

CONTACT

October 1971



FUTURE TRADESMAN
(See page 206)

*The following is the substance of comments
by our Chairman, Mr. DENIS DODDS
at a Press Conference in Liverpool
on 5th October, 1971.*

The Report for 1970/71 is dominated by the loss of £2.87m shown by the Accounts—part of a trading loss of £56m incurred by the supply industry as a whole—the first since nationalisation. This loss has arisen as a result of external cost inflation on a scale never previously experienced, coupled with the reluctance of Governments to accept the inevitable impact of this on electricity prices.

External prices have risen on a broad front. The costs of cables, transformers and switchgear, for example, have risen by over 30% since 1969. Electricity is most sensitive, however, to the price of primary fuels supplied to power stations. It is in this sector that costs have risen most dramatically since, in isolation, they represent 35% of the total costs of supplying electricity. Coal is still dominant as a primary fuel and has increased in cost by 40% since 1969! These increases cost MANWEB an additional £6.4m last year but are likely to cost nearly £15m in a full year.

Improvements in working efficiency have been fully sustained. Capital efficiency remained high with a load factor on the system of 62.2% and the ratio of employees to consumers improved by a further 5%. These cannot, however, be expected to absorb increases which are equivalent to two and a half times the annual wages, charged to revenue account, of our 6,800 employees.

At the request of the Government, the price increases for electricity introduced last January were a good deal less than those considered necessary to restore our financial viability. Further increases were accordingly under consideration at the end of the financial year but since then, we have agreed, at the Government's request, to support the CBI's initiative on prices. This means that increases in electricity tariffs which will be inevitable early next year, are likely to be held to five per cent. provided the basic assumptions made by the CBI are fulfilled. A trading loss in the present year as well as last year, therefore, appears to be inescapable.

Measures to deal with the consequences of these deficits remain to be discussed with the Government, but the public will realise that deficit financing cannot endure for long and that someone must ultimately foot the bill, not only for the deficits themselves but for the increased borrowings to which they will give rise unless exceptional arrangements are made. We cannot indefinitely try to "warm the room by boiling the thermometer."

MANWEB, in full accord with all other Electricity Boards, is nevertheless vitally concerned to support any reasonable measure to restrain the cost inflation which lies at the root of these evils. If the CBI initiative is successful in doing this, the justification for our present restraint, (albeit at the cost of short-term deficits) should be that viable and cost-related electricity prices, when they are introduced, will be a good deal lower than they would have been had inflation continued unchecked.

Meanwhile the Board continue to press the Government to leave the industry free to choose the most economical fuel for power stations, and to remove the discriminatory tax of 40% on the cost of oil used as a primary fuel.

Against this sombre financial background may be set some more positive signposts—that electricity sales increased by 2.4% in a period of considerable industrial recession, and that appliance sales increased by 20%, and produced a profit of £470,000.



THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE MERSEYSIDE
AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

CONTACT

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EDITORIAL

Meeting an Extra Load!

FOR MORE than twenty years the British electricity supply industry has supplied an ever-increasing amount of electricity to an ever-increasing number of customers. Throughout this period the industry as a whole has proved itself to be a financially-sound enterprise.

Against this background it is natural enough that every employee of the industry, on a nation-wide scale, should be disappointed with the financial results of the industry's working for 1970/71.

The reasons for our deficit—equally applicable to MANWEB and to the industry as a whole—are clearly outlined by our Chairman on the opposite page. It needs only the mathematical ability of a five-year-old to understand why surplus has so dramatically switched to loss in the course of 12 months, and only the most unreasonable would attempt to criticise us.

As everyone must by now realise, cost inflation is an evil which injures us all. A ten per cent increase in paper purchasing power is valueless in face of a 20% increase in prices.

In this situation, as in so many others, the underlying essential role of our industry is strikingly apparent, and if the foreshadowed restriction of our own forthcoming price increase helps the rest of industry and the economy to move towards calmer waters, then it may well prove to be justified.

Let us never forget our function as Britain's most vital industry. In this light it is even possible to regard the additional load which we are now carrying as a kind of back-handed compliment!

The Girl from MANWEB 1972
Closing date for entries—12 November

The 20th Century Homer

A feature by

Mr. W. G. NOTTAGE,

Press Officer

The Electric Vehicle Association

MENTION of Homer is perhaps a pleasant reminder of our schooldays, when we laboured with the works of the 8th-Century blind poet and his stories of the heroic wars of the Greeks.

Now, to us in Electricity Supply, "HOMER" has a new significance for it stands for "Hydraulic Operated Maintenance Earth Raiser." It is one of

the latest developments in battery-powered electric transport and has been evolved jointly by the North Western Region Transmission Branch of the CEBG, and one of Britain's most progressive manufacturers of "electrics." Earthing of overhead conductors prior to maintenance work has hitherto been achieved by hand-held earthing poles but increasing heights of connections in h.v. substations have put the job beyond human physical ability. Hence "HOMER," the first of a fleet of 28 ordered by the CEBG and calculated to save that one Region alone some £200,000 annually.

"HOMER" is powered by a 36-volt lead-acid battery of 219 ampere-hour capacity with its own taper type charger and lazy tong, hydraulic ram with a reach of 25 feet which can be attained in 30 seconds by remote control up to 10 yards away from the vehicle.

Future prospects for "HOMER" are good and it is hoped electricity authorities throughout the world will adopt it.

Yet this is but one application among many hundreds which can be credited to the versatile 'electric' and which now account for the sale by Boards of some 1,250 million Kwh per annum. Our daily milk deliveries are accomplished almost entirely by battery-powered floats in city, town and urban area; indeed, countrywide, the figure is above 80%, and still further increasing with the



A Lansing Bagnall 3,000-lb. capacity forklift truck runs smoothly and silently as crates of milk are loaded in the bottling centre of Messrs. J. Hanson & Sons Ltd., of Aintree. These trucks handle 360,000 pints of milk every day.



The writer of this article receives his daily 'pintas' at his Sussex home. In town and country areas battery-powered floats similar to the one in our picture, are used to deliver over 80 per cent. of our morning milk.

advent of vehicles with higher speeds and greater ranges.

