



Beating the "Muggers"

IN AN AGE when violence—especially with robbery in mind—is becoming increasingly common, the danger of criminal injuries being sustained by MANWEB employees is at present under active consideration by Local Advisory Committees throughout the Board.

Most at risk are those engaged in handling and collecting cash—especially in inner-city areas, where "muggings" are now everyday occurrences. MANWEB, as a good employer, has always been anxious to make sure that staff have the best possible protection. In Central Liverpool, for instance, meter collectors carry personal UHF radios, which keep them in constant contact with the cash-collection/control van—which is itself in permanent radio contact with District Office.

"These radios," said executive officer Frank Threadgold, "have proved to be a godsend, improving the efficiency of the

job, by ensuring that the van is always on hand to receive the cash collected and giving the collectors a great sense of security as they move from house to house."

Now, following discussions in the District Joint Advisory Council, the whole subject of criminal injuries has been referred to the LACs. Guidelines on Board policy have been provided to managerial staff, so that they can help LAC representatives in the present discussions and—if the worst came to the worst—help and advise anyone sustaining criminal injuries in the course of their work.

—and helping our staff

The guidelines cover the options open to any victim of an attack, including the question of seeking compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. They also deal with the protection afforded by the Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme, the provisions of the sick pay scheme, and the question of legal advice, either through trade union

channels or from the Board's legal section.

The Board's chief officers, at their August meeting, were anxious to assure staff that MANWEB "will behave as a good employer, both in taking preventative measures and in dealing sympathetically towards staff who are the victims of assault."

PROTECT YOURSELF
(See page 7)

FIT FOR A PRINCESS

ONE OF the many wedding gifts presented to the Prince and Princess of Wales was a fitted kitchen, with units supplied by the Landywood Cabinet Company Limited.

Recently, our Board's kitchen planning section has signed an agreement with *Studio K* to supply our customers with an exclusive range of kitchen furniture under the "Mamtor" label. All the items will be made and supplied by the Landywood Cabinet Company Limited.

Yes! It's the same firm!!



Air Lift to South Stack

(See page 2)

Queen of the Greens



Phyllis directs a "wood" past her championship trophy.
(Picture: South Lancs Newspapers)

AFTER casually taking up the game of bowls only four years ago, Phyllis Watkinson, a part-time assistant at our Prescot shop, became queen of the greens when she won the ladies' singles championship—and the £250 top prize—in the Wyre Bowls Festival, held recently at Fleetwood.

The magnificent winner's trophy, which stands two foot six inches high, was presented to Phyllis to keep for the next 12 months. "I have already grown so attached to it—my first major prize—that I will go all out to retain it next year," she told us.

Most of the cash prize, however, has gone on a gold bracelet for herself and presents for husband Derek and their three grown-up sons.

Phyllis, a 47-year-old grandmother, took up bowling when she played—for fun—in the inter-departmental competitions on the Thingwall Road Club greens. Derek, as secretary of the BICC Bowls Club, soon realised that she had a natural bowling ability, and he persuaded her to take the game seriously and put in lots of practice. This she did, and is now captain of the BICC Prescot Ladies' Bowling Section.

She seems to thrive on com-

petition and the roar from spectators. "At Fleetwood, there seemed to be thousands of people around the green and, as the adrenalin flowed, I loved every minute of it," she commented.

This very competitive event has certainly sharpened her taste for more encounters. She is looking forward to a trip to Blackpool, to take part in a ladies' national bowling competition on the famous Waterloo greens. Phyllis is one of the final 64 competitors from the original 812 entrants from all over the country.

Our very best wishes go with her for yet another great win!

LINDA'S LEAP

AN unusual and daring way to raise cash for charity involved 21-year-old Linda Stein from Aberystwyth in making a parachute jump.

Linda, a clerk at District Office for the past two years, said that she didn't have much time to think about being scared when she was pushed out of the Cessna aircraft at 2,500 feet.

"It was a terrific experience, floating down ever so gently when the chute opened," said Linda. "I had no sensation of falling until I was about 100 feet from the ground... then I knew I was coming down pretty fast."

New Appointment

Despite grazed elbows, resulting from landing slightly off course on the hard runway, her first comment was: "I can't wait to do it again!"

A local charity at Aberystwyth

New Appointment

The Board's second Customer Services Manager has now been appointed, with Des. Lock, former Management Services Officer, designated to take up the new post in our North Wirral District.

will reap benefit to the tune of about £90 of sponsorship money, raised mainly from her colleagues in MANWEB.

Now we hear that a number of our colleagues at Head Office are in training in preparation for a mass parachute descent in the near future.

Initially, Mr. Lock will assume the duties as District Administrative Officer, with Nick Williams returning to Head Office as Assistant Secretary for the Legal, Estates and Wayleaves section.

The full responsibilities as Customer Services Manager will be taken over on the retirement of George Bowers, the present District Commercial Engineer.

CONTACT

Comment . . .

by Board Chairman Ben Hastings

OCTOBER 1981 marks a watershed for MANWEB as far as communication between the Board, its management officers and staff of all grades and all skills is concerned.

Our house journal, 'CONTACT' (a name chosen by the staff themselves more than 30 years ago) changes from its familiar magazine format and now appears for the first time in modern newspaper style.

To an ever-increasing extent, the pattern of today's social and industrial life calls for the highest possible level of co-operation in every aspect of our work. The difficulties at present confronting MANWEB—the direct results of the nation's economic problems—make the establishment and maintenance of high levels of understanding a matter of even greater importance. We have enough problems already, without allowing misunderstanding and failure of communication to add to our burdens.

Your colleagues who have the job of producing our new newspaper are old hands at the business, well-known to many people throughout the Board. They will do all they can to ensure that the new 'CONTACT' is a house journal second to none.

The extent to which they succeed will depend on two main factors—the involvement and commitment of senior management and the interest and enthusiasm of colleagues in every corner of the MANWEB area.

On behalf of the Board, I can promise that the first of these requirements will be fulfilled. The second is a matter for every member of the staff—to take an active interest, to help to supply the news and views which alone can ensure that every issue of the new journal is received with pleasure and respect.

I ask you all to play your parts, and I wish the new 'CONTACT' every success.

Long Service

WE OFFER our congratulations to the following members of our staff who have completed—during the month of September—20, 30 or 40 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

40 YEARS

Liverpool District: Harold A. Craven, Thomas Larkin, T. Kenneth Littler and W. Gordon Littler. *Dee Valley District:* Donald Foulkes.

