

CONTACT

September 1970



Miss Peggy Francis.
The Girl from MANWEB 1970.

"THE GIRL
FROM MANWEB"
1971
(see page 194)

The Girl from - 1971 -

Manweb



DO YOU remember our first "Girl from MANWEB" in 1958—**Miss Anne Hall** from Chester? Anne is now happily married and as Mrs. Anne Harding is still working as the typing pool supervisor at Head Office.

Then we had another Ann as the "Girl from MANWEB" in 1969—this was of course, **Miss Ann Semple**, the senior sales demonstrator from Liverpool. Ann had a very good year and put in a lot of hard work as an ambassadress for the Board.

This year we have **Miss Peggy Francis**, a clerk from our offices at Llangefni on the Isle of Anglesey. Peggy, a most popular girl, has already done quite a lot of travelling in and out of the Board's area as the "Girl from MANWEB". She too, like her predecessors, has projected the Board's image in a most pleasing manner.

So now, who will be the next "Girl from MANWEB?" Who will take over the sash for 1971?

The search is now on and as in previous years, each entrant requires a sponsor. This year however, photographs will not be required in the early stages.

There will be **nine finalists**, **two** selected from Area 1, Liverpool Central, Liverpool North, Liverpool South and Southport Districts; **two** from Area 2/3, St. Helens, Warrington, Runcorn, Northwich, Chester and North Wirral Districts; **two** from Area 4, Crewe, Wrexham, Oswestry, Clwyd, Conway Valley, Caernarvon, Anglesey and Aberystwyth Districts; and **three** from the girls working with the Head Office staff.

Preliminary judging will be arranged in the Areas and at Head Office in order to bring forward the girls of their choice.

The nine selected will then be invited to Head Office where the "Girl from MANWEB—1971" will be chosen.

What the judges will be looking for are charm, personality, beauty, dress sense, speech and deportment. The entrant must work for the Board and she may be married or single.

The girl chosen as winner will receive a cash prize of £50. The runner-up will receive £20 and for the girl in third place there will be £10. Worthwhile consolation prizes will be awarded to the losing finalists.

There is no entry fee. All we need to start with is the name of the entrant and place of work, together with the name and place of work of the sponsor. *The person who sponsors the "Girl from MANWEB—1971" will receive a £5 prize.*

Send entries to *The Editor, 'Contact,' MANWEB, Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.* We will then send you a simple entry form for completion. **Most important—please note—the closing date for entries is November 20th, 1970.**

So come on girls—and sponsors—get your names in now!





CONTACT

Vol. 22 No. 9

September 1970

On other pages

The "Cinders" Trophy	196
Settling in at Head Office	197
Talking Notes	202
Safe Drivers—Northwich	205
Safe Drivers—Warrington and Runcorn	206
CEGB/Gas Council Agreement	207
Questions in the House	208
Weddings	209
Safe Drivers—North Wirral	210
Retirements	211

Editorial Staff
Keith Baldwin
John F. Perry
Sam Doughty

EDITORIAL

Safe . . . and Sound

“WHY DON'T YOU go and chase murderers. . . .?” is the perhaps natural reaction of anyone who attracts the attention of the police for doing ten miles an hour over the odds, or for the other hundred and one reasons which make every motorist a potential criminal.

But a cool look at things reveals that about 200 people are murdered each year (often by their nearest and dearest, who at once confess), while about 7,000 die on the roads in the same period.

In terms of overall human suffering, it is therefore true to say that traffic control is more important than villain-chasing.

Rivalling the roads—not perhaps as a scene of death, but certainly in terms of sheer numbers of accidents—is the kitchen. A combination of cookers, hot foods and sharp instruments makes it one of the most dangerous places on earth, and very few people can honestly claim that they have never been injured in any way in a kitchen.

“Accidents don't happen—they are caused” runs an oft-quoted adage, and this maxim applies in every case without exception. A logical investigation of the circumstances, with the benefit of wisdom after the event, will always show how an accident could have been avoided.

In the elimination of accident-situations, or in minimising their effects, there is a job for everyone.

Safe Drivers who earn ROSPA awards (there are some in this number of *Contact*) do a terrific job in practice and by example in cutting down the slaughter on the roads, while everyone who has devoted the few hours necessary to become a qualified First Aider has the power of life and eath in his hands at the scene of an emergency.

In the battle against accidents there is room for action on many fronts. As a contribution we shall publish in an early number of *Contact* a competition which, we hope, will help raise the level of safety-consciousness among MANWEB staff.



The 'Cinders' Trophy

Report by
Mr. Jim Bell

'CONTACT' Correspondent
Southport District

The picture shown above, is of the unique "Cinders" Trophy ingeniously constructed from odd pieces of metal and played for annually by cricket teams from our Southport District going under the names of 'Lords' and 'Grand.'

