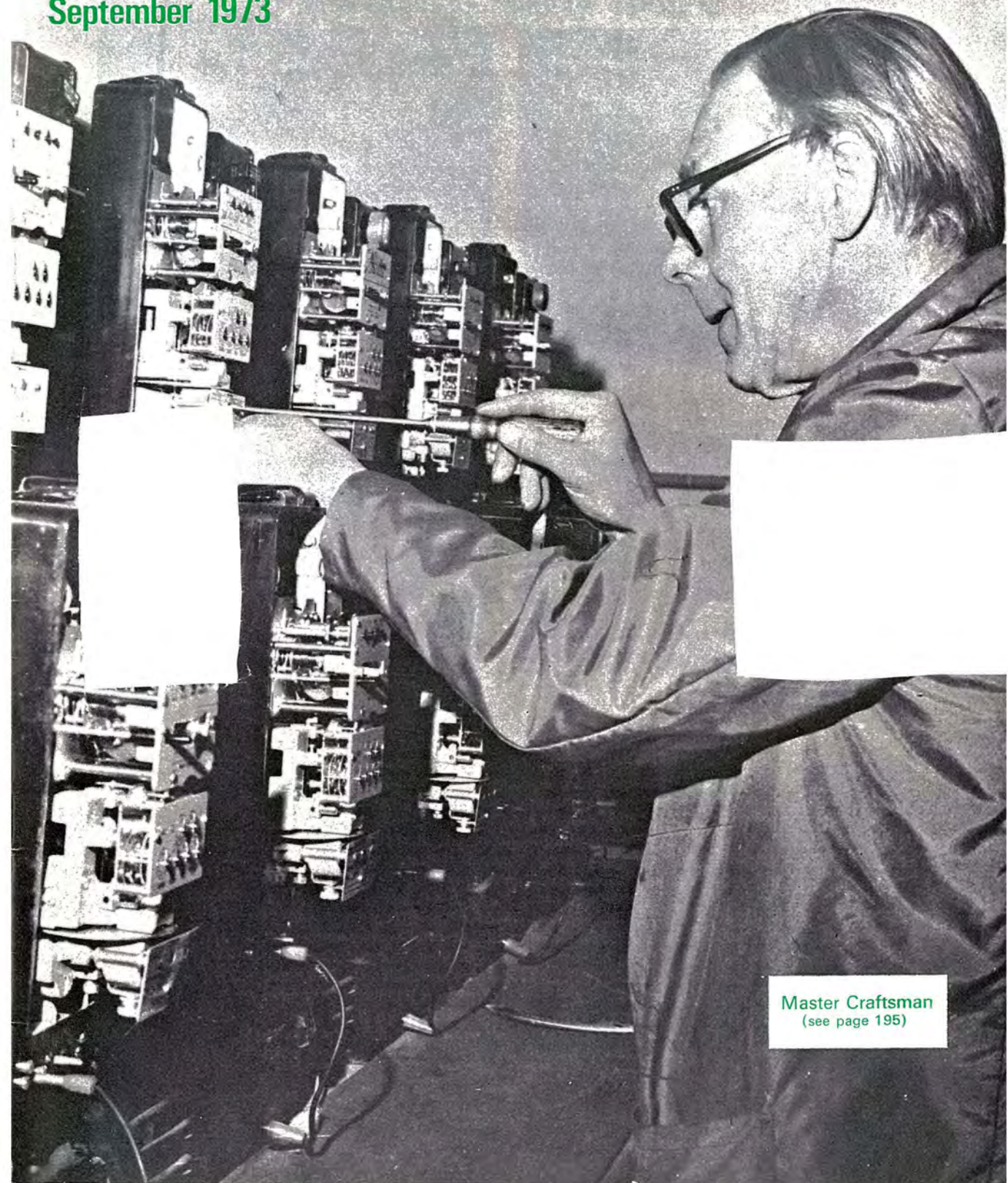


CONTACT

September 1973



Master Craftsman
(see page 195)

MANWEB MEET THE PRESS

ANNUAL REPORT CONFERENCES



Our Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, right, makes a recording for Radio Merseyside with reporter Mr. Nick Peake asking the questions.



Mr. D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman), left, explains a point to Mr. Peter Marshall of the Birkenhead News.



Chief Commercial Officer Mr. M. R. Cowan, left, chats with Mr. Les Poole from the Daily Express.



A friend for many years, Mr. Ron Clare, left, from the Daily Telegraph, seen here with Mr. M. M. Parker (Secretary and Solicitor).

At North Wirral

Pressmen and our senior officers at one of our District Press Conferences. From left to right: Messrs. George Bowers (District Commercial Engineer), Brian Danger (Heswall and Neston News), Ron Morley (District Engineer), Donald Shand (Hoylake News and Advertiser), Stuart Hooton (Birkenhead News) and Don Tomsett (District Administrative Officer).



**A Summary
of the
Annual
Report
can be
found on
pages
188-191**



THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE MERSEYSIDE
AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

CONTACT

INDUSTR

Vol. 25 No.

September 1973

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Editorial Staff
Keith Baldwin
John F. Perry
Sam Doughty

OFF DUTY

MOST OF our old saws and proverbs are—or at least, were—soundly based on truth and commonsense, and few people would dispute that “all work and no play” does, indeed, make Jack a dull boy!

For most of us, work is a simple economic necessity. Whether we enjoy it, put up with it with disinterest, or actively detest it, depends on a combination of the degree to which our work suits our talents and personalities, and on our capacity to adapt to imperfect conditions.

With the exception of a few single minded zealots (some people would describe them in cruder terms) we all need some form of relaxation from our daily chores.

One man's meat is another man's poison. For countless thousands Saturday would not be Saturday if they could not spend at least part of the day with their like-minded brethren on the terraces of their favourite soccer ground, while many others regard soccer fever as a condition of mass lunacy.

Britain's biggest “participation” sport is fishing, and the great majority of that pastime's adherents hunt neither the fighting bass nor the lordly salmon, but spend their leisure hours on the banks of murky waters, tossing in their ground-bait and watching their floats—perfect proof of the almost universal need to “get away from it all.”

This number of *Contact* devotes considerable space to the off-duty activities and achievements of some of our colleagues—and these reports represent only the tip of a vast and varied iceberg.

Whatever our leisure-time pastimes, there is no doubt that they do much to bring balance and harmony into our lives and characters, making us more efficient workers and more agreeable colleagues!

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO ENTER THE
“CONTACT” PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Closing date—30th September 1973

1972-73

A YEAR OF MIXED FORTUNES

OUR ANNUAL REPORT AND

IN INTRODUCING the Annual Report and Accounts for 1972/73 at a Press Conference in Liverpool on September 11th, our Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, said that MANWEB had expanded its scale of operations more than five-fold since its formation in 1948 and that this remarkable growth rate illustrated the central role which we had come to occupy in the industrial and domestic life of the Merseyside and North Wales communities. The Chairman also paid tribute to the immense professional skill of our staff which had helped to make this expansion possible.

The Annual Report records a loss for the year of £1.61 million on a turnover of £115 million. The Chairman had this to say about the situation. "During the past two years we have observed the counter-inflation measures introduced by the Government and, as a consequence, have been unable to balance our books. At present we are supplying electricity at less than the cost of providing it."

The Chairman referred to this as an unsatisfactory state of affairs which could give rise to uneconomic capital investment on a considerable scale. He considered however that if restraint on our part facilitated other measures to control the inflation from which we are all suffering, the ultimate adjustment of our prices to economic levels would be less severe than those which would be necessary if inflation continued unchecked.

The Report explains that while our average income per unit of electricity sold to domestic consumers increased by only 13% during the past three years, the cost of electricity purchased from the CEGB went up by 26% and that the increased price of fuel burned in power stations cost MANWEB an extra £29 million in the same period. Other external costs such as those for new plant and equipment had gone up by 35% and the Board's rates payments to local authorities had risen by 27%.

On the brighter side, the Report refers to encouraging expansion and progress in all MANWEB's spheres of operation, particularly in sales of electricity

and appliances and the success of measures to control internal costs.

Electricity Sales

Overall sales totalled 13,952 million units—an encouraging increase of 7.8%, compared with increases of only 1.4% and 2.4% in the two preceding years.

Sales to industry rose by 7.2%. (In the previous year, for the first time in MANWEB's history, industrial sales declined by 2.6%). This "situation," says the Report, "gives ground for cautious optimism that industry generally is emerging from the difficulties which have beset it in recent years."

Despite a very mild winter, domestic sales rose by 9.7%—the biggest increase since 1962/63. The average home used 4,459 units (the Report points out, at uneconomic prices), compared with 4,122 in the previous year.

The Board's Customers

The total number of consumers of all classes rose by 13,691 to 1,127,047.