30 YEARS

North Mersey District: James A. Bell. *Liverpool District:* Andrew Campbell, Charles J. Lamb and Maurice E. Lock. *Mid-Mersey District:* Arthur Bent. *Dee Valley District:* Herbert A. Beech, Brian Crabtree and F. Trevor Edwards. *Mid-Cheshire District:* Rolla Ankers,

Michael Griffiths, Brian Johnson and Edward Haughton. *North Wirral District:* Francis K. Maddock. *Clwyd District:* Colin M. Edwards, Henry Hambley and Patrick J. Quinn. *Gwynedd District:* Frederick J. Keen and Emyr Rowlands. *Oswestry District:* Ronald J. Entwistle and F. Gwen Evans. *Aberystwyth District:* A. Jeffrey Bates, R. Meurig Howells and J. Merfyn Richards. *Head Office:* Maurice R. Grisenthwaite, Arthur Vidler and Noel Walley.

BAND SUCCESS

In face of stiff competition from eight other bands, the Llanrug and District Band came away from the Royal National Eisteddfod—held this year at Machynlleth—with a handsome silver cup.

As in so many other instances, MANWEB staff had a hand in this cultural triumph. Two Gwynedd colleagues—Merfyn Jones (*linesman*) and Gareth Hughes (*clerk, General Services*) played their parts in helping the Llanrug Band to success.

Pots and Paints

AT A recent, very successful exhibition held at Beaumaris, a selection of pottery made by Gwynedd District Engineer Russell Shaw won much praise from many of the visitors.

Sponsored by the Anglesey Art Group, the exhibition also featured three paintings by Russell's wife, Norah.

Both have previously put their pottery and paintings on show at the Anglesey Eisteddfod. Russell also exhibited his work at the National Eisteddfod when it was held at Bangor. Norah won a bronze medal and rose bowl for her paintings at other exhibitions.

LUCKY NUMBERS

For two years, a syndicate of our colleagues at Caernarfon depot used the same numbers on their football pools coupon—without success. This year, they decided it was time for a change—and chose some new numbers!

On the very first week of the new soccer season, the new system hit the jackpot—winning a payout of £2,800 to be shared between them.

Not enough to retire to a Caribbean island perhaps—but a very pleasant surprise for the lucky six.

They are Cyril Williams, Hugh Williams (*drivers*), Vaughan Williams, Dewi Salisbury, Alan Parry and Myrfyn Lloyd Jones (*linesmen*).

20 YEARS

North Mersey District: Raymond A. Rogers, John A. Walker and Charles A. Warbis. *Liverpool District:* David T. Harvey, Dennis Hughes, John M. McEvoy, Colin Oldfield and Reginald D. Owens. *Mid-Mersey District:* Alan Bate, Peter C. Tharme and David J. Tinsley. *Dee Valley District:* Philip F. Hughes, Robert McCluskey and Graham Thomas. *North Wirral District:* John G. Barker, Richard A. Hughes, Alan H. Jones, Arthur F. Potts and David Wood. *Mid-Cheshire District:* Kenneth Brassington. *Clwyd District:* David C. Davies. *Oswestry District:* Gareth M. Joseph, Ronald A. Revill and John V. Williams. *Aberystwyth District:* L. Allen Carr. *Head Office:* Gareth W. Owen.



South Stack's lighthouse.

AIR LIFT TO SOUTH STACK

REFURBISHING the electricity line and equipment, which take power to South Stack lighthouse on the Anglesey coast, set an interesting challenge to our Gwynedd District colleagues. Plans drawn up by Ivor Nottingham (*1st engineer, Anglesey*) and Captain E. V. Parry, West Coast Superintendent for the Trinity House lighthouse organisation, cracked the problem without a hitch.

South Stack is a small rocky island situated off the north-west tip of Anglesey. This perilous coastline is on the main shipping route to Holyhead and on the Liverpool approaches, and, to protect it, a Trinity House lighthouse is established on the island.

Early in the 1960s, MANWEB was called in to plan the erection of an 11,000-volt overhead line from the mainland to South Stack, to provide power to the light and associated electrical equipment. Anglesey District Engineer Russell Shaw and his team set to work to plan and construct a line terminating in a pole-type 40-kVA transformer.

The problem of getting all the gear—poles, ironwork and transformer—together with a compressor to drill holes into the rock (no blasting allowed, to avoid disturbing the bird colonies)—was solved by a joint exercise with Trinity House. It travelled by raft and launch from Holyhead harbour and was winched by hand up the rocky island cliffs.

This year, after many years

different ball-game.

"We no longer use the launch, and the winch is unserviceable. Everything goes by helicopter these days—but we'll do all we can to help!"

Ivor and the Captain put their heads together. Weights of individual pieces of gear were checked, and soon plans were laid to move items weighing up to 1,000 lb. each from Holyhead to the island by the Trinity House service "chopper".

"Lift-Day" arrived, and everything went off with clockwork precision. Well done, Gwynedd District!



The Trinity House helicopter carries the transformer to its site.

Staff engaged on the South Stack project. From left to right: Andrew Hughes (*YOP Scheme*), Percy Morris (*chargehand*), Alun Rowlands (*foreman*), Jim Evans (*chargehand*), Richard Thomas (*linesman*), William Owen (*driver*), John Ellis Pritchard and, kneeling, Griff Stephen (*linesman*). Our thanks to Peter Thomas for the excellent picture.—Ed.





Pictured before take-off, we see Geoff. Robinson and Alan Dalton, with first-time flyer Janis Newman and pilot Derek Weigh.

HIGH FLYERS FROM NORTH WIRRAL

"I EXPECTED to be terrified, but I wasn't, and I thoroughly enjoyed the trip," was the comment made by Janis Newman, from our North Wirral District, after her first flight in a small aircraft.

"We flew over my home at Wallasey, and I was able to recognise many landmarks," she went on. "New Brighton baths was filled to capacity and I was able

to see—from a very different angle—the 18th green at Hoylake, for the closing stages of the European Open Golf Championship."

Janis, who works as a clerk in the Disconnections section at Craven Street, was joined by Geoffrey Robinson and Alan Dalton, two electricians from the District, who have made a couple of trips before.

Their pilot, Derek Weigh, is

the assistant timekeeper at Craven Street. He often takes members of the North Wirral District Sports and Social Club on flights from Speke Airport in Liverpool.

Derek started his flying lessons about eight years ago, and qualified as a pilot two years later. He regularly hires a Cherokee Piper aircraft from Keen Air Services, a company run by Jim Keenan, who has a flying-school and an air-charter service at Speke and at Caernarfon.

Start on the right foot

WHEN our new intake of apprentices have settled into their new environment at the Hoylake Training Centre, they will receive a visit from the Totector Mobile Shop. They will have the opportunity to see and buy from the wide range of footwear on sale.

As with all MANWEB employees, there is a cash incentive for the youngsters to buy these shoes or boots to protect the feet. The Board have arranged good discounts on the whole range of Totector protective footwear, and they have selected seven styles—two of which are ladies'—for a special deal. These are being sold at less than half Totector retail price!

All Board employees are entitled to take advantage of the scheme, which entitles them to one pair of protective shoes or boots per year. They are made from good-quality leather, with steel toe-caps. There are some reasonably fashionable shoes on the list, so—before you put your foot in or under it—make sure the shoe you are wearing has some protection.