Over the years, modest yet significant improvements have been made in battery efficiency. Modern materials and techniques have resulted in much reduced body chassis weights with increased power/weight ratios and very pleasing and practical bodywork, yet perhaps, the greatest contribution to speed and range can be attributed to electronic methods of speed control which reduce the rate at which batteries are discharged, and so achieve those enhanced results. For example, the increasing popularity of pulse control using thyristors not only achieves battery economy but provides an almost micrometer type of speed control, a virtue of particular merit where vehicles and trucks have to be 'inched' backwards and forwards to discharge their cargoes.

Not so noticeable to the casual observer is the use of battery powered vehicles in hospital service. Most of these operate within hospital buildings or precincts, and 70% of hospitals in the U.K. use 'electrics' in one form or another. Their silence and absence of atmospheric pollution are great assets in any situation, but especially advantageous in hospital work where many of the vehicles move freely between outdoor and indoor situations.

And now, retail trades of all kinds are showing great interest in new and quite exciting versions of 'electrics.' Notable amongst these is a recently-launched, fast, lightweight van with a payload of 500 lbs. and with a performance giving speeds up to 33 m.p.h. and a range around 25 miles per charge. With a built-in charger these vehicles can readily be given a boost charge to augment their normal off-peak charging period. Their range is, of course,

determined by speed and payload, and the lower-speed versions will travel 'light' up to 45 miles non-stop per charge.

Clever chassis design has resulted, among other advantages, in a turning circle of 19 foot 4 inches and you will have to go a long way to better that!

Commerce, then is turning to electric traction to reduce its delivery costs, to obtain greater reliability and, by so doing, make a valuable contribution to the clean-air movement.

In so doing, it is following the lead given by industry where materials handling has long been largely in the capable hands of electric trucks. Some 75,000 are in daily use, which is about 70% of all trucks in service. Indeed most of the electricity boards use them in their major depots.

Electric trucks frequently embrace unique features designed to deal effectively with materials of unusual shapes and sizes. Electronic control methods add further to efficient operation and result in 'electrics' being the fastest mover of goods from 'A' to 'B', particularly where loading and unloading are delicate operations carried out in restricted situations.

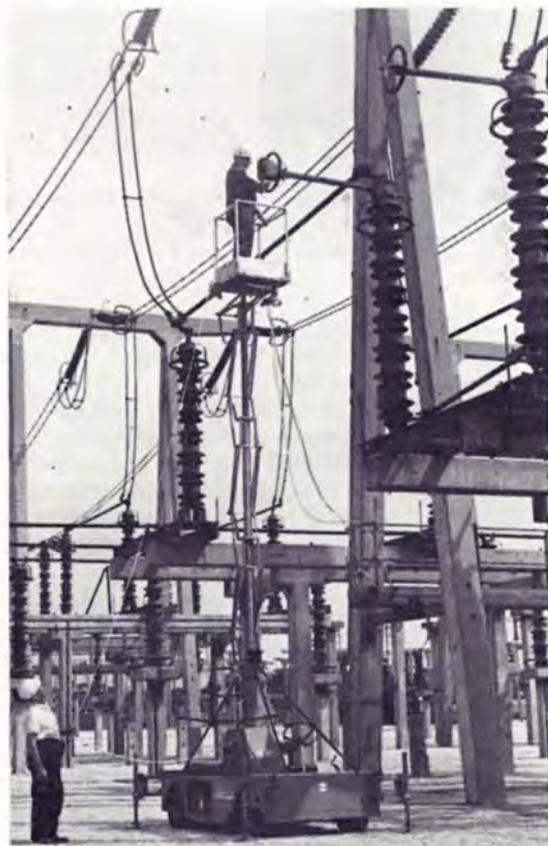
Neither have manufacturers of battery-electric vehicles and trucks been slow in exploring the potential of overseas markets. They are rapidly developing their export business with a wide variety of traction from personnel and luggage carriers in Continental holiday resorts, from golf-buggies on some of the world's most famous courses, to highly tractive trucks and tugs on the snow-covered roads and slopes of Switzerland and other Alpine areas.

And what of the electric passenger vehicle?

Twenty-five seater buses are already firmly

established. Indeed two such vehicles are in regular use at the Electro-Agricultural Centre at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire. Municipal Authorities and others are showing a keen interest, and have plans for instituting regular services with them.

Private cars are in production, and although their range in top speed is governed to some extent by present achievements in battery design, there are already many uses to which they can be put, espec-



"Homer" at work for the North West Region of the CEBG. In our picture the access platform is in the raised position.

ially in high-density traffic conditions. Their high acceleration between stops often gives them the edge over internal combustion types. They make an ideal second family car for the housewife's shopping expeditions and school journeys. Starting is instantaneous even in Arctic weather conditions, with reliability high and maintenance low.

And now, they have conquered the surface of the moon! What better tribute could be paid to electric traction than its selection to perform its allocated task with satisfaction at the end of a quarter of a million miles from its depot?

THE ENFIELD 8000

The Electricity Supply Industry believes that because electric vehicles are clean, silent, reliable and have a long life they will have a valuable role to play in future road transport development, contributing in particular to reduction in noise and air pollution.

In order to give an impetus to development of electric vehicles, The Electricity Council, acting for the Electricity Boards in England and Wales, have placed a letter of intent with Enfield Automotive Limited for 80 battery electric vehicles. Most of these will be two-seater city cars known as the Enfield 8000 Electric City Car and there will be a few light vans.

The objective is for the industry to carry out large scale operational research on the performance and use of electric cars and light vans, including the effect of different battery charging routines.

The 80 cars and light vans will incorporate any modifications found necessary from two prototypes sent by Enfield for test trials by the Motor Industries Research Association at Lindley, near Nuneaton, Warwicks., and The Electricity Council Research Centre at Capenhurst, Cheshire. The prototypes have been demonstrated successfully to The Electricity Council.

The cars will have aluminium bodies and will incorporate standard commercially available components and conventional lead acid batteries.

Maximum speed of the vehicles ordered will be 40 mph, with general cruising speed of 30 mph, and on a typical city run their range should be 60 miles.



