrs. Margaret Brent.

Bottom left, The Minister, with supervisor Mrs. Wendy Calcott and punch operator Candy Heggy.



Pictured right, the Minister meets L.A.C. members Messrs. Harold Wilson Ken Wynne and George Harrison.



GWASTAD HALL



Man from MANWEB Mr. John Robinson, left, chats with Mr. Wynn Wright, manager, with the impressive Gwastad Hall Hotel in the background.

A VISIT to Gwastad Hall, a hotel which retains the atmosphere of its country-house origins, guarantees satisfaction. It boasts the decor of a century ago and, nestling in the Welsh countryside at Cefn-y-Bedd, near Wrexham, gives its guests all the stately splendour usually afforded the Lord of the Manor.

There are a dozen bedrooms soon to be doubled, a restaurant offering a full a-la-carte menu and an adjoining building housing a banqueting suite which will double as a cabaret club catering for 150 people.

Gwastad Hall stands in a wooded area approached by a drive lit by tree-mounted decorative lighting. There are palatial gardens and a swimming pool, and an old stable block which is being lovingly converted into a coach inn serving real ale.

Some time ago Gwastad Hall, then known as White Sands Hotel, shone like a fiery beacon as an inferno raged within. Fire and smoke extensively damaged the interior and the hotel was forced to close its doors.

That day MANWEB, in the person of Dee Valley District Installation and Service engineer Joe Forrester, was one of the first at the scene. The fire brigade had notified the Board and Joe immediately attended to offer MANWEB's help.

That help resulted in a temporary supply being linked to the discotheque and banqueting hall so that they could stay open. Rewiring was essential in the main building and the Board was able to get to work straight away on designing a complete installation, including emergency lighting and fire alarms.

Mr. John Allen then bought White Sands Hotel, which 'borrowed' its name from its previous owners Mr. White and his wife Sandra, and the MANWEB involvement grew. The new owner brought back the original name when he called his place "Gwastad Hall Hotel".

Mr. Allen was well known to the Board, in particular to energy sales engineer Trevor Edwards, through work carried out over the years at other business premises of Mr. Allen's.

He asked MANWEB to design a heating system for the bedrooms which resulted in storage radiators with built-in fans being installed. At the same time he requested a lighting scheme for the main drive and car park.

John Robinson, installation and service engineer, was able to devise a scheme utilising sodium vapour lamps mounted on trees, columns and on the building.

And yet further work for the Board is to follow with the planned modernisation and extension of the already all-electric kitchen. Commented Mr. Allen: "I have dealt with MANWEB for a number of years and went back to them again this time because they have always given me friendly advice and efficient equipment."

"But the main reason for my confidence in them is the excellent back-up service they provide. When I want them someone is always here within a very short time."

And not forgetting the product he concluded: "I've always felt that overall, electricity is cleaner, more efficient and more reliable than its competitors at a comparable cost."



Talking Notes

AS GOOD AS HIS WORD!

FOUR years ago, when we reported the retirement of **Mr. Harold Waring**, principal assistant in the Computer Section at Head Office, our story said that Harold intended to spend some of his time in retirement obtaining a University degree.

Well, all kinds of people say that they intend to do all sorts of things when they cast off the shackles of the demanding business of earning a living, but most of these well-laid and excellently-intentioned plans remain fond pipe dreams!

But not so with Harold! Not long ago we received a little note from his wife to let us know that her husband had been as good as his word, and that in July he graduated with an Honours B.A. degree in the Faculty of Economics and

Science at Liverpool University. Perhaps Harold was a bit too modest to write to tell us himself, but just to prove it Mrs. Waring sent along a picture of her industrious better half, complete with cap and gown, taken after the graduation ceremony.

Congratulations to Harold on his success after what must have been a lot of hard work—and for proving that there can be more to retirement than the pipe and slippers and pottering around in the garden!

Mr. and Mrs. Waring live at Woodcote Bank, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead.

Marathon Five-a-Side

In a special challenge match at the Deeside Leisure Centre a short time ago, teams from the Technical Field section and the Technical Development section at Head Office played five-a-side football for an hour!

Not all the players were in the 'six million dollar man' class so a pre-arranged set of rules allowed for the six or seven members of each team to play on a rota basis.

The 'Field' team players were: **Terry Gopsill (captain)**, **Stan Broadhurst**, **Gordon Gleave**, **Tony Hassall**, **Tony Timmins** and

John Welsh. They scored 18 goals!

Their opponents, 'Development' were: **John Hampson (captain)**, **Bill Gittins**, **Arthur Mackrel**, **Phil Ramsey**, **Alan Reid**, **Bill Rogers** and **Brian Swinnerton**. They scored six goals!

Coarse Fishing Champion

Over 180 anglers competed for the Welsh National Championship for Coarse Fishermen.

The winner was **John Tyreman**, an internal auditor based at Head Office.

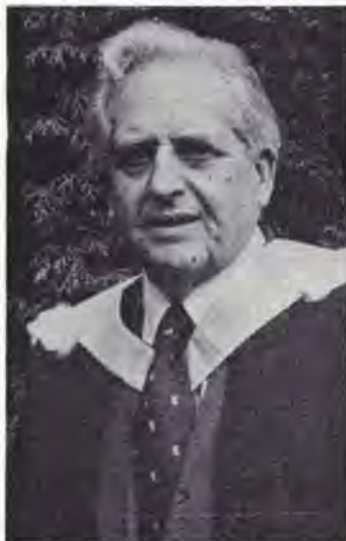
The competition was open to Welsh Nationals and members of Welsh based clubs, and this year was competed for outside the Principality, on the Gloucester Canal.

John, who is 30 and single, is a member of the Chopper Angling Club, Broughton, just over the Welsh border. He won the title with a bag of roach and bream weighing 31b 4oz, his nearest rival 14 ounces behind him.

Last year he was one of the winners of the team event, but this year he captured the National Championship for himself.

Over the Border

Those free-ranging wanderers the Mid-Mersey Pensioners' Association, having visited just about everywhere within striking distance in England and Wales, raised their sights for their most recent trip with an outing over the border into Scotland with a visit to Hawick in Roxburghshire.



'Gowned' and with 'cap' in hand
Mr. Harold Waring B.A.

The usual coachload from St. Helens, Warrington, Run-corn and Frodsham, after stops for coffee at Charnock Richard on the M6, and for a picnic lunch (courtesy of Warrington canteen staff) at Carlisle, journeyed on to Trow Mill, near Hawick, for a look at the mysteries of spinning and weaving. High tea was taken at the village of Denholm.