Domestic Appliance Sales

The value of appliance sales at the Board's shops increased by 18%, to £7.73 million, and installation and contracting turnover increased by 20.7% to £3.29 million. From these activities the Board made a profit of £859,000, to this extent reducing the overall deficit resulting from uneconomic pricing.

Installation and Service

There was a concerted effort to standardise arrangements for appliance deliveries, stock-holding, and appliance repairs.

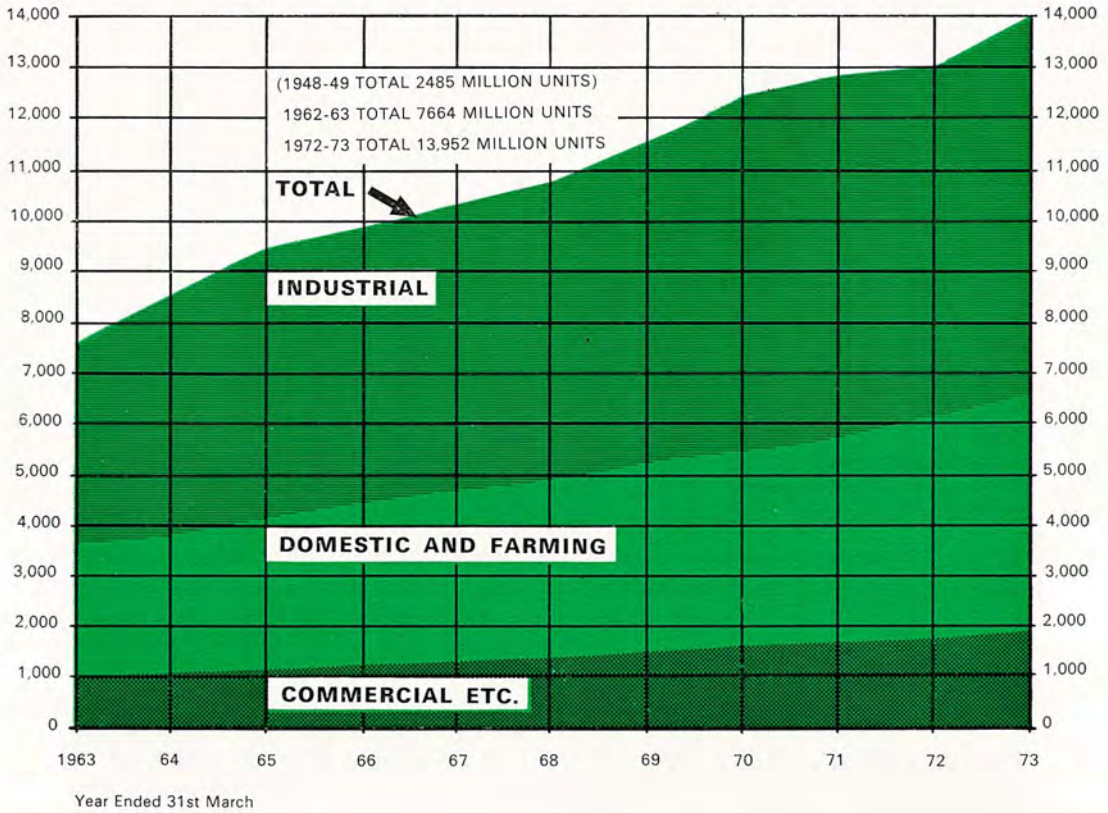
Stocks of spares in service vans have been rationalised, demands for spares have been extensively studied, and this has led to an improvement in the number of calls completed on the first visit, with a 70% success rate now achieved.

(continued on page 191)

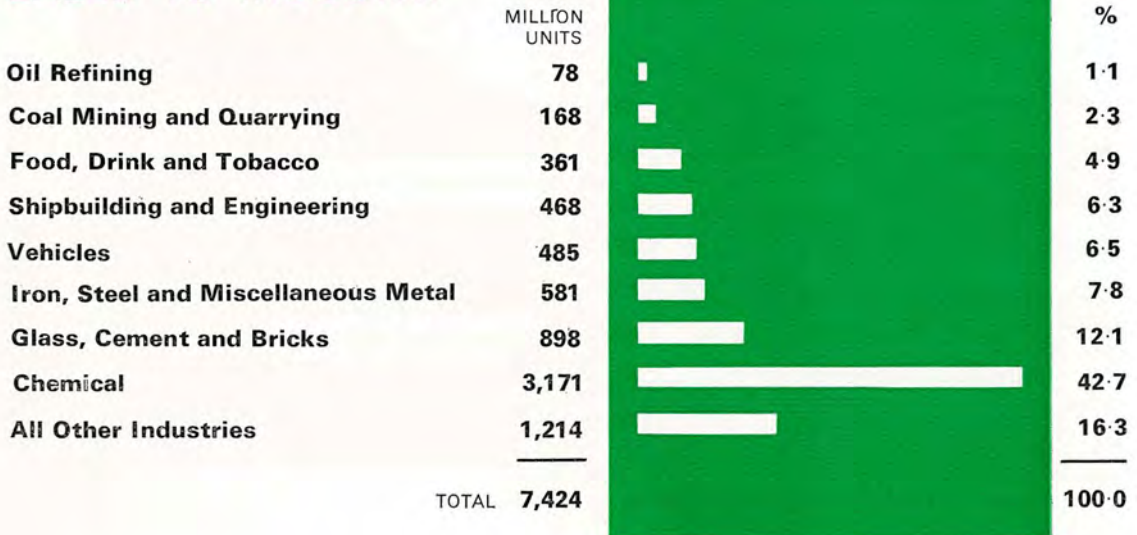
OVERALL ELECTRICITY SALES

MILLIONS OF UNITS

MILLIONS OF UNITS



SALES TO INDUSTRY



THE LAST FIVE YEARS

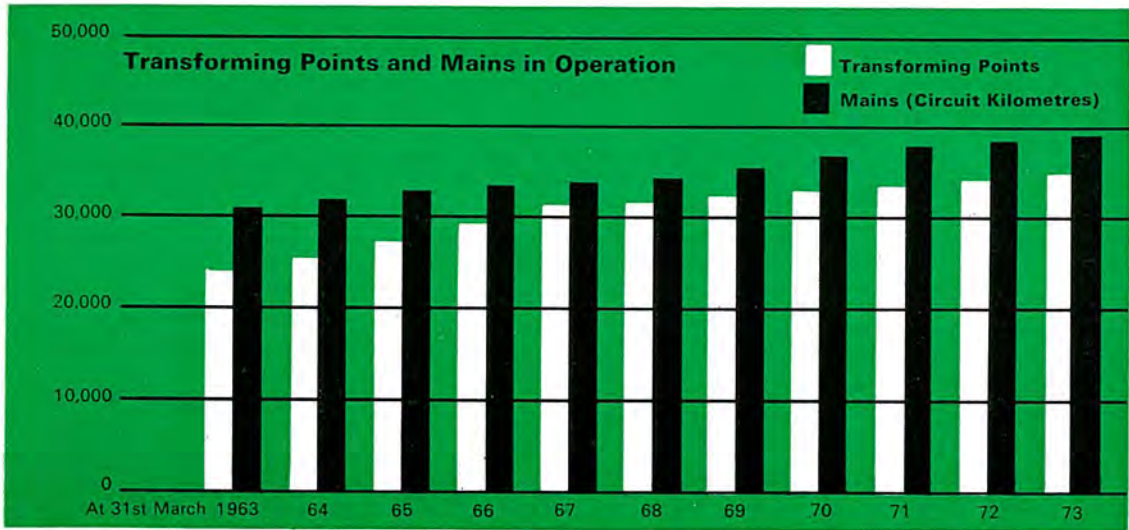
	1968—69	1969—70	1970—71	1971—72	1972—73
*Consumers					
Domestic	942,021	955,117	970,055	983,726	997,198
Industrial, Commercial etc.	98,076	98,306	98,781	99,388	99,665
Farming	30,707	30,655	30,262	30,242	30,184
Total	1,070,804	1,084,078	1,099,098	1,113,356	1,127,047
Sales of Electricity (millions of units)					
Domestic and Farming	3,617	3,823	3,986	4,280	4,681
Industrial, Commercial etc.	7,944	8,654	8,785	8,667	9,271
Total	11,561	12,477	12,771	12,947	13,952
Year's average use per Domestic Consumer (kWh)	3,630	3,779	3,900	4,122	4,459
*Distribution Mains (kilometres)	35,727	37,601 (a)	38,070 (a)	38,502 (a)	38,914 (a)
Maximum Demand (kilowatts)	2,310,050	2,406,415	2,475,530	2,561,142	2,599,029
*Transformer Capacity (MVA) ..	8,360	13,590 (a)	13,980.5 (a)	14,369 (a)	14,693 (a)
Annual Load Factor (%)	60.1	62.4	62.2	61.0	65.0
Number of Staff (all grades)					
per million units sold	0.665	0.586	0.546	0.515	0.465
per 100,000 consumers	723	679	635	603	579
Distribution and Administration Costs					
per unit sold	0.063p	0.066p (b)	0.071p (b)	0.078p (b)	0.078p (b)

* At end of year.