FREEZING FOOD PRICES

“UP AND UP goes the cost of food. Ten per cent in a year—official.”

This was the headline in a daily newspaper some time ago after the publication of the figures given by the Minister of Agriculture in the House of Commons.

The housewife didn't need to wait for the Minister's figures—she had seen the trend herself, week by week, at the supermarket. Indeed, she may have been surprised that the increase was so low!

But the family still needs feeding, somehow, and now there is a new weapon in the housewife's battle against rising prices—the home freezer—which can help cut the family's food bill by up to one third!

In the forefront of the deep freeze economy drive are the wholesalers who have geared themselves for the growing demands of the 'freezer people.' A whole sheep, a side of pork or a quarter of beef, jointed into various cuts, may be purchased at one time. The lamb could average out at 27 pence a pound and the pork about 30 pence. Compare these against prices in the butcher's shop.

Packs of a dozen steaks are sold at 19½ pence each for rump and 14 pence each for T-bone. Lamb chops can work out at about 7½ pence each.

Vegetables too can be bought in pre-frozen bulk packs at much cheaper prices than the normal retail cost of frozen foods.

One of the great advantages of the deep freezer is that you can freeze your own fresh vegetables. These can come from your own garden or from the market wholesalers. Sometimes when there is a glut of a certain fruit and prices are very low, the local green-grocer will be able to supply you with freezable fruit and vegetables.

Incidentally, to get the best results, vegetables should be blanched—that is boiled for two minutes, then immediately cooled in iced water and dried thoroughly—before freezing.

Soft fruits store very well as do most other fruits, but there are one or two exceptions. Bananas tend to turn black and avocado pears lose their texture when frozen. Dairy produce is a mixed bag. Double cream will freeze successfully only if it has been previously whipped up. Milk is not a very good freezer and butter can only be held for a short time. Eggs will not freeze whole but will do so if whites and yolks are separated.

Bread, cakes, pies and pre-cooked meals can all be frozen and stored until they are required.

However most foodstuffs can be deep frozen without any trouble. If you are ever in doubt, try freezing a small sample of the food, or call in at the local MANWEB shop and ask.

When freezing your own foods do so a little at a time remembering that manufacturers of the cabinets recommend that only about one tenth of the capacity of the cabinet should be filled with fresh food for freezing within any twenty-four hour period.

When thinking about the type of freezer to get and the size required for your family needs, there is a basic 'rule of thumb' to go by. You take two cubic foot per person in the family plus two extra. This means that a family of four should go for a freezer of at least ten cubic feet.

Here, may we give a warning to future freezer buyers. Make sure that you consult a reputable dealer—and MANWEB are among the best. Beware of 'second-hand bargains' as these often turn out to be shop conservators.

The difference is that conservators will store frozen food just as the freezer compartment in most domestic refrigerators, but it will not freeze fresh food. The deep freezer however has a separate freezing compartment in which the temperature is dropped to minus 30°F. The conservator maintains a temperature of 0°F.

Buying from MANWEB, prices range from about £45 for a small conservator to around £80 for a 13½ cubic foot deep freezer . . . both available on hire purchase or credit sale terms. Running costs work out at about one-and-a-half units per cubic foot per week. That is, for a family-sized ten cubic foot model—twelve pence a week. Most economical.

Marketing demonstrator, Mrs. Ann Jones, loading a deep freezer.



ELECTRICITY IN CLUBLAND

From Scouse to Scampi

The smile of satisfaction that sits upon the committee members face today, is the positive proof that through all the changes that occur in our mode of living, 'The Club' is here to stay.

In the North 'The Club' as an institution has survived by the sheer tenacity and spirit of its members. Mothers, wives, sisters and girl-friends may despair of its stronghold, but with Northern good humour they accept it and on Ladies Nights demand to be taken into its inner sanctuary.

The success story must truly be that management and committee have moved with the times. As the working population becomes more affluent so their habits and surroundings are influenced. The cloth cap and scarf give way to the sheepskin jackets and chukka boots, the bicycle to cars, and consequently the atmosphere of the Club must become more sophisticated.

The members will require more amenities to attract their continued support and electricity will play an ever increasing part in the development and improvement of the environment of each establishment. Lighting can vary the mood of each room. Soft and restful in the lounge and bars and bright and efficient in the games-room. Heating can be focal as well as practicable incorporating off-peak

background heaters supplemented by attractive electric fires and surrounds. The popularity of chilled beers requires the installation of refrigerated shelving and dispensers.

Catering is now the main feature in many clubs and the modern electric catering equipment that is available today, will satisfy all the requirements of large, medium and small clubs.

The advantages of electric catering equipment is that because of its compact size, efficiency of performance and simplicity of use enable the operators to turn out attractive meals and snacks, appetising in appearance, with the minimum of effort.

For approximately £500 equipment can be purchased to fit a small grill-bar or kitchen consisting of hot-plates, bains marie, griddle, griller-toaster and fryer plus refrigerator, deep-freeze, and hot-cupboard. This equipment will be capable of producing a continuous supply of hot meals and snacks quickly and efficiently over varying periods on a 'call order' basis. The equipment can be supplemented by a microwave oven which is an excellent medium for presenting pre-cooked frozen foods and will enable unexpected numbers to be catered for at a moment's notice.

The standard that is set by the members of Clubland is high. They like good food, attractively served in clean pleasant surroundings and if they entertain their wives and sweethearts they like to make a good impression. Tastes may have changed from 'Scouse' to 'Scampi' but try serving it on a cold plate and you will have a few choice words addressed to you.

Obituary

Mr. W. A. WILLIAMS

It is with deep regret that we announce that Mr. W. A. Williams, died suddenly at his retirement home at Exmouth.

In his time Mr. Williams was one of MANWEB's best-liked and most-admired personalities. He had given a most varied lifetime of service to the electricity industry, until his retirement in 1961.

During the first world war he saw service in the navy, and later gained experience at Southend and in the West End of London.