We don't know whether the bread strike had anything to do with their choice of destination, but there was no strike in Scotland so a well-planned forage for bread, which would have earned the approval of any frontiersman, was carried out in Hawick, before the long journey home (with suitable breaks for refreshment).

A long day, but an interesting and happy one for this irrepressible bunch of MANWEB old-timers.

Party Invitation

An invitation to a Christmas Party for MANWEB pensioners living in the North Wirral District has been made by the District Sports and Social Club.

Tuesday, December 6th is the date planned for the festive celebrations at Seaview Road,

BACK HOME

Still going strong at 90 years of age is Lord Citrine, left, who recently made a return visit to his native Merseyside. While here, he called on us and talked with our Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, right, and members of the Board.



Wallasey, in the Sports Social Club premises.

Retired MANWEB employees, especially the ladies, who might wish to attend this seasonal gathering should contact Ken Cambridge at the North Wirral District Office, Craven Street, Birkenhead. Tel. 051-647 7040.

They call it P-O-O-L—!

In the final round of the Bridle Road 'Pool' Tournament staged in the Social Club recently Bert Gregory (Service Dept.) was matched against John Lawes (Prepayments).

In the best of five frames, John started well by taking the first frame. However, fine play by Bert gave him the next three frames to win the match.



'Pool' finalists Bert Gregory left, and John Lawes.

A trophy, and prize, will be presented to Bert in the near future. The organisers of the event ask us to thank all those who played in the competition and hope that even more people may be getting in some practice in readiness for next year's matches.

Bouncing Baby

A bonny bouncing baby boy rejoicing in the name of Scott, was born to Joan Hughes, a former secretary with our



Joan—before the happy event!

Head Office Commercial department. Her husband Keith is no doubt very proud of mother and son.

Joan, a very popular member of the staff, joined the Board nine years ago as a typist. She has been a very active member of the Sports and Social Club and is an excellent table tennis and badminton player.

Two New Leaflets

"Safety in the Home" and "Electric Blankets" are two new leaflets in the "Electricity and You" series published by the Electricity Council to provide customers with a greater understanding of electrical appliances in every day use in their homes.

"Safety in the Home" written with the co-operation of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, provides simple rules for safety when fitting a flex to a plug, and care of flexes generally. Safety tips in the use of domestic electric appliances are spelled out in detail. For new wiring, householders are particularly advised to call in an expert.

"Electric Blankets" explains the safety rules to be followed to obtain years of trouble-free operation from both over and

under blankets, and gives useful advice on what to look for when buying them. Both leaflets are free and available with eight others in the "Electricity and You" series from Electricity Board shops.

Off to University

One of the University Scholarships offered by the Electricity Supply Industry has been awarded to a young man from our area, **Richard A. Barratt** from Formby.

A former pupil of Merchant Taylors School in Crosby, Richard will this month, take up residence at Cambridge where he will attend the University there to study Electrical Engineering.

We wish him every success.

Diamond Day

Our sincere congratulations go to **Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Parker** who celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary a few weeks ago.

Mr. Parker, who was never late for work during his 36 years' service retired in 1965. He was employed in our former Area 1 in Liverpool and for many years was an ETU shop steward. At one time he held a record eight awards for his accident prevention suggestions.

We wish good health and happiness to Tom and his good lady.

FOR SALE

1973 Lynton Arrow Executive Mk. III touring caravan. White/old gold trim. Four berth. Pullman bunks. Fridge. Toilet compartment, fitted sanitary unit. Flush toilet. Safari. Electric pump. Full awning. Gas bottles. Plus extras. £1,000 o.n.o. 'Phone Formby 76723.

Vauxhall F.E. Victor 1800 'N' Reg., 35,000 miles £1,200. Phone Geoff Edwards, Wrexham 757751.

MAN OF LAW

Now fully engaged on the work entailed with his recent appointment as Assistant Secretary (*Legal Estates and Way-leaves*) at Head Office, is **Mr. Nick Williams** of Chester.

Educated at King's School, Nick went on to Liverpool University where he gained an Honours Degree in Law. He served his Articles with a well-known firm of Chester solicitors and, after qualifying, practised with them for two years.

In 1969 he was appointed as the Assistant Solicitor with the former Chester Corporation. Three years later he took up a similar post with MANWEB.

He is a keen vintage motor

car enthusiast and runs his favourite 1960 model Rover 100 to work each day. Most of his spare time however is taken up with the rebuilding of his cottage at Manley—a job he has enjoyed doing for the past two-and-a-half years!



OUR COVER PICTURE

shows the current "Girl from MANWEB", **Jacquelyn Pemberton** with her colleagues in the Bonus Section at Dee Valley District Office.

They are delighted with Jackie's success during her hectic year of office and she, in turn, is very grateful to them for their help and support.

The happy group are, from left to right: **Margaret Roberts** and **Pauline Middleton**, front, **Linda Williams**, **Jackie** and **Pat Twigg**, centre and the lucky lad, **Bryn Jones**.

A timely reminder. . . . we are now starting our search for Jackie's successor. Who will be our "Girl from MANWEB—1978"? Is she in your District—or at Head Office—or will Dee Valley triumph again?

We get letters— —lots of letters

To one and all at Clwyd

A pat on the back for our Clwyd telephonists and members of the Engineering section from a couple of very satisfied customers at Llanddulas who write:

"We would like to express our thanks to you for the work done on our premises in the last week. You have been very courteous in attending to our complaint, i.e. the voltage supply. When I made a few telephone calls re this matter, the attention I received from your telephonists, and the staff in your department, was excellent. Such a change nowadays

"Now I find that you have renewed the cable and that too has been done perfectly with no mess or disturbance in the kitchen.

"So we are most grateful and thank you and your staff most sincerely. We can now cook and watch television at the same time!"

On rewiring jobs in North Mersey . . .

A grateful customer writes:

"I just wanted to say thank-you. One of your young men has just re-wired our house. Each evening we would get home from work and everything was so tidy, he had done such a good job.

"He had a door key and let himself in each day, so I was not able to thank him personally. Please let him know!"

The "tidy young man" was electrician Mr. Tommy Salkeld.

. . . North Wirral . . .

A note of thanks—

"Your two representatives who re-wired my bungalow could not

have been more considerate . . . they worked competently, quietly and could not have been kinder about having to move all the bits and pieces that were in their way.

"Although I hope it does not have to be done again in my lifetime, at least it was not the awful uproar I feared, thanks to your two electricians.

