

Obituary

Mr. Reginald Noel Pegg, MANWEB's manager for the North Wales area until his retirement in 1964, died on August 17th. He was 76.

During the 15 years prior to his retirement, when Mr. Pegg managed MANWEB's Area 4 (North Wales and parts of Cheshire and Shropshire), he carried managerial responsibility for the Board's vast Rural Electrification Scheme—the largest in Western Europe. During that time mains electricity was carried to scores of villages and thousands of farms and cottages, bringing about sweeping changes in the lives of the rural communities. The scope of this undertaking can be measured by the fact that when Mr. Pegg assumed control fewer than 6,000 farms in the MANWEB area had mains electricity. By the time he retired more than 22,000 further farms had been connected to the mains, and the back of the job had been broken. The success of this huge programme serves as a permanent memorial to Mr. Pegg's sense of obligation to the community, and to the example he set to those who worked under his guidance.

Mr. Pegg gave a lifetime of service to the electricity industry, and was a past Chairman of the Mersey and North Wales Centre of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. For some years he was a member of the governing body of the Flintshire and Denbighshire Technical College.

In retirement Mr. Pegg lived at Lantern Cottage, Glynceiriog, and continued his community service with a keen interest in the Glynceiriog Leonard Cheshire Home, being a founder member and Chairman of the Home's Management Committee.

Mr. Pegg's passing will occasion sorrow to all who knew him. He will be remembered by ex-colleagues, and those who served under him, as an upright and just man, with an unswerving sense of purpose. North Wales owes much to this man who devoted so much of his energy to improving social conditions through the practical application of his profession, and who, in retirement, continued to serve his fellows by giving aid and support to those stricken by misfortune.

He leaves a widow, one son, and two daughters. Mrs. Pegg was unfortunate to suffer a broken leg in a fall at home shortly before her husband's death, and is at present in hospital. We extend to her, and her family, on behalf of everyone at MANWEB privileged to have known her husband, our deep sympathy, and our sincere good wishes for the speediest possible recovery from her own personal injury.

Mr. Henry Wallace Adams, a former substation attendant at Warrington before he retired in 1965, died on August 11th.

Mr. Lewis Levin passed away suddenly but peacefully on August 3rd. Lew was 56 and worked as the supervisor of the Board's shop in Birkenhead Market where he made many good friends among our customers and the other market stall owners. He will be sadly missed too by his colleagues in North Wirral District.

Mr. George Stephens, former Stores Superintendent at Derby House prior to his retirement due to ill health in 1963, died in hospital on August 4th.

Mr. Harry Turner, who was the former Area 1 Welfare Officer before his retirement in 1969

passed away a short time ago. Until his death, Harry served as Chairman of the Liverpool Retired Employees Group.

Mr. George A. White, was the former North Wirral District Commercial Engineer prior to his retirement in 1967. Shortly after this, he emigrated to join his daughter in New Zealand, and it was here, in Auckland, that he died on July 29th.

After a long illness, **Mr. Owen George**, a 3rd engineer in the Clwyd District Commercial Dept., died recently. He was 54. He joined the industry in 1934, served with R.A.S.C. during the war in which he was taken prisoner in Germany. He leaves a widow and two daughters.

Mr. Ronald Ham, an assembler at Queensferry Workshops, died after a long illness. He was a bachelor aged 55 who had worked in the industry for 35 years.

Miss Rita Brown, was the secretary to the first two chairmen of MANWEB, Messrs. Eccles and Kendon. She retired in 1964 after 43 years in the industry. She died recently at the age of 72.

Mr. William Albert Tomlinson died recently at the age of 58. Bill was a member of the street lighting section at North Wirral. He was a bachelor and had been with MANWEB for 9 years.

A storekeeper from North Wirral, **Mr. Frederick George Robinson**, died at the age of 55. Fred, a bachelor had been employed in the industry for 27 years.

Mr. George Rigby, a labourer at the Mold Depot of Clwyd District died recently. George was 61 and married. He had worked for MANWEB for 24 years.

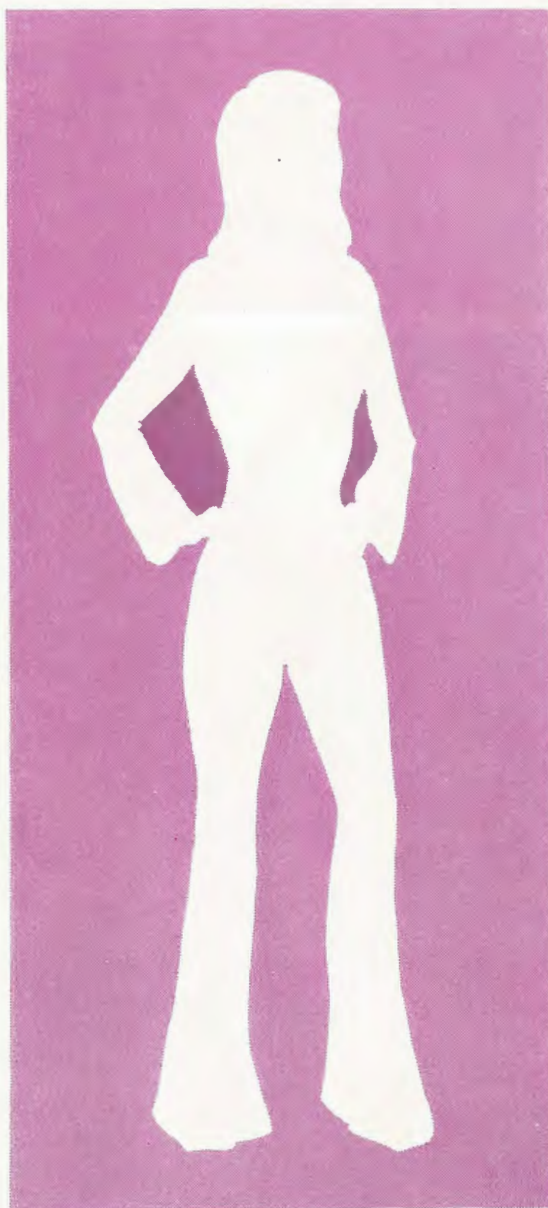
We should like to offer our deepest sympathy to the many relatives and friends who have been bereaved by the loss of our former colleagues whose deaths we have recorded on this page.