Later he returned to his home locality as charge engineer for the North Wales Power Company at Cwm Dyli Hydro Station—as far a cry from the West End as one could imagine—and from this work he moved to the commercial side of the industry, ultimately being appointed MANWEB's first District Manager at Oswestry.

Here his popularity with customers and

staff was such that—in the words of his former boss and Area Manager (Mr. R. N. Pegg)—the staff "worked for Mr. Williams and MANWEB—in that order!"

We extend our deep sympathy to Mrs. Williams in her sad loss, which is shared by all of MANWEB's "old hands."

Mr. R. ROBERTS

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. Bob Roberts of Newborough, Anglesey, who retired a few years ago after 17 years with the mains section at Llangefni.

He was a well-known personality, a gifted musician with a melodious voice, and never missed an opportunity to entertain his friends with his rendering of folk songs.

Mr. Roberts, who was 58, leaves a widow, a son and two married daughters, to whom his many friends in Anglesey extend their sincere sympathy.



The lucky members of our staff who were able to attend the Summer School held at Queens' College, Cambridge a few weeks ago. From left to right: Mr. D. Pears, an electrician based at Southport in our North Mersey District, Miss D. M. Jones, a saleswoman from Pwllheli, Miss P. E. Jones, a shorthand typist from Caernarvon and Mr. M. A. Holding, a 3rd assistant engineer from Head Office.

MEETING POINTS

SPRING and SUMMER 1972

THE Electricity Supply Industry consisting of over 190,000 people, will be holding five Spring and Summer Schools during 1972. They are arranged as Meeting Points for staff from all sections of the Industry—from all over the country.

This opportunity is open to YOU—a chance to discuss the progress and plans of the Industry, to exchange ideas, and to hear of new developments from senior management.

The Spring School in 1972 will be the 100th to be arranged, by which time some 10,500 of your colleagues will have taken their chance to attend.

If you have already been to one of these Schools then we would urge you to pass on to your friends your personal recommendations and views. If, however, you have not yet been to one of the Schools, then we suggest that now is the time for you to give it some serious thought.

There are 100 places available at each of the five Schools. These are allocated to applicants from industrial, technical, clerical, administrative and executive staff in proportion to the numbers employed, so each School represents a good cross section of the Industry.

Selection is made by the District Joint Advisory Councils' on the recommendation of the Local Advisory Committees, including yours, so all applications received will be carefully considered.

A typical School lasts for a week with the morning sessions normally consisting of a talk followed by a discussion then, after a break for coffee, members reassemble to put their questions to the speaker. Afternoons are free and are taken up with a range of interesting visits planned for member's enjoyment.

In the evening, there are further talks arranged after dinner and the speakers deal with questions direct 'from the floor.'

The total costs of travel, accommodation and visits are met by the Electricity Boards. Normal payment is maintained for those selected, including bonus or lead-in payments (*where appropriate*) for NJIC staff. A daily allowance of 50p is also paid for the duration of the School.

Any member of the Industry's staff who has not previously attended can now apply for a place at one of the five Spring and Summer Schools in 1972. If you have applied before and been unsuccessful then apply again—you may have better luck this time.

You can enjoy the company of people with similar interests in the pleasant surroundings of the following colleges where the Schools will be held next year:

- ☆ Corpus Christi College, Cambridge
15th — 23rd March
- ☆ Van Mildert College, Durham
28th June — 6th July
- ☆ St. John's College, Oxford
19th — 27th July
- ☆ Queen's College, Cambridge
5th — 13th September
- ☆ Queen's College, Cambridge
13th — 21st September

Get your application form now, from your District Administrative Officer or from Mr. A. Anderson, Room 5S1, Head Office.

The forms must be completed and returned by 10th November 1971.



The youngest apprentice on the Course is **Gary Greenhalgh**, *above*, who hails from Runcorn where he was a pupil at Grange County Secondary School. After applying to MAN-WEB for a job and surviving the interview, he is now working hard in training to become an electrician. After the first few weeks at the Hoylake Centre Gary said it was getting more interesting every day. He is a keen rugby player and also enjoys a spot of fishing.



Apprentices at Hoylake

A FEW WEEKS AGO, 69 young men walked through the gates of our Hoylake Training Centre to begin their working life in the electricity supply industry. Of this year's intake, 60 will be training to become electricians, three on telecommunications, two meter mechanics, two electrical fitters and two motor vehicle mechanics.

Mr. Ron. Slack who is in charge of the Training Centre, told us that the academic standard of these apprentices is exceptionally high with nineteen of them eligible to start on the Combined "G" Electrical Course. This means that dependent upon the results they achieve in their work, they can qualify as students for further technical training with a possible place at University and eventually become electrical engineers.

We would now like to offer our best wishes to all these young men for every success in their chosen careers and remind them that they now have the golden opportunity of building a very bright future for themselves.

* * * *

OUR COVER PICTURE shows the tallest—or one of the tallest apprentices this year, **Steven Jones** as he goes about repairing an electric iron under the watchful eyes of **Mr. M. R. Grisenthwaite** (*assistant instructor*). Steven lives in Wrexham and was schooled at the Denbighshire Technical College. He wrote to many organisations and private firms to offer his services for apprentice training but soon found that the openings were few and far between. When he was offered an interview with the Board he jumped at it. In his spare time, Steven likes the tranquility of a peaceful pool where he can enjoy his favourite hobby of fishing.

The smallest apprentice at Hoylake is a cheerful young man called **Alan Robert Davies**, *left*. He is a Liverpool lad and it therefore follows that he soon became affectionately known as 'Diddie' Davies. He told us that he found the first month 'at work' pretty hard, but not as tough as he expected. His decision to become an electrician came after consultation with his parents and the school careers officer. Diddie is keen on football and supports Everton.

The 'old man' of the Course is **Trevor Watts**, *right*, who was 17 on September 7th. Trevor comes from Northwich and is a former pupil of the Hartford Secondary Modern School. He is training to become an electrician—a decision he reached overnight. His parents agreed that prospects with MANWEB were good and so he applied for a place at Hoylake and was successful. Week-ends seem to be the only time that he has 'spare' and he passes the hours tinkering about with his scooter.