At the time when the trophy was instituted in 1956, the office staff worked from premises in Lord Street, and so they became the 'Lords.' Their opponents, the manual staff, were based in premises adjoining the old Grand cinema, hence their title of the 'Grand.'

The first encounter was held at Ainsdale when 'Lords' were the winners. They were again successful in 1957 but further honours

have eluded them since that date. That is, until this year.

Many former members of the Southport District staff, still serving with the Board, have enjoyed taking part in these needle matches.

Mr. T. H. Dutton, now at Head Office, organised the first match and named the trophy.

Mr. D. S. Webb Jones, also at Head Office, always enjoyed himself, and was a master at run-outs. *Unfortunately, the victim was never one of the opposition.*

Mr. L. J. Scudamore, one time District Manager and now the Board's Management Services Officer, had a style that suggested that he played regularly. *He was called upon annually to present the trophy to the captain of the opposition!*

Mr. R. I. Jowett, now with our Liverpool District, could always be relied upon to get a few runs. *He took a wicket in 1966!*

Mr. J. Heaton, also with our Liverpool District, had a great year in 1966. *He scored two runs!*

No doubt all these former colleagues will treasure their match memories, just as we hope that those playing today will have records in the 'book' and stories to tell in the years to come.

Match Report

The big battle of 1970 took place a few weeks ago when the 'Lords' were confident that at last this would be *their* year. They began well by winning the toss and nonchalantly allowed their opponents to have first knock.

Opening bowlers Jeff. Colvin and Colin Arnold soon had the 'Grand' in trouble with three wickets down for only 12 runs. Then Tommy Dent entered the fray and proceeded to score freely seemingly in complete command of the game.

The introduction of Terry Briody into the attack brought

quick results. With his second delivery he clean bowled the troublesome Dent and also got rid of danger man, Arnie Ormerod. The rest of the side collapsed under the bowling onslaught and with a modest total of 64 runs on the board, the last wicket fell.

Soon after the 'Lords' took the strike, their confidence was on the wane as four wickets tumbled for only 11 runs. Jeff. Colvin and Jim Bell retrieved the position slightly, but when Colvin was dismissed, 35 runs were still needed for victory.

David Biggs joined his Drawing Office colleague Bell and they soon got the *measure* of the bowling and *scaled* the attack down to size, their shots penetrating the field with *slide rule* accuracy. The partnership remained unbroken as the 'Grand' score was passed, bringing to an end yet another exciting game, with the 'Lords' once again getting their hands on the coveted 'Cinders' trophy.

Scoreline

'Grand': F. Adamson c Capp b Arnold 8; W. Hignett c Smith b Colvin 0; E. Tomlinson c Smith b Colvin 0; T. Dent b Briody 36; R. Pattison c Briody b Colvin 1; D. Rimmer c Smith b Arnold 5; D. Pearce c Briody b Arnold 3; A. Ormerod b Briody 4; F. Winter c Briody b Colvin 1; D. Winter not out 2; D. Fernant b Briody 0. Extras 4. Total 64.

Bowling: J. Colvin 4-6; C. Arnold 3-22; T. Briody 3-3.

'Lords': E. C. Capp c Hignett b Dent 0; C. Arnold lbw b Adamson 4; A. Pleasant c Pearce b Hignett 7; T. Briody b Dent 0; J. Colvin lbw b Adamson 14; J. A. Bell, not out 22; D. C. Biggs, not out 14; Extras 7. Total 68 for 5.

Bowling: T. Dent 2-7; F. Adamson 2-5; W. Hignett 1-7.



This striking picture of MANWEB's modern office block was taken from Blacon Point. It shows the East wing, on the left, and the South wing, on the right, with the West wing, end on.

Settling in at Sealand Road

Ideal working conditions for Head Office Staff

A LITTLE over 12 months ago we reported on the visit of journalists from national and local newspapers, TV and radio to our new Head Office at Sealand Road. At the time the building was in the final stages of construction. Today it is complete, apart from some landscaping at the rear, and staff are entrenched in their superb new surroundings.

Since our last article there has been world-wide publicity and interest in the heat reclaim and the architectural features of the building. Countries as far away as Japan, Australia and New Zealand have published articles, and we have penetrated the Iron Curtain with items printed in Czech., and Hungarian publications—no success as yet in *Pravda* or with Chairman Mao but we are working on it.

All this publicity has created immense interest and we have had visits from the 'decision makers' of this country and abroad, in all over 750 people in

(continued overleaf)

The imposing main entrance to the new building.