"Having seen the state of the wiring in the loft I am surprised the place didn't go up in flames long ago. I even wonder whether it should not be compulsory that inspections should be carried out by the Electricity Boards at stated intervals. I had no idea it was in such a state."

Bouquets for electrician E. B. Clarke and apprentice R. Roberts.

. . . and Aberystwyth

A customer writes—

"I want to express my thanks and appreciation for a job well done by one of your employees, Mr. Harry Bates. The way he went about his work with such efficiency and no fuss was to me, in these days of strikes and work to rule, a pleasure . . ."

Mr. Bates is a contracting electrician at Aberystwyth, and the "job well done" referred to was the re-wiring of a Council house.

Showers of Thanks from Gwynedd . . .

One of our increasing band of customers taking advantage of the Board's most reasonably-priced shower installations writes:

"I have just recently had a 'shower' installed at the above address and feel prompted to write to you.

"In this day and age you hear so much of bad and shoddy work, I think someone should hear a little of the good work when the occasion arises.

"These young men left my home 'spick and span.' Their work is excellent and a job very well done. I cannot speak too highly of them.

"I just wished you know how pleased I was."

. . . and North Wirral

From a Heswall customer:

"Some time ago you installed a shower unit, and I feel I must write on behalf of my wife and self. We are delighted not only with the unit, but also with the manner in which it has been installed. My wife thought there would be an awful mess, only to find that you could not believe such work had been carried out—the bathroom was just as clean after the work was completed.

"We would therefore like you to convey to the gentleman who carried out the work our grateful thanks for a fine job."

The gentleman concerned was Mr. Richard Hughes, electrician, whose blushes we will not spare!

For Service in Liverpool . . .

From a Speke customer to Mr. Bill France (installation engineer, Liverpool District):

"Thanks for sending my order on time . . . they were in top-class condition . . . you never fail to please."

. . . and Repairs in Mid-Cheshire

From a Tarporley (Cheshire) customer, to Mid-Cheshire District office:

"I wish to express my sincere thanks for the highly-efficient way your staff carried out the repairs to my freezer, and provided me with a service during this period."

At the Wirral Borough Council exhibition at Rock Ferry—one of their general improvement areas—a bright MANWEB stand featured central and water heating and wiring installations.

Man in charge, **Bill Hatton** (*Commercial Development*), hand-delivered leaflets through the doors of most of the 825 homes eligible for help under the plan.

Our picture shows, *from left to right*: Bill, with two prospective customers and Mr. F. Rutter from Wirral Council.

North Wirral Commercial Activities

Kept very busy with enquiries and sales at the annual exhibition in Heswall organised by a local estate agent (*Jones, Chapman and Harland & Co.*), was **Marjorie Scregg** our energy sales representative.

She is seen here, *centre*, with **Doug Willacy** (*energy sales engineer*) showing a customer a shower installation.

Yet another MANWEB exhibit—this time in the most unlikely place—the Geriatric Day Ward at Clatterbridge Hospital!

A go-ahead group there, having the right perspective on old age, decided to run an exhibition to show the many aids available to the elderly who maybe had some form of disability.

Our girl on duty, **Geraldine Leake** (*energy sales*) showed some of the many electrical appliances and switches designed to help the aged and infirm.

She did 'on-the-spot' demonstrations of electric cooking to show visitors how safe electricity is and how easy it was to help themselves.

Doctors, specialists and nurses all showed interest in our exhibit.





Chief Inspector Miriam Rhodes congratulates our Whitchurch depot drivers on their safe driving records.

EXCELLENT RECORD OF SAFE DRIVING

Praise from Police

NEARLY 500 years of safe driving, amassed by close on 80 members of our Oswestry District staff, was recently rewarded with the presentation of Diplomas, Medals, Brooches and Bars at ceremonies held at District Office in Maesbury Road and at our Newtown and Whitchurch depots.

At each of the presentations, senior police officers praised the fine achievements and the excellent record of the award recipients. They said that all drivers had a very difficult job today with more and more vehicles on the roads and with

much of the driving by local MANWEB staff being over country terrain often along narrow and twisting lanes where dangers lurked at every bend.

All our drivers were thanked for making the job of the police throughout the District very much easier.

The ceremony held at our Whitchurch depot was rather unusual in that a very capable lady, Chief Inspector Miriam Rhodes of the West Mercia Constabulary presented the awards. At Oswestry, drivers received their awards from Chief Inspector D. W. Nash, also of the West Mercia Constabulary while at the Newtown depot, Chief Inspector R. J. Thoroughgood, Dyfed-Powys Constabulary, did the honours. The awards were as follows:

OSWESTRY

Silver Bar to 25-Year Silver Cross: Mr. C. H. O. Wilkinson.

Star Bar to 20-Year Brooch: Mr. D. M. Neaves.

At District Office we see Chief Inspector D. W. Nash with





Our Newtown depot safe drivers who received their awards from Chief Inspector R. J. Thoroughgood

Oak Leaf Bar to Ten-Year Medal: Mr. N. W. Lewis.
Bar to Five-Year Medal: Messrs. E. Barrow, E. J. Brierley, A. E. Chandler, T. H. Ellis, W. Ellis, I. Jones, J. M. Jones, L. S. Lovell, N. C. M. Mason, W. E. Phillips (*retired*) and R. Revill.

Five-Year Medal: Mr. J. R. F. T. Owen.

Diploma: Messrs. K. Bailey, H. M. Cartwright, R. A. Conde, R. Entwistle, W. V. Evans, W. E. George, H. Higgins, A. Jones, I. G. L. Jones, J. C. Jones, T. H. Jones, B. E. Morris, J. J. Pritchard, R. T. S. Pugh, D. R. Richards, G. Roberts, H. Rogerson, J. B. Smith, R. G. Thomas, G. V. Wilkinson, H. J. Williams and J. R. Williams.

Exemption Certificate: Messrs. D. Ashton, W. T. Astley, W. H. Blackwell, J. N. Butler, J. A. Matthews, S. Kinda and D. W. Morgan.

NEWTOWN & WELSHPOOL

Star Bar to 20-Year Brooch: Mr. C. C. Lewis.

Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Mr. G. H. Davies.

15-Year Brooch: Mr. C. W. Parry.

Oak Leaf Bar to Ten-Year Medal: Mr. E. O. Woosnam.

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Messrs. J. W. H. Davies, G. M. Joseph, J. R. K. Morris and T. A. Owen.

