

CONTACT

Manweb's monthly newspaper for staff and their families.

MID MERSEY LIVERPOOL NORTH MERSEY
DEE VALLEY HEAD OSWESTRY
GWYNEDD OFFICE ABERYSTWYTH
NORTH WIRRAL CLWYD MID CHESHIRE

Vol. 41 No. 9

September 1989

New hope just a phone call away

THE GIFT OF LIFE

by Jackie Unsworth

THE bleeping of his radio pager could bring the gift of life to Liverpool District Electrical Fitter Dave Harvey. It will signal new hope for the 44-year-old father-of-two, who is awaiting a vital heart transplant operation.

Dave, who has worked for Manweb for 28 years, became ill with chest pains 18 months ago and was diagnosed as suffering from Angina. During the following months his health deteriorated rapidly and after several spells in hospital, doctors dropped the bombshell that without a new heart he would die.

The life-saving operation will be carried out at Manchester's Wythenshawe Hospital. Surgeons are now waiting for a suitable heart, which matches Dave's tissue type, to become available.

"When my radio pager goes off, it means they've found a new heart for me and I'll have

to go straight to the hospital," said Dave.

During his illness Dave dropped from 19 stone to 11 stone 3 oz., and at times was so poorly that, had a heart become available, surgeons would have been unable to go ahead with the operation.

"While I was in hospital my



Dave Harvey with the radio pager which will signal new hope for him.

two children - Mark, aged eight, and two-year-old Tanya - came to visit. When I saw them I decided I would live for them," said Dave.

"At the moment I feel quite fit, and I'm actually looking forward to having the operation. I want to live, and without

the transplant I will die, it's as simple as that."

Despite the trauma of recent months and the ordeal ahead, Dave can still joke about his condition. He said "I've told the hospital I won't have just anyone's heart. I'd prefer it to come from a 19-year-old athletic stud!"

He is also planning for the future. "I'm going to win this," he said. "I should be up and walking three days after the operation and I want to get back to work as soon as possible.

"I'm not worried about the operation. I know I will die without it. They don't guarantee anything with a heart transplant operation, but there is a new anti-rejection drug now available, and I know my chances are good.

"It's amazing how you discover an inner strength when you are put in a situation like this. It's been a traumatic time for me, but deep down, I've found the strength to come through it. I've got the will to live, and I will."

He added: "Manweb has been marvellous throughout my illness, and I'd like to thank Liverpool District Manager Gerry Haughan, 1st Engineer Ron Burgess and Convener Con Nolan for all their help. I've been with Manweb for a long time and the Board has been so good to me."

Monkey business

CLWYD District's Dave Miller was in for a spot of monkey business when he visited the Welsh Mountain Zoo. Pictured with Tanner the chimp, Dave, 3rd Engineer in Installation and Service, helped organise a trade seminar with a difference at the Zoo in Colwyn Bay.

Around 90 business people and their families attended the meeting, which was a joint venture between Manweb and the Zoo. Clwyd District staff promoted the advantages of using Manweb's electrical contracting services, and the evening also featured a presentation by the Zoological Society of Wales and the opportunity to meet some of the Welsh Mountain Zoo's animals.

The Zoo was an appropriate setting for the event, as the complete electrical facilities for the new chimp house - including

specialist heating - were designed and installed by Manweb

During the seminar, District Installation Manager Roy Haley outlined what Manweb had to offer on the electrical contracting front, spelling out the message that he and his team could tackle any size of job.

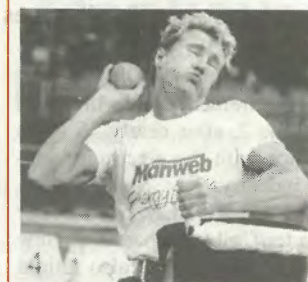
Clwyd Energy Sales Manager Graham Ffoulkes told the audience how his team could help businesses to develop, and explained Manweb's involvement with the zoo.

Continued on page 3.



Golden years

Page 10



Athletes strike silver

Page 12



District's batty problem

Page 3



A 'Rum' do

Page 6

MERSEYSIDE and North Wales Electricity Board Editorial Office: Room GE26, Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR. Tel: Chester (0244) 377111. Internal 2090.

Advertising Manager: Denys King, D. & P. King, Stoneleigh Hall, Cranston Road, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 3HN. Tel: 0342 324963. Fax No.: 0342 410060

Changing faces

District staff retirements

STAFF at Dee Valley District have said good luck and goodbye to several colleagues who retired recently.

JOHN EVANS, 50, an electrician at Legacy Depot, took early retirement due to ill-health on June 2, after nearly 35 years service with the electricity supply industry.

ALAN ROYLE, 54, a Meter Reader/Collector based at New Crane Street Depot, also retired early due to ill-health on June 30. He had clocked up nearly 15 years' service.

ENA HUGHES, 55, took early retirement on June 30 after nearly 28 years' service. She was a Supervisor on the clerical team in the Engineering Work Control Department.

GEORGE GRINDLEY, 63, a Driver based at New Crane Street Depot, took premature retirement due to ill-health on July 31 after 26 years' service.

BRIAN CRABTREE, 55, also retired early on July 31. A System Engineer, he had clocked up 38 years' service, including seven years with Norweb and two years with MEB.

ROBERT HARRISON, 59, an Electrician at New Crane Street Depot, took early retirement due to ill-health on August 31, after 37 years' service.

BASIL McBURNIE

JONES, 61, took premature retirement due to ill-health on August 31 after nearly 44 years. He was an Electrician for 20 years and then became an Installation Inspector, based at Shotton Commercial Depot. In 1973 he was transferred to New Crane Street Depot as an Installation Inspector, remaining there until his retirement.

HENRY DALE JONES, better known as Roger, retired early because of ill-health on August 31. Roger, 61, an Installation Inspector at New Crane Street Depot, had worked in the ESI for almost 47 years.

JOHN JONES, 64, took early retirement on September 3. A Meter Reading Foreman at New Crane Street Depot since 1983, John previously worked as a Meter Reader/Collector and was later promoted to Chargehand. He had clocked up nearly 34 years' service.

***Staff at Oswestry District have said a fond farewell to ROY EVANS, who retired early through ill-health on June 30. Roy was an Installation Inspector at Newtown and had worked in the electricity supply industry for 33 years.**



Jack clocks off after 43 years

LIVERPOOL District Manager Gerry Haughan presents a Flymo Mini Trim to Abraham "Jack" Slater, who has retired after 43 years' service.

Keen gardener Jack, a Liverpool Corporation in 1946, after four years' war service with the Merchant Navy. For three years he

worked in cable laying before moving to Building and Civil. Colleagues gathered at the District Office for the retirement presentation, and Jack's wife Sheila, also pictured, received a bouquet.

Assistant Company Secretary appointed

MORE expertise from the private sector has been brought into Manweb with the appointment of Don Kilgallon as Assistant Company Secretary.

Reporting to Board Secretary Nick Williams, Don (pictured) is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and has wide experience of the administration of the statutory and Stock Exchange requirements of a large plc.

His immediate priority is the setting up of a new Section at Head Office to handle these and other associated matters, ensuring Manweb complies with its statutory obligations under the Companies Act and other legislation.

In addition Don, who joined Manweb at the beginning of September, will eventually take over responsibility for Head Office Administration from Administrative Services Manager Tom Hamilton and the operation of Queensferry Stores from Peter Falcon, Financial Manager, Expenditure and Stores, as both Managers have announced their plans to retire.

Father-of-two Don, 41, who originates from Nottingham, has come to Manweb from the Kent-based food manufacturing, procurement and distribution company Hunter Saphir plc, where he was Assistant Group Company Secretary.

He previously spent almost 20 years with Nottingham-based brewers James Shipstone and Sons Ltd., which became part of Greenall Whitley plc in 1978, working his way up from Secretarial Assistant to Company Secretary.

Before that he served a five year commercial apprenticeship with Rediffusion (East Midlands) Ltd.

Don said: "This is a marvellous opportunity for me. I have joined Manweb at a very exciting time, as the Board prepares for privatisation."



Building bridges at Bodelwydden

by Sam Doughty

MANWEB is sponsoring the Discovery Dome at Bodelwydden Castle until October 24. Set in the beautiful grounds of the castle, the yellow and white canvas dome has a range of 'hands-on' exhibits. It is aimed at children to teach them some exciting scientific principles, but the fun is for adults too.



More than 50 exhibits fill the dome, ranging from an exercise to build a bridge to an exhibit demonstrating random selection using ball bearings, and from a bucket radio to pressing out plastic aeroplanes.

The exhibition is open from 10 am to 4.30 pm daily. The castle too is well worth a visit, having won the museum of the year award this year. There are adventure play areas set in the grounds and a cafe is on the site.

If you are thinking of a trip, the castle and the discovery dome are opposite the 'Marble Church' on the A55 Expressway.

Young visitors to the exhibition are pictured learning how to "Build-a-Bridge".



It's business as usual at temporary Chester shop

MANWEB's Chester Shop at 22 Northgate Street has closed for major rebuilding and refurbishment work, and until it re-opens in mid-February 1990, temporary premises are being used at 29 The Forum Precinct, near the Town Hall. The temporary shop opened on August 29, offering the full range of Manweb services, and it was a case of business as usual for the staff, who are pictured outside their new "home".

Cash boost for Charity Chest

MANWEB's Charity Chest has been given a £480 boost thanks to the generosity of Ambassador Club members. The money has been put into the kitty to be claimed on a matching £ for £ basis by staff raising funds for worthy causes.

The £480 represents the value of charity points donated by members since the Ambassador Club was launched in Autumn 1987.

Head of Energy Marketing Bryan Ogden, whose staff administer the Ambassador Club, said: "From time to time, members don't claim the points they have earned through bringing in leads, and ask if, instead, a donation could be made to charity.

"Following discussions on how we could best use the money, which has been mounting up over the months, our Club Liaison Officers recommended that it should go into the Charity Chest. This means that a greater number of good causes can now be supported."

The Charity Chest scheme was launched at the beginning of this year to support staff efforts to help charities within Manweb's region. Under the scheme, Manweb will match £ for £ up to a maximum of £150, cash raised by employees for worthy causes.

Full and part time staff with a minimum 12 months' service can take part, and each employee is eligible for consideration once every financial year. Projects, which must fall into the categories of Manweb's Community Funding Policy, will only be supported once every three years.

Application forms and further details about the Charity Chest are available from Public Relations, Room 5E1, Head Office, tel. ext. 2090.



Head of Public Relations Joy King receives an Ambassador Club cheque for £480 on behalf of the Charity Chest from Head of Energy Marketing Bryan Ogden.

Annual Report praised

For the second year running, Manweb's stylish Annual Report has been praised by Power in Europe magazine. In an article comparing the results of each of the area boards, the magazine, produced by the Financial Times, says ours is the "best-designed annual report this year".