EASY RIDER

Assistant storekeeper at our Queensferry depot, John Paul Kulicke, has just completed a charity cash cycle-ride on an 80-mile round trip from the Leisure Centre at Queensferry to Conwy.

John made the long trip on his 12-gear BSA bike, and raised around £50 in sponsorship money for the Carol Shepherd Appeal for the Leukaemia Fighting Fund.



GWYNEDD GENIUS

We know we have plenty of crossword fans in the Board (the response to our CONTACT competitions proves that!), but the pinnacle of crossword-solving achievement for many enthusiasts is to win the mind-boggler which is published in *The Times*.

A long-standing interest in this hobby was crowned by success recently for Anglesey 1st engineer Ivor Nottingham, when his name appeared in *The Times* as winner—the first correct solution to be opened. Not just a smart engineer who can get electrical gear air-lifted to impossible places!

New Overall issue

ON a number of occasions recently, homes have been entered and attacks made on the occupants by people posing as MANWEB or Gas Board officials.

To help combat this crime, overalls now being purchased by the Board for issue to staff over the next few months will no longer carry the MANWEB logo.

The only form of identity a customer should accept is the official card carried by all staff who have reason for entering customer premises.

At a recent meeting of the Dee Valley District LAC, staff were reminded that, when obtaining replacement overalls from the Stores, MANWEB logos should also be handed in.



The new electric-powered vehicle at "The Post" offices.

Post by Electric

A SPECIALLY developed electric vehicle is now being used by Hernway Transport Limited, to distribute copies of the largest local daily newspaper circulating in our area, the "Liverpool Daily Post", to newsagents and wholesalers.

The vehicle is based on a Bedford CF van, and has been adapted to run on a bank of experimental Lucas traction batteries producing 216 volts.

With a maximum range of 60 miles and a top speed of over 50 miles an hour, it can carry up to one ton in weight. It is silent and pollution-free and—with petrol and diesel at today's prices—much more economical to run, by using "off-peak" electricity overnight to recharge the batteries.

Driving is very simple, with forward and reverse buttons and accelerator and brake pedals.

Paying bills through salaries

THERE is a possibility that staff who wish to do so will be able to pay their electricity bills by having equal monthly payments stopped from their salaries.

Board Secretary John Scudamore told the Head Office Local Advisory Committee that the computer programme for the payroll is being reviewed, and it may be possible to include a debiting system for staff's own electricity accounts. He asked the LAC members to canvass their constituents to see what interest there was in such a scheme.

One obvious advantage is that it would be one less bank charge for those already paying by banker's order. If you would like to pay your bill by easy monthly payments through your wages, make sure your LAC representative knows your wishes, and he will make sure through your local committee that the Board management know your view.

NO RECORD

After deliberating the suggestion that meetings of the Mid-Cheshire LAC should be recorded on tape should verification be required at a later date, it was decided that recording comments would tend to stifle true and open discussion.

The Electronic & Electrical Industries Benevolent Association

Supper Dance

Friday, 23rd October, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
in the Head Office Restaurant

Music for all tastes from "The Four Dees"
Grand Prize Draw Lounge Suits

Tickets £5—and table reservations—available from
Gren Roberts, Welfare Section, Head Office (Tel. 2142)

All dressed up with somewhere to go!



Friends of Sharon McGee, a clerk at our Mid-Mersey District Offices, gave her the traditional "dressing-up" treatment a few days prior to her wedding. We can now congratulate Sharon on her marriage to Steven Hall, a fitter-driver, at St. Mary's Church, Halton, on Saturday, 5th September. Our picture shows Sharon, suitably attired, with her friends, from left to right: Karen Clarke, Susan Blears, Carmel Treanor and Angela Farrar.



MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club present

The James Shepherd Versatile Brass

in Concert in Head Office Restaurant
on Wednesday, 28th October, at 8.00 p.m.

Tickets £1
available from Gren Roberts, Welfare (Phone 2142)

INSTALLATION & SERVICE

— is everybody's
business

by **DON HIGGS** (Installation & Service Manager)

PUTTING IT SIMPLY, our commercial policy requires that MANWEB staff:—

- * **Develop the wider and wiser use of electricity as economically as possible;**
- * **Transfer energy demand away from scarce oil and gas to electricity generated from plentiful supplies of coal and nuclear energy.**

In support of these objectives, we need to earn adequate profits from appliance sales, contracting and appliance repair work. Such profitable operations help to contain the price of electricity.

Britain's economy is depressed . . . inflation continues . . . and this puts pressure on profits. Inflation means that income from installation and service work must rise every year, and that efficiency must be constantly improved to raise enough gross profit to pay such overhead costs as salaries, transport, administrative and stores expenses, etc.

Last Year's Business

DURING 1980/81, our installation and service income amounted to £9,000,000—but we failed to achieve profitability. In fact, we lost £200,000! This year's target is £10,000,000—and we want to see the balance sheet in the black!

BIG CONTRACTS

WE have the expertise and equipment to tackle any kind of contracting or service job—no matter how big or how small!

For instance, jobs just finished or in progress include contracts at the new Hotpoint factory in Clwyd (£250,000), Rainhill Hospital (£200,000), Yorkshire Imperial Metals in North Mersey (£100,000) and Dinorwic Power Station (£500,000 a year for five years).

ELECTRICITY SALES NATIONWIDE

Every member of the staff knows how badly MANWEB was affected by the recession during 1980/81. Our sales of electricity fell by 9.2 per cent—the biggest fall experienced by any Electricity Board in England and Wales. The next hardest-hit was the South Wales Board, with an overall drop of 6.8 per cent.

By far the biggest factor in our reverse was a fall in our sales to industry of 15.6 per cent, due to factory closures and falling manufacturing out-

put. Second in this dismal league was the Midlands Board—which covers another heavily-industrialised area—with a drop of 10.5 per cent.

On the domestic front, on the other hand, we didn't fare too badly in comparison with our sister Boards. The MANWEB fall of 1.7 per cent was overshadowed by bigger reverses sustained by the London, Southern, South Western, Midlands, South Wales, Yorkshire, North Eastern and North Western Boards.

The contracting business is a competitive jungle. We have to fight hard for business, not only against reputable contractors but also against scores of one-man outfits.

Stagnant private development and cut-backs in public spending have reduced the amount of work available. We have to fight hard for every job, maintaining good contacts with local authorities, builders and industrialists. Real professionalism in management, marketing, contract law and other fields is vital if we are to survive.

Appliance Sales

A BROKEN-DOWN appliance is useless to the customer—and cuts down on electricity sales! Poor service on repairs makes the customer see red.

Last year we did 67,000 repair jobs (28,000 for cash, 12,000 under Manweb Care, 27,000 under guarantee).