51 parties have been shown around. A common sight for Head Office staff is to see Messrs. D. S. Webb Jones or E. Covington, two of our senior commercial staff, ushering a party of senior industrialists, or civic dignitaries in and out of various offices, and any small disruption to office routine is compensated by the knowledge that we are helping in selling the all electric building concept.

MANWEB leads the country with this first major heat reclaim project, a system which reclaims the heat, usually wasted in conventional buildings, given off by the lights, office machinery and the hard working staff slaving over hot typewriters, or pushing heavy pens, by extracting it and using this to warm fresh air circulated via window ledge and centre ceiling ducts.

In summer the surplus heat is disposed of through the cooling tower situated above the roof of the centre core of the Y shaped complex. Since December

Kathy Smith, left, delivering the mail, and Sue Holmes, receptionist.

(Liverpool Echo photograph)

ber when the first members of Head Office moved in from Love Lane the external temperature has dropped to 15°F and soared to 85°F but internally it has remained around a steady 70°F. Heat reclaim is a full air conditioning system which controls temperature and humidity within acceptable margins, heating in winter and cooling in summer.

Open Plan

There are six floors a basement and an executive conference room overlooking the roofs of two of the three wings. In all there are 15 open plan offices measuring 53 feet by 100 feet and each has its floor covered with carpet tiles, not for the sake of opulence but as a functional acoustic aid along with the ceiling tiles and the special 5 foot high screens.

Each office has been carefully landscaped with furniture, plants and screens used to divide it into sections, thus providing some privacy without cutting off communications within the room.

The correct lighting levels are maintained by banks of flush fitting fluorescent ceiling units, the perimeter banks being linked with a sensing device which electronically switches them off should the exterior natural light be sufficiently bright. Metallic see-through curtains may be drawn to prevent heat from the sun penetrating whilst allowing light to come through.

The internal telephone system with our own exchange was the subject of an article in the June 'Contact,' but one feature linked with this is the

Architect, Mr. H. W. Stroud, extreme left, makes use of a model of the building when talking to a group of visitors from Electricite de France.





Busy fingers at work in the typing pool. The desks are strategically placed to give individual work areas even though the office is 'open plan.' The audio dictating 'bank' can be seen in the left foreground.

'OPEN PLAN' AT HEAD OFFICE

Here we see members of the engineering staff at work in one of the 15 'open-plan' offices. Carpet tiles on the floor, acoustic tiles on the ceiling and specially designed screens help absorb extraneous noise and create a degree of privacy within the large office area.





A corner of the Drawing Office where, as in all the other offices, shirt sleeves are the order of every day, thanks to the constant warmth—temperature 70 °F—maintained by the heat reclaim system.

internal audio dictating service. In the typing pool there is a bank of dictating machines and by dialling with one of the normal internal telephones which have a slight modification, one can dictate, play back and correct onto a disk from your desk just by manipulating a simple button set into the top of the telephone receiver stand.

The Lampson conveying system delivers buckets

containing mail to or from any floor and the mailing room which is situated between the staff restaurant and the computer centre occupying the former Area 2/3 building. This eases the life of our Registry staff, who are responsible for collection and delivery of mail and filing.

At break-time staff congregate in one of the six coffee rooms, one on each floor, in which there are

The busy lunchtime scene in the restaurant at Sealand Road. In addition to the normal 3-course lunch—with a reasonable menu—there is the Grill Bar where a range of meals are cooked on the spot. To the left of the picture is the shop where staff can buy sweets, cigarettes, etc.





Above : The spotlessly clean and spacious all-electric kitchen where over 500 meals are prepared each day. In the right foreground are two of the latest forced-air circulation ovens.

hot and cold drink machines which provide an alternative of 15 different beverages—none of them alcoholic. There are also cold snack machines containing chocolate biscuits and the like.

The Inner Man

The staff restaurant supplies the needs of the inner MANWEB man or woman, from the main self service area or the Grill Bar, which provides anything from things on toast to a fillet steak. The huge range and permutation of lunches from a ham sandwich to a full 4 course meal are priced very moderately.

The food is cooked in an all-electric kitchen by a firm of caterers Messrs. Taylors (Northern) Ltd., who serve 500 meals daily.

The main body of the dining area comprises a magnificent hall, the largest in Chester, which has an excellent dance floor and has been the location of some very successful dances held by the Sports and Social Club.

Above the kitchens are two rooms used by the staff for their lunch time activities. Table tennis, snooker, and darts seem the most popular pursuits.

Should you need a little extra cash to buy that steak, a full banking service is operated by a branch of the Midland Bank on the ground floor with access from inside the building for MANWEB staff and from outside for the Banks' other customers on the trading estate.

