

# An Invitation to Retired Employees

This is an official invitation to all MANWEB retired employees to attend one of the Employees' Annual Meetings held in the Board's area.

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

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

If you would like to take this opportunity to meet again with your former colleagues, fill in the coupon below and send it to the Secretary of the Local Advisory Committee whose meeting you wish to attend and he will send you a programme.

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

Should you require any more information please telephone or write to the Editor of 'Contact.'

The dates for the Meetings are as follows:

*Local Advisory Committees*

No. 1 L.A.C., North Mersey District  
Bridle Road  
Bootle, Lancs L30 4XA

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

No. 3 L.A.C., Mid-Mersey District  
Wilderspool Causeway  
Warrington WA4 6QD

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

No. 5 L.A.C., North Wirral District  
Craven Street  
Birkenhead L41 4TB

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

No. 7 L.A.C., Clwyd District  
Cefndy Road  
Rhyl, Clwyd

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

No. 9 L.A.C., Oswestry District  
Maesbury Road  
Oswestry, Salop SY10 8HA

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

No. 11 L.A.C., Head Office  
Sealand Road  
Chester CH1 4LR

*Details of Meetings*

**7th November 1975**  
Mons Hotel  
Bootle

**20th November 1975**  
Dovedale Towers  
Penny Lane, Allerton

**26th September 1975**  
Esso Motel  
Runcorn

**21st October 1975**  
Deeside Leisure Centre  
Queensferry

Date and time to be  
fixed for the  
New Year

**2nd October 1975**  
Alvaston Hall  
Nantwich

**23rd October 1975**  
Four Oaks Restaurant  
Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay

**14th November 1975**  
Royal Hotel  
Caernarfon

**24th October 1975**  
Victoria Rooms  
Pedigree Hotel, Oswestry

Date and time to be  
arranged later with  
the C.E.G.B.

**27th November 1975**  
Head Office  
Restaurant

Baby John's Progress (see page 219)



CUT HERE

NAME (BLOCK CAPITALS) ..... I wish to attend the Meeting

ADDRESS..... being held at:

.....  
.....

My former work place was:

Transport required

# “The Girl from MANWEB”



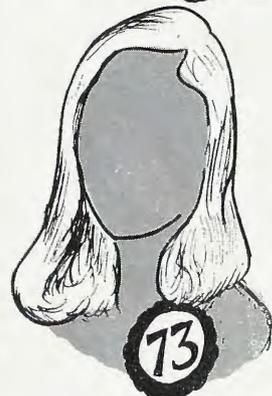
**WHO  
will it be  
in '76?**

**£100 Top Prize**

for the attractive lady  
with charm and personality  
who will become  
“The Girl from MANWEB”

2nd PRIZE £50 3rd PRIZE £25  
plus £10 to each losing finalist

Closing date for entries  
7th November, 1975



Entry forms from: The Editor, ‘Contact’  
MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR

THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE  
MERSEYSIDE AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD



# CONTACT

Vol. 27 No. 9

September 1975

## Editorial

### Commonsense Cooking

FOR MANY years, rightly or wrongly, the standards of British catering were almost compulsory material for any ambitious comedian. There is now mounting evidence, however, of the growing popularity of “eating out”—and of increasing customer demand for high standards of cuisine and service.

This trend probably has some bearing on the striking success of our commercial colleagues’ current sales drive in the commercial catering field. With only five months gone they have achieved 67% of their target for a full year, while Mid-Mersey and Dee Valley Districts are already completely “over the top” with 122% and 106% respectively. Overall results show an increase of 147% compared with the same period last year.

It is interesting to note that these results are not confined to traditional “tourist” areas, but are being achieved in industrial and commercial centres also, with installations in factories, hotels, leisure centres and clubs.

In today’s climate of opinion, with heavy emphasis on the conservation of energy, it is part of our industry’s job to ensure that maximum benefit is extracted from every unit of electricity. Cost-conscious business people, for their part, will naturally weigh up all the pros and cons before making decisions about catering equipment and fuels.

The success of the commercial catering drive proves that the “Wise Use of Electricity” is no empty slogan, and that there are fields of operation where the expanding use of electricity makes commercial common sense—and “energy sense” as well!

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#### Editorial Staff

Phone H.O.  
Keith Baldwin 2164  
John F. Perry 2167  
Sam Doughty 2166

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



In its picturesque setting—the neat and inviting Britannia Inn on the Horseshoe Pass at Llangollen.

## THERE'S ROOM AT THIS INN

### *Britannia's electric comfort*

ABOUT THREE years ago, Cyril Ashton, a sales manager, decided to quit the rat-race and settle down with his wife Maureen in a quiet little pub somewhere in the hills. This was quite a decision to make as their only previous experience of this kind of business was from the customer's side of the bar.

They settled on the 13th century Britannia Inn at Llangollen—a little delapidated—but in a charming and picturesque setting on the eastern approach to the famous Horseshoe Pass.

In cooking for the hungry customers, Miss Helen McMillen makes good use of the microwave cooker.



In the short time that Cyril and Maureen have been mine hosts, they have truly transformed the place—with the help of MANWEB and some of the local artisans and builders.