The appliance repair business is extremely competitive. Our labour charges, for half an hour on site, compare like this with the competition:—

MANWEB	£15.70
Hoover	£15.05
Hotpoint	£17.05
Comet	£13.80
Currys	£15.50

Thanks

A moving letter from a widowed invalid lady, who lives in Kirkdale, Liverpool:—

"Just a few lines in thanksgiving for three of your staff. Last Friday I had been without hot water, owing to the immersion heater being broken. A kind neighbour told me to ring you, and the young lady and gentleman who took my call were so kind and considerate, I just could not believe it!

"In an hour they had sent a young man to repair the heater. Will you please convey my thanks to them. In this day and age you very rarely find the young so helpful to the aged. You must be very proud having such kind people working for you!"



"Every MANWEB employee can help to make installation and service a success. By being good ambassadors, by backing up their colleagues at the "sharp end", they can help to provide work and security—not only for the 500 people directly involved—but also for others engaged in supporting activities.

"As a nationalised industry, we will always be subject to criticism and expected to give public account of ourselves. The best response is to show that we are efficient and commercially profitable—in the face of no-holds-barred competition from private enterprise!"



In our Central Stores at Queensferry, where 3,000 different types of spare parts are carried, we picture, from left to right: Pat Kavanagh, Joyce Cummings, Peter Frost, Ray Hughes and Sue Morris.

Below, smiling service electrician Geoff Swindley stands by his van, which carries a comprehensive stock of around £600-worth of spare parts for domestic appliances sold by the Board.



should be completed on that visit! The rest should be cleared within 15 working days.

Service vans carry comprehensive stocks of spares, and there is an excellent replenishment service from our wide range of stocks at Queensferry stores.

All staff involved—work control clerks, telephonists and anyone else in contact with the customer—can help enormously. A courteous, helpful approach; skill in getting the facts—these are invaluable. All increase our efficiency and help decide

whether the customer will come back to us next time and recommend us to his friends!

The Manweb Care repair plan gives full protection for another six years after the normal guarantee expires. Around 23,000 agreements are in operation. Every year we sell tens of thousands of major appliances. There is vast scope for a big Manweb Care expansion—leading to lower prices for the customer. Shop staff and delivery crews have the best opportunities to boost this service, but others can help.

Clearly there is scope for improvement. Let us look for ways to improve efficiency and to cut administration costs. Transport costs are important—well-managed van stocks of spares can result in more jobs completed on the first call, cutting out further wasteful journeys and time loss.

Our spare parts stocking policy is guided by the following "life expectancy" of appliances (agreed between the Boards and the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances):—

Small appliances—5 to 8 years

Cleaners, direct space heaters, fridges, freezers, spin and tumble driers—9 years

Cookers, washing machines, water heaters—10 years

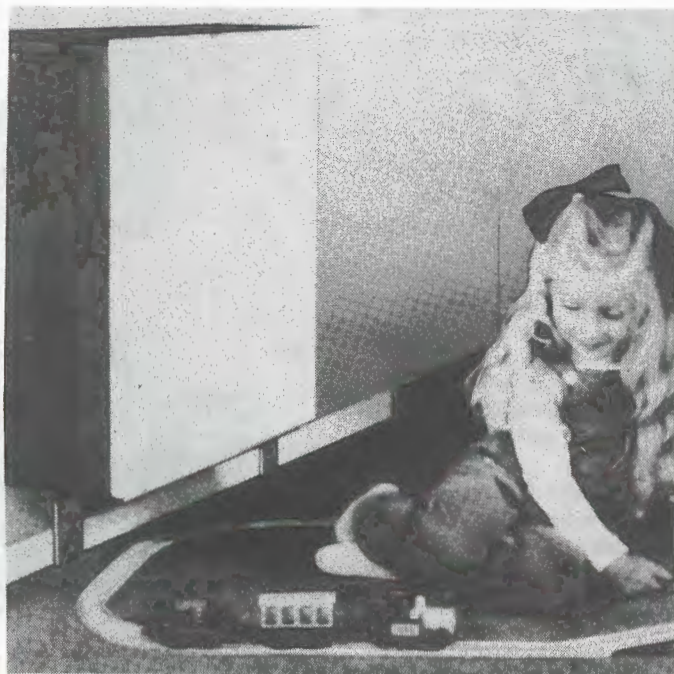
Storage radiators—15 years

Our National Code of Principles requires that a first visit should be made within three working days of receiving a request—and that four jobs out of five

ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT

STORAGE RADIATORS

Sales are on the up-and-up. 6,000 sold last year. Economy 7 (less than half-price) provides cheap energy. They are clean, reliable and need little maintenance.



SHOWERS

5,000 installed—excellent value at today's prices (£139, £169, £199). Electric showers are cheap to install and run—and get us clean at about two pence a time! Plenty of scope for installation inspectors, electricians and meter readers to stimulate new business.



RE-WIRING

About 1,250 jobs last year—each with a five-year guarantee! Around 400,000 houses in our area need attention—old, faulty wiring can cause fire. What a potential market! We have the expertise, the reliability, the credit facilities.



WHAT THE CUSTOMERS THINK

Customer opinion surveys on electrical wiring, appliance deliveries and appliance repairs will shortly be published in CONTACT. On the whole, results are encouraging, but there is still plenty of room for improvement. For every one of us, Customer Care must be a way of life, if we are to survive and achieve our objectives!

SHOWER-RING— or a "phoney" deal

SAFETY-CONSCIOUS commercial engineers are concerned over leaflets distributed to customers in some Board Districts, offering shower units for sale and installed well below MANWEB prices. Strangely, for such an apparently good deal, the installer remains rather shy—he fails to print his name or the name of his company on the leaflet, just giving a telephone number.

Installation and Service Manager Don Higgs says: "I am always concerned when our customers are tempted to buy cut-price electrical work. I wonder about the qualifications of the installer—is he sacrificing safety? Are there hidden extras? Is the job reliable? And will he still be around if something should go wrong?"

"I am doubly concerned over the shower offer, because extreme care must be taken where electricity and water are concerned."

A cheeky chappie circulating one leaflet appears to have pinched the wording from the MANWEB leaflet, with minor alterations, to sell his deal. He then lists the items in the MANWEB package—naming the

Board too—and offers what he claims is the same thing, £40 cheaper. But would you have faith in an anonymous telephone number when buying something which—if wrongly installed—

could put your family's life at risk?

MANWEB are members of the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contractors, to which reputable electrical contractors belong, and their certificate is a guarantee of safety and reliability. We advise our customers to use only such dealers who display the NICEIC symbol. Maybe our anonymous friend is a member, but, if so, why hide his light under a bushel of leaflets?

Work appreciated

From a lady in Woolton, Liverpool, to the Liverpool District:—

"On the 19th inst., two engineers came to install the shower. I would very much like to say what wonderful, clean, quick and polite men they were—and so capable. We are all apt to complain

at times, but it is not often we are ready to praise good workmen, so I thought that I would like to thank them and let them know that their work is appreciated—and their tidiness.