CONTACT

September 1974



Decorated Driver (see page 177)



One Hundred Pounds

We are offering £100 to the winner of the 1975 'Girl from MANWEB' competition. The young MANWEB Miss — or Mrs. — we are looking for should be attractive and, as she will be meeting important people, have a bright personality.

The winner will take up her duties on January 1st, from the 1974 winner Lesley Taylor. The job she will perform will be that of hostess for the Board at various functions. She will be escorted to luncheons, exhibitions and conferences. She will mingle with civic dignitaries, talk with business executives and meet the gentlemen—and ladies—of the press.

The '75 competition is the eighth we have held. The winners have come from Chester, Liverpool, Llangefni, Bebington, Upton, Southport and Llandudno. Look around you and see if there is a pretty and personable young lady working with you. Each entrant needs a sponsor and the winner's sponsor receives a fiver!

The competition will be in two stages, a preliminary round, and the finals early in December.

Entry is free on forms obtainable from the Editor of 'Contact,' write or telephone (*see bottom opposite page*).

First prize is £100. Second prize is £50. Third prize is £25, and each of the finalists will receive £10 each.

The judges will interview each girl privately. There are **NO** parades in swimsuits or anything like that, just a friendly chat with four people trying to put the girl at her ease. The dress to be worn is one suitable for a daytime social event, neat and attractive. The interview lasts for about ten minutes and the judges will be looking for a girl with personality, beauty, dress sense and deportment.

To be eligible for entry the entrant must be employed by MANWEB, and she must be 18 years old before January 1st, 1975. She can be married or single.

The closing date for entries is the 4th November 1974.

The Girl from Manweb '75



THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE MERSEYSIDE AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

CONTACT

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Better Links

AS SOCIETY grows more complex, and as means of travel become more sophisticated, so it becomes necessary for us to develop ever-improved methods of communication.

In primitive societies, when the next valley might almost have been on Mars, it was probably enough to let fall an item of information at the village well for the news to be well and truly spread throughout the local community within a few hours.

Man's efforts to improve the means of communication available to him have always been pushed forward, through a whole range of mechanical means including human messengers, jungle drums, smoke signals, pony expresses, carrier pigeons and telephone networks.

The big breakthrough, never really improved on, came with the discovery of radio. The development of TV and communications satellites may have added sophistication to the basic principle, but radio is—and is likely to remain—man's main instrument of communication, unmatched for speed, performance and versatility.

VHF radio now plays a vital role in the operation of most modern-day essential services, ranging from emergency use by police, fire and ambulance personnel to the more routine but also important functioning of basic industries like our own.

This number of *Contact* includes reference to work designed to improve radio communications within several of our Districts.

Every programme of improvement and modernisation carried out by our technical specialists makes our performance as an industry that little bit better, and the lives of the millions who depend upon us that little bit more assured, comfortable, and safe.

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



Northwich safe drivers with Group Manager Mr. H. Telfer, front row, left, with Messrs. D. Senior, J. R. Lawton and R. Maddoch.

Group Manager in near accident

MAKING his way to preside at the annual award presentation ceremony for MANWEB safe drivers working from our Northwich depot, Mr. H. Telfer (*Group Manager*) came close to being involved in a serious accident when he was driven off the road and on to the pavement by a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction and on the wrong side of the road!

Fortunately he managed to keep control of his car but was shaken up a little. When recounting the story to the Northwich gathering, he said that now more than ever before, he fully appreciated the skill, patience and concentration required by all full-time drivers and he heartily congratulated everyone who had been successful in gaining a safe driving award.

Special guests at the ceremony included Messrs. J. R. Lawton (*County Road Safety Officer*), D. N. Marshall (*District Road Safety Officer*) and N. H. Phillips (*Regional Organiser, Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents*).

Mr. Lawton was invited to present the awards, but before doing so he said that we as an electricity board could put signs on our poles and substations warning people of the dangers of an overdose of electricity, but nobody put signs upon vehicles warning people of their dangers. "A car can be a

lethal weapon," he went on, "and these safe driving competitions are held to instil into drivers the fact that they are in control of such weapons."

"It should be the ambition of everyone who drives to drive with care and with safety," he commented, "It is easier to drive a car safely than it is to drive dangerously."

Following the presentations, Mr. Phillips added some interesting facts and figures when he said that the number of vehicles on our roads had increased three-fold in the past 18 years, the period that top award winner Mr. F. Stringer had been gaining regular safe driving awards.

He informed the group that last year some 370,000 drivers had entered for the competition and about 298,000 had qualified for awards. He thanked all the successful MANWEB drivers on behalf of the Society commenting that their example was one to be followed. "Courtesy begets courtesy on the roads," he concluded, "and annoyed drivers are bad drivers."

The awards presented were as follows:

Bar to 15-year Brooch: Messrs. F. Stringer (18 years) and D. Senior (16 years).

15-year Brooch: Mr. R. Maddoch.

Bar to 10-year Medal: Messrs. E. Benyon, A. H. Pulham and G. Wood.

10-year Medal: Messrs. R. M. Paton and L. Stenton.

Bar to 5-year Medal: Messrs. G. Breeze, J. A. Davies, R. Edgeley, P. J. Edwardson, A. R. Howman, H. Massey, K. S. Massey, J. A. McGuire, T. E. Raynor, G. Taylor and J. H. A. Wilson.

5-year Medal: Mr. J. E. Spruce.

Diploma: Messrs. R. W. Cooke, J. A. Dean, A. Dickins, G. Edwards, J. W. Foster, S. H. Gatley, A. Gibb, G. W. Greenhough, A. V. Kettle, C. T. Kinder, K. Leather, T. D. Martin, R. H. Smith, J. Summers, D. Thompson and A. Wakefield.



Mrs. Jessop with North Mersey Safe Drivers.

OVER 80 SAFE DRIVERS

North Mersey Presentations

Guest of honour at North Mersey District office, Bridle Road, Bootle, on August 16th, was Councillor Mrs. Jean Jessop, Chairman of Sefton Metropolitan District Council.