* * * *

Gordon Pugh, *below*, is one of the lucky lads who have a second home in Hoylake. His 'foster mother' landlady, **Mrs. Mason**, has helped to dispel the gloom and loneliness he must have felt during these first few weeks away from his parents and home in Bow Street, near Aberystwth.

Living farthest away from Hoylake, Gordon can only manage to get back home every other week-end, and he spends eight hours on the journey, four there and four back! He is a former pupil of the Dinas Secondary School and he is a keen player of both kinds of football—round and oval ball. After his first few weeks at the Training Centre he can see good prospects for his future.



One of the young men who can get home every night is **Kenneth Brennan**, *below*, from Meols—just up the road. Last year, when he was still a pupil at Hoylake County Secondary School he became friendly with a number of our apprentices who were then training at the Centre. This planted the seed in his mind and as soon as he could, he applied for a place to train as an electrician. He is now thoroughly enjoying himself. Kenneth is a keen snooker player and is a member of the local Y.M.C.A. team.



New Chairmen for Electricity Council and CEGB

MR. JOHN DAVIES, M.P., the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has appointed Mr. Peter T. Menzies, a Deputy Chairman of ICI Ltd., to be the next Chairman of the Electricity Council, and Mr. Arthur E. Hawkins, a full-time member of the Central Electricity Generating Board, as the next Chairman of the CEGB.

Both appointments will be for five years, Mr. Menzies taking up his post on April 1st, 1972 and Mr. Hawkins, from July 1st, 1972.

Mr. Davies has also appointed Mr. Ronald Richardson, Chairman of the North Western Electricity Board to be Deputy Chairman of the Electricity Council for five years from January 1st, 1972.

The new Chairman of the Council was born in 1912 in Sussex, of Scottish parents. He was educated at Musselburgh Grammar School and Edinburgh University where he was awarded an M.A. with 1st Class Honours in mathematics and natural philosophy.

He worked in the Inland Revenue Department before join-

ing the ICI in 1939, in the Treasurer's Department. In 1956 he was appointed to the ICI Board as the Company's Finance Director, a post he held until 1967 when he was appointed a Deputy Chairman.

Mr. Menzies is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics and currently its Honorary Treasurer, a member of the London Committee of the Scottish Council (Development and Industry) and a Vice-President of the Menzies Clan Society.

C.C. CHAIRMAN AGAIN!

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has authorised the re-appointment of Mr. H. Evans, J.P., as Chairman of the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Consultative Council.

ALL IN

A DAY'S WORK

Dear Sirs,

Would you please thank your electrician and apprentice for taking care of me when I was ill on Thursday. They were working at my house, and as I remember, they were just about to leave when I had an epileptic attack. They called for an ambulance so that when I eventually came to, only the ambulance men were there.

As I haven't seen them since, I would be grateful if you would pass on my sincere thanks and apologies for any shock I may have caused them—also I hope the delay did not cause any trouble at the depot.

Yours faithfully (Signed)

P.S. I am now quite well and suffered no injury.

Take a bow Mr. Edward Naughton (electrician) and Mr. Gordon Clarke (apprentice), both of our Northwich Depot.

LIGHTING YOUR HOME

Lighting, like everything else in the home can be decorative, utilitarian or both. Good lighting is rarely achieved by chance but needs to be well thought out. It can add to a room's attractiveness and make a home more convenient, pleasant and safe.

"*Lighting Your Home*" a new booklet published by The Electricity Council shows how the best can be made of the large number of modern fittings which are now available.

Dimmer switches, miniature circuit breakers to replace fuse boxes, and photo-cell controls to switch on porch lights when it gets dark are all explained. So is fluorescent lighting.

"*De luxe warm white*" fluorescent tubes for instance, give a light similar to that from tungsten lamps and blends well with it. They can be used with confidence throughout the home. "*De luxe natural*" tubes are good for all colours, although they tend to emphasise reds. They are kind to complexions. "*Colour 34*," "*Kolor-rite*" and "*natural*" tubes give a light similar to daylight and are particularly

useful for kitchens to supplement fading daylight.

"*Warm white*," "*white*" and "*daylight*" tubes should be avoided in the home because they emphasise yellow and green and are poor on reds. They are therefore relatively unkind to complexions and decor.

Lamp wattages are recommended for different purposes around the house and there is a wealth of information on spotlights to add sparkle to decor.

Reading in bed and seeing oneself well in a mirror are both given the importance they deserve. The secret of mirror lighting is to make sure it is the person who is lit, not the mirror. There should be a light on both sides, each being about 60 watts and shielded to avoid glare. Additional top light is often considered an advantage but only if the source is about two feet away.

Living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens, bathrooms and bedrooms are all dealt with separately. So too are the problems involved in planning lighting for garages, workshops and gardens.

"*Lighting Your Home*," is available price 20p, from Electricity Board shops.

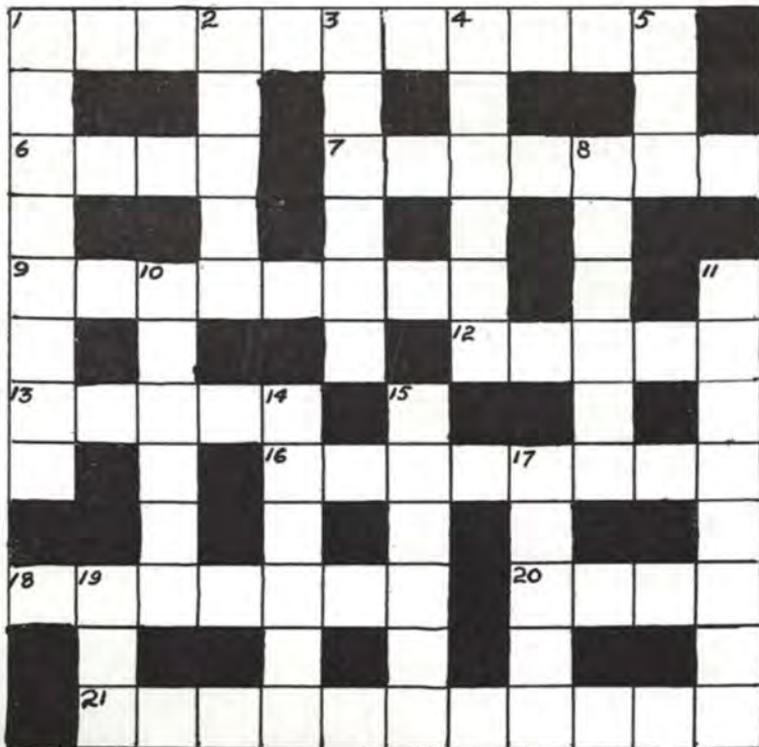
PRIZE CROSSWORD COMPETITION

Here we have another crossword puzzle for you to solve, but this one is a little easier than the last two we have had, so everyone can have a go.