Diploma: Messrs. J. E. Evans, W. R. Evans, D. E. Gittins, W. S. Holloway, R. G. Jehu, D. L. Jones, D. T. Jones, J. E. Joseph and H. E. Morris.

WHITCHURCH

Star Bar to 20-Year Brooch: Mr. H. J. Huxley.

20-Year Brooch: Mr. R. A. Boyling.

Oak Leaf Bar to Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. H. E. Large, J. H. Leach and L. Purcell.

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Messrs. E. Field, F. D. Jones and C. H. Taylor.

Diploma: Messrs. L. J. Brookfield, P. C. Butler, T. B. Edge and E. Wainwright.

Exemption Certificates: Messrs. D. A. Bolas, W. D. Day, J. A. T. Edge and B. E. Johnson.

Nash with some of the drivers who received awards.



News from Aberystwyth

from correspondent

Maldwyn Evans

SPORTING SUCCESS

A spectacular performance of taking four first prizes in one week was achieved recently by golfer Dilys P. Jones, our shop supervisor at Towyn.

This great sporting success occurred during Aberdovey Golf Club's Ladies Week Championships when Dilys won The Talgarth Cup (*best nett-open*) and the Brodie Silver Medal (*best gross-bronze division*).

She also collected the Charity Medal (*after a nett 70 round*) and the Charity Stapleford (38 points). The 'Charity' concerned with these two prizes was Cancer Relief.

With a handicap now at 19, Dilys is a past Ladies Captain of the Aberdovey Golf Club and had a double triumph in 1975 when she won the Talgarth Cup and the Brodie Silver Medal.

Readers may remember that in last months' 'Contact' Shirley Robinson, another keen golfer suggested that our MANWEB



Golf Champ Dilys Jones

Golfing Society should form a Women's Section. No doubt Dilys has added strength to the case! (*I found my spoon!!...Ed.*)

MR. and MRS.

Our congratulations go to Mr. Geoffrey Thomson, who works as a 3rd assistant engineer in the Installation section, and Miss Marion Hughes, a clerk in the District records section, on the occasion of their wedding a few weeks ago.

The ceremony took place at St. Asaph Parish Church.

Geoff joined the Board as a craft apprentice at Hoylake in 1967. Twelve months later he transferred to student appren-



Mr. & Mrs. Thomson

ticeship and studied at the Birkenhead and St. Helens Technical Colleges. In 1973 he went to work in our Clwyd District and it was there he met Marion.

However, he was soon off on his travels again, this time to Head Office and then to Oswestry and on to Aberystwyth.

In the meantime, Marion stayed on at Clwyd. She became engaged to Geoff in September 1975, and they have now married almost two years to the day.

A few months ago, Marion managed to get a transfer to Aberystwyth District. Before

leaving Clwyd however, her friends there subscribed to present her with a food mixer which, no doubt will have come in very handy!



David Burgess

TOP CATCH

Dinas Lake was the Venue for the Electricity Supply Industry's inaugural Closed Trout Fishing competition a short time ago.

Among the 67 fishermen who entered the event were a number of men from MANWEB.

Our best man was David Burgess, a meter reader from Aberystwyth, who, after landing the largest number of fish, landed one of the major trophies in the competition.

David managed to catch eleven Rainbow trout weighing 10lb 3oz 8 drammes to win his prize. His reward was a choice of angling equipment to the value of £10. He selected a spinning reel.

The lake is an integral part of the Rheidol hydro-electric scheme and was stocked with 13,500 trout at the start of the season.

The huge fish tanks at Rheidol, where the trout are bred, provide a point of interest to the many visitors to the power station.

Try Irene's Special Christmas Cake

OUR very active and helpful sales demonstrator at Aberystwyth District is Mrs. Irene Morris. Born and bred in Aber., this is her second stint with the Board, having been the District demonstrator prior to her marriage in 1958.

After bringing up three daughters, Irene came back to us four years ago.

Her husband Ellis, our former shop supervisor at Aberystwyth, now works for the CEGB. Their daughters — Helen, is now on a nursing course in London, Janet, following in Mum's footsteps and studying for her OND in Food Technology at Cardiff, and Catharine, is still at school.

Recently we asked Irene to give us her favourite recipe for a Christmas cake. She told us that the one she prefers is not too rich and, in these days of high costs, is inexpensive to make.

"I use the same cake recipe for other special occasions such as weddings," she said "I am often rewarded with the remark, "Oh! what a lovely cake".

Irene suggests that in order to save time to do other things nearer Christmas, the cake should be baked by mid-November. However, if this is not possible, then don't worry for you can still make it up to a couple of



Irene Morris

weeks before as it does not require a long time to 'mature'.

So here is Irene's special.

Ingredients:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ lb butter or margarine
- $\frac{1}{2}$ lb caster sugar
- 5 eggs
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon almond essence
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla essence
- $\frac{3}{4}$ lb plain flour
- One level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- Two teaspoons mixed spice
- Two lbs mixed dried fruit
- $\frac{1}{2}$ lb glace cherries
- Two tablespoons sherry
- Little milk if necessary.

LEAVING ABER.— for a good reason!

Nearly ten years to the day since she joined our industry saw Jennifer Galbraith leave us for the best of reasons—to start a family!

However, the other half of the Galbraith team, Alan, is still with us working in the District's Consumer accounts section.

Jennifer, during her time at Mill Street has worked as a clerk with Commercial, General Services, Bonus Section, Accounts

Method:

Grease and line eight to nine inch tin.

Weigh all the ingredients. Sieve the flour, salt, mixed spice and bicarbonate of soda together. Prepare the dried fruit and cut glace cherries. Put the butter and sugar into a large basin and beat together until thoroughly blended. Add and beat in the almond and vanilla essence.

Beat in each egg separately with a little sieved flour, etc., to prevent mixture curdling. Fold in the mixed fruit, glace cherries and the remaining flour mixture, gently and thoroughly until well mixed. Finally, stir in the sherry.

The mixture should be of a soft consistency which drops off the spoon. If necessary, add a little milk.

Turn the cake into the prepared tin and bake on the shelf below the centre of a preheated oven at 275°—300°F, reducing the temperature by 25°—50°F after the first two hours. The length of time required for baking depends on the size and depth of the cake.

If the quantities given are baked in one large tin, allow approximately 3½ to 4 hours.

Remove the cake from the oven and leave to cool slightly before turning out on to a wire rack to cool completely. Then wrap the cake in foil. Seal tightly and store until needed for icing.

and finally Administration.