If touring the MANWEB building becomes too much for you and you feel a little faint, you can recoup in the rest room opposite the bank (*strategically placed for sufferers from overdrafts*) or you could undergo an examination in the well equipped surgery.

Below : In the Grill Bar, a quick service meal is being prepared. Steaks cooked while you wait, or, if you are a busy person, you can order by telephone and your meal will be ready when you are.



Talking Notes

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

SOME OF THE MEN FROM MANWEB who were working one Sunday recently, didn't bargain for the extra 'duty' they had to perform. The men concerned were members of the staff at our Queensferry Stores who were spending a working week-end arranging the huge stocks of electrical appliances in the Stores.

It was a lovely day and as some of the men were returning to the Store Block from a lunch-time stroll, the peace and quiet was suddenly disturbed by cries of help coming from three young boys who had got into difficulties in a nearby pond where they had been fishing.

Quick as a flash, **Cliff Shone**, **Tony Bonham** and **Tony Jones** made a 50-yard dash to the pond where all three jumped straight in—fully clothed.

They found that two of the boys were in a bad way and only the tops of their heads could be seen above the murky and slimy water. **Cliff Shone**, who is a poor swimmer,

caught hold of one of the boys, as **Tony Jones** grabbed the other one by his hair and pulled him up. **Tony Bonham** coped with the third lad.

Then the rescuers made for the side of the saucer-shaped pond, holding the youngsters in their arms. They were in about five and a half feet of water and the slime underfoot made the going extremely difficult.

By this time, other members of the Stores staff had arrived on the scene, one of whom, **Mr. Ron Buckley**, seeing the struggles of his colleagues, jumped in the water to help them.

The men on the bank got hold of some long poles and used these to help the others out of the water.

The children were then quickly rushed to their homes where they

were treated for shock by the family doctors.

A police spokesman said later, "It was very fortunate that these men were working on this particular day, otherwise the children's cries for help would not have been heard. That area is usually deserted on Sundays."

We are sure that we speak for all members of the staff when we say to our colleagues at the Queensferry Stores, "Thank you all for your very brave rescue. It was a humane act worthy of the highest commendation."

Howdy Sheriff

Well folks, we have now got a new Sheriff. Yup! a Sheriff of Chester. A man who has devoted most of his adult life to the service of the community in a number of ways. A great respecter of law and order—a man of strong character who stands by his beliefs. He's a man from MANWEB too!

The new Sheriff is **Mr. Cyril Gibson**, a 3rd assistant engineer working from Legacy Control at the moment but who will soon be

The gallant quartette who were not afraid of getting wet. From left to right, Messrs. **Cliff Shone**, **Tony Jones**, **Tony Bonham** and **Ron Buckley**. Notice the new barbed wire and lock on the gate guarding the entrance to the pond.



They helped rescue the rescuers. From left to right: Messrs. **Billy Chirgwin**, **Jack Homersley**, **Ken Lewis** and **Pete Ladyman**. Another of the men who helped in the rescue, **Mr. Syd Wilson**, was on holiday when our picture was taken.





Mr. Cyril Gibson, Sheriff of Chester, with Mrs. Gibson

moving to Head Office.

He has served in the electricity supply industry since 1930 when he joined the Chester Corporation Electricity Department, transferring to MANWEB in 1948.

Mr. Gibson was first elected to the City Council in 1954 as a member of the Labour Party. Years later, after a series of differences of opinion, he was expelled from the party and in 1968 he stood as an Independent candidate and was elected as the representative for Boughton Ward.

He serves on the Improvements Committee, the Civic Amenities Committee and is Chairman of the Dee and Clwyd River Authority.

The office of Sheriff was in operation long before that of Mayor. Nowadays, the Sheriff is the second citizen of the Town next to the Mayor. He has to attend many official functions with the Mayor and sometimes has to deputise for him. Other duties of the Sheriff are concerned with the Town's Quarter Sessions when he has to be officially in attendance.

We join with his many friends in congratulating Mr. Cyril Gibson, Sheriff of Chester, on this richly deserved honour.

The Archers

Come now ye bowmen of England—and Wales—and accept the challenge issued by the Ince Power Station Archery Club.

With **Mr. Leslie Wright** as their enthusiastic leader, this newly formed club would like to hear from other toxophilists with a view to arranging competition's or combined meetings.

The address is Ince Power Station, Elton, Chester.

Prize Grower

First prize at this year's Shrewsbury Flower Show for his three vases of chrysanthemums was awarded to **Mr. Ken Williams** of Bronybuckley, Welshpool.

Ken, who works for the Board as a linesman, grew his prizewinning blooms in his home garden. He is a member of the Welshpool and District Horticultural Society.