(a) Includes 132-kV system.

(b) Includes operation and maintenance of the 132-kV system.

THE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK



The Distribution System

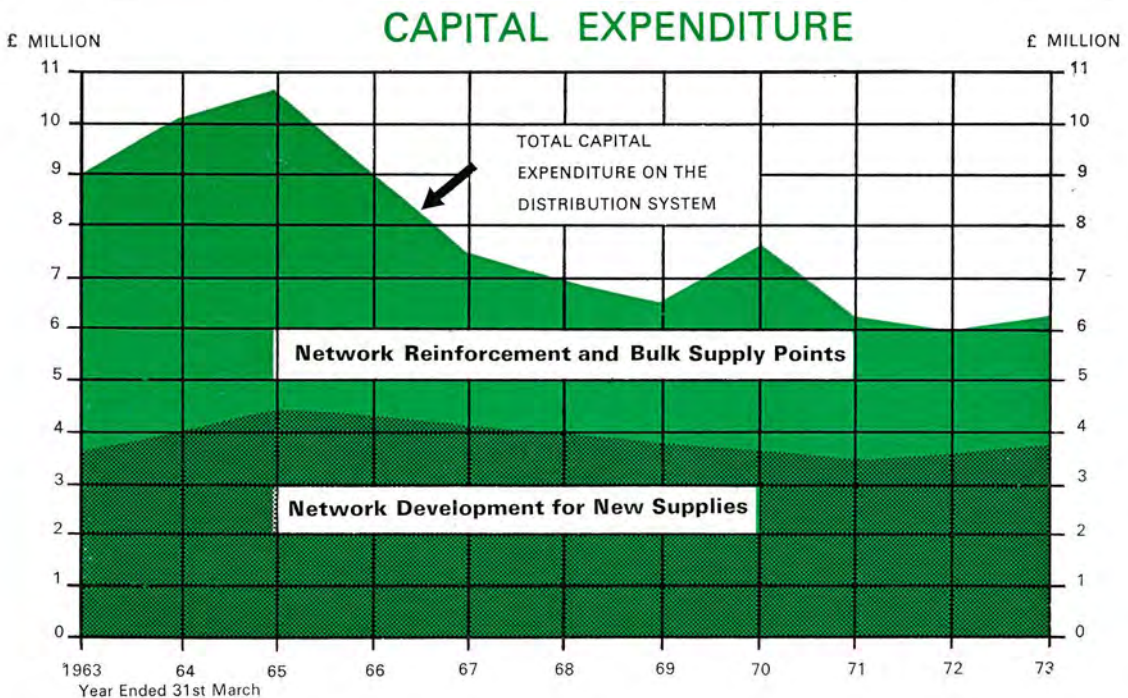
The network was extended and strengthened by the addition of 412 kilometres of new mains, and 571 transforming points.

Capital expenditure on the network was £6.19 million, and emphasis was placed on activities

designed to reduce costs and improve the quality of supply.

Working Expenses

Despite the inflationary climate, MANWEB's working expenses, per unit sold, were identical with those of the previous year—.078 pence per unit.



Better Living with Electricity

It's exhibition time again. After months of preparation in planning, designing and building a number of exhibit stands, our energy sales team, with the helpful co-operation of the Display Department, have produced yet another top class touring exhibition to show off the many modern electrical aids for the home. These help to prove to our customers that the title banner over the exhibition, "*Better Living With Electricity*," is really true.

Energy sales staff in each of our ten Districts are now preparing to play their part in boosting sales as the exhibition visits their particular District. It will be at the following venues on the dates shown:

Town Hall, **Oswestry**,
September 24th to 26th.
St. John's Shop, **Liverpool**,
September 28th to October 6th.
Central Hall, **Hoylelake**,
October 9th to 13th.
Town Hall, **Llandudno**,
October 16th to 19th.
Sea Cadet Corps H.Q.,
Aberystwyth,
October 30th to November 2nd.
St. John's Church Hall,
Ainsdale,
November 6th to 9th.

PRESIDENT OF UNIPEDE

Sir Peter Menzies, Chairman of the Electricity Council, has been elected President of the International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy (UNIPEDE), a body representing twenty-two of the world's foremost countries engaged in the generation, transmission and public distribution of electricity. He is the first Briton to hold this position since 1955.

Sir Peter, who also represents the U.K. electricity supply industry in another international organisation, the Centre Européen de l'Entreprise Publique, has

City Library, **Bangor**,
November 14th to 17th.
Civic Hall, **Winsford**,
November 21st to 24th.
Aldford Hall, **Warrington**,
November 27th to 30th.
Memorial Hall, **Wrexham**,
January 10th to 14th, 1974.

MORE . . . and LESS

National Insurance and Industrial Injuries flat-rate pensions and benefits are to be increased in October. To help meet the cost of these increases the graduated contributions paid by employed persons on earnings from £9 to £54 a week are being increased from 1st October 1973.

The employee's share of flat-rate contributions for men and women is being reduced by 4p.

been actively associated with electricity supply since 1960, initially as a part-time member of the Central Electricity Generating Board, and then from April 1972 as Chairman of the Electricity Council.

In addition, he is a Director of the Commercial Union Assurance Company Limited, a Director of the National Westminster Bank Limited, and a member of the City's Panel on takeovers and mergers. He is a former Deputy Chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries Limited.

Knighthood in 1972, Sir Peter is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics and for some time served as Honorary Treasurer of the Institute.

Christmas Comes

It may seem rather early to be writing about Christmas, but after the end of this month, we have only twelve weeks to go before party-time begins.

However, our friends in the Electric Supply Sports and Social Club in Liverpool are already well prepared for one special event—the Childrens' Party.

This will be held on Saturday, December 8th at 2.00 p.m. in the Thingwall Road Clubhouse. There will be a charge of 35 pence for each child.

Only the sons, daughters or the grand-children, between four and ten years of age, of members of the Electric Supply Sports and Social Club are eligible to go to the party.

Application forms should be obtained as soon as possible from any of the following: Mal Cooper (*Commercial*), Vincent Danks (*Inspection*), Reg Adams or Tom Smith (*Accounts*). The forms should be completed and returned by November 5th.

In an endeavour to raise money to subsidise the party, the Committee have organised the following events at the Thingwall Road Clubhouse:

VARIETY SHOW

on October 5th from 8.00 p.m. to 11.45 p.m.
Tickets 40 pence.

DISCO

featuring the D.J. Sound
on November 3rd at 8.00 p.m.
Get your tickets quickly from Mal Cooper (*Commercial*) or Dennis Metcalf (*Accounts*).

E.A.W EXAMINATION

Our congratulations go to Mrs. Eirlys Hughes, energy sales demonstrator in the Gwynedd District who recently passed—with distinction—the Electrical Association for Women Certificate Examination for Demonstrators and Teachers.

Keeping check on a Million Meters

IF IT was possible for all MANWEB customers to visit our Meter Test Station at Lister Drive, and see for themselves the top quality work carried out by a highly experienced staff, we would never again have any complaints about electricity meters running too fast and registering far more electricity than was being used.

The Station is geared to operate as a highly efficient production unit dealing with the renovation, recalibrating and final testing of meters and time switches. They are now in the fifth year of a Pay and Productivity Scheme and deal with some 135,000 meters annually, which works out at an astonishing 600 meters every working day—and each one receiving individual attention!

The 'top man' at the Station, Mr. Terry Fleetwood (*2nd assistant engineer*) told us just before his new move to an appointment at Head Office, "*Fortunately there is sufficient maturity among the staff to allow the normal factory-style discipline to be*

replaced by a more informal attitude, so that each individual paces himself during the working day to produce maximum performance."