Mrs. Jessop went along to present Safe Driving Awards to members of the staffs of the District's engineering, commercial and administration departments, and she was welcomed for the occasion by Mr. H. Telfer (*Group Manager*).

Mr. Telfer said that if all those who had qualified had been able to be present, there would have been more than 80 awards to make. He thanked Mrs. Jessop for finding the time to come along to make the presentations, mentioning that in addition to her heavy responsibility as Chairman of the Council she was also involved and interested in Age Concern, Scouts, and church work.

After presenting the awards, Mrs. Jessop said that she had been a member of Southport's Safety

Committee for some years, and had knowledge of the valuable work done by 'ROSPA' in encouraging a responsible attitude to road safety.

"I know how difficult it is to drive continuously for high mileages over long periods of time without becoming involved in accidents," she added.

Awards were presented as follows:

Bar to 25-year Silver Cross: Mr. Peter Moore.

Bar to 15-year Brooch: Mr. T. H. Hodge.

15-year Brooch: Messrs. W. S. Owen and S. Paul.

Bar to 10-year Medal: Messrs. R. Allen A. W. Briscoe, R. S. Carter, K. Cooper, W. Foster, E. V. Harrison, C. Hough, T. E. Matthews, H. Reynolds, K. Sproat and W. J. L. Taunton.

Bar to 5-year Medal: Messrs. J. A. Bell, B. H. Cummins, A. H. Evans, W. Halfpenny, R. W. Harley, R. S. Harper, G. C. Heaton, G. J. Hughes, J. Johnson, J. Kelly, B. King, T. Lawrenson, J. W. Lennon, L. G. Lloyd, J. McAvoy, A. Ormerod, W. J. Owen, J. P. Pritchard, J. Rimmer, B. Stephens, M. Stevenson, K. Stewart, M. H. V. Stubbs, E. J. Willan and H. Woods.

5-year Medal: Messrs. C. D. Burleigh and K. J. Griffiths.

Diploma: Messrs. W. H. Aindow, D. J. Anderson, B. F. Baldwin, J. Baldwin, J. Beardwood, W. V. Benbow, J. Bingham, J. Browne, T. H. Burt, R. C. Dutton, L. M. Fallows, K. B. Fitton, P. F. Fletcher, W. Gibbs, P. N. Guppy, A. Harrop, N. Hart, J. R. Hessom, F. Illingworth, L. Jackson, A. G. Johnston, C. O. Jones, F. R. Jones, J. Leatherbarrow, J. Lee, P. J. Lee, C. McCoy, R. D. Mellor, H. W. Miller, K. Morris, R. Mosses, E. J. Murphy, B. Murrow, J. O'Meara, V. O'Sullivan, T. Owens, F. Paterson, J. Pownall, C. Reid, L. Riley, K. R. Roughley, E. Smith, W. Staveley, P. Tew, J. P. Williams and W. J. Wilson.

Exemption Certificates: Messrs. R. Armstrong and G. Canavan.

OUR COVER PICTURE shows MANWEB's star 'Safe Driver,' Mr. Peter Moore, engineering chargehand at Bridle Road, who has now 'clocked up' 26 years of blameless driving. Peter joined the industry in 1936, started driving at the age of 17 and has 40 years experience all free of blameworthy accidents. He saw war service with the R.A.C. and passed many driving proficiency tests.

He and his wife, Joyce, a nurse, have two grown up children. Peter, their son, gained a B.A. at Birmingham University and is now a teacher. Daughter Jean also academically inclined is a lecturer at Northampton Teachers Training College.

OTHER PEOPLE'S HOBBIES

The Thespian

IT WAS JUST OVER 30 years ago that Mr. Sid Costin was introduced to a new life 'on the boards' by Mr. Bob Roddan, a former colleague in the days of the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department. Bob had seen the great potential in Sid as an actor and persuaded him to make his debut in a show staged at St. Michael's Church Hall in Aigburth.

Thus began a long and varied acting career which took him from concert party and pantomime to straight plays, musical comedy and light opera.

He is still working for the Board and is now a senior assistant in the Work Control Section in our Liverpool District.

Over the years, Sid has played the lead in many of the major amateur dramatic society productions staged in the Liverpool and Wirral areas, and he is still a 'top of the bill' attraction.

He was a founder member of the Liverpool Electric Supply Department's own dramatic society which went under the name of "The Electron Players." This highly successful group was directed by Mr. Gordon Douglas whose unceasing work as Secretary of the North Western Branch of the British Dramatic League, is recognised and remembered with the much coveted annual award



Mr. S. Costin

for acting and production, "The Gordon Douglas Memorial Trophy."

When the "Electron Players" won the British Drama League's one-act play festival at the Crane Theatre in Liverpool in 1948, Sid played one of the leading roles in their winning entry, "Cards on the Table."

This led Sid to a serious study of dramatic art with the famous Northern professional teacher, Mrs. Harold Ackerley, and in a very short time, he was awarded the silver and then the gold medals for acting. In the summer of 1951, he was successful in gaining the Diploma of Associate of the London Academy of Dramatic Art.

Although he has had many offers to turn professional, Sid

thought that life 'on stage' was much too precarious and he decided to stay with his regular job with the Board and at the same time, continue to develop his acting talents with the host of great amateur companies locally.

During the next five years he played many leading parts with the Carlton Players at the Little Theatre in Birkenhead, twice receiving recognition from "Foyer," the dramatic critic of the former Evening Express for his "Best Performance" roles as Tobias in James Bridie's "Tobias and the Angel," and as Bobby Bentley in the comedy, "Love's a Luxury."

In recent years Sid has turned his talents to the field of musical comedy and light opera, playing leading roles with the West Kirby Operatic Society in such shows as "Oklahoma," "The Desert Song" and "White Horse Inn," and with the Neptune Theatre Company in "The Beggar's Opera" and "The Boy Friend."

Sid told us that throughout his long and interesting career in acting he had many very good friends and still enjoys every minute of this strenuous but most rewarding pastime.

Sid in character—as Ali Hakim in "Oklahoma"—and as Feste the Clown in "Twelfth Night"



CURTAIN CALL!