Monkey Business

continued from page 1

The Zoo had planned to heat the new monkey house with gas . . . until Dave Miller stepped in and convinced them otherwise. He suggested under-floor heating for the comfort of the chimps, and that the viewing gallery, which is also used for lectures, should be heated in winter and cooled in the summer. A heat pump was the answer.

The evening was a new venture for both Manweb and the Zoo. Persuading business people to attend a meeting on a Friday night after a busy week can be a difficult task, but the idea of inviting along their families proved to be popular.

It was a successful venture from Manweb's point of view as several good contacts were made, with the prospect of orders. The experiment also proved worthwhile for the Zoo, enabling them to spread the word about their conservation work and to raise funds.

Your help is needed

A PLEA has gone out to Manweb staff to help a seriously ill seven-year-old child get into the Guinness Book of Records.

The little boy called Craig is a patient at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London, and is suffering from a tumour in his brain and another in his spine.

With just a short time to live, his ambition is to be named in the Guinness Book of Records as the recipient of the highest number of "Get Well" cards.

Anyone wishing to send a card should address it simply to "Craig" c/o Miss J. M. Williams, Room D102, Solvents Sales Department, ICI, The Heath, Runcorn, Cheshire

Staff survey

MANWEB employees are to be invited to take part in a staff opinion survey, being conducted by MORI.

Questionnaires asking for views on such topics as the organisation, customer service, communications and privatisation are to be sent out to Manweb's 5,500 staff during the last week in September.

District is driven batty

by Jackie Unsworth

IT seemed like a case for the caped crusader. . . so North Wirral Office Manager Mike Townson reached for the 'bat-phone'. Within minutes help was winging its way - in the form of Merseyside Bat Group.

Staff at the District Office in Prenton had got into a flap when, returning to work after the weekend, they discovered a furry flying visitor perched upside down in the reception area.

Fragile

The tiny bat, which turned out to be of the 'Brown Long-Eared' variety and fairly uncommon, was clinging to the wall and appeared to be fast asleep.



The flying visitor could soon be winging its way to Australia.

Mike Townson said: "We weren't sure what to do so I rang the RSPCA - certain they would think I had gone batty. They in turn contacted the Merseyside Bat Group, who immediately sent one of their members round."

Sadly, by the time help arrived, the bat had breathed its

last. Locked inside the office over the weekend, the fragile creature, which normally lives in barns or buildings with large roofs, had been unable to find food or water.

Fiona Angwin, of the Liverpool-based Merseyside Bat Group, said: "We were quite excited to find a Brown Long-Eared Bat which had died of natural causes and which was in such good condition.

"Although not exactly rare, these climbing bats are declining in numbers and we don't often get to see one.

Museum

"It's possible that the bat flew into the office while chasing a moth or was blown inside by a gust of wind. Without anything to eat or drink, it wouldn't survive long."

The body of the bat is now being prepared as a natural history specimen for the Liverpool Museum, in William Brown Street, and may form part of an educational display.

The specimen may eventually be sent to a museum "down under", in exchange for an Australian bat.



North Wirral Office Manager Mike Townson and bat-woman Fiona Angwin.



Double, double toil and trouble

'ALLO 'Allo. . . Actors Gordon Kaye and Madge Hindle enjoy a spot of "Double, double toil and trouble" as they reflect on their success in "Elsie and Norm's Macbeth", running at Chester's Gateway Theatre until the end of September.

Gorden, taking a break from his role as Rene in

TV's popular comedy series 'Allo 'Allo, Plays Norm in the hilarious spoof on Shakespeare's famous play.

Former Coronation Street star Madge is cast in the role of Norm's wife Elsie in the Shakespearean send up which would make the Bard turn in his grave.

Sponsored

Manweb sponsored the play and invited around 50 guests to one of the performances. They included the Sheriff of Chester, Councillor Eric Gerrard, Eddisbury MP Alistair Goodlad, major customers and representatives from local authorities in Manweb's region.

Afterwards the stars of the show joined Manweb's guests for a post-performance supper at the nearby Chester International Hotel.



SHIELD INSURANCE

For a free quotation on any of the following:

PRIVATE CAR, HOUSE AND CONTENTS INSURANCE, HOLIDAY INSURANCE, ALL CLASSES OF PERSONAL INSURANCE

Call or phone

GARETH WILLIAMS ON (0244) 671711

Discount available for all Manweb employees.

38 CHESTER STREET SALTNEY, CHESTER CH4 8BJ

People in profile

IN the first of a series of features focusing on Manweb's Divisions and Corporate Services in the run-up to privatisation, Contact looks at the Network Services Division. Led by Director Denis Farquhar, Network Services is primarily concerned with developing, maintaining and operating Manweb's power distribution network.

This takes electricity from the Central Electricity Generating Board's National Grid (soon to become the National Grid Company) at 400,000 and 275,000 volts. Substations convert the current to lower voltages before it continues through the network to the customer.

Very large industrial customers may take supplies at 132,000 or 33,000 volts, while others usually receive supplies at 11,000 volts.

Light industrial and agricultural customers may require 415/240 volt supplies (415 volts transformed down to 240 volts), whilst the standard domestic supply is 240 volts.

Highway

"The network is our highway to the customer," says Denis Farquhar. "Without it, electricity cannot be transported."

Keeping this highway open and operating efficiently requires skill and expertise in many areas. As well as the actual operation of the network, the Division is responsible for:

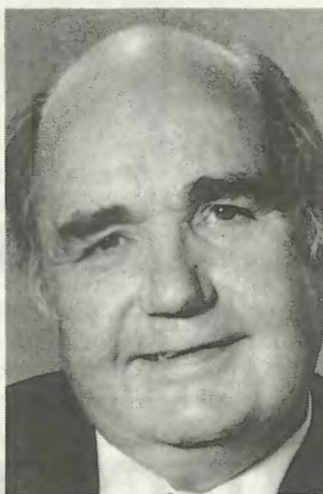
- District Stores services
- Workshops for meters, communications and plant
- Establishing Manweb's own communications infrastructure
- Wayleaves and Wayleave policy
- Transport services to the whole of Manweb

Network Services Division

Special feature by Graeme Cooper

Like all of Manweb's Divisions, Network Services is run as a separate business, presenting its own independent accounts and meeting financial objectives.

The bulk of Network Services' income after privatisation will



Denis Farquhar, Director - Network Services

come from Power Marketing, who will use the network to supply electricity to Manweb's customers.

Network Services will recoup the cost of maintaining and developing the network through the Use of System Tariff, paid by Power Marketing, and any other licensed electricity suppliers using Manweb's lines.

Maintaining and developing a network of 43,687 kilometres of line and cable, stretching across 4,721 square miles is a complex task. Network Services employs some two and a half thousand staff, and much of the work is carried out at District level.

Vital

Although not formally part of Network Services, Manweb's 10 District Managers play a vital role in keeping the power flowing, as well as carrying out their other District duties.

Manweb's 132 thousand volt network is the responsibility of the Central Field Unit, based at North Wirral with District Office in Prenton.

Denis Farquhar's Head Office management team each have responsibility for specific areas of the Division's work, and together ensure that the Manweb network is run efficiently, safely and profitably.

Next month: Trading Division



Network Development Manager - John Turner

Network Development is responsible for ensuring that Manweb's power and communication networks meet customers' needs.

"Our role is to ensure Manweb is kept at the forefront of technology," says John Turner. "We have an excellent record of innovation, and this, together with the continued stimulation of new ideas is vital to our future."

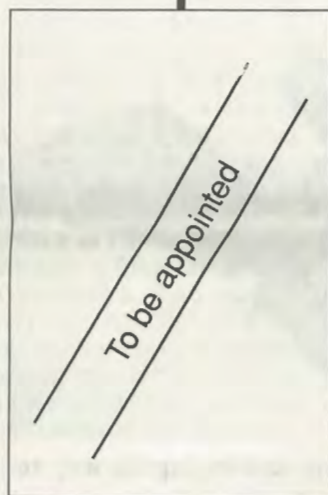
The Department is made up of seven sections:

System Development and Support provides a consultancy service to Districts for system planning and capital scheme and budget preparation.

The System Development section works to enhance power network designs at all voltages, covering supply arrangements and metering equipment.

Development of engineering computer systems including microprocessor applications and other innovative new technologies is the responsibility of Special Developments.

Metering and Telecommunications has its own section,



To be appointed

The Network Economist, yet to be appointed, will be responsible for developing and applying the Use of System tariff and Capital Contribution Policy.

He or she will co-ordinate between Network Services and Power Marketing on metering and revenue protection, safeguarding Network Services' income from the Use of System Tariff.

Part of the Economist's role will be to establish new businesses within Network Services.

* * *

which includes radio communications, and is run on a business basis, in providing metering equipment and telecommunication networking.

Innovating new communication systems is the responsibility of Telecommunications Design.

The privatisation timetable and its associated licence and regulatory requirements are the responsibility of the Privatisation Section, and the Division's overall activities are co-ordinated and supported by the Administration Section.



Plant Development Manager - Stan Roberts

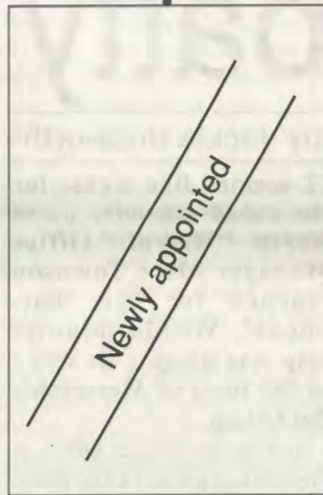
The Department has four main sections: Technical Power Systems, Equipment Development, Equipment Support and Applications, and its functions cover all engineering equipment (apart from telecom and radio), and the preparation of the Board's specifications in these areas.

They are looking at the latest developments in switchgear, protection, cables and lines with a view to their applications to the Board's network.

Remote control systems are being extended, with the introduction of SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition), which will improve operation of the system and also enable information for control and metering purposes to be sent back.

Another area of Plant Development is in the application of standard designs to meet specific situations, which are seldom exactly as found in the text book. Computer-aided drafting systems are used to help design substations, and other network equipment.

Equipment Support, too comes under Stan Roberts' Department, stocking major spares and advising Districts



Newly appointed

Taking up the post of Business Unit Accountant on 23 October will be Neil Tolson.

Mr. Tolson is joining Manweb from British Nuclear Fuels Head Office at Risley, where he is Engineering Division Assistant Accountant.

His role will be to provide vital financial know-how for Network Services' Departmental Managers and he will also give measures of performance and supply financial information to ensure network services and its business units run effectively.