The good work was carried out by installation men Reg Owens and Bernie Evans.

THE BOARD AT WORK

WE ALL know that we work for MANWEB—and that the final letter "B" stands for the word "Board". Many employees whose daily work brings them into contact with the customers are only too well aware that—to the customer—they are the Board! From the point of view of good customer-care, there is a lot to be said for accepting this customer's eye-view.

To be precise, however, "The Board" consists of a small group of men and women, appointed directly by the Secretary of State, to run our affairs. When they gather together on the second Friday of every month, they are confronted with a wad of paper half an inch thick. This formidable dossier consists of an agenda and a range of supporting papers, sometimes including notes on topics of special importance submitted by the Chairman or one of the chief officers, but always including detailed reports of departmental work for comment or approval.

In an effort to explain the month-by-month work of the Board to our readers, we intend to publish regular summaries in 'CONTACT'. These reports will help to keep us informed of major tasks lying ahead, and also of the broad general trends in our commercial activities.

Board Report

AT THEIR September meeting, the Board approved Engineering Department schemes which will cost altogether around £1,450,000. These included the following major proposals:—

- * The renewal of electricity services to 1,853 council homes in the Huyton area of Liverpool. The service cables are old, and will be renewed in a phased programme with the re-wiring and modernisation of the houses. Total cost—£284,000.
- * Recovery of two of the four 15MVA transformers formerly used at Bowater's, Ellesmere Port. These will be installed at the Yorkshire Imperial Metals works at Kirkby. The job will cost £8,000, but the transformers are worth £160,000!
- * As part of a 15-year programme (started in 1974) to bring switchgear up to the best modern standards, a further 240 11-kV oil circuit breakers and 211 oil switches for 11-kV ring main units will be bought for £431,000.

Some of the more important engineering jobs in the Districts approved at the meeting include:—

- Liverpool:** Cable extensions and substations to provide supply to 62 'Advance' factory units at Speke Industrial Park.
- Mid-Mersey:** Cable extensions and substation to provide supply to 147 houses at Cann Lane, Appleton.
- Dee Valley:** Increased supplies to Grange School, Rhos.
- North Wirral:** Cable extensions and new substation to supply Cross Lane Industrial Estate, Wallasey.
- Mid-Cheshire:** Cable deviations for the Crewe Inner Relief Road.

The Commercial Department's report to the Board shows that electricity sales are continuing to decline, in comparison with last year, as the recession continues.

Units purchased in June and July were down by 5.3 per cent and 5.49 per cent respectively. Sales to industry (an area of activity where MANWEB is particularly vulnerable) were down by 6.9 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively, with falls in most sectors of industry. Oil refining and mining/quarrying were the only really bright spots, with encouraging increases.

Appliance Sales were somewhat more cheering. The total value of sales for the four months from April to July was up by 15.5 per cent (a rise of around four per cent in real terms). All Districts recorded improved business, with especially good results from North Mersey, North Wirral and Aberystwyth.

However, caution is necessary, because this increase must be seen against a very low level of sales for this period last year.

Sales of refrigerators and fridge/freezers were especially buoyant. During the four months from April to July, we sold 3,062 fridge/freezers, compared with 1,745 last year—an increase of 75 per cent. There were increases also in sales of micro-wave and split-level cookers.

Bulk orders for appliances worth more than £750,000 were reported as having been placed with a wide range of manufacturers.

The commercial success of our new Wrexham shop was underlined by a report of a 69 per cent increase in sales.

wood comments: "I hope our sales staff will share my enthusiasm for the campaign when they watch it on the Granada network. Over 90 per cent of our customers are expected to see the commercials twice. I should like to reach the other ten per cent who watch HTV, but it is not economically viable, and the cost would be outside our budget limits."

The four commercials, devised by agents Brunning Advertising, will sell storage heating, cooking, fridge-freezers and audio equipment. The campaign starts immediately and continues through October into mid-November.

BACK ON THE BOX

AFTER a long break from the small screen, MANWEB advertising is returning to television with a hard-hitting campaign.

The "so-much-extra" theme has a catchy jingle, which sells the Board's competitively-priced appliances with those MANWEB extras which too many often ignore—after-sales care and free delivery.

Advertising Officer Bill Gay-



World's First Quartz- Control Washing Machine

BOARD engineers in our Test Laboratory at Queensferry have critically and carefully examined the world's first quartz-controlled automatic washing machine for its accuracy, efficiency, construction, flexibility and economy in daily use.

Quartz technology, which gives the digital watch its reliability; has been incorporated into this machine to provide simple, computerised control of wash and dry programmes and take care of every kind of fabric.

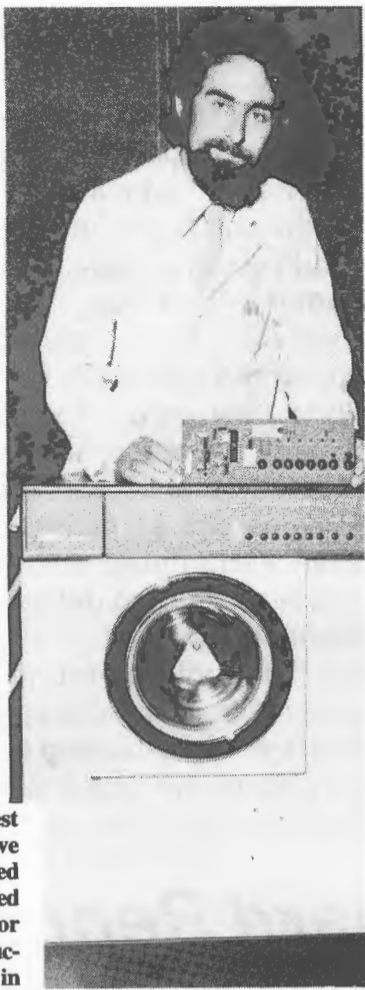
Manufactured by Servis, who have been in the business for the past 50 years, this Quartz Model '600' is a second-generation electronics automatic machine, with easy-to-operate controls for various wash programmes, and incorporates a self-fault diagnosis safeguard.

Into the design of the exclusive micro-processor has gone the knowledge gained from mass consumer research on desired washing habits. Expert advice on wash programmes for different types of fabric was provided by Procter and Gamble, one of this country's largest manufacturers of soap powder.

The result of all this research is that the normal wash programme has been extended to incorporate two unique wash cycles. The "Multi-fabric Wash" can be safely used for mixed loads of different fabrics and colours, with no danger of shrinkage or colours running.

The "Quick Wash" is designed for lightly-soiled and delicate fabrics and, in many cases, replaces the need for hand-washing.

Both of these new cycles are extremely convenient forms of



Electrician Phil Swift testing the new Servis.

washing and are a breakthrough in economy and simplicity.

Another new feature of the Servis Quartz is the "spin-care" wash-drum design, which has a smooth, unperforated surface.