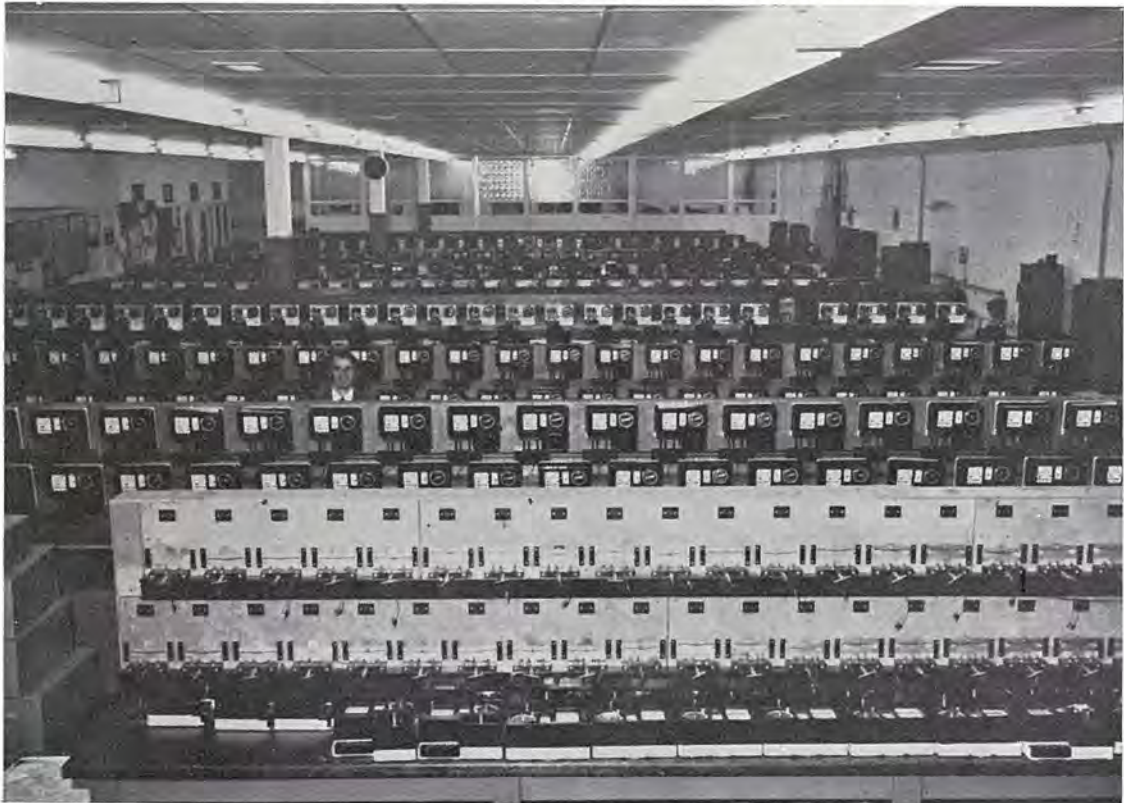
As part of the Board's re-organisation plans in 1970, it was decided to centralise the single-phase meter and time switch activities on the existing meter test department at Lister Drive. This meant that the workshops had to be replanned in order to accommodate a new and increased work flow, so a building modernisation programme was instituted.

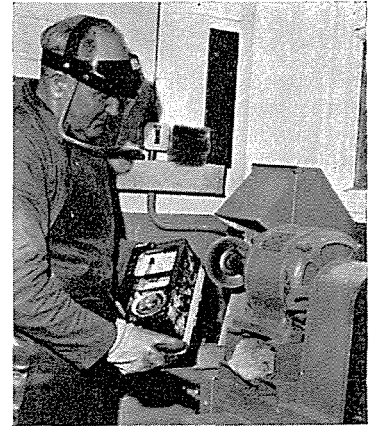
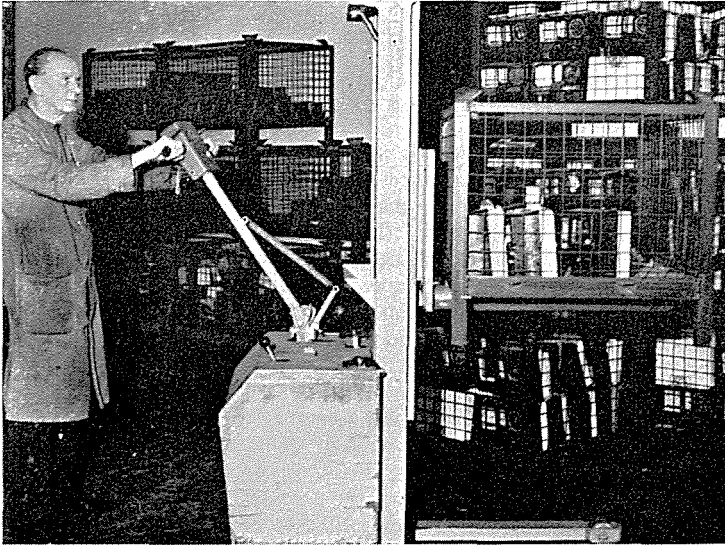
The floor was completely re-laid, a suspended ceiling fitted as part of a high intensity lighting scheme, and a ventilation system was installed. The regular work of the Station carried on often under very trying and difficult circumstances, especially when the floor was being re-laid section by section. However, full production was maintained.

Mr. Fleetwood's right hand man at the Test Station is Mr. John Moore (*3rd assistant engineer*) commented, "*The staff are to be commended on the*

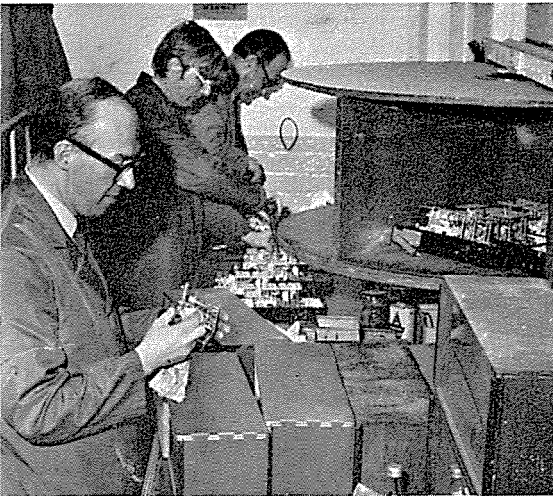
(Continued on page 196)

Just a few of the million meters passing through our Test Station.



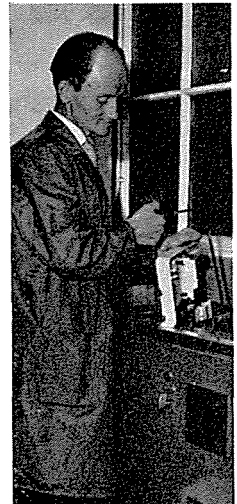


△
Buffing and cleaning the meter casing is Mr. Bob Gilchrist (*chargehand*).



△
Meters arriving for test being stacked by Mr. Jack Jones (*storekeeper*).

△
Initial inspection and examination being carried out by, from left to right: meter mechanics Messrs. Charlie Scott, Terry Coleman and Billy Cormell (*chargehand*).



△
Mr. Jimmy Cogan (*assistant*) putting 'the works' through the ultra-sonic washer.



△
Staff busily engaged at work in the repair section.

In one of the test bays we see Messrs. Joe Stannard (assistant) left, and Evan Nelson (meter mechanic).



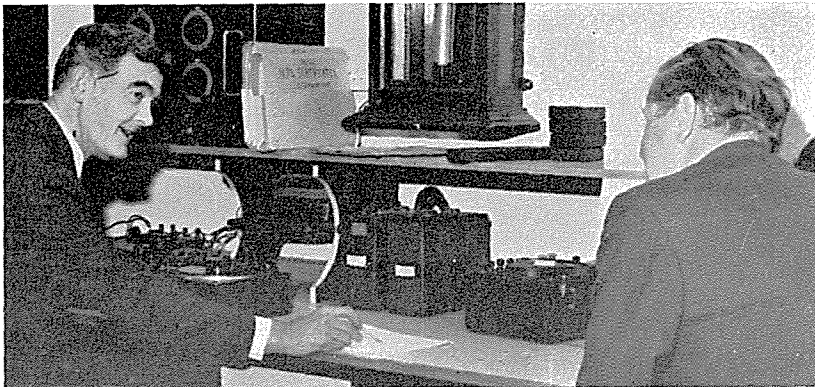
OUR COVER PICTURE shows Mr. Bob McDonnell at work testing meters, a job he has been doing for the past 40 years.



In another test bay we have meter testers Messrs. Wally Harvey, left, and Ted Elcock.



At work on the White Meters are Messrs. Tommy Dobb (meter mechanic), left, and Bob Wycherley (chargehand assistant).



Left: Second-in-command Mr. John Moore, left, talks with Mr. A. E. Jagger, a government inspector from the Department of Trade and Industry.

Below centre: Mr. Joe Holden (foreman) seated, listens to Mr. Tommy Smith (meter mechanic) who is also the E.E.T.U./P.U. shop steward.

Below: Checking the meter numbers before they leave the Station is Mrs. May Walker.



tremendous efforts made and the cheerful co-operation of all the shop floor workers has been reflected most satisfactorily in the way in which they kept up their work output."