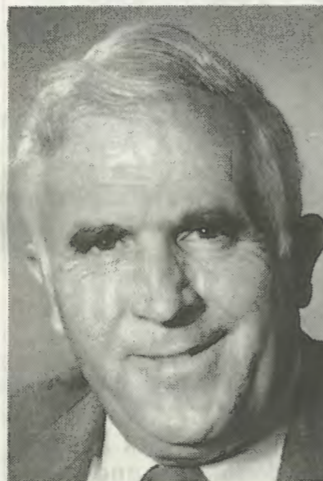
In addition Mr. Tolson will also be responsible for business planning and administration services.

* * *

on problems they experience with plant, cables and lines.

Specialist assistance and advice is also provided for problems Districts encounter with network disturbances and protection problems. Maintenance Policy is also formulated, helping in Plant Development's aim to provide a network which is more cost effective, yet maintains and enhances safety and reliability.

The Plant Development Manager is also responsible for The Queensferry and New Crane Street workshops which check the quality of incoming equipment and refurbish old plant.



System Operation Manager - Colin Ridley

The Department is responsible for setting operation and management policy of the entire Manweb network, covering all lines from 132,000 down to 240 volts.

"System Operation ensures the network is used efficiently and economically, maintaining security and quality of supply," says Colin Ridley.

The 132,000 volt network is controlled from the permanently manned System Operation Centre at Head Office. Using remote control switching equipment, the flow of electricity through the network is managed.

The System Operation team are responsible for releasing and formally handing over scheduled for maintenance to the Central Field Unit who then ensure strict safety procedures are followed.

System Operation work closely with Districts and electricity suppliers, ensuring Manweb's network operates efficiently.

After privatisation, the network may be used by several electricity suppliers and generators, and to take account of this a System Loading Centre will be established, also under Colin Ridley's control.



Production Manager - Kelvin Heywood

Production Manager Kelvin Heywood's role is to integrate the network functions of Districts and the Central Field Unit, setting and monitoring engineering objectives and productivity initiatives, and providing essential support services.

"The Production Manager's role is one of co-ordination, ensuring the various elements knit together to meet the business aims of Network Services," says Kelvin Heywood.

This requires close liaison with Network Services' Head Office management, the Central Field Unit Manager and Manweb's 10 District Managers.

Central Purchasing, Wayleaves, Records and Drawings, the Safety Advisor, Technical Audit, and Photographic are all under the Production Manager's control, along with the Transport section, which is operated as a separate business unit serving all Manweb's needs.

Another area of responsibility is Staff Training and Development, including recruitment.

"Part of my job is to make sure Network Service has the right people, and that they are trained and are working efficiently," says Kelvin Heywood.

Euro-aid boosts power projects

by Jackie Unsworth

ELECTRICITY customers in North West Wales are reaping the benefits of a major Manweb scheme to improve supplies within the three counties of Gwynedd, Powys and Dyfed.

With financial aid from the European Regional Development Fund, Manweb has embarked on a massive programme of investment to modernise and strengthen the 33,000 and 11,000 volt networks.

"Several projects have been approved as part of Manweb's long-term strategy to maintain a healthy and reliable network," said Manweb's Director, Network Services, Mr Denis Farquhar.

"This includes essential work to further strengthen our overhead lines in exposed areas."

The existing network has become heavily loaded over a number of years, and a large proportion of the network is of overhead line construction - susceptible to damage from lightning, wind and snow storms and from falling trees and branches broken during storms.

Among the steps being taken

to make supplies more secure is the installation of bigger conductors and stronger insulators, and additional overhead lines are being constructed to provide customers with alternative supplies in the event of power loss.

Manweb has recently completed a £100,000 scheme to



Sign of the times . . . Gwynedd Linesman Earnest Owen adds the finishing touches to the Caernarfon/Carmel project. The special notice which had been fixed to the wall at Caernarfon Grid Sub Station says: "This project is partly financed by the European Regional Development Fund".

rebuild a four mile stretch of 33,000 volt overhead line between Caernarfon and Carmel.

Half the cost of the project was provided out of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Further schemes, costing £6.5 million, are currently being considered for ERDF grants by the

Welsh Office, including work to make supplies to the Holyhead area more secure.

Manweb has been receiving ERDF grants for various schemes during the last 12 years, totalling, to date, almost £5 million.

These include the Liverpool Docks scheme to provide the

redevelopment area with an electricity supply. Costing £5.4 million, the project received 30 per cent funding (£1.6 million) from the ERDF.

Providing the electricity supply for Chester Business Park was another major scheme, costing £880,000, with a 50 per cent ERDF grant.



During his visit to Manweb, Energy Minister Peter Morrison was shown how the new Treasury Office operates. He is pictured with (L-R) Financial Director John Roberts, Treasury Assistant Elaine Lewis and Chairman Bryan Weston.

Minister meets Shadow Board

Energy Minister Peter Morrison, MP for Chester, met the Board that will lead Manweb into privatisation when he was invited to Head Office. Mr Morris's visit coincided with the second meeting of the Shadow Board which will take up the reins on Vesting Day, scheduled for January, 1990.

The Minister was welcomed by Manweb's Chairman Bryan Weston and his executive team - Managing Director-designate Richard Gales; Financial Director, Power Marketing, Colin Leonard, and Director, Trading, Peter Hopkins.

He was also introduced to the five non-executive directors-designate - Robert Cummings, Sheila Garston, Richard Mor-

gan, Eryl Morris and Glen Nightingale.

Following the meeting Mr Morris said that after privatisation Manweb would be one of the largest companies and biggest employers with headquarters in the North West.

"Privatisation will give a unique opportunity to the Company and its customers - both industrial and private house-

holders - to get more closely together and that I am sure will mean a better service for all."

He added: "Manweb's workforce and management is a dedicated and highly professional group. I know they are willing and able to take advantage of the new and expanding market place. Indeed they look forward to the exiting challenges ahead."

Privatisation update

Lilley spells out the future benefits

THE benefits that privatisation of the UK's utility industries will bring were outlined by HM Treasury's new Financial Secretary Peter Lilley when he addressed a conference at the Glasgow Business School.

Among the benefits identified by Mr Lilley were:

- More efficient use of resources.
- Better protection for the consumer and the environment.
- Wider share ownership.

Referring to the way in which these benefits would apply to the electricity and water privatisations, Mr Lilley said: "Legislative Frameworks are now in place which will establish regulatory systems to achieve both efficiency and service to the customer.

"In electricity we are introducing competition . . . to put downward pressure on costs and regulation where necessary to ensure the customer sees the benefit of competition.

"In England, Wales and Scotland, electricity privatisation will create major regional companies with every interest in furthering the industrial and commercial interests - if their areas, forging closer links with their customers and attaining the ability to create their own future."

Dynamic

Concluding his speech, Mr Lilley said: "Privatisation has created a whole new environment and culture; a dynamic, competitive environment giving better service to customers and enabling the economy to thrive.

"We want to make sure that wherever possible the benefits of privatisation can be extended to those currently remaining in the public sector."

suppliers quizzed

INDEPENDENT generators and suppliers of electricity are being asked for their views on how the proposed licensing regime for the privatised industry might affect them.

Under the Electricity Act 1989, anyone who generates or supplies electricity will need a licence, unless exempted. The licences, which will impose obligations on the electricity companies and may also confer rights, are designed to achieve a balance between regulation to ensure a secure and reliable supply for customers and the creation of a flourishing competitive market.

In a consultation document published by the Department of Energy, existing and potential electricity operators are being asked for their views on who should be exempted from the requirement to obtain a licence.

Electricity privatisation is aimed at creating a vigorously competitive industry and for the first time independent generators and suppliers will be able to compete on an equal footing with the successor companies to the CEBG and the Area Boards.

Already the Government is aware of 20 new electricity generation projects as a result of the opportunities created by privatisation.

Formal appointment

ENERGY Secretary John Wakeham and Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of state for Scotland, have announced the formal appointment of Professor Stephen Littlechild as Director General of Electricity Supply - the Regulator.

The announcement follows Royal Assent to the Electricity Act, received on July 27.

Professor Littlechild will continue preparations for the establishment of the Office of Electricity Regulations, which will

begin work when the electricity industry is reorganised before privatisation.

As Director General he will have a key role in making the privatised industry function in a competitive, customer sensitive way.

On the Wire



This cafe's really naff

What's this? It can't be! Manweb's super-cook Marj Scregg (pictured above right) sampling a delicious dish of RAT-atouille. Or could it be MOUSE-aka? North Wirral Energy Marketing Representative Marj, who writes Contact's monthly cookery column, looks far from happy with the menu serves up to her at the Naff Caff.

Botulism butties and salmonella sausage, egg and chips were obviously not her taste and the chef's method of getting rid of unwanted visitors was just the last straw.

But it was all in good fun. The Naff Caff was part of a display put on by the local council's environmental health officers as part of the recent Wirral Health Week, and focused on food safety.

Manweb was among a number of major companies and

organisations taking part in the event at Birkenhead Town Hall, which attracted more than 1,000 visitors.

North Wirral District's display, aimed mainly at schoolchildren, included a range of information about electricity, particularly safety in the home and outdoors.

Pictured with Marj is Naff Caff cook Liz Huntriss, a student Environmental Health Officer with Wirral Borough Council.

Better safe than sorry

Maybe it's my ghoulish sense of humour... On the way to give an armful to the Regional Blood Transfusion Service recently, it struck me as wickedly funny when I saw an arrow-shaped sign saying "Blood, this way".

The arrow was pointing to a door propped open by another sign, advertising Shield Insurance...

Could be verse...

SOME people can be really cruel! Karen Lummis, of Mid Mersey District, reaches the grand 'old age of 30 on September 30 and to help her celebrate the occasion her colleagues have written the following poem, entitled "Karen Lummis - The Big Three 'O'".

This verse was penned
By nameless folk
Who knew that you could
take a joke.
At 30 life can look so bleak

With wrinkles new and
aching feet,
With sagging bums and
hair that's grey
We're sure you'll triumph
in decay.
But smile a bit, as you can
bet
We haven't seen the above
just yet.

Happy Birthday 30.9.89,
from your friends at Mid
Mersey.



North Mersey District Manager Dave Price presents the Medallion Award to Wainhomes Chairman Ron Smith and Sales Manager Sue Poland... with a little help from Red Rum.

A 'Rum' do as District backs a winner

Story: Graeme Cooper
Pictures: Max Cooksey

Manweb's North Mersey District Manager Dave Price met up with two winners when Grand National star Red Rum helped out with a Medallion Award presentation in Maghull.

The Award was won by builders Wainhomes Ltd. for a development of 37 all-electric retirement flats at Beechcroft, Stafford Moreton, and Red Rum trotted down from his stables in nearby Southport to lend a helping hoof.