Shield for Lillian

Accustomed as she was to public speaking, **Mrs. Lillian Hughes**, a saleswoman at the Board's superstore in St. John's Precinct, Liverpool, was nearly at a loss for words when she was presented with the Faraday Shield recently.

She had won the award some time ago at the National Finals of the Electricity Council's Public Speaking Competition, and now, with the Shield suitably inscribed with her name, it was handed over to her by **Mr. M. R. Cowan** (Chief Commercial Officer) at a special ceremony held at Head Office.

Lillian also received a miniature replica of the Shield, a food mixer, winning certificates and a bouquet of flowers.

Mr. Cowan congratulated her on maintaining the excellent standard set by MANWEB speakers in the competition, and **Mr. H. Telfer**



Mrs. Hughes manages a smile after her presentation from Mr. Cowan

(Area 1 Manager) added his best wishes to Lillian on her success.

Then, after a deep breath, Lillian managed to say words of thanks, for the kindness and encouragement, to all who had helped her prepare her winning speech.

T.T. Report

In their first season with the Crewe and District Table Tennis League (Division 4), our MANWEB team from Macon Way did not drop a single point in winning all their divisional matches.

They won the "Crewe Chronicle" Challenge Cup for coming top of their Division, were runners-up in the "Frank Benoy" Shield after a tremendous fighting final against Rolls Royce, the team from MAN-

The highly successful Table Tennis team from Macon Way, Crewe. From left to right: Mr. J. E. Jones, Mr. H. Machin, Mr. F. Baldwin, Mrs. A. Boyer and Mr. M D. Wright





Some of the Warrington Safe Drivers with Superintendent Tyson, seated third from right, Mr. Trimble seated third from left, and senior officers from the District

Safe Drivers at Warrington . . .

SAFE DRIVING Awards were presented to some 30 Board employees based at Warrington at a function held at Wilderspool Causeway recently.

Superintendent Tyson of the Lancashire Constabulary, who went along to make the presentations gave a short talk in which he related some humorous stories in between his quoting of some very stunning and sobering statistics which showed clearly how important it was for everyone to exercise extreme care when on the roads.

Mr. J. W. Trimble (*Area 2/3 Manager*) was also present to add his congratulations to the men who had earned awards as follows :

Bar to 15-Year Brooch

Messrs. N. A. Heathwood and E. Hutchinson.

Bar to 10-Year Medal

Messrs. R. Cartledge, H. G. Gleave, A. Lawton, J. Smith and J. J. Waller.

Bar to 5-Year Medal

Messrs. C. Antrobus, R. Bramhall, H. D. Briggs, J. A. Brown, S. Ford, W. F. Kay, T. O. Mannion, R. A. Pennington and J. Tart.

5-Year Medal

Messrs. H. Burgess, A. Houghton and R. B. Smallwood.

Diploma

Messrs. E. Appleton, L. Bowler, E. Butterworth, A. Dearden, J. A. Hamblett, B. Hope, A. Horrabin, R. Pinner, J. Povey, J. Rae and H. Worsley.

. . . and also at Runcorn

MR. A. M. McINTOSH, Assistant Chief Constable of the Cheshire County Constabulary, was the principle guest on the occasion of the presentation of Safe Driving Awards to 29 members of the MANWEB staff based at Runcorn. The ceremony was held a few weeks ago in a local hotel.

Also present were Mr. J. W. Trimble (*Area 2/3*

Manager) and senior officers from the South Lancashire District.

The presentations made by Mr. McIntosh were as follows :

Bar to 15-Year Brooch

Messrs. E. A. Bold and A. M. Turner.

(continued opposite)

G.E.G.B.—GAS COUNCIL AGREEMENT

Natural Gas for Generation

The Central Electricity Generating Board and the Gas Council have reached an agreement for the first major supply of North Sea gas to a British power station.

The five-year agreement is for an "interruptible" supply to the 390 (megawatt) Hams Hall C power station, near Birmingham. The station will burn up to 300 million therms of gas a year and the C.E.G.B. will thus become the second largest gas user in the country (the largest is I.C.I. who have a contract with the Gas Council for 1,000 million therms a year).

One of the six boilers at Hams Hall C has operated on a dual-fired basis with coal and natural gas for 2½ years, and work has now started on converting the remaining five boilers from coal to dual-firing.

Gas will be used when available but the supply can be halted at an hour's notice and the station can then switch to coal stored on the site.

Under the terms of the agreement the Minister of Technology can at reasonable notice require the station to revert to coal-firing only.