Stringent tests are carried out by Government Examiners who visit the Station three times a week to select, sample and certify the meter output as suitable for issue to circuit. The Area Meter Examiner recently expressed his high regard for the work done at the Station when he said, "*I must congratulate the MANWEB staff at the Lister Drive Test Station on the excellent consistency of their output and the constant high quality of the final product.*"

A precaution taken to make certain of keeping this high standard is the diligent operation of our own quality control system whereby random samples of meters are selected and thoroughly checked and inspected at various stages in the flow line.

There is also a double check on our own testing equipment for at regular intervals, all instruments used in the testing of meters are inspected at the Standards Laboratory, where everything is tested against the requirements of the Certificates of Approval issued by the National Physical Laboratory.

After certification, the meters—six at a time—are packed into special foam-padded self-stacking boxes. These are placed one on top of the other and then loaded on to a container which in turn is put on to a special vehicle and locked into position to avoid any damage to the meters during transit. They are delivered to the various District stores and from there they are issued in the six-to-a-box packs to the installation staff who deliver and install in the customers home.

Away from the shop floor is another all-important part of the Meter Test Station—the clerical section—who provide a most necessary service. Among their many duties and responsibilities, they record the details of every meter leaving the Station and its test results, the daily updating of the Board's meter



records system, provide statistics necessary for future planning and issue record cards to all Districts for their statutory meter changes.

The Meter Test Station is neat and clean and has an atmosphere of quiet efficiency and there is certainly a good spirit among the staff.

With Mr. Fleetwood's move to Head Office, his place at the Meter Test Station will be taken over by Mr. David Crangle who moves from Head Office.

Assistant Chief Engineer, Mr. M. A. Garrett told our reporter, "It is good to see the Board's reorganisation plan to centralise the single phase metering activities now completed. As with any reorganisation, there have been problems, but all the staff concerned have overcome these, and I sincerely compliment them on their efforts and their high performance.

"There is no doubt that MANWEB's Meter Test Station is providing an excellent service to its million-plus customers."

Right: Mr. David Crangle who is now running the Station having taken over from Mr. Terry Fleetwood (inset).

Below: The clerical section, from left to right starting at the back: Mr. Bert Bennett and the ladies, Edna Hurst, May Walker, Joyce Barren, Mabel O'Connor, Joan Speakman, May Hill, Barbara Ledsham, Jean Eccles, Ruth Roberts and Margery Costello.





Mr. Dave Jones outside his neat bungalow which he completed a short time ago.

THE HOUSE THAT DAVE BUILT!

AS LAND and property prices spiralled to dizzy heights, Connah's Quay Urban District Council, in an effort to keep prices down, decided to release a parcel of land which they owned as a site for 'self-build' homesteaders.

This news came like an answer to a prayer for one of the Council members, Mr. Dave Jones, our shop supervisor at Shotton, who had been on the look-out for a new home for some time.

The idea of building their own home was a challenge to Dave and his wife Maud, a secretary at the Bryn Deva School in Connah's Quay.

Although a member of the Council, there were no special privileges for Dave and so, early last year, on an appointed date, he stood patiently in a queue at the Council Offices ready to select and buy his plot of land. Of the 54 sites for sale, he chose a corner plot with a fine view of Moel Famau in one direction and a clear sight across the Dee estuary to West Kirby in the other.

In order to raise capital to start building, Dave and Maud sold their own home in May last year and moved into a small rented cottage in the area.

An architect friend helped him draw up plans for the new two-

bedroomed bungalow, with spacious hall, large lounge, fitted kitchen and connecting garage.

He registered as a builder and in July work started in earnest with a lot of time and effort spent on making the foundations solid and true. With occasional hired help, using tradesmen for specific jobs, Dave continued at a steady rate, working every available moment of his spare time. Gradually, as course upon course of brick was laid, the walls rose, window frames fitted and soon the roof tiles were going on.

"I was well pleased with the progress of the job," commented Dave, "and as far as I can recall, only one dark cloud threatened and that was when the builder's strike loomed up. I managed to anticipate this and with my son and two more helpers, we got to work and in six hours completely wired the whole property in readiness for the plasterers to move in before the strike started. It was a close thing, but we managed."

Other than this incident, the whole project went on without any other major snags and at times the building work went so fast that it even surprised Dave. In acknowledging the special help given to him from time to time by another member of our staff—and another Dave—Mr. Dave Brown of our Civil Engineering Section at Head Office, Dave the builder said, *"I had some excellent advice from him and I am most grateful for the help he gave to me especially with the names of various contacts in the trade."*

Just before Christmas, Dave and Maud's dream home was ready for occupation and it was with great relief when they moved in. Dave had been so watchful and meticulous during the building operation that not once did he have to consult his architect friend to check on progress.

Dave's son, who helped father from time to time, soon caught the self-build bug and he too bought a plot of land on the same estate, just down the road from Mum and Dad. They started work on his house about a month after Dave senior had laid the

foundations on his bungalow. The son's home was completed in time for him to move in with his new bride Sheila after their wedding in April of this year. Sheila's father, Alan Jones, was a storekeeper at Shotton prior to his retirement about twelve months ago.

Dave, junior, started his working life with MANWEB as an apprentice electrician at Hoylake. After he had completed his apprenticeship he branched out with his own business and is now a very successful contracting electrician in Connah's Quay.

On the self-build estate now are doctors, engineers, architects, shop supervisors, electricians and many others with a variety of occupations who have all had the courage to turn their hands to



Another home ready, this time for Dave's son.

becoming home builders from the foundations up. In each case, it has been quite an exciting enterprise and the site is now taking shape with a varied range of beautifully designed bungalows and houses.

Another member of our staff, Miss Maritta Jones who works in the Revenue Section at Head Office, will be moving into her new home on the estate shortly. When it is ready she will be getting married.

GRADUATE

Our lone graduate from University this year was Mr. John G. Macdonald who lives at Crosby, Liverpool and works in our North Mersey District.

He recently graduated from Salford University and was presented with his B.Sc. Degree, with Honours, by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

John took his 'O' levels at Crosby County Secondary school before going to Southport Technical College where he worked for and gained four 'A' levels in maths, further maths, physics and geometry/engineering drawing.

He joined the Board five years ago as a student engineer and went to Birkenhead Technical College, getting some excellent results before going on to Salford.

"THE GIRL FROM MANWEB—1974"

Are all your entries in from your District or Section?

Closing date—
5th November 1973



Mr. John G. Macdonald

RUNCORN FAMILY INJURED

Colleagues in South Lincs District wish a speedy return to full health and comfort to Mr. Jim Hampson, an assistant storekeeper at Runcorn, his wife Jean, and their two daughters Pearl, aged 14, and Angela, aged 11, who were all injured when the coach in which they were travelling was involved in an accident near Carlisle early in August.

The Hampson family were returning from holiday in Edinburgh when their coach, carrying 44 passengers, skidded on the main road at Langholm, between Carlisle and Dumfries, hit a tree,

and split in two.

One woman was killed and 12 people were injured in the crash.

Mr. Hampson suffered fractured ribs and a fractured cheekbone as well as cuts and bruises, and has suffered considerable discomfort and inactivity. His wife has a scarred face and a bad leg, but is beginning to feel better. Angela sustained facial and hand injuries, and Pearl was the least hurt, with a black eye, bumps and bruises.

All spent a couple of weeks in hospital at Carlisle before being allowed to go home.

SPORTS PAGES

Golf

Electrician Mike Lindon from our South Lancashire District, recently won the coveted Captain's Cup at Runcorn Golf Club. He was first in the field of 110 competitors to take the trophy with excellent scores of 67 and 68 in the two-round match.

In addition to the Cup itself, Mike also received a 21-piece tea service which delighted his fiancée, Barbara Clarke. Just the thing for the bottom drawer.

Last year Mike won the President's Prize which was a feather in his cap. His follow-up, and his best performance this year winning the Club's premier competition by one stroke adds yet another feather and we are now looking forward to the day when he will sport a full tribal head-dress!



Mike with his top trophy.

Weekly News Picture

The Chester Golfing Society are having a very successful season. Half-day meetings have been held monthly since April at Upton-by-Chester, Curzon Park, Prestatyn, Wrexham, and Helsby. The final full-day meeting was at Oswestry Golf Club on Sept. 14.

As holders of the Chester and North Wales Industrial Cup we were most unfortunate to be beaten in the first round of this year's competition by McAlpines who won by four matches to two.

Membership is now near the 100 mark and is drawn not only

from Head Office but from all our Districts with the exception of Gwynedd and Aberystwyth.

A special match is to be played on Saturday, 29th September at the Wrexham Golf Club in Holt Road with the Chester Golfing Society taking up the challenge from the golfers of the Electricity Supply Board of Ireland. Tee off at 3.0 p.m.