"Our Medallion Awards highlight the best in energy efficient private housing, and I suppose you could say that comes straight from the horse's mouth!" said Dave Price, whose District Office is appropriately located in Bridle Road, Bootle!

The work meant the whole Bridle Road team getting the bit between its teeth. Engineers Alan Fox and John Rigby worked closely with Wainhomes designing the heating system, and the installation work was carried out by the recently created Northern Region Contracting Unit.

Mains Engineering laid cables to the development as



During a 'walkabout', Red Rum met two of Beechcroft's elderly residents.

well as building a new sub-station.

There to accept the Medallion Award were Wainhomes Chairman Ron Smith and Sales Manager Sue Poland.

With anticipated weekly run-

ning costs of £4.05 and £4.40 the one and two bedroom energy-efficient flats are proving popular with residents, who had a chance to meet Red Rum when he went "walkabout" following the presentation.



North Mersey District Manager Dave Price with Red Rum.

ESTABLISHED in 1979 a Unit will be celebrating its GRAEME COOPER begins the Field Unit and its work

Unit pow

BASED at Prenton, the Cerweb's Network Services Division volt network. This includes ground cables, as well as supply and a budget of £1 million million!" said Field Unit Manager

The investment reflects the high particularly praises the teams who frequently end up covered in oil this sort of routine maintenance work

Thankless job or not, the Field Unit's expertise has allowed Manweb to constantly enhance the 132,000 volt network - essential work as this provides the link between the National Grid system and Manweb's Districts and major customers.

Electricity generated by the CEGB is transmitted at extremely high voltages - 400,000 and 275,000 volts - and before it can enter Manweb's 132,000 volt network has to be transformed. This is done at 14 supergrid sub-station pick-up points across the Manweb area.

Transferred

Until 1979 operating and maintaining the 132,000 volt network was the CEGB's responsibility, but when the network was transferred to the area boards Manweb made the decision to establish the Central Field Unit - known until May 1988 as the Transmission Section - to take care of almost the entire 132,000 network.

This differs from Manweb's lower voltage networks, which are maintained by districts. But, explains Brian Mather, the equipment and operating procedures for the 132,000 volt system differ from those required to maintain lower voltage systems.

"Everything from the cables to safety procedures is different," he



Above: Chargehand Electrical F on high voltage bushings at Seala

Right: Linesmen Harvey Trepes being used to install fibre optic c

he Transmission Section, Manweb's Central Field Unit celebrates its 10th birthday on October 1. This series of Contact 'close-up' features by looking at

keeps the er flowing

l Field Unit forms the field engineering arm of Manweb, maintaining and enhancing Manweb's 132,000 volt 1,376 kilometres of overhead lines and under-stations. "We started ten years ago with about 50 staff and now we've got about 100 staff and a budget of £13 million per year," says Brian Mather.

work and dedication of the Field Unit's staff, and Brian Mather is out in all weathers, maintaining lines and sub-stations. "They are tough actually having to climb inside sub-station equipment, and sometimes goes unnoticed," he said.

id. Brian Wearden controls the Electrical Projects Group, Administration, the Resources Group, which includes all NJIC staff, and the Civil Project Group.

In addition to the Prenton staff there are also small Central Field Unit Groups based in Rhyl and Warrington.

Deployed in this way, the Central Field Unit is able to keep the 132,000 volt system operating efficiently across the entire Manweb area.

Threats
It's an on-going job. As well as the regular maintenance work on lines, towers and sub-stations, the Field Unit have the long term problems of corrosion and the constant threats of lightning and vandalism to combat.

Before any form of maintenance can be carried out, the relevant section of line must be isolated safely.

Outages, when a section of line is shut down, are planned far in advance by the Field Unit's Resources Group, and require close co-operation between the System Operation Manager at Head Office, CEGB, other area boards and major customers, such as Shell and ICI.

As well as line maintenance and repair, the Central Field Unit is also carrying out major system improve-

ment projects, such as a £7 million scheme in Liverpool.

"We're extending the interconnected network, and so improving the security of our supply," explained Field Unit Site Engineer Brian Davies.

Part of the work involves upgrading a sub-station at Bootle to take a 132,000 volt supply from Kirby, and eventually the scheme will link Kirby, Bootle, Burlington Street, Paradise Street and Lister Drive, reinforcing power supplies to Liverpool.

As well as system enhancement the Central Field Unit is installing a fibre optic cable link between Manweb's Head Office and Queensferry Stores.

Using a special 'tug' the fibre optics are spun around the earth wires which connect 132,000 volt towers, and the system will be extended to provide Manweb with its own independent communications network, capable of carrying digital computer



Checking the paperwork - the Field Unit's monthly outage printout with (L-R): Bob Atkinson, Foreman; Jim Schofield, Foreman; Brian Ostle, Foreman; Carolyn Collins, Clerical Supervisor; John Heathman, Engineer; Phil Currie, Engineer and Dave Langdon, Engineer.

information.

The Field Unit is constantly striving to replace old labour intensive routines with modern diagnostic testing methods, which save time and make for improved efficiency, and to this end new equipment is being introduced.

Topper
A hydraulic "topper" platform has largely done away with the need for scaffolding when working on sub-stations, so speeding up work, and a borescope allows the inside of transformers to be viewed without a major dismantling job.

But in spite of mechanical and technical aids, without the people who do the regular maintenance work on sub-stations and lines the 132,000 volt system would run into major problems.

Fortunately the Central Field Unit are there to make sure this vital power network continues running smoothly.

Post Bag



Rallying call to Manweb First Aiders

Dear Editor,

At the Technical Meeting in May it was said that by August information would be made available to all Manweb First Aiders. It is taking longer than expected, but progress is being made with joint consultation at both local and national levels.

It is now envisaged that agreement will be reached nearer the end of the year. The delay is because the First Aid Committee representatives are holding out for high training standards on all the branch committees.

The stop press is that National Power, Power Gen, Manweb plc and Norweb plc will stage a regional competition at the Electricity Council Research Centre, Capenhurst, on Saturday, February 3, 1990.

So, Manweb First Aiders, sort your teams out so that we can pick up some cups in this first event.

The competition is to be a trial event, and if it isn't well supported the finance will be withdrawn and it will be the last to be held. If you want a first aid competition after privatisation, you've got to support this one.

Also to be held in the New Year, at Hoyle Training Centre, is a Novice Pairs competition for apprentices. This will be the first time apprentices have competed in first aid for a decade.

John Shallcross,
Ambulance Committee Chairman,
Head Office

Ex-scouts plan a celebration

Dear Editor,

The scout group mentioned in the "Reunion Notice" below was formed in 1910, soon after Baden Powell officially formed the movement. It is one of the largest groups in the country and boasts two "Beaver Colonies", three cub-scout packs, two scout troops, a venture unit, a marching band and a non-marching "Wind" band. They share their purpose-built headquarters with the 48th Liverpool Guides and Rangers.

Ex-members of the group are known to be domiciled around the United Kingdom and Europe and I am anxious to obtain their names and addresses in the hope that they might be able to join us in at least some of our events.

Guides

Ex-members of the 48th Liverpool Guides are also invited to contact me, as all sections work so closely together. The Guides will be joining in the celebrations.

R. C. Sarsfield,
Chairman, Supporters
Committee
(Husband of St John's Shop
pensioner Ann Sarsfield)

REUNION NOTICE

The 2nd Allerton (29th Liverpool) Arthur Noble Memorial Group of Scouts, to celebrate their 80th Birthday in 1990, are to hold a Reunion and present a "Tattoo". They will be joined by the 48th Liverpool Guide Company (Mossley Hill).

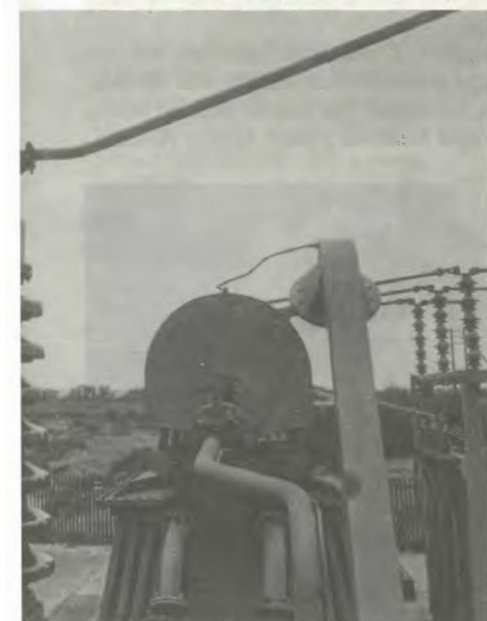
Would ex-members of both the Guides and Scouts please contact:

Rod Sarsfield,
"Clearview",
Rose Lane,
Liverpool,
L18 8DB

Do you have a view you'd like to air or an opinion you'd like to share?

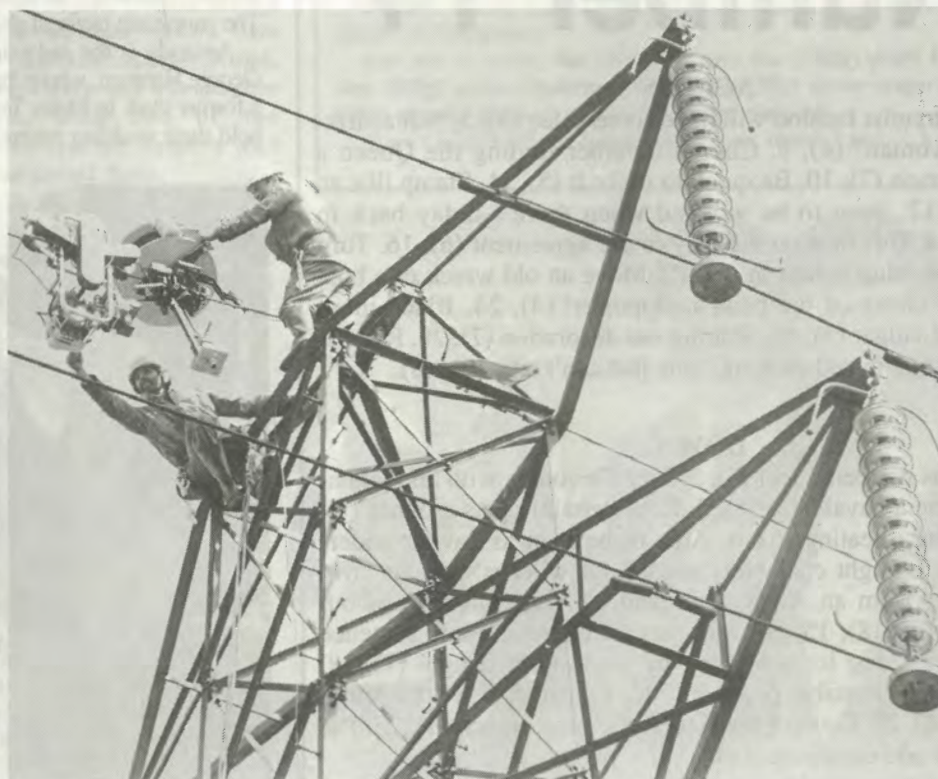
Then write to: The Editor, Contact, Room 5E1, Manweb, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

Please include your name, which will be used unless you request otherwise.