The couple first met when they both worked in the same office and, as romance blossomed, they married in 1972.

On behalf of their many friends, Mr. J. O. Hughes (Admin asst.) presented Jennifer with a pressure cooker and a bumper bundle of household goods.

Jennifer will be missed as a colleague at work and for her activity on the Sports and Social Club—especially on the Social Sub-committee.

Deputy Chairman Praises Long Service Staff



40-Year men Messrs. Arthur Taylor and Jack Casson from North Wirral District being congratulated by Mr. Ben Hastings. Completing the picture, from left to right, are, Liverpool District staff Messrs. Eric Webb, Harry Kaye and Sid Floyd.

NEVER have any doubts about how high you stand in the public's esteem", commented Mr. Ben Hastings (*Deputy Chairman*) on the occasion when he presented Long Service Certificates to members of our North Mersey, Liverpool and North Wirral District staff recently.

He said that like any other large organisation we received criticism—"but don't always believe the stories you read in the press" he advised. Mr. Hastings went on to say that in real emergencies our customers show their true feelings towards the Board for the work carried out by its staff.

He informed his audience that when he first joined the Board he decided to find out what people thought about MANWEB without making it known that he worked for us. "I was agreeably surprised and pleased at what I found out," he said.

He expressed the Board's sincere appreciation for the long and loyal service given by so many members of the staff who make up MANWEB.

Speaking of the staff who had completed their 40 years' service he commented that they had worked through some exciting times.

"But such times are not finished," he went on. "Those starting on the second half of their 40 years will have many more exciting times to come."

He prophesied a future with everyone living in all-electric homes and electric vehicles to take us on our journeys. He spoke of the electrical revolution which was already on its way.

"We have plenty to look forward to, making it well worth while to continue our work in this great industry. A good foundation has been established," he concluded, "and I hope you all enjoy your careers in MANWEB and will go on enjoying your work and giving good service to our customers."

The meeting was conducted by Mr. Sid Fairclough (*Group Manager*) who expressed the thanks felt

by everyone to Mr. Hastings for taking time out of his busy schedule to make the presentations.

The awards were as follows:

NORTH MERSEY DISTRICT

40 Years: Mr. Peter Moore.

30 Years: Miss Doris Hamer, Messrs. John Browne, Kenneth Crabtree, Harold Hayes, James A. Kelly, John J. Kenney, William E. Lowans, William J. Owen, Robert Powell (*retired*), Thomas J. Shaw, Campbell S. Shimmin and William J. L. Taunton.

20 Years: Mrs. Sheila T. Pimblett, Messrs. William E. Bennett, George Canavan, Joseph Ellison, Douglas A. Grice, James Johnson, Charles C. B. Latham, James W. Lennon, Ronald D. Mellor, Arnold Ormerod (*retired*), John Rigby, John A. Robinson and Ronald Woodward.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT

40 Years: Messrs. Sidney A. Costin (*retired*), Ernest Hare, Joseph N. Holden, Sydney Floyd, Harry M. Kaye and Eric J. Webb.

30 Years: Messrs. David G. Chalmers, John Fitzpatrick, Robert Frost, Thomas Lindsay, Robert E. Lucas, Roy F. Rutherford, Abraham Slater, Douglas H. Smith and Edward G. Whittaker.

20 Years: Miss Nancy Draper and Miss Maretta Mouncey. Messrs. Roy M. Atkinson, Leslie C. Birmingham, Francis Bradshaw, Norman Cain, Henry J. Clements, James S. Downes, Alan Gratton, William J. Glover, Roland Hanson, John R. Jones, (*retired*), Edwards M. Lloyd, Ronald O'Grady, Arthur J. Petch, Thomas Smith, David Stockley and William J. Vance.

NORTH WIRRAL DISTRICT

40 Years: Messrs. Geoffrey Ashley, John W. A. Casson, John E. Foster, Arthur T. Taylor and Douglas J. Wilmott.

Group Manager Sid Fairclough, *left*, with North Mersey District 30-year men, *from left to right*: Messrs. Cam Shimmin, Ken Crabtree, Jim Kelly, Jackie Browne and Harold Hayes.



30 Years: Messrs. Albert H. Armstrong, John Blackburn, George A. Hodgson, Edward Hough, Ronald G. Jackson, Douglas A. Lawson, Harry P. Litherland, Thomas W. Mason, William A. Perry, Douglas H. Robertson, Frank Walker and George W. Willan.

20 Years: Mrs. Elizabeth J. Olivares. Messrs. Herbert D. Boyce, Edward Charnock, Colin Hough, Norman J.V. Richards, Kenneth Taylor, Eric Upton, Charles P. Wearing and Geoffrey F. Warwick.



Some of the Liverpool District 30-year staff, *from left to right*: Messrs. Bob Lucas, Sid Fairclough (*Group Manager*), Dave Chalmers, John Fitzpatrick, Ted Whittaker and Peter Falcon (*District Administrative Officer*).



We apologise for some of these 'half pictures,' but our cameraman had trouble with his shutter!

Men from North Wirral District, *from left to right*: Messrs. George Hodgson, Alan Lawson, Teddy Hough, George Willan and Albert Armstrong being congratulated on their 30 years' service by Messrs. Sid Fairclough (*Group Manager*) and Ron Morley (*District Engineer*).

Just a few of our 20-year staff from North Mersey, Liverpool and North Wirral Districts, who attended the ceremony. *From left to right, seated*: Miss Mareta Mouncey, Miss Nancy Draper and Mrs. Jean Olivares. *Standing*: Messrs. Jim Lennon, Jim Downes, John Robinson, Martin Lloyd, Charles Lathom, Dave Stockley, Arthur Petch, Phil Wearing, Ted Charnock, Eric Upton and George Warwick.





The world's No. 2 dart player, Leighton Rees, with the MANWEB Chester No. 1 'Shovels and Ladders' after win at the Sealand Road Darts Tournament. *Left to right: Bill Griffiths, Leighton Rees, Peter Jones, Pam Smith, Brian Dodd (capt.) and Albert Cooper.*



Ladies Individual Champion Ann Pearson is congratulated by Leighton Rees

Crane Street are Double Tops

Two teams from Crane Street lifted the first two places in the Annual Darts Competition held at Head Office recently.

Leighton Rees the Worlds No. 2 darts player and holder of a string of national and international titles demonstrated his fantastic accuracy beating his

twelve MANWEB challengers in a 1001-up. He had the dart-playing audience gasping as he repeatedly scored the maximum 180 with three darts.