Following seven years of intensive experiment and research, culminating in 12 months of field tests in homes throughout the country to ensure that all the original aims were successful, the launch on the market has now been made.

This unique and clever machine, which takes full advantage of the micro-chip flexibility, sells through MANWEB shops at under £300—real value for money!

"Initial sales have been exceptional," commented Marketing Services Officer Keith Sowden. "They have gone well beyond the manufacturer's expectations nationally, and Servis are now doing all they can to increase their output, in order to meet the tremendous demand."

JENNY SUCCEEDS GWEN

Jenny Webb has been appointed Home Economist to the Electricity Council. She succeeds Gwen Conacher, who retires soon.

Jenny joined the London Electricity Board in 1955 as a trainee showroom assistant, progressing to senior housecraft adviser. In 1966, she moved to the Council's appliance testing laboratories at Leatherhead, and was responsible for performance testing of domestic appliances.

Gwen joined the Council in 1966. During her successful career, she has written a number of books, the best-known being "Food Freezing At Home", which sold nearly 1,500,000 copies.

MAKING HIS MARK

Man of many talents

WITH his first record pressed and on sale, Head Office accounts clerk Mark Hollowood hopes it will lead to something big. The disc has already had air-time on one local station, with promises from others for more playing.

Released on the Vada label, the extended-play record was produced and funded by Mark himself. Of the four numbers, he has written lyrics and music for two of them, "The World Smiles With You" and a gentle ballad "Watching You".

The 'B' side has Lennon and McCartney's "Fool On The Hill", with Kenny Rogers' hit "She Believes In Me", by Steve Gibb. The vocals and guitar-work, lead, rhythm and bass are all Mark Hollowood tracks recorded separately and mixed for the final take, together with a little help from his friends on keyboard and drums—but, in the main, a solo effort.

Mark is 24 and has been with MANWEB for eight years. He

has also been a semi-professional musician for the same period, and has played in several musical outfits. He is currently the vocalist and lead guitarist for a local group, but is also carving out a solo career in the pubs, clubs and night-spots within 100 miles of his Hawarden home.

His 90-minute act, which he extends or adapts to the type of audience, demonstrates his versatility in music and humour. His instrumental numbers and vocals range from beat to ballads, some golden oldies and a touch of rock and roll. His comic songs, good-natured banter and sing-along numbers go down well with all types of audience.

To see what the paying audience thought of his record, we



Record-maker Mark Hollowood—with his "latest disc".

asked 12 of them from Sealand Road to listen to Mark's disc and give us their reactions. "We like it!" was their unanimous verdict. All preferred his treatment of the 'A' side—Mark's own numbers—but were split on which song they liked most. Several declared an intention to buy a copy from Mark.

He has achieved an ambition to make a record, selling copies at his group and solo dates. Having heard his record and seen him on stage, we can recommend his very professional act for any social event, either solo or with the group. He still has a couple of dates free—social secretaries please note.

Letters . . . Letters . . . Letters . . .

FOR many months now, the Board's Head Office and District Offices have been inundated with letters from satisfied customers offering praise and thanks for the service given and work carried out by members of our staff. The 'Customer Care' programme, which started a couple of years ago, is obviously working well.

Such letters have become commonplace, so, apart from the really unusual and newsworthy comment from a customer, these are the last we shall publish.

With the change of format of CONTACT, we would now like to receive letters from our readers. You may wish to write under a *nom-de-plume*, but—as a sign of good faith—we must have your name and place of work—for editorial eyes only, we promise you!

Many members of our staff have asked for a "Letters" column—so now, it's over to you!

Free Service

In an article written for the *Caterer and Hotelkeeper*, a Cheshire couple who run a country house hotel near Nantwich report:—

"A few months ago, I had a discussion with the head of the Commercial Supply department at the local electricity board, MANWEB. I wanted to know whether we were using the most economical system and if these maximum supply meters would help to assess the best method of payment. He was extremely helpful, and offered to review the consumption. Shortly afterwards, he wrote giving details of the units we had consumed each month and the kilowatt demand. The letter proved conclusively that we are better sticking to our present system of charging and payment.

"We doubt whether a commercial firm of experts could have done more, and the elec-

tricity board research was free."

The helpful man from MANWEB giving that valuable advice was *John Hollinshead*.

Overwhelmed

In a letter to Gwynedd DCE *Doug Willacy*, a Criccieth customer writes:—

"I am overwhelmed at your so very kind concern about my minor worry and misunderstanding.

"The electrician has called this morning and completed both the conversion and lagging of the water-tank.

"Please accept my most grateful thanks. With regards to *Mr. John Jones (Installation Engineer)* and yourself." The electrician referred to was in fact installation inspector *Eric Phillips*.

Most Helpful

In this Year for Disabled People, we hear from one of them living in the Liverpool District:—

"It is with great pleasure that I write this letter. I am disabled and I have just had

to retire from my job, although I am only 36 years old. I came into contact with a member of your staff, *Mrs. Michelle Martin*, when I visited your Lister Drive office, and she was most helpful.

"Since then, every time I have telephoned your department, whoever has answered has been most polite, and then, because *Mrs. Martin* has been dealing with my enquiries, she has taken over—nothing has been too much trouble for her.

"I know what they have to deal with, as I was a Public Servant myself for 18 years—keep up the good work!

Michelle is a clerk in the Lister Drive Enquiry Office, and a very helpful one, too.

Man from MANWEB Lou Carter, left, pictured here with Anglo Blackwell works engineer Tom Chatterton.



Among the many commercial and industrial customers grateful for the immediate assistance given by the Board staff in times of crisis, is *Anglo Blackwell Limited*, of Widnes, in our Mid-Mersey District.

In a letter to *Dave Cousins*—1st engineer, Installation—they write:—

"Just a note to let you know how appreciative we are over your considerable efforts in getting our Inductotherm Trimline unit back into operation.

"Please convey our thanks to the HV engineer, *Lou Carter*, and all the electricians who worked so hard and skilfully to complete well ahead of schedule."

And the skilled staff concerned were *Dickie Donaldson*, *Neil Gouldern*, *Norman Leigh*, *Bill Peet* and *Les Whitfield*.

OBITUARY

IT IS with deep regret that we report the deaths of the following former colleagues:—

Mr. Robert F. Dodd, aged 40, who died suddenly on 31st August. Bob was a fitter at our New Crane Street garage in Chester.

Mr. William Walsh, aged 76, who was the former Area 4 Chief Wayleave Officer prior to his retirement in 1970.

We extend our sincere sympathies to their families.

RETIREMENTS

Farewells to friends and colleagues

Mr. D. SMITH

A popular figure on the staff at Lister Drive (Liverpool) garage—fitter's mate Dougie Smith—has retired after 36 years.

Dougie began his working life as a "lather boy" in his aunt's barber's shop, but soon changed from bristles to bread, by taking

for various firms before his "call-up" to the Royal Corps of Signals during the last war.