Ian Harris checks primary connections at sub-station.

and Keith Mason with the "tug" which is used for pulling communication cables.



ESTABLISHED in 1979 as the Transmission Section, Manweb's Central Field Unit will be celebrating its tenth birthday on October 1. GRAEME COOPER begins a series of Contact 'close-up' features by looking at the Field Unit and its work.

Unit keeps the power flowing

BASED at Prenton, the Central Field Unit forms the field engineering arm of Manweb's Network Services Division, maintaining and enhancing Manweb's 132,000 volt network. This includes some 1,376 kilometres of overhead lines and underground cables, as well as sub-stations. "We started ten years ago with about 50 staff and a budget of £1 million and now we've got about 100 staff and a budget of £13 million!" said Field Unit Manager, Brian Mather.

The investment reflects the hard work and dedication of the Field Unit's staff, and Brian Mather particularly praises the teams who are out in all weathers, maintaining lines and sub-stations. "They frequently end up covered in oil through actually having to climb inside sub-station equipment, and this sort of routine maintenance work sometimes goes unnoticed," he said.

Thankless job or not, the Field Unit's expertise has allowed Manweb to constantly enhance the 132,000 volt network - essential work as this provides the link between the National Grid system and Manweb's Districts and major customers.

Electricity generated by the CEBG is transmitted at extremely high voltages - 400,000 and 275,000 volts - and before it can enter Manweb's 132,000 volt network has to be transformed. This is done at 14 supergrid sub-station pick-up points across the Manweb area.

Transferred

Until 1979 operating and maintaining the 132,000 volt network was the CEBG's responsibility, but when the network was transferred to the area boards Manweb made the decision to establish the Central Field Unit - known until May 1988 as the Transmission Section - to take care of almost the entire 132,000 network.

This differs from Manweb's lower voltage networks, which are maintained by districts. But, explains Brian Mather, the equipment and operating procedures for the 132,000 volt system differ from those required to maintain lower voltage systems.

"Everything from the cables to safety procedures is different," he

said. "Our lines are mostly carried on towers rather than poles, and each tower can carry two circuits. One of these is live while the other is being worked on, which calls for special safety procedures."

Much of the equipment, too, is of a specialised nature. The Unit has a fleet of three cable fault location vans which are centrally controlled from Prenton, and the Civil Projects Group, previously based in Head Office as part of Civil Engineering, is in the process of moving to Prenton.

"We only build about one 132kV sub-station per year, and it requires specialised skills and expertise," said Brian Mather. "It makes sense to concentrate the know-how at one location."

Although the Field Unit shares its base with North Wirral's District Office at Prenton, Brian Mather is answerable directly to the Network Services Director.

Reporting to Brian Mather are System Manager Peter Hartley and Project and Resources Manager Brian Wearden.

Sub-stations, Lines and Cables, Cable Testing, Telecontrol and Safety Control are Peter Hartley's responsibility, along with a section which will in the future deal with metering.

Brian Wearden controls the Electrical Projects Group, Administration, the Resources Group, which includes all NJIC staff, and the Civil Project Group.

In addition to the Prenton staff there are also small Central Field Unit Groups based in Rhyl and Warrington.

Deployed in this way, the Central Field Unit is able to keep the 132,000 volt system operating efficiently across the entire Manweb area.

Threats

It's an on-going job. As well as the regular maintenance work on lines, towers and sub-stations, the Field Unit have the long term problems of corrosion and the constant threats of lightning and vandalism to combat.

Before any form of maintenance can be carried out, the relevant section of line must be isolated safely.

Outages, when a section of line is shut down, are planned far in advance by the Field Unit's Resources Group, and require close co-operation between the System Operation Manager at Head Office, CEBG, other area boards and major customers, such as Shell and ICI.

As well as line maintenance and repair, the Central Field Unit is also carrying out major system improve-

ment projects, such as a £7 million scheme in Liverpool.

"We're extending the interconnected network, and so improving the security of our supply," explained Field Unit Site Engineer Brian Davies.

Part of the work involves upgrading a sub-station at Bootle to take a 132,000 volt supply from Kirby, and eventually the scheme will link Kirby, Bootle, Burlington Street, Paradise Street and Lister Drive, reinforcing power supplies to Liverpool.

As well as system enhancement the Central Field Unit is installing a fibre optic cable link between Manweb's Head Office and Queensferry Stores.

Using a special 'tug' the fibre optics are spun around the earth wires which connect 132,000 volt towers, and the system will be extended to provide Manweb with its own independent communications network, capable of carrying digital computer

information.

The Field Unit is co-ordinating the replacement of old intensive routines with diagnostic testing routines which save time and improve efficiency, and are introducing new equipment.

Topper

A hydraulic "topper" has largely done away with the need for scaffolding when working on sub-stations, so that the inside of transformers can be viewed without a major lifting job.

But in spite of mechanical aids, without the technical aids, without the who do the regular maintenance work on sub-stations of the 132,000 volt system run into major problems.

Fortunately the Central Field Unit are there to make vital power network carrying running smoothly.



Checking the paperwork - the Field Unit's monthly printout with (L-R): Bob Atkinson, Foreman; Brian Ostle, Foreman; C Collins, Clerical Supervisor; John Heathman, En Phil Currie, Engineer and Dave Langdon, Engineer

the Medallion Award to Wainhomes d... with a little help from Red Rum.

do as backs winner

y: Graeme Cooper
res: Max Cooksey



Red Rum met two of Beechcroft's

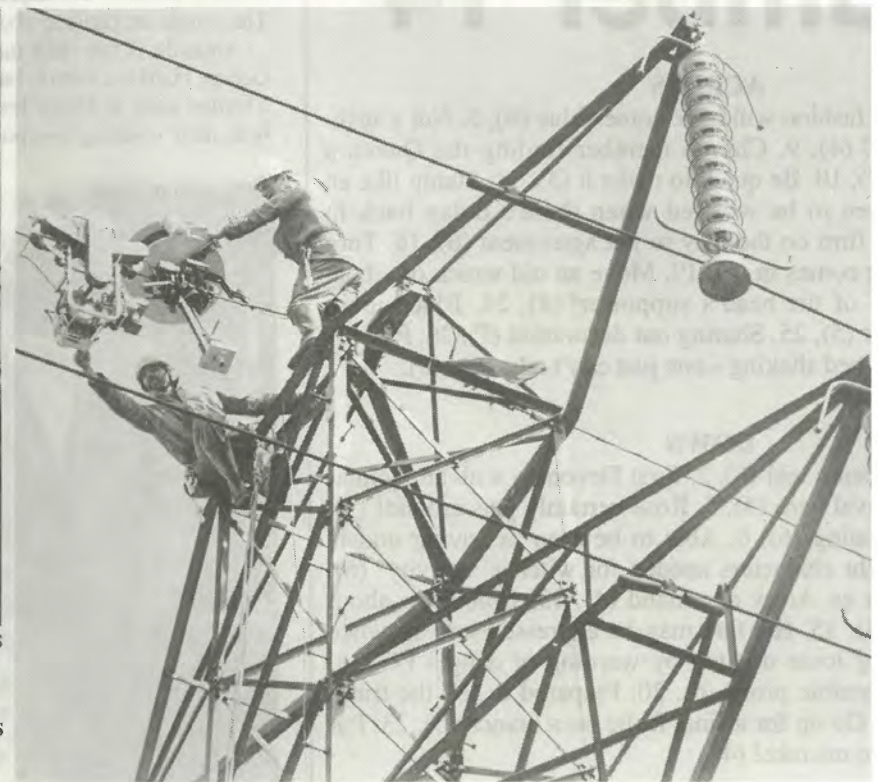
sub-sta- ning costs of £4.05 and £4.40 the one and two bedroom energy-efficient flats are proving popular with residents, who had a chance to meet Red Rum when he went "walkabout" following the presentation.



Red Rum.



Above: Chargehand Electrical Fitter Ian Harris checks primary connections on high voltage bushings at Sealand Sub-station.



Right: Linesmen Harvey Trepess and Keith Mason with the "tug" which is being used to install fibre optic communication cables.



District Manager Gerry Haughan presents certificates to staff who have clocked up 20 years' service.

A special celebration for staff

LISTER Drive staff who have reached special milestones in their careers gathered at Liverpool Football Club to receive their long service certificates from District Manager Gerry Haughan.

The staff, celebrating 20, 30 and 40 years in the electricity supply industry, brought along their husbands and wives for the presentation ceremony, which was held in Anfield's prestigious Trophy Room. Those receiving awards were:

40 YEARS: Frank Threadgold, Customer Accounts Manager (Debt Control).

30 YEARS: Alex Eden, Foreman, Statutory; Norman Everett, Shift Electrician; John Howson, Storekeeper; Ronnie Mosses, DRC Attendant; Ken Roberts, Shift Electrician; Bill Scrutton,

Foreman, Meter Reading; Stan Wappett, 2nd Engineer, Energy Marketing.

20 YEARS: Bobby Adamson, Foreman, Debt Control; Colin Bellingham, Shift Electrician;

Margaret Davies, District Records Draughtswoman; Paul Glover, Admin Assistant, General Services; Jim Harty, Chargehand Storekeeper, Meter Stores; Tommy King, Joints; Pat Mont-

gomery, Office Cleaner; Jim Parry, Electrician; Tommy Rossiter, Courier/Driver; Norman Siebert, Records Draughtsman; Brian Wignall, Craft Operative, Metering.



Customer Accounts Manager (Debt Control) Frank Threadgold receives his 40 year certificate from District Manager Gerry Haughan. Also pictured are Con Nolan, Chairman of the District LJCC, and Frank's wife Barbara.



Staff celebrating 30 years' service receive their certificates from District Manager Gerry Haughan.

Congratulations

Long Service

CONGRATULATIONS to the following members of staff who have clocked up 30 or 40 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

40 YEARS: Head Office - Bill Wakelin, Shop Operations Manager; Colin Ridley, System Operation Manager; Ken Sinclair, Consents Manager; Doug Swire, Property Services Manager, and Gerald Davies, Craftsman, Technical. Liverpool - Jennifer Hancock, Admin Assistant. Dee Valley - Phil Keddle, Engineering Assistant. Gwynedd - Alun Rowlands, Engineering Foreman.