Above the two inviting and cosy bars, there are three single and four double guest bedrooms fitted out with comfy beds, modern wardrobes and neat wash basins complete with over-mirror lighting and electric shaver points. Each bedroom has the luxury of an electric teasmade for the guest's early morning 'cuppa' and if there is a chill in the air, electric heaters can be switched on to supplement the generous background heating in the corridors.

The Ashtons are also building up quite a reputation for first class catering in the period style dining room to seat 28 where a-la-carte meals are served, and in the two bars where customers can enjoy tasty bar snacks, chicken and chips, scampi and chips and curries.

All the food is prepared and cooked in the compact kitchen fitted out with a Sharpes microwave cooker, two Electroway deep fryers, a Hotpoint refrigerator, three deep freezers—two by LEC and the other by 'ACE,' a Kent dishwasher, Cona coffee maker, Rowlette electric toaster, Savoy ice maker, Creda 'Covette' over sink heater and a tank fitted with immersion heaters to keep the kitchen supplied with plenty of hot water.

The ice-cold beers from the electrically-refrigerated cellar pumped to the bars by an electrically-operated Porter-Lancastrian system, has been more than appreciated by the Britannia Inn's customers during the recent tropical weather.

Cyril and Maureen have excellent taste and know exactly what will attract customers to The Britannia, whether just calling in for a quick drink, for a snack or a beautiful meal, or to stay over for a few days.

Prior to becoming an Inn, the Britannia was a private house called 'Tyn-y-Pistyll' which, roughly translated from the Welsh means, 'the house near the stream.' The stream referred to still runs adjacent to and then under the hotel today.

The semi-isolated location of the Inn presented some supply difficulties as the load demand increased but with the diplomatic and friendly approach of Mr. J. A. Winchester (*Dee Valley District Commercial Engineer*) and Mr. F. Trevor Edwards (*energy sales engineer*), an agreement was reached with the Ashtons for the installation of a 50 kVA pole-mounted transformer close to the Inn.

When it came to choosing the wide range of electrical equipment, Trevor was on hand again to advise while Mr. Doug Barnes, one of the Dee Valley District installation engineers looked after the contracting side.

"The service I have had from MANWEB, in all departments, has been absolutely first class," volunteered Mr. Ashton. "Johnny (*Bryn Dethol*) Morris, the chargehand and his electrician Phil Cowsill are great workers and make a fine team. They have almost become part of our staff at the Inn. Johnny lives at Llangollen and I can be sure that if anything goes wrong with the electrics, he will be here within minutes—at any time."

### Praise for Microwave

Maureen too had high praise for the Microwave cooker when she said that it had been worth its weight in gold during their recent very busy season. "We couldn't have got through the meals demanded without it," she commented. "It has certainly paid for itself in this very short time."

The latest addition to the Inn is the extension to provide living accommodation for the owners. Here again the Ashtons have 'gone electric' with a neat modern kitchen fitted with a Tricity 'Contessa' cooker, an Electra refrigerator, Ventaxia extractor fan and many small electrical aids. Centrepiece in the spacious lounge is a beautiful local stone fireplace housing a gigantic Belling electric fire.

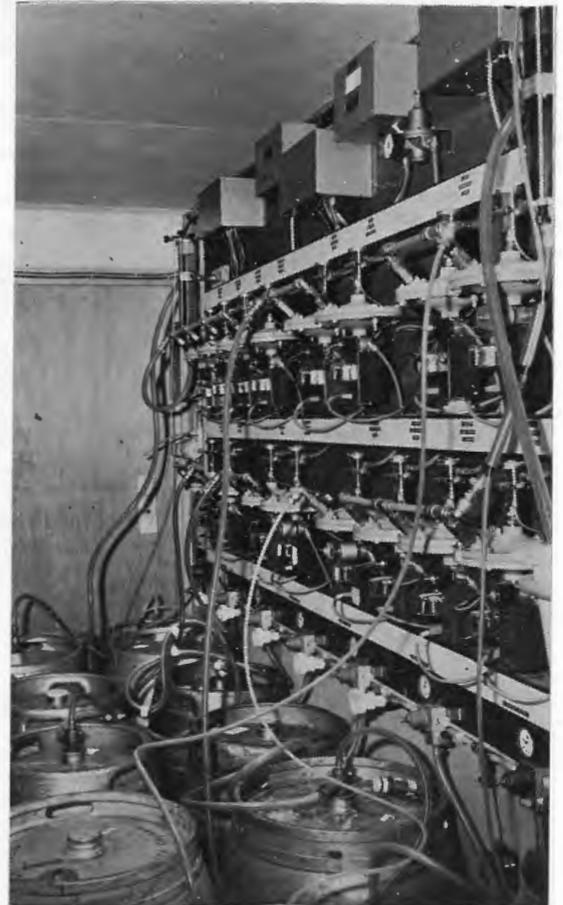
From one end to the other, the Britannia Inn is 'burnished bright'—electricity helping to keep it that way with the aid of a Vac Stream commercial cleaner.