Sid is most keen to form a Drama Group among MANWEB employees living or working in the vicinity of Liverpool. He has a tentative booking at the Neptune Theatre in Liverpool for next March or April.

If you have even the slightest experience in acting—and you should have if you work for the Board—or if you are a bit of an extrovert and would like to please people then get in touch with Sid as soon as possible. He is at Lister Drive and his internal 'phone number is 751.



MUM FROM MANWEB!

YOU may know her as Mrs. Hilary Smith or you will remember her as Miss Hilary Panting, but whatever the name, most of you will certainly remember our "Girl from MANWEB" of 1971. In case you are still stuck, take a quick look at the picture below!

Our charming and attractive ex-"Girl from MANWEB" has now left the Board to await the arrival of her baby in October, and then she will become a "Mum from MANWEB."

Before joining the Board in 1968, Hilary was a student at the Liverpool School of Physiotherapy, but after about six months she found that this was not to be her vocation. It was suggested that she rubbed people up the wrong way, but that could not possibly be true of our Hilary!

She then joined the staff at Craven Street, Birkenhead as a clerk in the Work Study Sec-

tion. She was soon promoted as supervisor in charge of the bonus clerks and later moved up the scale to become a senior clerical assistant.

During her term as the "Girl from MANWEB," Hilary certainly created a favourable impression at the many and varied occasions she attended.

One of her main interests away from her work is "Cordon Bleu" cookery and for a number of years she has studied this subject and has recently passed her final examinations. Lucky Mr. Smith!

Before leaving North Wirral, her colleagues and friends sub-

Surrounded by colleagues Mrs. Hilary Smith, seated, shakes hands with Mr. Jack Bradley.



scribed to present her with a carriage clock and several articles which will come in useful when baby arrives.

We add our best wishes to Hilary for her future happiness.

First Degree

The first member of the Board's clerical staff to obtain a degree with the aid of an Electricity Supply Industry Scholarship is Mr. Leonard Forbes.

He recently received an Arts degree in Business Studies from the Middlesex Polytechnic at Enfield.

Len joined the Board in 1967 as a registry clerk with Head Office in Liverpool. Later he moved to Chester District as a clerk and studied on 'day release' and at night school to get his O.N.C. in Business Studies.

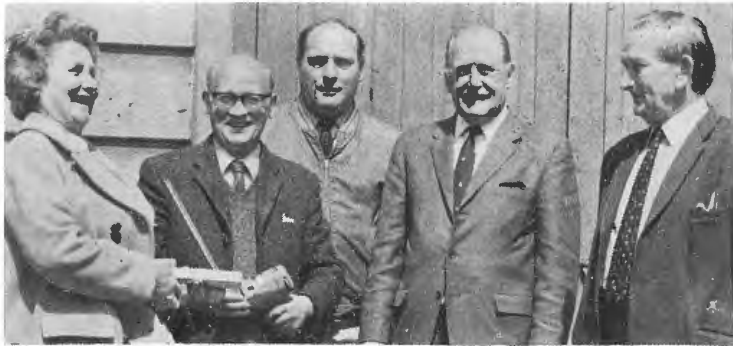
Then he was accepted by Middlesex in 1970 and obtained a Local Authority Grant for the first year of the course before being awarded the E.S.I. Scholarship for the final three years.

Now 24, Len is setting his sights on a career in industrial relations or personnel.

Farewells

Two members of our staff based at Whitchurch in the Oswestry District said farewell to their colleagues when they left the Board's service a short time ago.

Mrs. Phyllis Macdonald, a



Pictured, from the left, Mrs. Macdonald, Messrs. Ritchie, D. Bolas, storekeeper, W. J. Thompson, D.A.O., and H. J. Huxley, Commercial foreman

clerk/typist, has been with us for the past eight years, and **Mr. Arthur Ritchie**, sub-District clerk, has now retired after 24 years' service.

On behalf of their friends in the District, Mr. W. J. Thompson (District Administrative Officer), presented Phyllis with a string of pearls and Arthur with an electric hedge trimmer.

Double Gold

Our congratulations to a couple of couples who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversaries.

They are **Mr. Fred Knight** and his wife **Gladys**, and **Mr. Wilf Royle** and his partner **Hannah**.

Both men worked at the Lock

Griff Forsyth with one of his paintings.



Street depot in Northwich prior to their retirement. Fred was a public lighting attendant and Wilf was a pavior.

Painter

About ten years ago, **Mr. Griffith Forsyth** of our meter test department at Lister Drive painted a picture. His wife **Kathleen** told him how much she admired the work and this spurred him on to do more.

And so began a hobby which has brought him and many others immense pleasure.

He has finished well over 100 paintings to date and has developed his own style and method with results which are most satisfying. Some of his work is done on site and other

paintings are taken from photographs.

Griff joined the Board in 1954 and first worked as a driver before transferring to the Meter Test Department.

First-Aider

A sales representative in our Liverpool District, **Mr. Gordon Thompson**, was recently elected as a member of the District Ambulance Committee for the year 1974/75.

Gordon was a member of a team which competed in the District First Aid Competition earlier this year. Although unsuccessful, he is undeterred and is now preparing to form another team—or teams—ready for next year's competition.

Any first-aiders at Lister Drive willing to back him up, please contact Gordon at The Drive, 'phone 705.

Golf Match

Following up on a challenge made last year, an inter-Board golf match between MANWEB and Norweb was played over the Sandiway Golf Club course recently.

In the first game, a former Norweb man was playing for MANWEB and we were a little afraid of where his loyalties would lie.

However, as the eight-game match resulted in a resounding win for Norweb, the result of his particular game did not affect the outcome.

Unfortunately the weather was not as kind as it might have been and our only consolation was that our opponents, as the 'home' team, were unable to find a course worthy of the occasion within their own area!

Second Career Man

On a recent visit to Northwich, our reporter met **Mr. Arthur Anderson**, who, some time ago, retired a little prematurely from his job as prin-

ciple assistant in the Personnel section at Head Office.

Still fit and active, Arthur is now on a second career working as a clerical officer with the Cheshire County Council Education Department in his home town. "I have been very lucky in my working life" he said, "for I cannot remember ever having a sick note in my 40 years' work in the electricity supply industry."