Anyone interested in joining the Society should contact Mr. W. Arthur Jones, Wayleaves Section, Head Office.

Tennis

Two of our colleagues at Caernarvon have just finished a very tough summer stint teaching local schoolchildren the rudiments of the game of tennis.

Mr. Owen John Hughes, an electrician, and Mr. William J. Jones, a meter reader/collector, are the two instructors in this scheme, sponsored by Green Shield Stamps and backed by the Welsh Lawn Tennis Association.

Our two men from MANWEB have played tennis for about twelve years and represent Gwynedd County in 'friendly' matches against other counties and in the Caernarvon League.

After an approach from the League secretary asking if they were interested in coaching, they went along to a weekend's course at the Deeside Leisure Centre at Queensferry. They were instructed by Welsh coach Alan Mills.

The children they now teach, aged 8—14, who take their tennis lessons after school hours, were so keen that the original six-week course was extended to ten weeks. "Their enthusiasm is tremendous" said Mr. Hughes, "and we have never had less than 38 youngsters at a training session."

Fellow coach Mr. Jones commented, "We have one or two very promising youngsters among those we have coached so far, and if we discover anyone with a really outstanding gift we would recommend that they go to Cardiff for more advanced coaching by the Welsh coach.

"It has been a real pleasure to do this work," he concluded, "and the more of this kind of thing there is, the brighter the future will be for Welsh tennis."

Cricket



Batsman David Jones (*Revenue*) waits as umpire Lawrence Kirby (*Revenue*) adjusts the bails.

Members of the Secretarial Department at Head Office have had a season of mixed fortunes when playing a series of 'friendly' matches.

They began with a game against the Royal Insurance Company played at Gresford Cricket Club. Secretarial were dismissed for a disastrous 25 runs—the highest score being extras! The Royal soon scored the required runs to win the match and both sides sought early retirement to enjoy a supper of chicken and chips at the Red Lion.

The next match was the annual event against the Chester Solicitors. This was organised by Fred Owen of our own Legal Section, and he made the stakes a pint a man paid for by the losers.

Despite a last wicket partnership of 27 by Tom Dutton and Dave Brayshaw bringing Secretarial's total to 63. The Solicitors beat this score with an over to spare.

Another annual event was the match played on the ideal village green setting at Thornton Hough

where McAlpines were the opponents. The rumour that they played in 'wellies' and batted with spades is not true! They did however provide a barrel of beer—free—another reason why this event is so popular.

Even though Don Roxborough

hit out to make a lively 15 runs and Cliff Shepherd was brought out of retirement to do his "Godfrey Evans bit" behind the stumps—another disappointing defeat was recorded.

The final match of the season was against Head Office Financial Department, who, eager to avenge their defeat in a previous encounter, knocked-up 69 runs to set Secretarial a formidable task. However, under the experienced captaincy of Tom Jones—not him, ours—and a fine opening partnership between Tom Dutton (45 not out) and George Harrison, Secretarial were again victorious despite some energetic bowling by Financial captain Lawrence Kirby and Rob Jones.

And so ends another season with lots of happy memories for all members of the team. Winning isn't everything—we know!

Dave Brayshaw



DOUBLE CHAMPIONS

In a double success, Electric Supply teams in Liverpool topped their respective leagues in the Merseyside Cricket Association.

The first team, in Division I, won by five clear points and the second team were undefeated in their 16 matches, which gave them a clear ten points over their nearest rival.

Pictured above are the members of the first team, from left to right, back row: Harry Hunter, Ron Dowd, Paul Egington, Neil Kirkwood, Jeffrey Jones, Jim Price and Martin Taylor, front row, Ken Farquarson (scorer), Bill Dickinson, Geof Homer (Club capt.), David Oates and Mike Fisher-Jones.

The second team, pictured below, from left to right, back row: Bill Edwards, Reg Lewis, George Stayte, David Strong, Roy Eyres, Howard Netton and Dick Gerrard. Front row: Bert Eyres, Gordon Lynch (capt.), Brian Cockrell and Malcolm Cooper.



Football

Electric Supply

Again, Electric Supply in Liverpool are fielding two teams and matches have already been played at the Thingwall Road ground.

The first team are eagerly looking forward to their second season in the Liverpool County Combination and will be trying hard for promotion after finishing in the top half last season.

A home draw against Marine in the Liverpool Amateur Cup, and an away match against Whalley Range, a Manchester team and old rivals, in the Lancashire Amateur Cup, are highlights of the early part of the season. Both will be tough games but Electric Supply have no fears for last year the first team reached the quarter-final round in the Lancashire Amateur Cup.

The second team will be competing in the 3rd Division of the Liverpool Shipping League after a successful season last year when they finished third in the table.

Both teams have entered for the Liverpool Junior Cup Com-



Keith Edmundson in his dinghy with crewman Norman Burnett, whose own story will be in next month's *Contact*.

petition and are eagerly looking forward to their first matches, hoping they won't be drawn against each other.

Training sessions are held every Tuesday night—under floodlights when necessary—and anyone within travelling distance of Liverpool, who feels he has some football talent will always be welcome at Thingwall Road. Charlie Lamb.

Head Office

Although they broke no records last year, the 30-man squad of Head Office footballers were well satisfied with their progress during the season.

The first team, playing in the Halkyn and District League, finished halfway up the table, while the second team were a little lower down in the 4th Division of the Chester and District League. They are very confident that they will win promotion this season.

Always on the look-out for new talent, the training sessions are held on the car park at Head Office on Wednesday evenings.

If you would like to come



The winner, Keith's "Erica," number 6794, crosses the finishing line in the Welsh Dinghy Handicap race.

along for a kick around, or wish to join in the training routine, you will be very welcome, or contact Mr. Bill Taylor of the Head Office Computer Section.

Rod Kenyon.

Sailing

This year's Welsh Dinghy Handicap race was won by Mr. Keith L. Edmundson, a senior assistant engineer at Head Office.

The course for this annual event, open to all classes of dinghy, is over the 13 miles of coastal water between Deganwy on the Caernarvon coast to the yachting centre at Beaumaris on the Anglesey coastline.

In normal conditions, with plenty of wind, it is the larger class of dinghy which makes the fastest headway, therefore they are despatched by the starter ahead of the smaller craft. Keith in his self-built GPI4 class dinghy was in the latter group of starters.

On the day of the race only a gentle breeze breathed on the fleet. These calm conditions favoured the smaller boats as they chased after the larger craft. With every inch of canvas trap-

ping the slightest movement of air, Keith's boat "Erica" slowly overhauled the tailenders of the large vessel group.

After four-and-a-half hours, "Erica" crossed the finishing line in fifth place surrounded by the larger dinghies. On corrected time she was placed first and Keith, who is a member of the Budworth Sailing Club, was presented with a large silver salver on which his name will be inscribed. He will then hold on to his prize for the next twelve months.

Bowls

When the 24-strong Cardigan-shire bowls team takes to the greens in county league matches against other teams from the mid-Wales and south-Wales area, four of the regular players are members of our Aberystwyth District staff.

They are Alan Galbraith, a clerical assistant, Harry Bates, an electrician, and Ray Hughes, District sales supervisor who all belong to the Queen's Road Bowling Club, Aberystwyth, and Gerallt Jones, a linesman, and member of the Plascrug Bowling Club.

Alan, who is 26, joined MANWEB in 1966, and also enjoys football and boxing. Harry, aged 40, has been with us since 1948, and is a hi-fi enthusiast. Ray, who is 46, has been with the industry since 1943. He is also a hi-fi fan, and a stamp-collecting enthusiast. Gerallt is 47, joined MANWEB in 1958, and his other main leisure-time pursuit is his garden.

During the course of the bowling season—which is just ending—they have played in county league matches against Glamorgan, Pembroke, Montgomery, mid-Wales, Carmarthen, and Monmouth, and in a number of “friendlies” against teams from further afield.

All four play for their clubs in the Cardiganshire League, in which each club plays every other club twice.

When playing in county matches Alan and Harry are in the same “rink” for four players, while Ray and Gerallt play in separate rinks.

Our picture shows Ray, Harry,

Gerallt and Alan (left to right), resplendent in their “whites,” after a recent County match against Montgomery.

The Challenge . . .

A short time ago, our Liverpool District Engineer, Mr. C. E. Donovan, challenged the District Commercial Engineer’s Department to a Bowls and Darts Match. The challenge was not accepted, but the gauntlet was picked up by the District Administrative Officer, Mr. T. D. Hamilton, on behalf of his staff.

After some good bargaining in arranging the handicaps for the Engineers, the match was played one evening at the Thingwall Road Sports Club.