30 YEARS: Mid Cheshire - David Cousins, Installation Manager. Mid Mersey - Derek Jones, Craft Attendant. Dee Valley - Barry Griffiths, Admin Assistant. Clwyd - Alun Williams, Meter Operative. Aberystwyth - Dilwyn Thomas, Craftsman, Overhead Lines.



Wedding bells

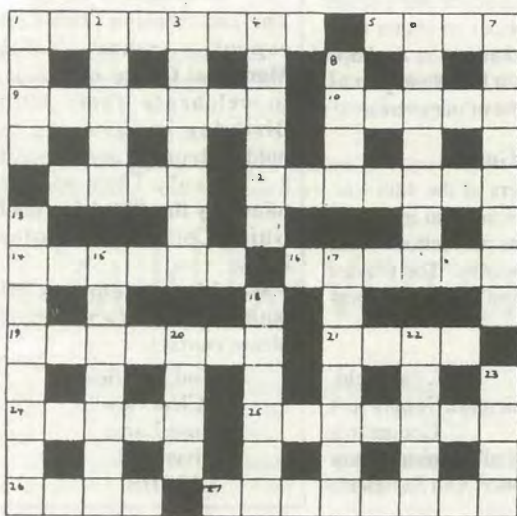
WEDDING bells have been ringing for three Manweb employees. Widnes Shop Assistant Manager David Kennedy and Nicky Houghton, of Marketing Services, Head Office, tied the knot at St Phillip's Church, Southport, on August 26, and Head Office Computer Control Clerk Amanda Harrison married Northwich fencing firm boss Peter Shaw on August 19 at Emmanuel Parish Church, Bistre.

David and Nicky, both 21, who met two and a half years ago, have set up home in Runcom. Their wedding reception, attended by several Manweb colleagues, was held at Southport Masonic Hall. The couple are pictured above.

Amanda is the only daughter of Industrial Relations Adviser George Harrison, who is based at Head Office, and his wife Barbara, a former clerk in Meter Test, Liverpool. The couple, pictured below, held their wedding reception at Beaufort Palace Hotel, Alltami.



Crossword Number 14



ACROSS

1. Non-extremist fashion will have some value (8), 5. Not a striking young woman? (4), 9. Church member finding the Queen a delightful person (7), 10. Be quick to make it (5), 11. Stamp like an animal (4), 12. Seen to be worried when there's delay back in Africa (7), 14. Bill firm on the way to get agreement (6), 16. Turn pale when the thing comes in (6), 19. Move an old wreck of a boat (7), 21. The cheek of the head's supporter! (4), 24. Black mark denied by the vulgar (5), 25. Sharing out decoration (7), 26. Pity it's a girl (4), 27. Lie in bed shaking - one just can't take it in (8).

DOWN

1. Deride as not being real (4), 2. First Devonian with an inclination to become a naval hero (5), 3. Rose certainly gets around! (7), 4. Party given a beating (6), 6. Able to be seen as having understanding (7), 7. Right characters needed for witches' activity? (8), 8. Keep away from an Army command (4), 13. Colour up about anything in issue (8), 15. His fate may be expressed in a sentence (7), 17. Many a dog loses nothing by warning of danger (7), 18. Spoil a drink for possible profit (6), 20. Prepared to tell the truth, one takes it (4), 22. Go up for a final frolic on a branch (5), 23. Put your foot in it and no mistake! (4).

Solution on page 10



Pupils on the 'write' lines

BIRKENHEAD schoolgirl Lianne Rigg's POWER-ful prose earned her the first prize in an essay competition organised by Manweb.

Nine-year-old Lianne and her friends in class 5T at St. Joseph's RC Primary School, Oxtot, put pen to paper to describe their visit to Fiddler's Ferry Power Station, Warrington, and Lianne was presented with a personal stereo after her essay was judged to be "top of the form", Pens and tee-shirts were awarded to the six runners-up.

The trip was arranged by Manweb to help the class of 29 youngsters with their school project on "Energy," centred on electricity.

Picnic

Manweb's North Wirral Office Manager Mike Townson, who accompanied the group to Fiddler's Ferry, said: "We provided the children with a number of batteries so they could carry out experiments and, to help them understand how electricity is produced, arranged a guided tour of the power station, including a visit to the control room and turbine hall.

"Afterwards we treated the youngsters to a picnic lunch in the school grounds. It was a wonderful day out, and the children really enjoyed themselves."

In her essay Lianne vividly described her outing down to the last detail - her first sight of the power station's cooling towers and chimney, her visit to the coal store, the sub-station, the control room and the museum.

She wrote: "A lady showed us how electricity was found and who found it. His name was Michael Faraday. The lady

showed us a diagram of how coal gets turned into electricity. It was great."

At the end of the visit, wrote Lianne, "We went outside and got on the coach and we gave Mr. Townson in his green strippy (stripey) shirt three cheers then he got off.

"We started off and me and Jenny played noughts and crosses and hangman all the way home..."

Pictured (above) during their fact-finding mission to Fiddler's Ferry are (front row, left to right) pupils Barry Boulsover, Peter McLoy, Gerard Looker, Katie Wood, Sonia Pierce and Christopher Scott, with two of the parent/teacher helpers who accompanied them.



Cooking with MARY



Be it ever so crumble...

THERE'S nothing to beat good old crumble for a delicious hot pud, prepared in no time. Crumble tops are so much faster than pastry, and can be prepared in a food processor if you have one. There's an abundant choice of fruits in the shops at the present time, so make the most of them for the fillings. Crumbles freeze very well so make a batch of them for a later date. They can be cooked straight from the freezer.

APPLEJACK CRUMBLE (serves six)

Sunflower seeds are available from health food stores, and this recipe is a good way to use up the glut of apples from the garden.

For the filling: 3lb (1.4kg) cooking apples; 4 tbsp lemon juice; 3 oz (75g) caster sugar.

For the crumble: 4oz (100g) margarine; 4oz (100g) golden syrup; 6oz (150g) rolled oats with bran; 2oz (50g) plain wholemeal flour; 1½oz (40g) sunflower seeds.

Peel, core and thinly slice apples in a bowl of water, mixed with half the lemon juice, and leave until ready to use. Drain the apples and cook in a large saucepan of boiling water mixed with the remaining lemon juice for two minutes. Drain well. Layer the apples and sugar in a deep, round 3 pint (1.5 litre) ovenproof dish.

To make the crumble, heat the margarine and syrup in a saucepan until the margarine has just melted. Remove from heat. Stir in the oats, flour and 1oz (25g) sunflower seeds, spoon over the apples, level top and sprinkle with remaining sunflower seeds. Cook at 375F (190C or mark 5) for 30 minutes until crumble is browned. Serve with hot custard, ice cream or fresh cream.

COCONUT BERRY CRUMBLE (serves six)

Use hedgerow blackberries frozen to reduce costs. This is an ideal pud for Sunday lunch.

For the filling: 1½lb (550g) frozen raspberries, just thawed (or fresh); 1½lb (550g) frozen blackberries, just thawed (or fresh); 2oz (50g) caster sugar.

For the crumble: 2oz (50g) butter; 6oz (150g) plain flour; 2oz (50g) caster sugar; 2oz (50g) dessicated coconut.

Layer the fruits and sugar in a deep, round 3 pint (1.5 litre) ovenproof dish. To make the crumble, rub the butter into the flour until the mixture resembles fine crumbs. Stir in the sugar and coconut. Spoon over the fruit, doming the centre, and press down gently. Cook at 375F (190C, mark 5) for 30 minutes, until crumble is golden brown. Serve with custard, ice cream or fresh cream.

NUTTY RHUBARB CRUMBLE (serves six)

Looks impressive with toasted nuts on top.

For the filling: 2.2lb (1kg) frozen rhubarb, just thawed (or fresh); 4 tbsp honey.

For the crumble: 4oz (100g) butter; 4oz (100g) plain flour; 4oz (100g) plain wholemeal flour; 2oz (50g) caster sugar; 2oz (50g) ground almonds; 1oz (25g) flaked almonds.

Place the rhubarb and honey into a deep, round 3 pint (1.5 litre),

ovenproof dish. To make the crumble, rub the butter into the flour until the mixture resembles fine crumbs. Stir in sugar and ground almonds. Spoon the crumble mixture over the rhubarb, doming the centre, and press down gently. Sprinkle flaked almonds over the top. Cook at 375F (190C, mark 5) for 30 to 35 minutes until the crumble is browned. Serve with custard, ice cream or fresh cream.

PLUM AND CHOC DOT CRUMBLE (serves six)

The choc dots give the crumble an exciting lift. Use with apples too.

For the filling: 2lb (900g) plums; 2oz (50g) caster sugar.

For the crumble: 4oz (100g) butter; 8oz (225g) plain flour; 2oz (50g) caster sugar; 2oz (50g) dark chocolate dots.

Cut the plums into quarters, discarding the stones. Layer the plums and sugar in a deep, round 3 pint (1.5 litre) ovenproof dish.

To make the crumble, rub the butter into the flour until the mixture resembles fine crumbs. Stir in the sugar and chocolate dots. Spoon over the plums, doming the centre, and press down gently. Cook at 375F (190C, mark 5) for 30 to 35 minutes until crumble is pale golden. Serve with custard, ice cream or fresh cream.

ORANGE AND GINGER CRUMBLE (serves six)

For the filling: 2 oranges; 3lb (1.4kg) pears; 2oz (50g) castor sugar.

For the crumble: 4oz (100g) butter; 8oz (225g) wholemeal flour; 2 tbsp crystallised ginger; 3oz (75g) demerara sugar; 2oz (50g) banana chips.

Peel away the orange rind in thin strips with vegetable peeler. Cut into very thin strands and reserve for topping. Cut away the orange pith and slice the remaining flesh into segments with a small, sharp knife.

Quarter the pears, peel, core and slice thickly. Layer the pears, orange segments and castor sugar in a deep, round 3 pint (1.5 litre) ovenproof dish.

To make the crumble, rub butter into the flour until the mixture resembles fine crumbs. Roughly chop ginger and stir into the flour mixture with demerara sugar, banana chips and half the strips of orange rind.

Spoon over the fruit, doming the centre, and press down gently. Cook at 375F (190C, mark 5) for 30 to 35 minutes until the crumble is browned. Sprinkle with the remaining orange rind and serve with custard, ice cream or fresh cream.

Business boost

THE campaign to attract new businesses to North West England was given a £2,000 boost when Manweb became a member of the regional development organisation INWARD.

Based in Chorley, Lancashire, INWARD was set up to promote the North West as the ideal place for companies from the United Kingdom and overseas to locate and invest in. This includes Cheshire and Merseyside, which form part of Manweb's region.

By joining INWARD, Manweb has pledged its commitment to the region it serves.

With the financial backing of companies like Manweb and matching £ for £ support from

Central Government, INWARD provides help in finding suitable sites.

Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston is pictured (left) presenting a £2,000 cheque to INWARD Chairman Ken Medlock. Also pictured (left to right) are Manweb's Director, Network Services, Denis Farquhar; Head of Energy Marketing Bryan Ogden and Director, Power Marketing, Colin Leonard.

Just magic...that's Merlin's mountain

by Sam Doughty

In the first 29 days that new Museum of North Wales and Visitors Centre for Dinorwig Power Station has been open, more than 10,000 visitors have taken the trip into the Power Mountain... and the publicity campaign has yet to be mounted.

It is a three part exhibition and part one comprises Amguddfa'r Gogledd-the Museum of the North. Guided by the wizard Merlin, visitors are taken through the centuries, and earphones provide a commentary in English or Welsh.

The second part is a multimedia show. Merlin wakes up the

20th Century to be shown by a Gridco guide that electricity is not just the flash of lightning of Merlin's magical powers, but an energy source that powers the needs of the nation. He is shown how electricity is made, transmitted and used.

Part three of the exhibition is an

optional extra. Visitors leave the auditorium and can board a bus for a trip into the Power Mountain. Here the audio visual presentation continues, culminating in a visit into the generating hall - the biggest man-made cavern in Europe, to see the six massive generating sets.

At night and weekends, Dinorwig uses cheap and plentiful power to pump water from Llyn Padarn up to a top lake, Marchlyn Mawr. Then the station is ready to meet sudden peak demands. In 10 seconds Dinorwig can supply 1,320 MW into the national grid - enough to supply Liverpool and

Birkenhead.

The museum is on the banks of the beautiful Llyn (lake) Peris, on the edge of Llanberis, in the rugged mountain setting at the foot of Snowdon, almost opposite the terminus of the Snowdon Railway. Well worth a visit for the scenery alone.



Inside Dinorwig Power Station - an artist's impression of the new show

Business brains needed

An appeal had gone out to Manweb's business brains for volunteer "advisers" to put tomorrow's young tycoons on the trail of success.

Advisers from industry are needed to support groups of young people - mostly schoolchildren aged 15 to 19 - taking part in the Young Enterprise Scheme.

Young Enterprise is a national educational charity which encourages an awareness amongst teenagers of the practical problems of running a business.

Volunteer advisers are needed to attend the regular meetings of the YE "company". This normally involves up to one hour a week from September through to May or June. Where possible, advisers work in groups of four, combining a mixture of business backgrounds and experience.

Anyone interested in becoming an adviser should contact Manweb Environmental Services Manager Doug Gregg at Head Office, ext. 2840.

Diary dates

Liverpool District's LJCC Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 19, at Everton Football Club, when the guest speaker will be Radio Merseyside presenter Roger Phillips. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Bill Allen at Lister Drive, ext. 2113.

And anyone planning to attend Dee Valley's LJCC Annual Conference on Friday, November 3, at the Bryn Howell Hotel, Llangollen, should contact the District Administration Department.

Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1 Moderate, 5 Miss, 9 Charmer, 10 Haste, 11 Seal, 12 Senegal, 14 Accord, 16 Whiten, 19 Gondola, 21 Neck, 24 Taint, 25 Garnish, 26 Ruth, 27 Inedible. **DOWN:** 1 Mock, 2 Drake, 3 Rambler, 4 Thrash, 6 Insight, 7 Spelling, 8 Shun, 13 Daughter, 15 Convict, 17 Hundred, 18 Margin, 20 Oath, 22 Climb, 23

Retirement round-up

Gwynedd pensioners join the jet set

Former Gwynedd District employees have certainly been getting around since the inaugural meeting of the Retired Staff Association in November last year.

During the summer the 'jet setting' group has gone on

trips to Dinorwig Power Station, Rhyl and Bodelwyddan

Castle. Members also visited Manweb's Chester Head Office, and were treated to a slap up lunch in the Restaurant, followed by a tour of the City.

Future outings being arranged include a trip to Trawsfynydd Power Station, and the highlight of the winter programme will be a bumper

Christmas party.

The Association has sent out a big vote of thanks to Manweb and in particular, Gwynedd District Manager Dick Owen for the advice and assistance which has been given.

Details

Any retired Gwynedd employee who would like further details of forthcoming events should contact the Association's Secretary Mr K. E. Jones at the District Office.

Members of the group are pictured above during their recent visit to Head Office.



Liverpool couple celebrate 50 golden years together

Liverpool District Customer Accounts Manager (Debt Control) Frank Threadgold is pictured presenting a carriage clock to retired Lister Drive couple Tommy and Gert Freeman, who celebrated a golden occasion on August 6.

Tommy, who worked in Appliance Delivery and later Meter Test, and Gert, formerly of Customer Accounts, were married 50 years ago, and their friends in

the Retired Employees Group got together at the Liverpool Electric Power and Lighting Sports and Welfare Club, Thingwall Road, to celebrate the spe-

cial occasion. Frank presented the clock to the couple on behalf of the Retired Employees Group, and also a bouquet from friends at Lister Drive.



**AIR FLIGHTS
WORLDWIDE**

**SPECIAL PRICES FOR
EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES**

A selection of our cheap return fares; other low-cost one way and European prices on request.

Athens	£110	Miami	£185
Istanbul	£125	Boston	£185
Madrid	£95	Los Angeles	£280
Nice	£85	Dallas	£255
Paris	£52	Jo'burg	£506
Toulouse	£89	Sydney	£775
Milan	£78	Melbourne	£775
Rome	£118	Perth	£700
New York	£185	Toronto	£199

Cheap Air Travel Services Ltd
0638 661219
ATOL 822

**Motor Insurance
for Manweb employees**

**20% Staff
Discount**

Leadenhall Motor Policies at Lloyd's
arranged by
Leadenhall (1969) Services Ltd.

HILTON HOUSE
LORD STREET
STOCKPORT
CHESHIRE SK1 3NA
Tel: 061-429 0922

195-203 NEW ROAD
CHATHAM
KENT ME4 4QB
Tel: 0634 47858

Please write or phone and we shall be pleased to give you a quotation



Designs on a bright future

ARCHITECTURAL student Helen Donleavy has laid the foundations for a successful career after winning a design competition sponsored by Manweb.

A final year student at Liverpool Polytechnic, Helen picked up a cheque for £100 for producing the best plans for an energy efficient residential building.

Helen's design for a 46-bed outward bound hostel made use of heat pumps, under-floor heating and localised electric water heating, coupled with high levels of insulation.

Manweb's Liverpool District Environmental Engineer Bob Steventon, one of the competition judges, said: "This was the first of what we hope will become an annual event. It was an academic exercise aimed at generating interest among young architects in the use of electricity in buildings, and some very good designs were produced."

"Helen made excellent use of an electric heating system in a highly insulated building, and I think she has a very bright future ahead of her."

Helen is pictured receiving her cheque from Bob Steventon (left), watched by Dr. Neil Sturrock, Head of the Building Services Section at Liverpool Polytechnic's Architectural Department.



Securing orders

MID Cheshire Energy Marketing Assistant Geoff Willcock presents a jug kettle to customer Mrs. Mary Greenwood, after she took part in a questionnaire on the Economy 7 tariff during the recent Nantwich Show.

The District once again represented Manweb at the Show, and scores of visitors called in to see the various displays in the Board's corporate caravan.

Mrs. Greenwood, of Manor Farm, Tabley, has been on Tariff 3E for several years and 12 months ago had slimline storage heating installed at her home.

Said Geoff, who is pictured presenting the kettle to Mrs.

Greenwood: "Her complete satisfaction with the system was demonstrated when, during the Nantwich Show, she placed an order for two more heaters."

The security systems which can be installed by Manweb also drew the crowds, and Mark Beeston, Mid Cheshire's new Installation representative, grasped the opportunity and took several orders!

DRIVING TUITION

Robin Jones School of Motoring

Department of Transport approved driving instructor. Member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists. ROSPA Advanced Driving Certificate. Member of the Motor Schools of Great Britain

SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR MANWEB STAFF

- * Beginners to Advanced
- * Motorway Courses
- * Dual Controlled Metro
- * Free Pick Up Service

For details telephone 0836 259896 (daytime) or 051 339 8135 (evenings).

HOLIDAYS

Brittany/SW France - Caravans and mobile homes. Self-drive pack. Tel: Crewe Internal 178 or 0270 766675 (Ian Linford).

Caravan - Towyn, Near Rhyl, Six-berth, two bedrooms, shower, fridge, fully fitted. From £75 per week. Tel: 0978 362615/352653

Carmel - Caernarfon. 19th Century stone cottage in own grounds. Excellent views. Three bedrooms, bathroom lounge and parlour. Large kitchen with cooker, fridge and freezer. Tel: 0286 880 749. Alwyn Pritchard, 16 Maes Hyfryd, Carmel, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

Criccieth - North Wales House overlooking village green, Sleeps six. CTV. Beach and shops two mins. Tel: 076671 2614 (Ann Tudor).

France - B&B, H/B, Caravans and camping. Tarn et Garrone Region. Close to junction 8 and 9 on Autoroute between Bordeaux and Toulouse. Excellent catering, including French, Indian, and vegetarian cooking. Much to see and do, or just relax in sunshine. Ex-SEB employee. Tel: David Boniface, 010-33 (63-95-95-20).

Pony Trekking - And farm holidays. Accompanied one-hour to full-day treks for novices or experienced riders. Holiday cottages available. Self-ctng. or bed and breakfast or half-board. Lic. restaurant open to non-residents. Lunch, afternoon tea, dinner. Private parties catered for. Further details: Hwylfa Ddafydd Country Farm Holidays. Tel: Colwyn Bay 516965

Port Grimaud - Six miles St Tropez. Four /six-bth. caravans, with electricity, h. and c. water, shower. on three star hotel site. Luxury coach travel from most areas. Tel: 0670 712399

Porthmadog - Holiday bungalow, sleeps six. Black Rock Sands five minutes' drive. Convenient Ffestiniog Railway, Snowdonia National Park. For infmtn.: C.Jones, 2 Meadow Drive, Porthmadog. Tel: 0766 2519

Newquay - Cornwall, family-run guest house with good home cooking. Family rooms. Friendly atmosphere, Sea views. 200 yards from town centre. Dinner, bed and breakfast from £70 per week. Former Merseyside family will make you welcome. Disc. for Manweb empls. Apply Avondale, 28 George Road, Newquay, Cornwall. Tel: 0637 872234.

Llandudno - April Court. Small family-run private hotel

(Welsh Tourist Board - two crown). Close to local amenities, beach, town centre, theatres, golf courses, etc. New Alpine Ski complex in beautiful natural setting. Ideal base for exploring beauty-spots of Snowdonia. Good home cooking and comfortable, friendly atmosphere. Children welc. Enquiries to April Court, St David's Place, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 2UG. Tel 0492 77898.. Disc. for Elec. Board employees and families (both past and present).