He began his working life with the Mid-Cheshire Electricity Supply Company at Northwich and became their Chief Revenue Clerk



Mr. A. Anderson

prior to his transfer to MANWEB when he worked at Sandiway House and Eversley before going over to the Welfare Section in Areas 2 and 2/3 in 1950.

On the re-organisation of the Board in 1969, Arthur came to Head Office where among his many duties he was Secretary of the Local Advisory and Staff Committees.

Shortly after leaving the Board, he received many letters from people he had helped while working on 'Welfare.' "It was a very nice gesture on their part," Arthur commented, "and it was quite unexpected. I am so grateful to them all for it gave me the feeling that after all my job had been worthwhile."

Arthur and his wife Dorothy have a daughter Laura who is married to Mr. David Booth, a 3rd assistant engineer with the Board at Caernarfon. David is the son of Mr. Percy Booth, a former District Senior Clerk at Crewe, prior to his retirement. Percy, who we hear, is keeping fit and well, was one of our 'Contact' Correspondents.



Successful students, Messrs. Robinson, Reid and Brown.

Students

In 1967 three young sixteen year olds joined MANWEB as craft apprentices and underwent their initial trade schooling at Hoylake Training Centre.

After twelve months they were selected as student engineers, and attained qualifications through practical experience and college sandwich courses.

Today these three, Alan Reid from Wallasey, John Brown from Chester, and Liverpool born Derek Robinson, have all obtained honours degrees at

Salford University. Alan gained a first, John a second (Div I) and Derek a third class honours in Electrical Engineering.

All three, who were sponsored by MANWEB, have opted to follow up their University learning by practical experience in the Engineering Department and hope for appointments at District level.

Blaze Away

The former CEGB building adjacent to our Liverpool District Offices at Lister Drive recently went out in a blaze of

Firemen fight the fire at Lister Drive.



glory when as the building was being demolished oil, in an old tank, caught fire.

Four fire engines and a high expansion foam unit were soon on the spot to quell the blaze, but before they succeeded, our intrepid cameraman **Mr. Jim Gonzales** managed to get a picture for us. Thanks Jim.

New C.C. Appointment

The Secretary of State for Energy has authorised the appointment of Councillor **Mrs. Sheila Garston** of Upton-by-Chester to be a member of the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Consultative Council.

The Council is an independent statutory body which acts as a watchdog for electricity consumers in our area. They consider any matters on which representation is made to them or on which they themselves consider action on behalf of the consumers needs to be taken.

Birth

Congratulations to **Mr. Jim Speed** and his wife **Christine** on the birth of their daughter **Julie Ann**. Jim is an electrical fitter's mate with the maintenance section at Head Office.

Outdoor Lighting

The number of floodlit buildings and open areas entered for the 1975 Outdoor Lighting Awards is expected to be well over 100 by the time entries close at the end of this month.

To qualify for entry, lighting installations may be of any size but have to be substantially out-of-doors. They must also be semi-permanent to the extent that they must be in existence for at least six months of the year.

Entries from the MANWEB area so far include The Atlantic Tower Hotel in Liverpool and Talgarth Hall at Pennal, near Machynlleth.

WEDDINGS

PIERCE—REDHOUSE

Head office accounts clerk Miss Judith Redhouse was all set for the happiest day of her life, her wedding to Thomas Geoffrey Pierce, when a car thief nearly ruined all their plans. Geoffrey had filled his car up with petrol and left it outside his Johnstown home ready for a quick honeymoon get-a-way.

During the night the car was stolen.



Mr. and Mrs. Pierce

(Picture by Dennis Perrin)

The ceremony went ahead and the couple were married at St. John's Parish Church, Rhos. Fortunately a friend came to the rescue and loaned the couple a car for their honeymoon in South Wales. To the good wishes of their many friends we add our congratulations.

PRITCHARD—MAINWARING

Our congratulations go also to another Head Office bride, Miss Helen Mainwaring who recently became Mrs. Frederick James Pritchard. The ceremony was performed at St. Werburgh's Catholic Church in Chester.



Mr. and Mrs. Pritchard

(Picture by Dennis Perrin)

Helen is a tracer and a year younger than her 23 years old husband, who is an oil company electrician. Wales was also the destination of these happy honeymooners.

PLEAVIN—HUNT

Congratulations to Mr. Alan E. Pleavin, an accounts clerk at Head Office on his recent marriage to Miss Linda Hunt, who was also an accounts clerk with us before her move to the G.P.O. in Chester.

Alan, aged 20, and Linda, 19,



Mr. and Mrs. Pleavin

were married at St. James Church, Christleton, Chester, and spent their honeymoon in Barmouth.



Mrs. Cooper receives her award from Mr. M. M. Parker, Board Secretary and Solicitor and L.A.C. Chairman.

FIRST AID +

Mrs. Sybil Cooper, an administrative assistant in the Head Office Accounts Department, was presented with an award to mark 15 years as a holder of a first aid certificate.

She joined MANWEB 20 years ago and in 1959 took a course in first aid and was persuaded to join the Chester Ladies First Aid Team, then at the New Crane Street Offices of the former No. 3 Sub-Area. The Chester Ladies team has become well known and very successful, Sybil is now their captain.

Apart from first aid she likes to help her husband Neville, with his hobby of do-it-yourself, which is on a grand scale, renovating old property. Fourteen years ago they completed the building of their own home. They have been married for 26 years and have a 24 years old son, David, who is married.



Mr. Parker with first aiders, from the left, Joan Slater, Nancy Moss, Pauline Gale, Donald Richardson, Ralph Buckley and Anthony Bonham.

Certificates Presented

Ten members of our Head Office staff, together with three of their colleagues from the Dee Valley District, based at Chester, have been successful in gaining their First-Aid Certificates.

In addition to those pictured left, were, Gillian Farren and Cora Roberts (*Personnel*), Lynne Worrall and Colin Bradley (*Queensferry*), William Rogers (*Technical*), Ellis Parry and Frederick Rose (*Dee Valley*).

...and at Oswestry

A keen group from our Oswestry District staff are now nearing completion of their First-Aid Course directed by Nurse Dorothy Davis from Head Office.