Torrential rain interfered with the bowls match, but fortunately did not stop it altogether. The game was won by the Engineers, much to the dismay of the recognised bowls experts in the Administration team who were convinced that there was more than one

‘ringer’ in their opponents’ team. However, this was not the case but simply that the Engineers knew a little more about hydro-dynamics enabling them to move the bowls a little easier on the rain sodden green!

Both teams then retired to the comfort of the Clubhouse where the winners were treated to a drink. The challenge match then continued on the dartboard. Dare it be said that the Engineers won again? The reason put forward this time was not hydro-dynamics but simply the results of a mis-spent youth!

Nevertheless, a good time was had by all and both teams express their sincere gratitude to Mr. Bert Fairhurst who organised the events of the evening.

and the reply . . .



WHEREAS it has come to our attention that our colleagues who provide the Supply have much maligned our sporting prowess, We, the persons who make it all possible by selling the aforementioned Supply, do hereby challenge those persons of the first part, to a match in the honourable past-times of propelling wooden balls across a prepared verdent surface and to projecting feathered missiles at a coloured well-mounted target, on a date and at a venue to be decided, the said venue to provide suitable and sufficient lubrication for both body and spirit—during and after the resolution of the issue.

*Signed by
18 Knights (Commercial)*



From . . .



Phil and Dave at the start of their journey.

DID YOU enjoy your holiday this year? Was it restful? Good. Then why not have a change next year and follow the example of two of our 18-year-old apprentices, **Phil Currie** from North Wirral and **Dave Beale** from Runcorn, and get hold of a couple of bikes and cycle from John O'Groats to Lands End!

These two adventurous young men did this mammoth trip a few weeks ago in order to raise money for Phil's Scout Troop—the 40th Highfield Birkenhead Venture Scouts.

The lads met at our Hoylake Training Centre on the 1971/72 Course and teamed up when they found that they both had an interest in cycling. Last year they went on separate cycling holidays and both finished up in Devon.

This year, however, they got together for the big ride, to raise over £50 from sponsors towards the cost of a mini-bus for the Scout troop.

Soon they were travelling to Scotland by train with their bikes in the luggage van. On arrival at John O'Groats they collected their machines, mounted up and set off for the South.

"We decided to get most of the hard riding done before lunch each day," said Phil, "We kept to a strict diet of milk and hard boiled eggs. The first week was glorious as we travelled through

Scotland, but as we crossed the English border the weather deteriorated"

Here Dave chipped in by saying, *"We made a mistake in our direction—most people do the trip from South to North to take advantage of prevailing winds. The shortest route covers 872 miles, but we did more than a thousand to take in some interesting places."*

After leaving John O'Groats, they took the East coast to Inverness, along Loch Ness to Fort William then across country to Edinburgh. After crossing the border they took the East coast of England down to Nottinghamshire then across country again to the Midlands, on to Bath, Bridgewater, Bude and Falmouth. On the 20th day they were on the road at 5.0 a.m. in order to cycle to Lands End and then get back to Penzance in time for their train home.

They averaged around 60 miles a day and finished one day ahead of their original schedule.

"As we neared our final destination," Phil told us, "the roads through Devon and Cornwall, although narrow like some of the Scottish lanes, were crowded with traffic. Many car drivers seemed to have no patience with cyclists, but some gave us plenty of room and showed real courtesy. Many times I wondered if any of our MANWEB colleagues were in the cars—the courteous drivers of course!"

During their long and strenuous journey, Phil and Dave stayed at



Youth Hostels each night. They planned their daily mileage to time their arrival at the night stops around 5.0 p.m. Only on one occasion did the plan go wrong and they arrived tired and weary at the hostel at 8.0 p.m. During the evenings, they tried their hands at cooking—very successfully most of the time—and writing their logs and letters home. Then bed at a reasonably early time in order to be up and away early the next day.

Despite all the hard riding, they only suffered minor setbacks with their cycles with three punctures between them, two damaged front mudguards and two broken spokes.

Phil transferred from craft apprentice to become a student apprentice last year. He has already completed his first year at Birkenhead Technical College on a Sandwich Course and will sit for his O.N.D. next Spring. His other interests are girl friend Eileen Mackinnon, photography, climbing and canoeing.

Dave has also transferred from craft to student apprentice and is now on his first year at Birkenhead Technical College studying for his O.N.D. He enjoys hiking, swimming, dancing and playing volley ball. He told us that his Mum and Dad were very keen cyclists before he came along—in fact he was practically born in the saddle!

He too has a girl friend—Beverly Silcock—and now the lads are looking round for a couple of tandems—with a four—some in mind for next year's holiday!

To . . .



Journey's end—ahead of schedule and fighting fit.

All-electric Barn Hay-Drying Winners

To most people a bale of hay is just a bale of hay—but the way in which it is harvested and dried can make all the difference to its value as animal feeding stuff.

The best method, of course, is to dry the hay in the barn, using electricity, which results in a better-quality hay and eliminates the risk of losses in the fields due to bad weather.

To stimulate interest in all-electric barn hay-drying, a nation-wide competition has been sponsored by the electricity supply industry, and local contests are being held in each electricity board area, with prizes of £25, £15 and £10. The winning bales will go on to the National Final, at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, next month, where the three prizes will be £100, £50 and £25. Entries must be from all-electric installations, and from the 1973 crop.

A couple of weeks ago the local MANWEB area contest was judged at Queensferry by Mr. D. E. Edwards, a Ministry of Agriculture agronomist, Mr. G. Pritchard, of Pwllheli (a farmer representing the NFU), and Mr. Ron Andrews, MANWEB's agricultural engineer



The judges examining one of the bales of hay, from left to right: Messrs. Pritchard, Andrews and Edwards.

First prize went to Mr. E. D. Hughes, of Yoke House Farm, Pwllheli, who runs a 287-acre mixed farm; second was Mr. C. R. Ratcliffe, of Wood House Farm, Ringway, Manchester, who specialises in a pedigree Freisian herd on his 50-acre dairy farm, and in third place was Mr. A. Ferrero, who has a 55-acre dairy farm at Fodel Newydd, Bangor.

The prizes will be presented at a luncheon later this month.

WEDDING

Maybe it was the photographer perched precariously on a drawing office table, trying to focus his camera lens on as many people as possible and praying that his flash bulb would work first time that was the cause of the big smiles and hearty laughter from this North Mersey District group. Or maybe it was just the genuine happiness among the staff on this occasion when they gathered together to wish Miss Jean Campbell, a member of the Drawing Office staff, all future happiness on her marriage to Mr. Ronald Brash, a trainee accountant. Mr. A. W. Hawley (*District Engineer*), third from right, presented Jean, on his right, with gifts from her friends at Bridle Road before she walked the bridal path!



MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 5th Oct.—Dance in Restaurant.
- 11th Oct.—Inter-Departmental Quiz.
- 3rd Nov.—Bonfire and Fireworks Display.
- 11th Nov.—Inter-Departmental Five-a-Side Football Competition.
- 17th Nov.—Visit to Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford.
- 8th Dec.—Children's Christmas Party.
- 14th Dec.—Members' Christmas Party.

Further details of all events from Mr. Gren Roberts, *Hon. Secretary*, Welfare Section, Head Office. Tel. 2146.

Annual Review of Pensions

In accordance with the policy adopted in 1971 by the Board, pensions are reviewed on the 1st December each year and are increased on the basis of the percentage increase in the cost of living for the year ended the previous 30th June, as announced by the Minister for the Civil Service.

The Pensions Increase (Annual Review) Order, 1973 (SI 1973 No. 1370)* made by the Minister on the 3rd August, 1973, provides for pensions to be increased from the 1st December, 1973, by the following percentages according to the date the pension began:

	Increase
Pensions beginning before 1st July, 1972	9.3%
Pensions beginning	
2nd July, 1972 to 1st January, 1973	10.4%
Pensions beginning	
2nd January, 1973 to 1st July, 1973	6.1%

Calculations are now in hand and will be completed in time for all eligible pensioners of the Board to receive the increase in the payment of pension in respect of December next.

Details of the increase and revised rate of pension will be included with the pension advice slip for December.

To be eligible (i) a pensioner must be 55 years of age or over (*unless he/she was retired on the grounds of ill health*).

(ii) a widow must be 40 years of age or over (*unless she has dependent children*).

and (iii) the pension must have begun before the 2nd July, 1973.

* This Order SI 1973 No. 1370 can be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office. Price 5p plus postage.



Mr. J. Sherwin (*principal assistant—admin.*) left, presents parting gifts to Mr. and Mrs. Knight.

Mr. T. A. Knight retires

After serving the electricity supply industry since 1945, Mr. Thomas Arthur Knight retired recently from our South Lancashire District staff.