Mr. Bill Pickett, one of our pensioner friends from Liverpool is responsible for the puzzle, and we are offering three prizes of £2 each to the senders of the first three all-correct solutions opened on **November 15th**—the last day for receipt of entries.

Send them to *The Editor, Contact, MANWEB, Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 2LR.*

The competition is restricted to MANWEB employees, pensioners and their families—and only one entry per person please!



Clues Across

1. The Head Office is located by a sand loader. (7, 4)
6. There is no end to this. (4)
7. After a severe crime it is often on a large scale. (3, 4)
9. An example. (8)
12. A palindrome in the generator. (5)
13. Surpass. (5)
16. Left out. (8)
18. Is it pulled over your eyes in Moscow? (3, 4)

20. Find a tall story to get the facts. (4)
21. The Liverpool Depot suggests a campaign by Joseph to introduce antiseptic surgery. (6, 5)

Clues Down

1. Drawn tightly to be filtered. (8)
2. Not heavy but it may need power. (5)
3. Designating. (6)
4. Bow Street messenger. (6)

5. The noisy half of the evening meal. (3)
8. One runs into Mr. Heath to become combined. (6)
10. He has his place. (6)
11. See "17 Down."
14. If it's in the house or the bag the cat could be this. (3, 3)
15. Could he get very high in the boiler? (6)
17. with 11. Down. He has not taken his first degrees. (5, 8)
19. Robert E. is back for the fish. (3)

Wanted for Christmas edition of 'Contact'

SHORT STORIES, POEMS, CARTOONS,
PUZZLES, QUIZES, SEASONAL ARTICLES, ETC.

Send them as soon as possible to:

**The Editor, 'Contact' MANWEB Head Office,
Sealand Road, Chester CH1 2LR.**

'MANWEB' MANUAL WORKERS

FACTS and FIGURES

- At 31st December, 1970 there were **2,560** industrial staff who were members of the Society
- This figure represents **65.8** per cent of the total employed industrial staff
- The number of retired members increased from **560 to 649** during the year
- The number of cases dealt with during the year was **168**
- A total of **£2,743** was dispensed by way of lump sum grants and loans during the year
- Christmas parcels to the value of **1,568** were provided to members, retired members and widows
- Since the Society was formed in 1959, the number of cases dealt with now totals **1,791** and money paid out amounts to **£33,328**
- **IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY A MEMBER WE URGE YOU TO JOIN NOW**
Your contribution of 2p a week will go towards helping a colleague or former colleague in need

Local Sub-Committees to be re-constituted

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held at Head Office, the Chairman, Mr. M. M. Parker, paid tribute to the excellent work done by local sub-committees during the past year despite the difficulties arising from re-organisation.

He referred to the number of cases dealt with during the year and to the amount of benevolence dispensed by the Society since it was formed in 1959.

He pointed out that the number of retired members had increased during the year and to the fact that this number might well continue to increase, certainly as a proportion of the total membership. This increase, he said, would certainly increase the work of the retired employees who were already doing excellent work bringing to light cases needing assistance amongst our former employees. Much of this work, he pointed out, reflected great credit on those who were doing it as it revealed the spirit of benevolence, in its truest sense, and was the key to the successful working of the Society.

Help, he said, could not be given if we were unaware that it was required, and one's main anxiety was that cases needing attention should not be missed.

Subscription Rate

Speaking of the fact that decimalisation had forced a review of the subscription rate he said that, following a referendum to all local sub-committees, this had been fixed at 2p per week. This, it appeared, had been a wise decision, and was borne out by the Treasurer's statement.

Mr. Parker then referred to the re-constitution of local sub-committees necessitated by the re-organisation of Districts. There would, he said, be a local sub-committee for each District comprising three elected members and the three principal officers in each District, namely, the District Engineer, the

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

District Commercial Engineer and the District Administrative Officer.

Elections would be held during the month of November in accordance with the following timetable :—

8th November 1971—*Notice, in writing, of nominations*

18th November 1971—*Closing date for nominations*

29th November 1971—*Date of ballot—(where necessary)*

Arrangements would then be made for representatives from the local sub-committees to be elected to the General Committee.

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Parker emphasised the necessity for members to bring to light any cases which come to their notice of retired employees in need of assistance, by notifying their local representatives, District Administrative Officers or the Secretary of the Society at Head Office.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 1970

Income :

Subscriptions	£3,458
Investment Income	£1,028
	<hr/>
Total	£4,486

Expenditure :

Grants	£2,237
Christmas Parcels	£1,568
Sundry Expenses	£ 30
Visits to sick and retired members .	£ 167
	<hr/>
Total	£4,002

Excess of income over expenditure £484.

To all Pensioners in the Liverpool Area

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-
-

An inaugural meeting is to be held at the Sports and Social Club, Thingwall Road, Liverpool on

Wednesday, 3rd November, 1971
at 2.30 p.m.

with the object of forming a

MANWEB PENSIONERS GROUP

Please come along—you will be very welcome—and there will be some refreshments provided.

(And the "Contact" cameraman will be there too!)

Garden Fountains and Waterfalls

Any garden with a pond, however small, can be made more attractive by adding a fountain, a waterfall or, more ambitiously, an artificial stream rippling over a gravel bed. The range of electric pumps now available for amateur gardeners makes everything up to a gushing torrent an exciting possibility.