In our picture, left, we see Maldwyn Jones using 'Andy' to demonstrate mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Watching to see that he is doing it correctly are, from left to right: Vivian Hughes, Malcolm Davies, Anthony Conde, Harold Higgins, Ronald Anderson, John Griffiths and Mair Davies.

Others on the course but not in the picture are Raymond Appleton, Alan Jones and John Powell.



Retired Employees — An Invitation

This is an official invitation to all MANWEB retired employees to attend one of the 11 Annual Employees Meetings held throughout the Board.

The Secretaries of each of the Local Advisory Committees, who organise the conferences, have some difficulty in reaching all the retired people to whom they would otherwise like to send an invitation, so through 'Contact' we extend their invitation to all of you.

Each District and Head Office have their own meeting, dates and venues are given opposite, and you are invited to attend the one nearest your former workplace or the one nearest your present home.

If you would like to take this opportunity to meet your old colleagues, fill in the coupon below and send it to the Secretary of the meeting that you wish to attend and he will send you the programme.

Some Districts may be organising some form of transport so if you want details of this tick the square on the coupon.

If you wish to attend one of the meetings and have any doubts or problems ring or write to the Editor of 'Contact.'

The dates for the meetings are as follows:

Local Advisory Committees

No. 1 L.A.C., North Mersey District
Bridle Road
Bootle 20, Lancs

No. 2 L.A.C., Liverpool District
Lister Drive
Liverpool L13 7HJ

No. 3 L.A.C., South Lancs District
Wilderspool Causeway
Warrington WA4 6QD

No. 4 L.A.C., Dee Valley District
Rhostyllen
Wrexham

No. 5 L.A.C., North Wirral District
Craven Street
Birkenhead

No. 6 L.A.C., Mid-Cheshire District
Macon Way
Crewe

No. 7 L.A.C., Clwyd District
Abbey House, Rhyl Road
Rhuddlan, Rhyl, Clwyd

No. 8 L.A.C., Gwynedd District
St. Helens Road
Caernarvon

No. 9 L.A.C., Oswestry District
Maesbury Road
Oswestry

No. 10 L.A.C., Aberystwyth District
Mill Street
Aberystwyth

No. 11 L.A.C., Head Office
Sealand Road
Chester

Details of Meetings

11th October 1974
Town Hall
Bootle

21st November 1974
Dovedale Towers
Allerton

27th September 1974
Wilderspool Leisure Centre
Warrington

7th December 1974
Deeside Leisure Centre
Shotton

Date and time to be fixed for the New Year

28th November 1974
Alvaston Hall
Nantwich

24th October 1974
Four Oaks Restaurant
Colwyn Bay

8th November 1974
Royal Hotel, Castle Square
Caernarvon

18th October 1974
Victoria Rooms
Pedigree Hotel, Oswestry

Date and time to be fixed for the New Year

14th November 1974
Head Office
Restaurant

CUT HERE

NAME (BLOCK CAPITALS) I wish to attend the Meeting

ADDRESS being held at:

..... My former work place was:

Transport required



Above, bowling is Margery Rice of the Commercial 'B' team, watched by Margaret McKie of Commercial 'A'.

Len Cornah of the Commercial 'A' team in action.



Engineers 'A' representative George Rive about to release his wood.

Checking to see if he is 'in' is Commercial 'Bs' Ted Potter.



Ken Littler of the league leaders Commercial 'A' adopts an upright stance.

The unorthodox style of Mary Smith of Commercial 'A'.





Gwynfor Roberts
David Campell David Roberts
Alwyn Jones

THE SAFFRON

GWYNFOR ROBERTS, a member of our Gwynedd District staff at Caernarfon, has been in almost every pub, club and hotel along the North Wales coast. No, it wasn't for the beer and he had no ambitions to get his name into the *Guinness Book of Records*, but simply that he plays percussion with "The Saffron" vocal harmony group.

They had their beginnings about five years ago when Gwynfor, at that time, beating out rhythm on a couple of biscuit tins, teamed up with David Campbell, an artist with the Spanish guitar.

Then, just a year ago, the two became four when David Roberts and Alwyn Jones joined them. David, a teacher by profession, had played the keyboards with a number of groups over the past few years, and Alwyn, a toolmaker at a local factory, had been

playing bass guitar for about 16 years.

They became "The Saffron" providing entertainment for a wide variety of customers, from background music for hotel diners to club and pub spots which include vocals—all four sing, and of course playing at the lively 'pop' dances.

Recently, the group were offered a 22-week Summer season in Blackpool, but, wisely holding on to their day-time jobs, turned down the offer as they are not yet fully professional. However, their future in the world of entertainment looks most promising and very soon, hope to get a spot on the "New Faces" TV show.

Forming a new group involves lots of patience, hard work and money. First, there has to be a blend of musicians each having a similar approach to modern sounds. Then it's practice, practice and still more practice. There are many ups and downs in the business and it is staggering to see just what it costs to get a group 'on the road.'

Gwynfor has moved on from his two biscuit tins and now owns a drum kit worth over £500. A guitar can cost £300 and more—an amplifier and speakers set you back about £800 and even a necessary thing like a microphone costs over £50!

With yards and yards of cable from the instruments to the amplifiers, you have to be a bit of an electrician when anything goes wrong with the equipment. You have to be a bit of a mechanic too when the van breaks down, which it seems to do every time you set off for an important 'gig.' Yes, there are many heartbreaks, but all these disappear when you get in front of an appreciative audience.

Most of the semi-professional groups are not in the business for the money—the cost of the equipment proves that. Cynics may scoff at what is said about an entertainer's reward being audience applause and enjoyment, but in most cases this is the thing which lifts people in show business to give even better performances.

This happy quartet really enjoy their music and they have talent. So, if you are looking ahead and want a lively and entertaining group for your next dance or cabaret—Sports and Social Club secretaries please note—then ring Colwyn Bay 55684 or 2226 and ask for 'The Saffron.'

'CONTACT' PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

FINAL REMINDER — CLOSING DATE 30th SEPTEMBER, 1974

Sections and prizes:

Colour-Transparencies 3 prizes; Colour-Prints 1 prize; Black and White—Best Picture 1 prize; Colour or Black and White—Best Humorous picture 1 prize; Best Animal Picture 1 prize and Best Human Portrait 1 prize. Only 5 entries per section.