He began his service with Warrington Corporation electricity department in the stores at Howley and later, after studying for and gaining the EDA Salesmanship Certificate, he became a salesman at the Stockton Heath and Warrington shops.

In 1965 he was transferred to District Office where he had the job of calling on consumers in connection with tariff queries etcetera.

A keen musician, Mr. Knight plays the 'sax' in a local quartet.

A DAY OUT

A party, 52 strong, of MANWEB pensioners and their partners from our Liverpool area, enjoyed a marvellous 'day out' recently, which included a call at Board Head Office. They set off at lunch time from Thingwall Road for a coach tour of the Wirral peninsular with a couple of hours at Ness Gardens. They continued their journey and arrived at Chester to enjoy a buffet tea in the restaurant after a welcome from Mr. H. Telfer, Group Manager. After the meal members of the Head Office Welfare Section conducted the party round the building. Then back to the Thingwall Road Clubhouse for another meal and some liquid refreshments. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day out and are now looking forward to the next one.



DEMONSTRATIONS

A special series of demonstrations and film shows to be held in four of our Districts on a number of evenings in October and November have been planned by the Board in conjunction with the Meat and Livestock Commission.

The object of the venture is to show in a lively and interesting manner, the best way of getting full value out of meat by careful selection, correct cooking and the final presentation in an appetising way at the table.

Mrs. Joan Dittrich, our catering expert, has been our main negotiator in this joint effort, and Mr. Ron Carter (*2nd assistant engineer, Clwyd*) has written the script for our part of the show. The compere each evening will be Mr. Dick Hughes of B.B.C. Wales.

To give continuity to the whole series, Mrs. Lesley Taylor (*energy sales demonstrator, Clwyd*), this

year's public speaking finalist, will present the Board's demonstration and she will be assisted by the energy sales demonstrators in each of the Districts involved.

They will emphasise and sell from the stage presentation the latest developments in electric cooking, refrigeration and deep freezing, and the film "*Frozen Summer*" will be shown.

Demonstrations will be given at eight venues in our area in halls with a combined capacity for close on 5,000 people. The dates and places are as follows:

Oct. 3rd—Chester.
Oct. 4th—Birkenhead.
Oct. 16th—Wallasey.
Oct. 18th—Wrexham.
Oct. 23rd—Rhyl.
Oct. 25th—Colwyn Bay.
Oct. 31st—Bangor.
Nov. 1st—Llangefni.

MOVE TO HEAD OFFICE

After nine years' in our North Mersey District, Mr. Peter Wild (*assistant section engineer*) has now moved to Head Office to take up an appointment in the System Management Section.

Colleagues at Bridle Road offered best wishes to him and on their behalf, Mr. A. W. Hawley (*District Engineer*) presented him with some parting gifts.

Obituary

Mr. J. E. MARLAND

Regretfully we report the tragic death of Mr. James Eldon Marland, installation engineer, North Mersey District. He was 51.

Mr. Marland, known to his colleagues as Jim, collapsed at the wheel of his car whilst returning from a caravanning holiday in Bournemouth and Wales. A tragic end to a wonderful holiday.

Jim started his apprenticeship with a Manchester firm of electrical engineers, and during the war served in the Royal Artillery in Singapore, later being taken prisoner by the Japanese.

After repatriation he and his wife took an active part in The Far East Prisoner of War Organisation and he went into business as an electrical engineer.

In 1953 he was appointed Senior Electrical Superintendent to H.M. Ministry of Works and his appointment took him to Lagos, Nigeria.

Returning to England in May 1962, he went into the motor trade and owned a garage and petrol filling station for a few months. In September 1962 he decided to apply for a post with the Board, and was appointed as contracting engineer in Area 2, Warrington. After further success he transferred to contracting engineer in the Liverpool North District and after reorganisation to installation engineer in the North Mersey District.

A great personality, well liked and respected by all who knew him, he will be missed by his friends and colleagues throughout Merseyside and Manchester.

Our sympathies are with Mrs. Marland and their daughter Susan.

Mr. E. W. ROBERTS

We deeply regret to report the death of Mr. E. W. Roberts, a transport driver at Llangefni, Anglesey, at the early age of 37.

Mr. Roberts, who had been with MANWEB for 17 years, died in hospital after a sudden

illness. His friends and colleagues have suffered a great loss.

Mr. T. W. PARROTT

We deeply regret to report the death of Mr. T. W. Parrott, former Area 4 Transport Engineer, who retired due to ill-health two years ago.

Mr. Parrott joined the former North Wales Power Company in 1936, and battled courageously against sickness for ten years before his retirement. The many friends he made during his long years of service to the industry will miss him greatly.

Mr. E. A. G. WINTLE

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Mr. E. A. G. Wintle, former member of the Aberystwyth District engineering clerical staff. Ted had 25 years service with MANWEB, but unfortunately enjoyed only six months retirement. He leaves a son and daughter to whom all his many friends offer their condolences.

Cordless trimmers make light work of hedge cutting

by a
Gardening Correspondent

IT WAS only recently that I discovered that it is considered most unsociable to put a hedge or a fence round your garden in the United States. It is even forbidden on many housing estates, and this tendency is catching on here. The Englishman, however, will not lightly give up his privacy, even if it means the regular annual chore of trimming his hedge, once or twice a year.

Personally I would opt for hedges that only need one trimming a year—beech, hornbeam, or yew—these are slow growing.

The fastest growing hedge plant I know is the hybrid evergreen conifer *Cupressocyparis leylandii*. If well watered and fed generously with a general fertilizer in the spring, it is possible to have this hedge plant up to five or six feet in three or four years. It does not make much growth the first summer; it makes a more determined effort the next year, and in its third summer it really gets a move on. Of course, it will make a tall tree—50 feet if you let it, but it may be kept trimmed to any desired height, and it makes a really dense screen and wind-break. Quite naturally, it is in very great demand.

All this being so, it is very satisfactory to see more of the light cordless electric trimmers arriving on the market. There are various sizes, from the little three bladed one handed shear, very useful for a little light trimming of tufts of grass at the bottom of trees, box hedges, lavender and the like, up to 16 inch hedge trimmers.

With one handed shears do cut yourself a hooked stick 15—18 inches long to pull the stems about as it is very easy at the end of a tiring day, to get your free hand in the way of the blades.

What is most satisfactory about these cordless machines is that they give you complete mobility, unhampered by cables or even the necessity of trundling a car battery around the garden. Even more satisfactory is their complete electrical safety.

For the smaller modern gardens they are excellent. They can be fully recharged by the little charger supplied with the tool, usually in about 16 hours, and a fully charged trimmer will cut for around 40—50 minutes. You are not, of course, necessarily cutting continuously—you may have to move steps, and you can vary the work by giving the cutting—and the tool—a rest while you rake up the trimmings. Thus you will probably find you have actually done about an hour and a half at the hedge face.

It is most important to keep trimmer blades well and frequently oiled. Especially is it important if you have taken time off, say, for lunch to oil the blades generously before you start to work again. The sap from the hedge foliage becomes sticky and this puts an added strain on the trimmer's motor and battery.

Cordless electric hedge trimmers are only one of a great range of electrical appliances available for use by the modern gardener. In addition there are two more permanent electric installations for outside lighting, fountains etc. With all these applications of electricity, including greenhouse lighting, heating and ventilating, it is wise to ask a qualified electrician to check the wiring and equipment now. Then, if any work is needed it can be done before the equipment is required for winter use.

You may have a bank of several tubular heaters in the greenhouse. In one of these the element may have burned out and you have

not noticed it. This could be serious on a bitterly cold night, and it is not an expensive job to have a new element. There are many electrical installations in greenhouses that are 10 years or more old. In the damp conditions of a greenhouse or frame, insulation can break down, and it must be appreciated that 10 or 15 years ago we did not have such long lasting cables and the sophisticated waterproof switch gear, junction boxes and the like that we have now.

By the same token, if you are thinking of installing electric heating, soil warming, ventilators, supplementary lighting, or any other equipment in a greenhouse or frame, put the enquiries in hand now if you want to have it working before winter sets in.

Everything in the garden's lovely with Electricity

Ways in which electricity takes the backache and a lot of the heartache out of gardening are described by Roy Hay, the well known gardening writer and radio personality in a new Electricity Council publication, "Everything in the Garden's Lovely—With Electricity."

Many of the electrical aids now available to amateur gardeners are illustrated—mowers and lawn care equipment, power tools, decorative lighting, pumps for pools and fountains. Equipment for greenhouse heating, ventilation, watering and propagation is described in sufficient detail to whet the appetite of the enthusiast gardener for modern gardening aids and automatic controls. There is also a useful section on safety and common-sense in the use of garden electric appliances.

"Everything in the Garden's Lovely—With Electricity" is available, free of charge, from Electricity Board shops and some neighbourhood garden centres.