He joined MANWEB in 1948 and it was shortly after this that he became interested in first-aid. He was soon a member of the Electricity Industry Ambulance Centre and, since then, has led the District teams taking part in



Garage staff at Lister Drive say their farewells to colleague Dougie Smith (centre left).

a job in a bakery shop. A spell in his uncle's motor works followed, but soon the South Lancs Regiment had him serving in such far-off spots as India, Burma, Madagascar and South Africa. Luckily for his colleagues in later years that he was a man of gentle disposition—for his experience also included that of a sergeant in the Commandos!

Joining the electricity mains side, he worked at Clarence Dock for a time, before coming into the transport business, first at Pumpfields depot and then at our new modern Lister Drive workshops.

Known as a man who believed that work was there to be done, Dougie was described by Head Office engineer Jim Davies as a colleague whose reaction was always: "What's the job? Let's get on with it!"

the annual competitions. As a lay instructor, he has recruited many of the first-aiders now on the District staff. Even though he has retired from his daily job, Mr. Cleugh has offered his first-aid services to the District in whatever capacity they may be needed.



Above: Friends at Bridle Road gather, as Bert Eyres, right, wishes "Cam" and Mrs. Shimmin many years of happy retirement.

Below: A radio and a "work-mate" from his workmates was presented to Jeff. Cleugh, centre left, by Jack Fitzpatrick (foreman).



Mr. C. S. SHIMMIN
A "household name" in MANWEB engineering circles on Merseyside bowed out recently, when C. S. ("Cam") Shimmin, system engineer at North Mersey District, retired after 35 years.

After war service in the RAF, Cam joined us as a mains assistant at Wallasey, moving up the ladder at Wallasey and Bootle—making a host of friends and teaching many people many things on the way.

His popularity was obvious when District Engineer Bert Eyres presented him with a collection of gifts subscribed by his friends at Bridle Road and further afield. Wife Marjorie received the traditional bouquet from the hands of Margaret Jones.

Cam was always a specially useful friend to the press office staff at Head Office—able to tell us the facts without blinding us with science. Other talents included a flair for providing us with crossword puzzles! Thanks, Cam! Enjoy it!

Mr. A. FACY

Joining our industry as a joiner's mate some 39 years ago, Allan Facy has now retired as a chargehand linesman in our Mid-Cheshire District.

Farewell gifts of a briefcase from colleagues and a book from the LAC were presented by District Engineer Graham Zeiher, who, in paying tribute to Allan's long and loyal service, highlighted some very special events.

PROTECT YOURSELF ON THE STREETS

Advice from police

REDUCE THE CHANCES OF BEING ATTACKED BY TAKING PRECAUTIONS AND BY BEING ALERT.

Notice who is on the street near you, which way you can run if necessary and where you might be able to get help. A criminal's best weapon is SURPRISE.

* Darkness is the friend of the street criminal. Whenever possible, avoid walking on dark or deserted streets. Walk with a companion if you can.

* Avoid walking in lonely or unfamiliar neighbourhoods.

* Don't wear expensive jewellery and carry only a minimum of cash with you.

* If you think you are being followed, change direction, move out into the middle of the street and head for an area where there are people.

* If a person continues to follow you, run and scream if he gets close. Noise is your best defence. Don't worry about appearing foolish.

* Always walk in the middle of the pavement, halfway between the kerb line and the building line. Doorways and parked vehicles are good hiding places for the criminal.

* Be aware of people who walk past you. The street criminal often walks past his victim and then turns and attacks from behind.

* Don't take short-cuts through parks, entries or other deserted areas.

* Be alert at all times. Don't daydream. Walk quickly and with confidence. Keep your mind on getting safely to your destination.

* If a car or taxi drops you off late at night, ask the driver to wait until you are safely inside your home.

Your handbag, purse or gold necklace or other jewellery is the target of "muggers". Rushing past, they snatch the handbag or purse from an unsuspecting woman's hand or the gold necklace from her neck, and run. Many women sustain injuries either by being pushed or falling to the ground. Follow these simple rules to prevent a "snatch" and to aid the police in catching the thieves.

* If you wear an expensive gold necklace, hide it under your clothing when you are in less-frequented areas.

* Hold your handbag tightly and carry it close to your body—a dangling handbag is an invitation.

* Never lay your bag down near an open car window or on the seat of a bus or train,

or whilst inside a store shopping—an unattended handbag is a temptation.

* Know your handbag—description, contents.

* Do not carry large sums of money or expensive jewellery or other items in your handbag.

If your handbag or necklace is snatched

* Do not attempt to resist and physically fight your attacker. Try to maintain your balance and keep from falling and being injured.

* Scream for help—attract the attention of other people in the vicinity.

* Call the police as quickly as possible—dial "999".

* Give the police a full and thorough description of the thief, including his clothing, as well as his physical characteristics.

* If cheque books, savings books, etc., are stolen, notify the appropriate person as soon as possible.

EMPLOYEES' CONFERENCES

Friday, 2nd October, 1981

Pedigree Hotel, OSWESTRY

Thursday, 15th October, 1981

Dovedale Towers, LIVERPOOL

Thursday, 22nd October, 1981

The Restaurant, HEAD OFFICE

Friday, 30th October, 1981

The Crest Hotel, RUNCORN

Friday, 6th November, 1981

Derbyshire Miner's Holiday Centre, RHYL

Wednesday, 11th November, 1981

The Huntsman Restaurant, WINSFORD

Thursday, 12th November, 1981

The Mons Hotel, BOOTLE

Friday, 13th November, 1981

Bryn Howel Hotel, LLANGOLLEN

Friday, 20th November, 1981

Royal Hotel, CAERNARFON

Friday, 5th February, 1982

Royal Pier Hotel, ABERYSTWYTH

News from Pensioners

MID-MERSEY

RETIREE member of our Mid-Mersey staff Nan Kirkham informs us that a party of pensioners from the District recently enjoyed a day's outing in the Wye Valley.

After a lunch at Worcester, they went on a sightseeing tour of the "Heart of England" countryside. Later, some enjoyed a sail on the River Wye, while others went for a stroll or simply sunbathed.

At the end of the day, all agreed that it had been well worth the effort.

HEAD OFFICE

DEL HALL invites former members of the Board's staff who have worked at Head Office or Chester District, and who are interested in joining the Retired Members' Association, to contact him at 127 Hartington Street, Chester (Phone 676933).

Making the Board's Head Office the first port of call on a day's outing, Oswestry District pensioners were welcomed by Group Manager Norman Maden, seen here, front right, with Tommy Farmer (former DCE), Dot Lorenzo (former supervisor), Bill Davies (former meter reader/collector) and Jean Hall, a supervisor at District Office, who organised the day.