EVEN THE remotest recluse must now know that coal and oil have rocketed in price and electricity has been caught in their slipstream increasing our costs and forcing a rise in our tariffs. No doubt the gas consumer will shortly have to foot larger bills, with that industry calling for increases and with it's problems of meeting demand, despite the North Sea bonanza.

The age of cheap fuel is passed. It is timely therefore, to take stock of the electricity industry's position. What are the future prospects for the industry and just what value for money does the electricity consumer get?

Electricity can be produced from whatever fuel is the cheapest or most plentiful. Converting energy to electricity seems to be the logical means of distributing the nation's precious energy resources. Electricity is already produced from nuclear power, coal, oil, water power and even North Sea gas. Scientists and engineers are working on other sources of energy, from the sun, wind and tidal flow, all of which will be harnessed to produce electricity. The future looks bright.

But what of today, just what value do MANWEB customers get for their money? When you stop to think and really compare electricity with other commodities it is not bad value—in fact it is darn good value.

Our Commercial colleagues have recognised this and have engaged the services of a rather gentle character whom they have called 'Little Willie' (to fight Big Bill). He has already appeared on television and in our shops. This cartoon champion of electricity tells our customers just how much value they get for 5p when they spend it on electricity.

If you see Willie on TV, listen to what he has to

Electricity does so much — for so little

say, he makes some very good points. For instance, with that 5-penny piece you can boil enough water to make 200 cups of tea, or keep a man clean shaven for three years—provided he has an electric razor—or cook the family's Sunday roast.

While you are watching Little Willie on Spectra-colour just think, it costs about the same to rent weekly that box in the corner as the average MANWEB consumer pays for all the electricity he consumes for all his appliances, heating, lighting, home laundry, vacuum cleaning, refrigeration, etc., in the same seven days. Which then is the best value, a week's colour TV hire or a week's use of electricity for all your needs?

One of the band of MANWEB District Commercial Engineers when quizzed in a pub by disbelieving souls on what value electricity gave, pointed out that the gaily lit, electrically warmed pub, with all it's electrically operated pumps, till, etc., to run for an hour, cost the same as a pint of bitter!

There must be hundreds of examples such as these which confirm that electricity is good value. So much so that we thought it might be interesting to run a competition and we are giving the equivalent of one and a half years running cost of a colour TV in prizes.

COMPETITION

There is a prize of the cost of electricity to run a TV for one full quarter—13 weeks—for each of the best six examples of what electricity can do—one from each department and one from pensioners.

Consider the slogan 'Electricity does so much for so little' and submit an anecdote, example or a rhyming ditty that proves this statement—can you better Little Willie's creators and prove electricity a tremendous bargain. Send your entries, stating name, workplace and department or pensioner, to the Editor, 'Contact,' MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester, marked 'Competition.'

The prizes, best entry from:—

Commercial Dept.	£2	Secretarial Dept.	£2
Accounts Dept.	£2	Engineering Dept.	£2
M.S.U. (Work study, etc.)	£2	Pensioners	£2

A unit of electricity is 1,000 watts (or 1 Kilo-watt) in use for 1 hour, or 500w for 2 hours, etc. With the new MANWEB tariffs the average cost of a unit will be about 1.4 pence.

Right, Dave Watts (*Industrial Staff Trainee*), checking the performance of a mobile unit following installation.



Improved Communications on very high frequency radio network



Above: Craftsmen Eifion Williams, left, and Desmond Lloyd replacing a mobile unit.

Right: Dave Thomas (*telephone electrician*), installing a controller in one of the Oswestry District mini-vans. In the background is craftsman Tim Johns.



The Equipment . .

Since the allocation of new operating frequencies for the Board's v.h.f. radio system, staff from our Head Office Technical Section have been engaged in the re-equipping and re-organisation of the radio communications in the Dee Valley, South Lancashire and Oswestry Districts.

The most recent operation was carried out in the Oswestry District where teams of technicians have replaced equipment at our radio sites in the Oswestry

Newtown and Welshpool localities. Then, in a matter of a few days, they changed the mobile radio units in 46 different vehicles based at the Newtown depot and Oswestry District Office.

With this re-organisation, the three radio sites are now controlled from a central point in the District Office block at Maesbury Road. Instructions and enquiries can be passed, on a person to person basis, direct from staff in the offices to the men in the vehicles anywhere in the District.

The cost of this particular installation comes to around £16,000.

. . . and the Operators at Oswestry District

Mina Rodger has been with the Board for the past four-and-a-half years. Previously she worked for the G.P.O. at Oswestry. She is married and husband Bill works for the B.I.C.C. Company. They have two sons, Stephen and Ian. Mina enjoys driving and listening to all kinds of music. Some time soon, she would like to visit Austria.

Linda Morris, known as Lin, joined MANWEB in

April 1973 as a clerk. Prior to this she worked for the Border Counties Newspaper Group in Oswestry. Lin has recently taken on the job as v.h.f. radio operator on the new control console at the District Office. She likes driving and sewing and would like to take a couple of trips to Australia and Canada. Last year she had a go in our "Girl from MANWEB" competition. We are hoping that both she and Mina will enter for this year's competition.

Easy on the ear and even more easy on the eye, Oswestry telephone operators Mina Rodger and Lin Morris. It is no wonder that this delightful duo are known as 'Marvellous Mina' and 'Lovely Linda' by their colleagues.



THE BIG FREEZE

Question and Answer on 'Wise Ways of Using the Freezer'—as supplied by Mrs. Gwen Conacher, the Electricity Council's Home Economist, at a recent Food Freezing Press Conference:

How can I run my freezer most economically?

A freezer is not an extravagant user of electricity. A study of all three types of freezer in various sizes gave an average electricity consumption of two units per cubic foot per week. Freezers should be in a cool, dry place, and opened as little as possible (taking out supplies for two or three days' use and keeping them in the frozen food compartment of the refrigerator). Cabinets should be kept at least three-quarters full.

Will it help to turn the freezer off every night?