Submersible pumps re-circulating about 350 gallons per hour for a waterfall (or 400 gallons if used only for a fountain) cost as little as £9.45. A three-quarter horse power pump to re-circulate 3,200 gallons per hour to a height of 10 feet for a really spectacular display costs around £24. Some submersible pumps operate from 240V mains voltage; but, on the grounds of safety, preference should be given to extra low 24V models. Even weather proofed transformers cannot be expected to stand up indefinitely to the rigours of wind, rain, frost and snow and should be protectively housed.

Complete waterfalls and fountain kits are available which include, besides the pump, 10 feet of plastic pipe on the intake side, 12 feet on the output side, foot valves, strainers, clips, gate valves. In fact everything except the pool and rocks. Prices start at about £27.

One thing not provided in these kits is the electrical connection to the mains because suppliers wisely leave this to qualified electricians employed by Electricity Boards and other approved electrical contractors. Installation work must be carried out to rigid speci-

fications. As an example only switched weatherproof socket outlets and matching plugs should be used.

A fountain and a waterfall can be operated from the same pump but it must be remembered that the performance of both may be less effective.

Fountain jets to provide a wide range of sprays are available but fairly powerful pumps are needed for the best effect. It is possible, however, to produce a very effective display with five fountains from a 1/6 h.p. pump re-circulating only 750 gallons per hour.

A new "Water Ballet" fountain, introduced this year, operates from a small submersible 24 volt pump. It provides twelve different spray patterns each lasting 3½ minutes and one complete display cycle 42 minutes. Without the pump the "Water Ballet" costs £12.

Many people like to enjoy their gardens in the cool of the evening and, as daylight fades, coloured floodlighting can be focused on their fountain jets and waterfalls, providing various combinations of red, green, blue and yellow. For waterfalls and surrounding shrubbery or trees a set of four weather-proof fittings with lamps, cable and transformer costs £16.75. Floating or submerged fittings for ponds and fountains which illuminate sprays or aquatic plant from below are available. Two lamp fittings to do this cost only £7.98 complete with transformer and cable.

A Breath of Spring

AIR CONDITIONING for shops and offices is one of the fastest growing markets in Britain. The total value of the air conditioning market is some £70 million a year and its annual growth rate is estimated to be 20 per cent.

"A Breath of Spring" is a new 16mm colour film made for the Air Conditioning Advisory Bureau which is sponsored by The Electricity Council. It deals with the advantages of air conditioning in High Street shops, pubs and

restaurants. The film investigates the effect of air on people—its effect on their comfort, convenience and concentration. It shows how people can be more aware of conditioned air... how they can take advantage of the benefits of air conditioning by shopping in air conditioned shops, eating in air conditioned restaurants and drinking in air conditioned pubs.

The film features the symbol displayed on premises which are air conditioned with electricity—"We are air conditioned for your comfort." It shows the real benefit which premises bearing the symbol can offer to customers, staff and owners.

"A Breath of Spring" records

the comments of proprietors and managers of premises which are air conditioned and shows how easily air conditioning equipment blends with decor, automatically monitoring and controlling comfort, summer and winter.

The film is not technical. It is for screening to owners and managers of shops and restaurants through Area Electricity Boards and local organisations such as Chambers of Commerce and Rotary Clubs.

"A Breath of Spring" is a 16mm colour/sound film and it runs for 18 minutes. The film is available on free loan from The Electricity Council Film Library, Trafalgar Buildings, 1 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DS.



Our picture shows Messrs Parry, left, and Cartwright, right, with Mr. Perry, centre, in cheerful mood after the presentations.

Retirements

from

Head Office . . .

Mr. R. PARRY and Mr. G. CARTWRIGHT

Two long-serving colleagues who have made a substantial contribution to the development of the electricity supply network in North Wales retired recently, and at a joint ceremony at Head Office Mr. A. Perry (*Assistant Chief Engineer, Production Control*) presented them with clocks and tankards and extended to them the best wishes of their many friends and colleagues.

Mr. Ron Parry joined the Area 4 stores staff in 1949, after war service with the Royal Navy, and two years later transferred to the administrative section of the Area construction department.

Before the war Mr. Gwilym Cartwright was

employed by the North Wales Power Company, and after a break for war service he rejoined the industry in 1948, also in the administrative section of Area 4 construction department.

Both were subsequently actively engaged in the Statutory Notice and progressing side of the Engineering Department, both in respect of the Rural Electrification programme and other capital schemes, at Clwyd, Caernarvon, Anglesey and Crewe Districts.

. . . Queensferry . . .

Mr. F. JACKSON

"It is a sad occasion when we see colleagues of the calibre of Fred Jackson leaving us. A kindly man, who, if he could not do a good turn would most certainly never do a bad one."

These were some of the words of tribute spoken by Mr. Roy Stewart (*Energy Sales Manager*) when he made the farewell presentation of gifts to Mr. Fred Jackson, who recently brought to an end a

Mr. Jackson, centre left, surrounded by colleagues from Queensferry and Head Office, receives their parting gifts from Mr. Stewart.



lifetime of service in the electricity supply industry.

Fred, the workshops engineer at our Queensferry Depot, was born in Oldham and began his working life with Ferranti's, later moving on to join the Rawtenstall Corporation Electricity Department to work in their meter department. In 1940 he went to a new job with the Hawarden U.D.C. and three years later he became their meter engineer.

In 1948 when the industry was nationalised, he took over the workshops, then a Nissen hut on a site near the Queensferry roundabout. Here he was responsible for all appliance repairs for the former Area 4 as well as making and fitting display units and staging for exhibitions and agricultural shows. As the volume of work increased, they moved to slightly better premises on the present MANWEB site at Queensferry.

Today, with the complete reorganisation of the site, Fred is leaving a spic-and-span workshop and conditions which pleased him immensely.

He is a keen bowler—years ago he played for Flintshire County and travelled as reserve for the North Wales team. He is a member of the Bowling Green Hotel Club in Chester.

He also enjoys reading good books and he is married and has two married daughters.

We hear that Fred's wife has not been in very good health recently, so we take this opportunity of wishing her a speedy recovery and hope that they can both enjoy many years of healthy and happy retirement together.