SPORTS REVIEW

GOLF . . . Hot Shot Andy

THE SCORCHING September weather was matched by some blistering golf from the winner of the MANWEB Golf Society's Captain's Day tournament, on the tough Oswestry Golf Course.

A gross score of 72 strokes on the par-70 course gave five-handicap golfer Andy Critchley—a 25-year-old Head Office Marketing assistant—a total of 38 points in the Stableford contest—enough to win him the Captain's prize and trophy.

Captain this year is Mid-Mersey foreman Reg Bramhall, who donated the trophy and a very generous first prize. After receiving this, which was a canteen of cutlery, Andy Critchley said: "I was pleased with my game in such hot conditions, and to win such a fantastic prize made my day. What's more, my wife, Julie, is delighted—and I've got her permission to play again!"

Second prize went to Malcolm

Cartwright, a fitter from Oswestry District. Third prize was won by another Oswestry man, meter reader Dennis Hughes. The event was organised by Society Secretary Frank Parkinson, ably assisted by Kevin Gee.

Islwyn Wins

FOR the second year in succession, the Clwyd District Sports and Social Club's individual golf championship trophy has been won by Islwyn Morris (*Production Engineer*).

This fourth annual event was played on the excellent Rhuddlan Golf Club course, in perfect weather conditions.

Islwyn returned the best net score (85-21-64) and the best gross score was achieved by apprentice electrician Steve Davies (72-4-68).

The winner's trophy, plus a lightweight golf bag, was presented to Islwyn by Denis Atkinson (*General Services*), who organised the competition. Other prizewinners were



Tony Roberts (*electrician*), Dennis Jones (*shop supervisor*), Patrick Burke (*general duties, Mold*) and Pat Quinn (*1st engineer—Installation*).



Our far-from-lonely long-distance runners. On the left is Bill Stringer, above, proudly displaying their medal awards; from left to right: Dave Lewis, Dave Fisher and Andy Sutton. Finally, on the right, we picture Roger Restieaux.



Magnificent Marathon Men from MANWEB

FIVE magnificent men from MANWEB were among the 9,000-plus who started the "Pony" British Marathon from Bolton to Manchester. All five stayed the course and were among the 3,000-or-so finishers—and have medals to prove it.

The first man from MANWEB to finish was Dave Fisher, a Head office clerical assistant, in a time of 3 hours 34 minutes. Only one minute behind was Oswestry clerical supervisor Roger Restieaux. Both took some time to reach the start after the gun, with Dave on the three-hour mark and Roger on the four-hour starting position, so their times would actually be five minutes or so faster.

Mid-Mersey electrician Bill Stringer was the next MANWEB man home, clocking 3.43, followed by Dave Lewis, a clerical assistant at Head Office, in four hours dead, and administration trainee Andrew Sutton, who did 4.15.

Three of the runners were sponsored and, between them, raised nearly £400. Bill Stringer topped £150 for the Jimmy Savile Stoke Manderville Appeal. Dave Lewis also helped "Jim fix it", with part of the £90-plus he raised—some went to a local Brownie pack, which his fiancée, Head Office receptionist Joanne Evans, helps to run. The Radio Luxembourg Multiple Sclerosis Appeal will benefit by nearly

£50, thanks to Andy Sutton and his sponsors.

Roger Restieaux—at 38, the veteran of the MANWEB contingent—ran to represent his athletic club, the Oswestry Olympians. Normally a middle-to long-distance runner—he prefers 5,000 metres—he has a theory that there is nothing special about the marathon distance: "Anyone who is reasonably fit can complete the distance without much discomfort," he claims.

More Marathons

He plans to run three marathons in as many months, having already done a ten-mile race before the "Pony". He also intends to run in two half-marathons. Roger is married and he and his wife, Ann, have three children. She helps a lot with moral support, diet and keeping his running-gear washed.

Dave Fisher is 26, runs ten miles a day every day, and ran at Manchester for fun. He plans another marathon later this year. Dave Lewis is also 26 and trained for three months, working up to 24 miles in one run. He plays football and is a champion coarse fisherman. Like Bill Stringer, Dave was inspired to enter the "Pony" after seeing the London Marathon on TV.

Bill is 28 and married, keeps pretty fit for football, and has a

long-suffering wife, Sue, to keep his gear neat. He trained for three months, doing around ten to 15 miles a day.

Another athlete, Andy Sutton, aged 23, says that he thinks that he will stick to his 800- and 1,500-metre track events. He trained for the marathon by running up to 15 miles in a day.

"I ran the first 15 miles pretty well, but then I stopped for a drink and couldn't get going properly. I jogged, walked, staggered and finally ran the last mile or so—but I finished!" he said, holding up his medal.

All the runners agreed that the "Pony" was very well organised, with refreshments every three miles—orange-juice, water and those all-important sponges to keep the neck wet. But someone with sadistic tendencies must have named a long-rising hill about a mile or so from the finish "Plodder Lane"! Roger recalls: "It was littered with bodies—some with cramp, others out of steam or walking—it was a real struggle up that hill."

But the last word must go to Dave Lewis. When asked what he remembered about the "Pony", he grinned and said: "It was supposed to be a fresh-air, healthy type of event, but what I remember is the smell of linament and the aroma of 9,000 hot bodies!"



The MANWEB (Head Office) cricket team. From left to right, standing: Mike Boxall, Bill Jones, Dave Spencer, Dave Linton, Amlyn ab Iorwerth, Gary Worthington and Cliff Houlbrook (team manager and secretary). Seated: Keith Dyer, John Gorman (captain), Deanie Griffiths, Chris Morrey and Tony Murphy.

CAR HIT FOR SIX — AND SIX

THE PROUD owner of a Scimitar sports car watched horrified from the centre of the wicket as his batting partner sent a six crashing down on its bonnet. And worse—he hit a cracking six himself shortly afterwards, only to see that land on the roof of his own pride and joy.

It was as a MANWEB team were chasing their Norweb opponents' total of 161 for 9 in an inter-Board cricket match at a Bolton ground. The MANWEB No. 8, Amlyn ab Iorwerth, drove a beautiful shot high over the boundary for six, on to his partner, Dave Linton's, car. "You're lucky it only hit the bonnet—I was aiming for the

windscreen," laughed the unrepentant Iorwerth.

A few balls later, the luckless Linton managed to repeat the shot himself—this time bending the car aerial and thumping the roof—only to be greeted by roars of laughter from his unsympathetic team-mates. And it was attempting another six to the furthest boundary edge that he was caught-out for 56, and a slightly damaged sports car—it was the best "knock" of the day.

Dave Spencer was the second-highest scorer in the MANWEB team, with a respectable 43, but the team could not catch the Norweb total, and were all out for 155.

A splendid evening followed,

thanks to the Norweb hospitality, which was enjoyed by all but one member of the MANWEB party. He had been hit by a cricket ball, and had learned a rather painful lesson in the value of a certain piece of protective equipment.

THE SPORTING CHANCES

by MITCH