The competition proper started with 32 teams with fanciful names such as Bu!! Hits, Bionic Bowmen, Flighty Females and U.F.O. But when the arrows



Above left: Dave Griffin, the Individual Men's Champion, receives a trophy and congratulations from the master, Leighton Rees. 'The Phantom Flyers,' above right, runners-up in the team competition to their colleagues from Crane Street. Left to right: Peter Frost, Paul Thelwell, Dave Hewson, Dave and Lynne Spencer.

Below left: the referees, Eifion Jenkins, Hugh Farrow and Gren Roberts. Below right: Top scorer in the team contest Gordon Phillips, gets a handshake from international champion Leighton Rees.





Sue Hamson plays a friendly game with Leighton Rees. Sue threw the highest score in the team competition for a lady contestant and repeated her success in the highest score for three darts in a separate ladies contest.

Receiving their awards from the big man of darts, Leighton Rees, joint winner of the highest score in three darts competition, Peter Barron, *top*, Ladies Individual runner-up Irene Graham, *centre*, and Men's runner-up in the Individual championship, Chris Oxtoby, *below*.



had been thrown it was the teams from Crane Street that played off in the contest final.

It was the 'Shovels and Ladders' who beat their colleagues the 'Phantom Flyers', to win the title.

In the individual competition the winner of the Men's Contest was Dave Griffin from Computers with Display's Chris Oxtoby the beaten finalist. In the Ladies Contest it was Mrs. Ann Pearson of Secretarial, who took the title from Mrs. Irene Graham from Revenue.

Keeping darts in the family Ann's sister Mrs. Sue Hamson was the double topscore champ. She hit the highest score for a lady in the team contest, and

in a separate three darts only competition she picked out the top score again.

Gordon Phillips, Head Office Chauffeur, was top scorer, in the team competition for men, and Secretarial's Peter Barron shared the honours with Crane Street's Bill Griffiths for the highest with three darts.

Prizes were presented by the big man of darts Leighton Rees, who proved very popular with the competitors playing informal games during lulls in the contest.

Another good event organised by the Chester Sports and Social Club, and a tribute to the organising trio Gren Roberts, Eifion Jenkins and Hugh Farrow.



Just some of the challengers who tried to beat Leighton Rees in a 1001 up. Bill Griffiths standing on Leighton's left came nearest to embarrassing the big man. Other challengers *from the left* were Jeff Baker, Brian Dood, Leighton and Bill, Harry Beech, a supporter, Peter Jones, Adrian Hendry, George Hogarth, Nigel Crossley, Brian Sheppard and Bill Rogers.



Former Area Commercial Officer, Bill Wallwork and his wife Margaret are now half-way around the world in their Mercedes Benz, motorised caravan 'Vandewal.' Below we have extracted some of the highlights of their tour of . . .

India and Nepal

Leaving Kashmir behind and heading for Delhi our route to Simla took us to Bilaspur, a convenient staging post, and that day was the festival of Diwali, devoted to the goddess of prosperity—Lakshmi. The town was like a fairyland with thousands of oil lamps, candles and electric light in and around all the houses and public buildings. Fireworks are set off by the hundred, almost all of them entailing a loud bang and these continued until day-break.

What a surprise our first view of Simla gave us. Most of the town is built on the side of a ridge to which it seems to cling rather precariously. Walking about is an exhausting business, as one must ascend, and most of the ascending is by long stone or wooden staircases.

Due south again to Dehra Dun, and no lack of interest on the way. From Solon, instead of the road following the length of valleys, it crosses a series of them and in two places traverses a sort of razor edge with a steep drop on either side. Shades of 'Striding Edge,' but a bit wider. On through the Indian capital of Delhi and out to Agra, the location of the Taj Mahal.

Our first view of the Taj Mahal was by the light of an almost full moon. Seen from the main gateway, with the marble supporting platform in partial shadow, it appeared to be floating in space. Ethereal and breathtaking are two perfectly correct words to use in describing the effect on us. We looked and looked and two hours later we were still looking at this perfectly proportioned white marble building, seemingly floating and shining before us. Back the next morning to see it in sunlight, it is just as beautiful, but different.

In day-light there is the added effect of the long canal and rows of Cypress trees, leading the eye from the main gateway to the tomb. In addition it is possible to appreciate it better, the exquisite

craftsmanship of the inlays of the semi-precious stones and of the carving. Each piece of inlay is cut and ground to the exact shape of the bed, cut in the marble to receive it. We could not discern the joints. The two upper tombs, the replicas—the real ones, are down in the vault—are surrounded by a carved screen, each section being carved from the solid slab of marble in a most intricate design. Again the workmanship is outstanding. The Taj Mahal came up to every expectation we had formed and added a little more.

Back then to Delhi, it is perhaps fair to say that Delhi brings us to the end of the first major part of the trip. Now for the Himalayas again, both in India and Nepal.

The Corbett National Park—named after a British hunter and naturalist—is the biggest game park in India, in the foothills of the Himalayas. We saw sambahar, spotted deer, hog deer, peacocks and monkeys but no tiger. We talked to the warden and he advised us to spend the next afternoon in one or more of the observation towers, accompanied by a guide.

So was planned our big day—the day we nearly saw the tiger. On our way to the first of the observation posts, our guide picked up recent tracks of tiger, panther and bear. Instead of going to the observation tower, we decided to follow the tiger tracks, which we did for about 3 miles. We arrived at a spot where a narrow road crossed a slightly wider one we were following, the guide motioned us to sit down a few yards along the road. All around was thick scrub and grass to a height of about seven feet.

Half an hour, an hour, two hours passed. Suddenly, there was an urgent hoarse whisper from the guide, "Tiger, Tiger". We scrambled to our feet as quickly as we could, ran a few yards to the cross roads, and saw a cloud of dust just down the main track. The tiger had crossed it obliquely from our side to the other and had disappeared into the scrub. He must have passed within a few feet from where we were sitting. We saw his fresh tracks and the fresh droppings, we heard his call, but although we stayed another hour nary a glimpse did we get of that darn tiger.

Colour and Beauty

Travelling on through Lucknow to Naugarh, the border post with Nepal. In Nepal as in India, the lower Himalayan valleys are beautiful, though perhaps even more colourful as the prevailing colour of the soil and hillsides is a bright reddish brown.

The Pokhara Valley was wide and flat and not at its best due to the low cloud ceiling.