Algarve - Privately-owned villa set in large gardens in the Monchique Hills. Spilt level/dining room, good kitchen facilities, utility room, two-good sized bedrooms, terraces with garden furniture. Panoramic views of the West Coast, 24 kms away, Swimming pool. Maid service. Food hamper provided. Flights arranged. Tel: 0352 50159 or 0244 316682.

Anglesey - Self catering and coarse fishing holidays. Two lakes on 15-acre site overlooking Snowdonia. Touring caravans and tents welcome. Brochure available. Tel: 0248 713410

Weston-sup'r-Mare - Static caravan on farm. Six berth, sep. dbl. bedroom, shower, toilet, TV, etc. All season price £70 per week. Tel: 093472 292

Newquay - Cornwall. Luxury caravans with shower, and economy vans. Colour TV, flush toilet, etc. Pleasant site near town and beaches. Cleaned and maintained by owners. From £50 per week. Tel: 0637 876589 (Gill).

Spain - Luxury villa, three dbl bedrooms and two two bathrooms. Private swimming pool. Quiet area "Calpe" Costa Blanca. Walled gdns, terraces ect. Five minutes from uncrowded beaches. Available from £150 per week. Telephone 0736 664177.

Dolgellau - Traditional farmhouse cottage set in a seven-acre smallholding in Snowdonia National Park. Sleeps seven plus cot. Tastefully modernised. Fully-fitted kitchen, inc dishwasher and microwave. Storage heaters and large inglenook fireplace. Ample parking and grounds. Kennel for pet by arrangmt. Easy access to mountains and sea Beautiful scenery and lovely walks. Prices from £100 to £220 per week. Tel: 0341 423912.

Cardigan - 12 miles. Lux. berth static caravan, near beaches. Families only. Tel: 0492 580 253 (evenings).

French Riviera - Six-berth caravan, all amenities on site, within easy reach of Monaco, St Tropez, etc. Golf,

riding close by. SAE to M.Williams, The Lodge, Lingen, Bucknell, Shropshire, or tel: 0544 267579.

Newquay - Cornwall. Guest house, sea views, two minutes from beaches. Quiet area close to town, good food, comfort, prkng. BB/EM £65 - £80 per week. ESI staff. Tel: 063787 4291 (Mr Pleasants).

Costa Del Sol - La Cala De Mijas Costa. Luxury villa, sleeps six. Month of September in group share for sale. Phone: 051-427 6247.

Abersoch - Luxury eight-berth caravan situated on pleasant farm site, close to beach and shops. Shower, TV, flush toilet, 240 V, H & C, cooker, fridge, sink, gas fire etc. Vacancies March to November. Families only. £100 per week. Tel: Buckley 549248

Anglesey - Tal-y-Bont Cottages, Dwyran. Luxury cottages set in a 17-acre smallholding, 1 1/2 miles from shingle beach of Menai Straits and four miles from sandy beaches of Llanddwyn. Nature reserve, bird sanctuary, sea zoo, shops and restaurant nearby. Weekly prices - July/August £220, September 1 to 15 £180, September 16 to 30 £160, October £130. Telephone Deeside 819768.

Llandudno - Rosaire Private Hotel. Family run and situated in lovely garden area of town, yet close to all entertainment and shops with no hills to climb. Free car park. Tea/coffee facilities. Some en suite rooms available. Excellent home cooking, served at separate tables. Telephone 0492 77677 or write for brochure to Mr and Mrs W.G.Evans, 2 St Seiriols Road, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 2YY.

Anglesey - Bed and Breakfast/self catering summer let. Secluded farmhouse with panoramic views of the Snowdonia range. Within 10 minutes of the main town Llangefni and sandy beaches. Idyllic for bird watchers, Tel: Bodorgan (0407) 840038.

Free Ads

Presthaven Sands - North Wales. Caravan to let. Colour TV. Shower. Fully fitted. Good site facilities. Tel: 061 366 8789.

City of Chester - Self catering flat. Centrally heated. TV, fridge, linen provided. Parking, all inclusive. Tel: 0244 42538.

Luxury Caravans - Eight berth. Llanrhystyd, West Wales (on the Cardigan coastline). Pleasant site (no club) nine miles from Aberystwyth and 11 miles from Newquay. Near to beach with beautiful scenic views. Families only. Sorry, no pets. Contact K. A. Cull on 0939 33005.

FOR SALE

Car Seat - Mothercare, £15. Fireguard, as new, £10. Centurian bike helmet, white, £12. All o.n.o. Contact Mrs. S. E. Williams on 051-653 3416.

Invalid Scooter - electric, complete with charger. Good condition, £300. Contact Mr. J. Lippitt on 0925 831886.

Tow Bar - Dixon Bates, with electrics, to fit Austin Maestro. Nearly new, £15 o.n.o. Contact Denis Neaves on 0938 2835.

Upright Piano - Iron frame. Overstrung. Dark wood. Good condition, £200 o.n.o. Contact J. E. Evans on Dee Valley int. ext. 2222 or 0978 752099.

Suite - Three piece. Cut and uncut moquette. Hardly used and in mint condition. Reason for sale - too big for room. Cost £645 (receipt available) but will accept £350. Contact Sid Mumford on 051-733 2565.

CARS FOR SALE

Ford XR2 - 'D' reg (1986). White. 27,000 miles. Alarm, sunroof and alloy wheels. £5,695 o.n.o. Contact Alexia on Queensferry int. ext. 220.

Audi Coupe - 2.2 fuel injection. 1983, 60,000 miles. Electric windows, sunroof, etc. 12 months MOT. Very good condition. £2,995. Contact Alison, Central Field Unit, Prenton. int. ext. 317 697.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR FREE AD. ON THIS COUPON OR ON PLAIN PAPER

(BLOCK CAPS PLEASE)

Name:

Work place (or retired)

Tel:

Send to: 'CONTACT' FREE ADS, MANWEB, SEALAND ROAD, CHESTER CH1 4LR.



Home team strikes silver

AROUND 150 competitors from all over Great Britain, Belgium, Norway, Eire and Leichtenstein converged on Wrexham's Queensway Sports Centre last month to take part in the 2nd Invitation International Club Championships for the Disabled.

Hosted by Wrexham Sports Club for the Disabled, the games included an athletics event sponsored by Manweb, and Trevor Edwards, of Dee Valley Energy Marketing, presented the Manweb trophies for the best male and female athletes to John Aherne, from Cork, who won three golds, one silver and one bronze, and Rachel Potter, from Manchester, who took three golds and one silver.

The team award was won by Manchester who beat the Wrexham team to first place



by just two points.

Mark Young, from Wrexham, is pictured putting all his energy into throwing the shot. He gained a silver medal for the Wrexham team.

'Motley Crew' clinches cricketing clash

THE Head Office Inter-Departmental Cricket Competition drew to a close last month to end a summer of sport.

The competition, which is an eight a side game, sets out to involve participants who would not normally play any form of competitive cricket.

After the eight teams had played the preliminary matches and semi-finals had taken place

Mark Dale reports

a final between 'No Balls (3)' and 'The Motley Crew' was still to be contested.

The Westminster Park venue was bathed in sunshine as the teams went out to battle.

'No Balls (3)' won the toss and decided to bat on the good wicket with opener Martin Jones making an impressive 37 not out and Dave Spencer 32 in a total of 90 for 5 from the allotted 16 overs.

'The Motley Crew' side started off steadily with all-rounder Shane Yates hitting 29, this to top a fine competition averaging over 50 runs and tak-

ing 12 wickets.

The decisive innings of the night was played by Richard Bromley who came to the wicket with 35 needed from the remaining five overs.

Spare

Bromley was to hit 23 not out in a partnership of 35 with Mark Harrison (12 not out) to provide a win with four balls to spare.

The winning team, 'Motley Cricket Crew', comprised Richard Bromley (capt.), Shane Yates, Pat Byrne, Damian Hyland, John Townsend, Mark Harrison, Ken Sudlow and Brian Carmen.

Climbing team reaches peak

AS part of the summer programme of events a party of members and friends of Aberystwyth Sports and Social Club set out recently to climb Snowdon.

Arriving at Pen-y-Pass by coach the party changed into hill-walking gear and chose the PYG track as opposed to the miners' track as their means of getting to the top.

The day was fine and warm at the moderate altitude of Pen-y-Pass but old hands advised the party that the weather could change quite suddenly in the hills and waterproofs were taken along - just in case.

The PYG track is a steady trudge for most of the ascent, but steepens when it meets the miners' track.

From where the two tracks join, the mountainside is badly eroded and in places the authorities have found it necessary to carry out extensive repairs, reinforcements and paving to prevent further damage.

Sunrise

Some of the older members of the party contrasted this eroded scenery with the turf covered track that existed some 30 years ago.

Indeed, it was the same route chosen by a party of Sports and Social Club members from the old Area 4 office at Rhostyllen in 1959. That party climbed in the darkness of a summer's night to view the sunrise from the summit.

On that long ago occasion the top was clear of mist but the sun was obscured by a belt of cloud until well above the horizon.

Similar clear conditions for the 1989 party were confidently expected until they reached the place where the tracks join the railway and the path from Llanberis. At this point the mist descended and persisted up to the summit, obscuring the marvellous view.

The well stocked cafe at



On top of the world. . . The climbers reach Snowdon's summit.

Report and pictures by Maldwyn Evans, retired Systems Engineer, Aberystwyth

the summit provided some consolation for the weary climbers, and a "summit party" photograph was just about possible before the group left for the long walk down to Llanberis.

As the Llanberis path follows very roughly the route of the mountain railway line, it was a good opportunity for the railway enthusiasts in the party to observe the operation of the line.

It was noted that one of the steam locomotives had come to a stand-still some way from the summit to provide a breathing space in order to regain a full head of steam and to put sufficient water in the boiler to prevent

the protective lead plugs from melting.

Cool

Judging from this, it appears that some of the steam locos could be reaching the end of their economic life and sure enough the next train up the hill was propelled by a brand new diesel loco, suggesting that the days of the Snowdon steam trains may be numbered.

The coach awaited the party conveniently close to the river at Llanberis and some of the group took advantage of the cool water to sooth their aching feet before clambering aboard for the return trip to Aberystwyth.



What goes up must come down. . . The group heads back towards Llanberis.

Caersws aims for the top

THE Manweb League in mid-Wales is under way and Caersws aims to repeat last season's success. They have a Liverpool-type record locally, winning the league but losing the cup in the final.

In addition they won the Welsh Intermediate Cup, Central Wales Challenge Cup, the Montgomery Cup, the Sean Byrne Youth Memorial Shield and they shared the Summer Cup.

HAMBONE by Mike Flanagan