. . . Marsh Lane . . .

Mr. H. HILTON

A senior assistant in the work control section, Mr. Harold Hilton has now retired from his job at Marsh Lane, the headquarters of our North Mersey District.

A former Liverpool Corporation man, Harold was once an assistant operator on the ventilation equipment when the first Mersey Tunnel was being built in 1934.

Later he became a relief operator and an instal-

lation assistant before joining an Anti-Aircraft Regiment during the last war. He saw service in Africa and India and rose to commissioned rank.

Harold is a keen golfer—handicap 8—and has been a member of the West Derby Golf Club for many years. He is a volunteer blood donor and hopes to qualify for the silver badge within the next twelve months.

He is a bachelor and still lives with his mother who is 90-years-of-age. She is a remarkable lady by all accounts but recently she has been having a spot of eye trouble. We wish her well in the future.

At a ceremony to mark his retirement, many tributes were paid to Harold as he was presented with farewell gifts from his friends and colleagues. He also took home a beautiful bouquet of flowers for his mother.

. . . Lister Drive . . .

Mr. A. COWDEN

Another long-serving member of our staff, Mr. Arthur Cowden, recently retired from his job as senior clerk in the General Services section at Lister Drive in Liverpool.

Arthur started his working life when he joined the Liverpool Corporation Electricity Department in November 1929 with a job in the old power station at Pumpfields. Sixteen years later he went to work in the meter test department at Lister Drive and shortly afterwards was upgraded and moved to the manual worker records section.

He was a very active union man having been a member of the executive committee of the Liverpool Branch of Nalgo for the past twenty years.

Outside office hours, Arthur's main interest is in bowling. He started playing the game seriously when he was just about 16-years-old and today he plays throughout the year, summer and winter, on the specially-prepared greens at the West Derby Recreation Club where he has been a member for the past 26 years. He is one of the founder members of the Electricity Supply Bowling Club in Liverpool and has won the Club's individuals championship five

A happy group at Marsh Lane gather to say their goodbyes to Mr. Hilton, centre left, as Mr. G. Shoesmith (District Administrative Officer), centre, and Mr. D. E. Noad (District Commercial Engineer), centre right, hand over parting gifts.



times—including a hat-trick—which is still a club record.

He has also teamed up with a colleague at Lister Drive, Mr. Norman Owens to play in the Nalgo North of England Championships, winning for the first three years and once again a few years later. In the same championships competition, Arthur managed to capture the Singles title on one occasion.

Before setting off for the greens once again, and to his life of retirement, Arthur was presented with a portable radio from his colleagues.

Mr. C. P. McCORMACK

After completing 45 years' service in the electricity supply industry, Mr. Charles P. McCormack retired recently from his job as foreman installation inspector in our Liverpool District.

Charles started work as an office boy with the Liverpool Corporation in 1926 but soon transferred to become an apprentice electrician at Lister Drive power station. Just before he completed his apprenticeship there was an episode with his motor cycle which burst into flames and very nearly burned down the whole power station! *Now it can be told!!*

Like lots of other young men of his generation, Charles joined the Territorials and was mobilised during the Czech crisis in readiness for the 'real thing' shortly afterwards.

When he returned to his civilian job in 1945, he became an installation inspector and in 1948 he was nationalised together with the rest of the supply industry. Eventually he worked his way up to become a foreman and now that he is retiring, he tells us that he hopes to rest on his laurels *but we know that his wife Molly has other ideas and she has quite a few jobs lined up at home!*

Many of his friends gathered at Lister Drive to give him a good 'send-off' and as a token of their esteem for his friendship, they subscribed to present him with an electric radiator which was handed over on their behalf by Mr. R. I. Jowett (*District Commercial Engineer*). Later farewell drinks were enjoyed at the Thingwall Road Clubhouse.

. . . and Northwich

Mrs. M. LE VOI and Mr. F. E. KINGHAM

A social evening at an hotel in Gorstage was held to mark the retirements of two popular members of our staff at Northwich.

Mrs. Mildred Le Voi commenced work in the industry in 1935 when she joined the Mid-Cheshire Electricity Supply Company as personal secretary to Mr. W. Fennell, at that time the general manager and engineer. After Vesting Day, Millie continued at Northwich as a shorthand typist until she decided to call it a day a short time ago. Before leaving us,



A farewell handshake from Mr. Jowett, left, to Mr. McCormack.

she was presented with a carriage lamp clock from her colleagues by Mr. T. W. Cash (*Production Engineer, Mid-Cheshire District*).

Mr. Freddie E. Kingham, a mains foreman, arrived at Northwich many years ago with a company of constructional engineers during the time that the mains system was being extended to Ringway. On completion of the line in 1934, Freddie stayed with the Mid-Cheshire Electricity Supply Company as a linesman. In 1942 he became overhead foreman and later was promoted as mains foreman.

On behalf of his many friends at Northwich, he was presented with a number of gifts including an ash-tray stand which had been made by Mr. F. Brian, one of our pensioners.

Both Mrs. Le Voi and Mr. Kingham received presentation books from the No. 6 Local Advisory Committee.

Mr. Cash, right, says his goodbyes to Mrs. Le Voi and Mr. Kingham.



SHE'S NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU?



You've never seen her before,
after all.

She was married to a
[guy in your line of business.
But that's not your business,
is it?

We hope to God you prove us
wrong. Because it's everybody's
business to be human.

Especially when someone's in
trouble. Like the woman in our
picture. Her husband died
suddenly, left her with two little
boys, and a gap of £3 a week
between income and costs.

That's where total strangers
stepped in. They'd never met
her, and they never will. But
they'd had enough spark of
humanity to write off a little of
their own income to EEIBA.

We hope you'll help us too.
To help people who are nothing
to do with you.

Remember, one day you may need some total strangers too

Just pick up the telephone and call the Welfare Department at Head Office and ask for a salary deduction slip. Do it now—it's quite straightforward. Ten-pence a month is such a small amount and if it is automatically deducted from your salary it wouldn't break you, but it would certainly help to build up someone who would regard you as a good friend.



The Electrical & Electronics Industries Benevolent Association