For the C.E.G.B., natural gas is a new source of competitive energy for electricity generation and introduces a measure of extra flexibility in their fuel supplies. For the gas industry, the contract means increased sales and greater flexibility in meeting fluctuations in demand.

The No. 2 boiler at Hams Hall C was successfully modified in 1967 to enable it to be fired with natural gas or pulverised coal or a mixture of both fuels. The modification was undertaken with Government approval to gain full-scale experience of converting and operating a power station on a dual-fired basis. The conversion was designed, the plant installed and the boiler re-commissioned on full gas-firing within seven months. It proved that coal-fired boiler plant could be quickly converted to burn gas economically.

RUNCORN SAFE DRIVERS

(continued)

Bar to 10-Year Medal

Messrs. W. Appleton, F. R. Fryer, C. F. Oultram, R. Southern and T. Topping.

10-Year Medal

Messrs. F. W. Bignall and F. Nuttall.

Bar to 5-Year Medal

Messrs. H. Blythe, J. Dutton, C. K. Hazelhurst, A. James, C. J. Osborne, L. Percival, R. Vickerstaff and T. Whitney.

5-Year Medal

Mr. W. S. Grundy.

Diploma

Messrs. J. R. Antrobus, G. L. Bevan, J. B. Brassington, E. Hough, A. E. Houghton, A. Hughes, W. T. Jones, W. F. Mills, R. Mullin, N. Ormson and G. A. Williams.

Exemption Certificates

Messrs. A. A. Perry and G. Whitlow.



Above. Group Manager, Mr. Trimble, fourth from left, with Assistant Chief Constable A. M. McIntosh fourth from right, with some of Runcorn's Safe Drivers



More Runcorn Safe Drivers with Mr. G. H. Dodd (District Administrative Officer), centre, and Mr. A. R. Cooper (District Engineer) centre right

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY

Joint Safety Committees

Mr. Sillars asked the Secretary of State for Employment and Productivity if he will introduce legislation to make joint safety committees in industry compulsory.

The Under-Secretary of State for Employment and Productivity (Mr. Dudley Smith) : My right hon. Friend proposes to start further consultations with the C.B.I., the T.U.C. and the nationalised industries as to the best way of getting better arrangements for joint consultation on safety matters.

Mr. Sillars : With due respect to the Minister, he has dodged the point of the Question about making compulsory joint safety committees. There should be no need for further consultation because both major parties have discussed this matter at great length. Will the hon. Gentleman take it that his answer will be a great disappointment to trade unionists in this country?

Mr. Smith : I do not think the hon. Member was in the House when we debated the health and safety Bill in the last Parliament. The present Opposition then had very substantial reservations about Part II of that Bill. I think it far better, before proceeding with this point, to have further consultations.

Mr. David Stoddart : Is the hon. Gentleman aware that in the electricity supply industry joint safety committees have been operating for many years on a

virtually compulsory basis and have achieved a fair measure of success? Would not he agree that if the result were a drop in the number of accidents with a consequential reduction in pain and suffering, that would be beneficial and a fair exchange for a measure of compulsion?

Mr. Smith : Yes, sir. Substantial progress has been made on a voluntary basis and there are those who believe that even further progress could be made on a voluntary basis. My right hon. Friend intends to have serious consultations on this point and, if it is thought that further legislation is necessary, that will be brought forward.

Mrs. Castle : Does this mean that the hon. gentleman and his right hon. friend do not intend to reintroduce the legislation which was before the House, which was urgently needed, which could have been amended and discussed in Committee and which his Department's Industrial Safety Advisory Committee was anxious to see make progress?

Mr. Smith : We are giving urgent attention to the introduction of a Health and Safety Bill. At an appropriate time we shall bring these measures forward if it is thought that they should be brought forward.

Mining Industry (Government Support)

Mr. Sillars asked the Minister of Technology if he will introduce legislation extending current support for the mining industry to 1974.

Mr. Blenkinsop asked the Minister of Technology whether he will make a statement on the continuance of present agreements on the use of coal in power stations.

The Minister of State, Ministry of Technology (Sir John Eden) : The question of extending beyond March, 1971 the existing powers in the Coal Industry Act, 1967

including the powers to subsidise coal used in power stations, is under active consideration.

Mr. Sillars : Would the hon. Gentleman tell us clearly whether the Conservative Government will or will not introduce a Coal Industry Bill in this current Session, given that they did not oppose the Labour Government's Bill in the last Parliament? Would he give us the further assurance that their Bill will be no less advantageous to the miners than our Bill would have been?

Sir J. Eden : The hon. Gentleman must await the completion of the consideration which I am giving to this. I recognise the urgency of the situation and all the anxieties of those concerned.

Mr. Benn : Can we expect a statement on the Coal Industry Bill before the House rises for the summer?