The first two days in Pokhara were a mite frustrating as the low cloud persisted, there was

little sun and the mountains were completely hidden. Even the justly celebrated Phewa Lake was dull and colourless. On the third morning we set the alarm for 7.30 just in case the mountains were visible—and they were. I was dressed in a flash and out to the vantage point to get the pictures before the clouds descended again. The Annapurna range is magnificent—seven peaks over 23,000 ft. high and Annapurna itself 26,500 ft. The Phewa Lake looked entirely different in the sunshine.

On then to Katmandu and a chance to explore the towns and villages around that city. Christmas Day in Katmandu was certainly the most unusual and perhaps the most thought provoking we have spent.

We went to a Christmas Service at a Nepalese church, in a forest clearing on the outskirts of Katmandu. Carpet had been laid on the grass and the congregation, after removing shoes sat on the carpet, men on the right and women on the left.

The service opened with the Hymn 'O Come All Ye Faithful' in which English speaking people were invited to join in in English. From the conclusion of the hymn the Nepalese pastor was very much the centre figure of the service.

Seldom have we seen such faith, such sincerity and such joy on human faces. The Christian Church in Nepal is under persecution and pastors face 7 years and members of the congregation 3 years possible imprisonment simply for being Christians. At baptism, a Nepalese must promise to accept if need be, 3 years in prison. Several of the congregation had been in prison for their beliefs.

As soon as the service was over the carpets were taken up and relaid in front of a large field kitchen about 50 yards away. The congregation was quickly reseated on the carpet and within half an hour all 550 were eating a first class Nepalese lunch of rice, pork and goat curry, spiced vegetables and chutney and finishing with a lovely local sweet

made from sugar and honey and fried in oil. The marvellous finishing touch was—a cup of tea. I almost forgot to mention that the meal was served on a large leaf of the Pipal tree which would be easily disposed of by the cow population at a later stage.

Close to Everest

We had reserved seats on an Everest flight for the day after Boxing Day. We were luckier than we realised in being allocated to a small twin prop plane instead of the usual jet. On account of its slower speed it was able to get higher up the valleys and hence nearer to the mountains.

The day was perfect, crystal clear, with not a cloud to be seen. As the plane neared the Everest massif, the excitement of all of us grew until eventually the peak itself was pointed out to us with its plume of snow blowing from the top when all of us on the plane became as excited as a bunch of kids and cameras were clicking away all around the plane. The law of cussedness decreed that I had to change a film in the midst of all the excitement. Our pilot got us within a few miles of Everest, Nuptse, Lhotse, Cho-Oyu, Kanchenjunga and many others less well known. From this proximity and from a height of around 20,000 ft. the view of these mountains can only be described in terms of superlatives such as stupendous, breathtaking, as well as being overwhelmingly exciting. The Nepal Airways leaflet expresses the hope that the Everest flight will be one of the highlights of one's trip to Nepal. In our case their hope was fulfilled.

* * *

Back over the frontier into India the Wallworks visited the beautiful city of Darjeeling then went on to the teeming masses in Calcutta and through to Madras and down towards the south of India.

Buying ■ Selling ■ Exchanging

Many thousands of copies of this magazine find their way into the hands of your colleagues throughout the MANWEB area—and on occasions, much further afield.

Our "Exchange and Mart" service is available to all Board employees, past and present . . . and it is free!

Whether you want to buy, sell or swap, just jot down your advertisement on a piece of paper, block letters please and keep it brief. Add your own name and home address, and home telephone number if you have one, and post it to

The Editor, "Contact," MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR. We are sorry, but we cannot provide a box number service.

We will try to ensure that your advertisement will appear in the first available issue, but, we cannot accept liability for any inaccuracies or omissions, and we do not guarantee the goods or services offered. The Editor reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.

If you want your ad. repeated, a request to this effect should be made to The Editor.



Chief Engineer Mr. Frank Brown, *centre left*, has a parting handshake for his friend and colleague Mr. Maurice Garrett after handing over farewell gifts from colleagues at Head Office.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. M. A. GARRETT

At a farewell ceremony held at Head Office recently staff gathered to say their goodbyes to Mr. Maurice Garrett, who should have retired a year ago but, because of his extensive knowledge of switchgear and other heavy electrical engineering equipment, had stayed on with the Board in a non-executive capacity to advise and help the engineering staff.

Mr. Garrett began his career in the electricity supply industry nearly 50 years ago. In the years preceding and during the last war he held a number of posts with Ferguson Palin Limited.

In 1948 he joined MANWEB as an assistant purchasing officer, a few years later becoming the Assistant Chief Engineer responsible for construction. In 1969 he moved over to Plant Supplies and for the last twelve months has been the Board's Plant Advisor.

Paying tribute to his service to the industry, Mr. Frank Brown (*Chief Engineer*) went on to say that for him the farewell was a sad occasion for he was losing a good friend and helper. He spoke of Mr. Garrett's many attributes making the point that we did not have so many 'experts' around us these days.

"He always had constructive criticism to make on manufacturers' new products," he said, "and was always ready to suggest ways in which equipment could be made safer and its performance improved."

Mr. Brown concluded his remarks by extending the good wishes for a happy retirement to Mr. Garrett from his many friends in the industry.

Farewell gifts included a carriage clock and some gardening equipment.

MID-CHESHIRE QUARTET

Four colleagues from Mid-Cheshire District retired during the past few weeks, with the best wishes of their friends for the future.

They were Mr. Ellis Bebbington, chargehand linesman at Crewe (27 year's service); Mr. Frank Cross, a driver at Northwich, who retired on health grounds after 23 years' service; Mr. Reg Howman, a driver at Northwich (26 years' service), and Mr. Jan Turzanski, a labourer at Crewe, with 12 years' service.

Mr. S. JONES

One of our regular and popular contributors to 'Contact' with his scraperboard drawings has recently retired due to ill health. He is Mr. Stanley Jones, an assistant storekeeper at our Legacy depot since 1949. A man with a very quiet nature, Stan now hopes to devote a little more time to his hobby of painting and drawing.

He wishes us to thank all his colleagues in the Dee Valley District who subscribed to a farewell gift which was presented to him at his home by Messrs. Tony Shell (*District Administrative Officer*) and Keith Griffiths (*principal assistant-Admin*)

(Along with your many friends Stan, we wish you improved health and hope that you will not forget 'Contact' and send us a drawing or two from time to time.—*Editor*)

Mr. V. HARRISON

Starting out on one career and then changing his mind to become an electrician over 40 years ago, proved to be a good move for Mr. Victor Harrison who recently retired from his job as energy sales representative in our North Mersey District.