In spite of the excellent insulation of freezers, which enables them to keep food safe and hard for at least twelve hours, this practice is not to be recommended. Constant fluctuation of temperature, even if slight, can cause food to deteriorate.

The control on my freezer is called the "fast-freeze" switch. Does it really freeze faster, and if so, faster than what?

Manufacturers use different names—fast freeze, super-freeze and others: but whatever it is called, it simply means that by using this switch, you override the thermostat. It does not freeze faster, but allows the temperature to go on dropping so that the newly-introduced food can itself become solidly frozen without raising the temperature of the food already there. For this reason, the control should be set to "fast-freeze" etc. from 2—5 hours before introducing new food you want to freeze.

How long should I leave the food in the fast-freeze compartment and

how long should I leave the switch on?

Much depends on the size, shape and thickness of the packages and on their contents. Dishes with a high sugar content, such as mincemeat or fruit in syrup, take longer to freeze solid than, say, a thin portion of meat.

Must I always use the freeze control when freezing only a small amount of food?

There is no health risk involved and it is not absolutely essential to use the switch for small amounts up to, say, 1 lb. in weight, when frozen *individually*. Obviously a large proportion of fresh food at normal room temperature is going to affect the temperature of the food already in the freezer.

Blanching Vegetables

Harvest your crops in peak condition. Pick everything that is ready, day by day, cook what is needed for the meal and prepare the rest for freezing. Morning-fresh vegetables wilt less quickly than those picked under the noon-day sun.

It is important to have enough fast boiling water so that, when vegetables are put in, the water will return to the boil within a minute. Some people find a nylon wine straining bag to hold the vegetables better for speed than a metal basket. Then again the boiling time must be accurate—long enough to penetrate the vegetables and not so long that the texture softens.

Finally, when the time is up, the vegetables are cooled in cold running water to take them below cooking temperature as quickly as possible.

Cooled vegetables should be drained in a colander but not dried, then packed, sealed, labelled and frozen.

Which foods offer most benefit to the freezer owning family?

No two families' needs are alike. After my own six years of trial and error, I have settled for a stock of raw foods which I make into meals as I require them, the only exception being the dishes for the forward preparation for a party. Some people prefer to cook up a quantity of prepared dishes in a "quiet" moment, so they need only reheat them at the last minute.

I can get half a pig (or sheep) from my local butcher—all cut up, but not frozen. It is too much to freeze all at once. What do I do?

When unfrozen meat is bought, it is wise not to purchase more than a quarter of the freezer's total capacity at one time. Freeze the most perishable cuts first (offal, minced meat and small cuts) and hold the rest in the refrigerator or coolest place possible until it can be frozen.

Freezer Booklet

A million copies of "Food Freezing at Home" by Gwen Conacher have now been sold, making it the most popular of all the many books on this subject. Originally published in 1968, "Food Freezing at Home," contains basic information on all aspects of freezing condensed into 40 fact-filled pages. All the information on foods and freezing methods is given in an easy reference table.

Price of the new revised edition is 25p and copies are now available through Electricity Board Shops, or by post from The Electricity Council, Marketing Dept, Trafalgar Buildings, 1 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DS.

Exchange and Mart

Space in these advertisement columns is free to all members of the Board's staff, past and present. You can buy, sell, let, hire or exchange almost anything by putting a small advertisement in these columns.

Write your ad on the coupon provided, or, if you don't want to mutilate your magazine, on a separate piece of paper. Please use block letters and keep it as brief as possible, then send it to *The Editor, 'Contact,' MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester, CH1 4LR.* Include your name and home address and/or telephone number.

We do not provide a box number service and office addresses and/or telephone numbers cannot be used.

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

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

FOR SALE

Folding bicycle, blue, unused. Immediate seat and handlebar adjustment. Suitable for use by child or adult. Today's price £23. Will accept £15. Telephone 051-334 2803.

Qualcast "Concorde" lawn mower. Two seasons old. In good condition. £8. Telephone 051-334 2803.

Tow bar attachment for "Marina." Complete with 50 mm ball coupling, lighting socket and wiring. £7.50 o.n.o. Telephone Crewe 583983.

Detached house, Wrexham, in a quiet Cul-de-Sac overlooking the Cambrian Mountains. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bath/toilet, outhouses. Garage space. Valued at £8,500, accept

£7,500 for a quick sale. 'Phone 051-928 4047 or 0978-840 723 after 6.00 p.m.

WANTED

Garden shed. Minimum 6' x 6'. Telephone 051-608 7408.

Mr. Ted Cotgreave, from our Frodsham shop, advertised for a special type of valve for a vintage radio set (wireless in those days) in a recent issue of 'Contact.' Mr. Cam Shimmin, North Mersey Systems Engineer, whose wife never throws anything away, was able to provide Ted with the exact valve he required.

CUT HERE

Name..... Home Tel.....

Home Address

..... Date

BADMINTON

Arrangements are now being made for a Badminton Tournament to be held in the Chester area later this year. Competing teams will be selected from members of the Board's staff in the following groups:

1. Head Office.
2. North Mersey, Liverpool and North Wirral Districts.
3. South Lancashire, Mid-Cheshire and Oswestry Districts.
4. Dee Valley, Clwyd, Gwynedd and Aberystwyth Districts.

One team will be selected from each group.

You may choose to play for the area in which you work or the area in which you live.

From this Tournament, teams will be selected to represent MANWEB in the Electricity Supply Industry National Badminton Championship to be held next Spring in Exeter.

We now ask for all employees—male or female—who can play or who have just started to play badminton to get in touch with the person in your District listed below:

Head Office	Tony Thakray
North Mersey	Doris Hamer
Liverpool	Paul Wilkinson
North Wirral	John Foster
South Lancs	Geoff Lamb
Mid-Cheshire	Barry Harding
Oswestry	Mina Rodger
Dee Valley	Heather Pearson
Clwyd	John Hughes
Gwynedd	Alan Snape
Aberystwyth	David Parry

ON THE MEND

We recently had a letter from Mr. Harold Greaves formerly of Area 4 Commercial Dept. He tells us he has been rather poorly after a major operation in Southport Infirmary. We are pleased to learn he is now recovering and feels "73 years young."