Sir J. Eden : Certainly—if I have completed my consideration by then.

Electricity Supply Industry (Reorganisation)

Mr. Palmer asked the Minister of Technology if he will issue a White Paper on the reorganisation of the electricity supply industry.

Sir J. Eden : It is too early for me to say.

Mr. Palmer : May I ask the hon. Gentleman not to forget the demands he made when in Opposition for a White Paper on the reorganisation of the electricity supply industry? Would it not be reasonable to expect that a White Paper will now be issued?

Sir J. Eden : I cannot commit myself immediately, but if we decide that legislation is necessary the hon. Gentleman can be assured that I shall look with a great deal of sympathy at the question of publishing a White Paper.

Mr. Alan Williams : Will the hon. Gentleman bear in mind when making the assessment the

(continued opposite)

at CREWE . . .

MITCHELL—ALLCOCK

We offer our best wishes for future happiness to Miss Ronwen Allcock, formerly a typist at Macon Way, and Mr. Anthony Mitchell, an electronics engineer with Marconi Ltd., who were married at St. Michael's Church, Copenhall, recently.

Ronwen was Captain of the St. Michael's Girl Guides and was a member of the famous 'Kilowatts' cabaret act.

HILL—SADLER

Congratulations to Mr. Michael Edwin Hill, an electrician at Crewe, and Miss Betty Sadler on their recent marriage at St. Matthew's Church, Haslington.

Michael who started work for the Board as an apprentice in the Nantwich area, was presented with an electric fire on behalf of his friends.

STANWAY—HUGHES

Our best wishes for a happy future go to Mr. Ian Stanway, an

electrician at Macon Way, and Miss Carole Hughes who were married at St. Stephen's Church, Crewe a few weeks ago.

Ian, who began his working life as an apprentice electrician at Sandbach, was presented with wedding gifts from his friends at work.

and SOUTHPORT

GREEN—ROBERTS

Many friends gathered at the Lord Street offices earlier this month to say their farewells to Miss Vivienne Roberts, a clerk/telephonist, when she terminated her employment with the Board on the occasion of her wedding to Mr. Colin Green of Heskin, Chorley.

The ceremony took place on September 12th at the Parish Church of St. James the Great, Wrightington.

As a farewell and wedding gift, her colleagues subscribed to the presentation of a candlewick bedspread, which was handed to

Viv. by Mr. J. Graham-Glover (principle assistant).

SPEDDING—PARDUE

Congratulations to Miss Helen Pardue, a clerical assistant at Southport on her recent marriage to Mr. Ian Spedding, a Customs and Excise Clerical Officer.

The ceremony took place recently at the Alexandra Hall in Crosby.



Mr. and Mrs. Spedding.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

—continued

words of his own Deputy Leader the right hon. gentleman the Member for Barnet (Mr. Maudling), who said that it would be impossible to give proper commercial freedom to the Central Electricity Generating Board unless it were given manufacturing powers?

Sir J. Eden : I always bear in mind the words of my right hon. Friend.

Electrical Appliances

Mr. Marks asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will introduce regulations under the Consumer Protection Act 1961 to control the sale of

unsafe electrical plugs, sockets and portable immersion heaters.

Mr. Sharples : The Home Office has taken appropriate action to deal with certain imported plugs which have been the subject of recent criticism, but my right hon. Friend is not convinced of the need for regulations applying to plugs and sockets generally. A British Standard for portable immersion heaters is about to be published, and my right hon. Friend will consider the need for regulations in the light of its recommendations.

Nationalised Industries

Mr. Golding asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether

Her Majesty's Government intend to seek powers to control price increases in the nationalised industries ; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin : No, I have nothing to add to what was said in the debate on the Address on 7th July.

Mr. Douglas asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the discussions with the nationalised industries on their future rates of return on capital.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin : I have no statement to make on this subject at present. Financial objectives for those industries for which they have not yet been agreed will be announced as they are settled.



Mr. J. A. Rennie, Assistant Chief Constable, is flanked by Mr. R. H. Morley (*District Engineer*), centre left, and Mr. D. G. Tomsett (*District Administrative Office*), centre right. They in turn are surrounded by many of the men from North Wirral who received Safe Driving Awards

AWARDS FOR NORTH WIRRAL DRIVERS

AT A ceremony held recently at our North Wirral District Offices in Craven Street, Birkenhead, Mr. J. A. Rennie, Assistant Chief Constable of the Cheshire Constabulary presented Safe Driving Awards to members of the Board's staff prior to giving a short talk relative to the hazards of driving conditions on the roads today.

Later, Mr. Rennie answered questions regarding traffic regulations and helped clear up a number of points which had troubled our drivers from time to time.