After completing his apprenticeship, Vic served in the Royal Artillery during the last war.

One of his early jobs with MANWEB was on the



Commercial staff in our North Mersey District look on as their colleague Mr. Vic Harrison, centre right, receives their parting gift from Mr. John Walker.

wiring of the Speke housing estate. During those days Vic drove a battery-operated vehicle capable of speeds up to five miles an hour! This was when he got the nickname "The Whizzer"!!

At a farewell ceremony at District Office, Mr. John Walker (*Energy Sales Engineer*) presented Vic with a parting gift from his many friends.

In retirement, we have no doubt that Vic will have plenty to do with his free time as his main hobbies are making model steam engines and car mechanics.

Mr. GEORGE DAVIES

After 26 years' service to the industry, Mr. George E. Davies, storekeeper at Newtown, retired recently.

George started with the Welshpool construction department in 1951, and for the greater part of his time with construction was engaged in assisting in the work involved in the Rural Development Programme, surveying and pegging out for overhead lines. In 1955 he transferred to the mains department, where he worked until being appointed storekeeper in 1967, later transferring first to Oswestry and then to Newtown.

On behalf of his colleagues he was presented with a vacuum cleaner by Mr. Arthur Ellinson (*District Administrative Officer*) while Mrs. Davies received a bouquet of flowers from Mrs. W.V. Lewis. Their many friends wish them a long and happy retirement.

It was a trip into the office recently for Mr. George Davies of Newtown on the occasion of his retirement. Our picture shows him, centre, accepting a farewell gift from his friends, handed over by Mr. Aurthur Willinson. Mrs. Davies received a bouquet of flowers.



PRIZE CROSSWORD

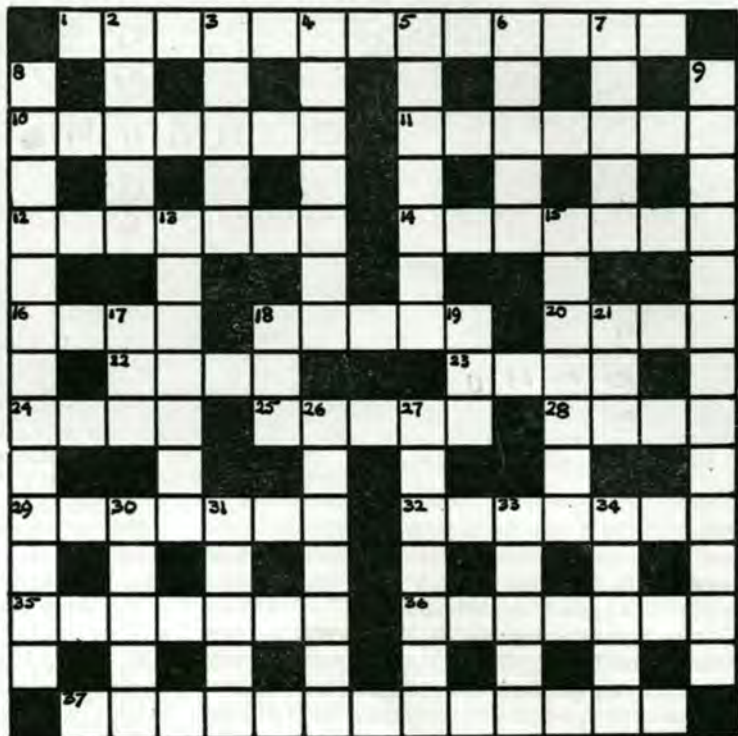
Thanks to North Mersey District System Engineer, **Mr. Cam Shimmin** for providing this puzzle as an 'appetiser' for our usual bumper Christmas crossword to follow.

Prizes of £2 each will go to the senders of the first three all-correct solutions opened on November 7th. Entries to *The Editor, MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester.*

Competition open to all MANWEB employees, pensioners and their families, but remember, only one entry per person.

Clues Across

- 1 Chalk it up! It's a conversion (13)
 10 A face-lift might this your appearance (7)
 11 An abstainer is in after a graduate. Softly, John (7)
 12 Excellent! Change a school monitor (7)
 14 Secret container in a lily (7)
 16 Sort of 5 (4)
 18 Might be rough but refreshing (5)
 20 Dean Farrar's little boy (4)
 22 Medley mixture (4)
 23 Render therefore, . . . Caesar the things which are Caesar's" (Matthew) (4)
 24 A spike kindled by Spenser (4)
 25 Intensely dislike offensiveness (5)
 28 Ancient light (4)
 29 "Dog and Duck"? Could be (3,4)
 32 Abraham's kin (7)



- 35 You might need eyes at the back of your head to examine this even with reflection (7)
 36 You couldn't over-water this flower (7)
 37 The Rugby team might need to hire these. They might look like this after the match! (6,7)
 too! (7)
 6 The subject is a supreme one hundred (5)
 7 Alternatively 17. Up in the sky (5)
 8 Nothing off the peg (7,6)
 9 O race to cram it (anag). (Before the oil runs out!) (6,7)

Clues Down

- 2 A seaman exclaims "Right!" I detest it (5)
 3 Is able to round a point in this craft (5)
 4 Mighty quick adverb (7)
 5 Greyhound member of the Brassica family. Ellams early
 13 Top up and in France a point has no bones (7)
 15 A punter helper (7)
 17 It could be positively minute with nothing in it (3)
 18 The Colonel's got nothing but baby talk (3)
 19 Fashionable in the Marines (and only in the Navy) (3)
 21 Reprocessed ore becomes edible (3)
 26 The Spanish Nobleman has a meal. 500 contributed (7)
 27 Have a screw loose to remove this bit of door furniture (7)
 30 Iridescent polar area (5)
 31 You don't connect your Hi-Fi speakers here (5)
 33 Hits supports (5)
 34 Help! It's here (5)

Obituary

We deeply regret to record the deaths of the following colleagues:

Mr. Albert Williams, shop supervisor at Southport shop, after a short illness at the age of 63.

To his colleagues in North Mersey District, who will miss him sadly, it seemed that Southport shop had always been run by Albert, from its beginning as a small corner shop to its present successful premises in Lord Street. Starting as a sales clerk with the former Southport Corporation he had a wealth of exper-

ence packed into his 48 years service, and was a conscientious and efficient supervisor, very popular among his colleagues.

Mr. George Wands, aged 48, of St. Helens, a former driver who retired on health grounds in 1970. Mr. Wands, who had served with the Board since 1964, was based at St. Helens depot.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of our colleagues.