The presentations made were as follows :

Bar to 15-Year Brooch

Mr. G. Holland.

Bar to 10-Year Medal

Messrs. R. H. Chapman, A. E. Davis, H. Flowers, D. R. Neil, W. A. Perry, J. L. Taylor and A. Woods.

10-Year Medal

Messrs. S. C. Broadhurst, C. Hough and E. Hough.

Bar to 5-Year Medal

Messrs. S. Bown, J. E. Conroy, H. A. Hall, T. H. Hardy, H. N. Jones, T. H. Jones, A. J. Kennedy, A. Langley, C. McCavish, A. E. Nicholas, J. E. Prescott, W. G. Reyner, C. Shorthill, R. Smith, C. R. H. Sutherland, J. K. Waring, and R. H. Webster.

5-Year Medal

Messrs. J. B. Jones and J. H. Woodhouse.

Diploma

Messrs. C. C. Armitage, C. A. Bonsor, J. Bowen, C. Bratt, K. Bull, J. V. Butterworth, E. Charnock, R. J. Cook, W. O. Cox, G. A. Davies, W. E. Davies, N. J. Davis, J. Dean, C. R. Garner, F. L. Griffin, G. Harris, R. C. Harrison, J. F. Holme, E. James, G. E. Jameson, D. A. Lawson, K. G. Lea, E. Marshall, K. W. Murray, E. Roberts, W. G. Roylance, R. S. Sands, V. Sestan, F. J. Slee, W. A. Tomlinson, J. C. Watson, C. P. Wearing and G. Wood.

We get Letters.

PROBLEM SOLVED

To Llangefni Office. . .

I would like to extend thanks to you and your staff, for the help and service given in solving the problem of installing the night storage heaters here last week.

Yours truly,
(signed)

PROMPT ATTENTION

To Llangefni Office. . .

In paying this account, I would like you to know how pleased I was with the promptness of the attention given to my

request for a new consumer unit, the understanding of the foreman in charge at Llangefni when I explained to him my predicament, respecting time and availability, and also the clean and efficient way the job was carried out by your workman at what I consider to be a very reasonable charge.

Thanking you all once again,
Yours faithfully,
(signed)

COURTEOUS SERVICE

To Southport Office. . .

It gives me the greatest pleasure to enclose my cheque for £1/14/0. May I thank you for the prompt

and courteous service your gentleman on the Emergency Service gave to me on this occasion.

I do thank you.
Yours faithfully,
(signed)

WONDERFUL JOB

To Southport Office. . .

I wish to let you know what a wonderful job Mr. Fulden has done for me with my electricity. He made not a bit of mess and was most careful with my walls. I have no need to do any decorating. Please thank him for me. I just thought I would let you know what a good job he did.

Yours truly,
(signed)



Over Half a Century

It is very doubtful whether many more people, at present working in our industry, will be able to complete 52 years of service. But this long record was recently achieved by Mr. James Ellison, a mains foreman based at Lister Drive in Liverpool.

Born and bred in Prescot, where he still lives, Jim started work with the B.I.C.C. in August 1918 when he was 13 years of age. In 1933 he joined the Liverpool Corporation Electricity Department as a jointer's mate, later becoming a jointer and then mains foreman, the position he held at his recent retirement.

Mr. Ellison intends spending his well-earned free time playing bowls in between doing a spot of gardening. Our picture, above, shows Mr. Ellison, centre right, receiving a farewell handshake from Mr. G. Haughan (*District Engineer*) as many of his colleagues gather round.

RETIREMENTS

Our photograph, right, shows Mrs. Gwendoline Jackson, after receiving an electric clock, a gold locket and a bouquet of flowers from her friends, on the occasion of her recent retirement from her job as cook at Rhostyllen. Gwendoline started as a part-time assistant in 1945. The presentations were made on behalf of the staff by Mr. J. Greenhalgh (*senior assistant —Admin.*)



Best wishes for Ben.

A few weeks ago, friends and colleagues of Mr. Benjamin H. Coppack, gathered to offer their good wishes to him for a long, happy and healthy retirement, and to present him with a parting gift of an electric fire which was handed to him by Mr. G. Zeiher (*District Engineer*). Mr. Coppack joined the North Wales Power Company in August 1931 at Blaennau Ffestiniog and shortly afterwards moved to Wrexham. Two years later he went to Crewe as a linesman/substation attendant on the operations staff based at Sandbach. Our picture shows Mr. Coppack, second from left, from row, with a few of his friends at Macon Way.





This original drawing by Mr. S. Jones of our Legacy Stores depicts one of our linesmen on patrol during this European Conservation Year.