The last word in beauty are the grounds surrounding the Inn with the extensive lawns kept in trim condition by an electric Flymower run from strategically-placed power points around the gardens.

The men from MANWEB are still at work at the



Above: Man from MANWEB, Trevor Edwards, right, enjoys a beer with his hosts, Cyril and Maureen Ashton, their cool and thirst quenching drinks having been piped to the bar pumps from the Porter-Lancastrian system, below, installed by the Border and Whitbread Brewery Companies in the electrically-refrigerated cellar.





Maureen at work in her own compact all-electric kitchen in their private flat.

Britannia installing a fire alarm system complete with heat detectors, a burglar alarm system and emergency lighting and floodlighting controlled by time switches.

Last year, among the many guests at the hotel were Messrs. David Lewis (*Director General*) and Raymond Jones (*Director*) of the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign. They were so impressed with the Inn and its surroundings that they decided to present Cyril and Maureen with a 'Keep Britain Tidy' award. This was quite unique for never before had such an award been made to private individuals.



Above: Welsh rugby star Gareth Edwards is seen here, centre, presenting the 'Keep Britain Tidy' award to Cyril and Maureen Ashton.



In the private lounge, the beautiful local stone fireplace ideally sets off the attractive Beling electric fire.



## PAINSTAKING PROGRESS

MANY 'Contact' readers will remember the moving story of little **John Nolan**, published in our magazine at the beginning of 1974. At the age of 21 months baby John—the son of **Mr. Jim Nolan**, a jointer on our Liverpool District staff, and his wife **Teresa**—choked on a lollipop and stopped breathing.

Emergency treatment saved the baby's life—but at the cost of severe brain damage, which left him blind and paralysed.

Money to send the little fellow for specialised treatment at the Institute for the Achievement of Human Potential, Philadelphia, USA, poured in from neighbours and from special fund-raising efforts by MAN-WEB groups. John and his parents went to the USA, his state was assessed, and a course of re-habilitation planned.

The road of progress has been a rough one. Several bouts of pneumonia, mumps, measles, and other children's illnesses, have interfered with the Institute's course of treatment, but his parents and their team of helpers—who give assistance several times a day—have persevered. Now, at a re-assessment, there is a sixfold recorded improvement in John's condition. He can now bend his limbs, hear, smell, taste, and touch, and has "light perception" in his eyes. Work on achieving "outline perception" has had to cease as John needs an operation to remove a blood clot causing nasal congestion and headaches. Then it will be back to the USA for another check up.

Work of this kind is inevitably long and painstaking,

**OUR COVER PICTURE**, by courtesy of the *Sunday Telegraph*, shows baby John Nolan in the arms of American paediatrician Mr. Glenn Doman. Looking on is Mr. Keith Pennock, Director of the British Institute for the Achievement of Human Potential.

with many problems and setbacks. We are sure that all those who helped to raise the cash will be glad to hear of the progress which is being made.

### "Traws" is Tops!

The "Hinton Trophy"—awarded to the best-run and best-kept power station in England and Wales—has gone this year to Trawsfynydd nuclear power station, Gwynedd. The station, opened ten years ago, is one of the first generation of "Magnox" nuclear stations, of which ten were built. This year "Traws" had its best year since being commissioned, producing 3,820 million kilowatts.

The Cup was presented to the station manager, Mr. R. W. Hall, last month, by Baroness Sear of Paddington, one of the



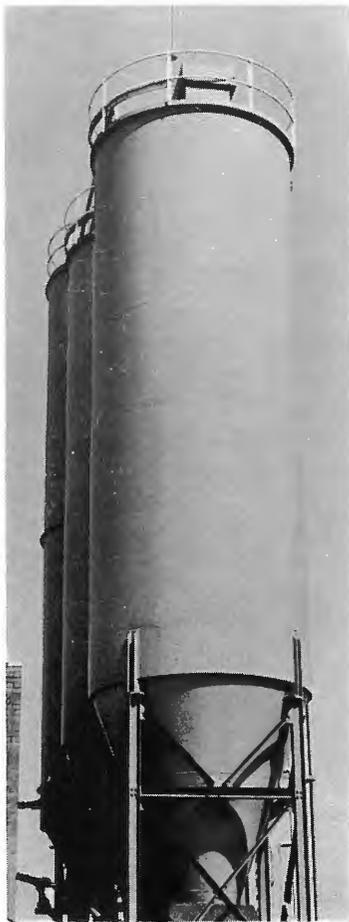
Can you guess what our Test Lab electrician Max Cooksley is up to? Does the pose he is striking bring any ideas flashing into your mind? Look on page 220 and see if you are right.

members of the Plowden Committee which is examining the structure of the electricity supply industry.

The recent big rises in the cost of coal and oil have meant that the "Magnox" nuclear stations are now producing electricity much more cheaply than even the most modern stations powered by fossil fuels. In fact, says the CEGB, a unit from Trawsfynydd costs five times less than a unit from Fiddler's Ferry, the big modern coal-fired station between Widnes and Warrington.

### Re-sit Successes

Following our article in last month's 'Contact' regarding the failure of four Liverpool first-



Did you guess? Not yet? Well Max was working on a specialised job on the top of this huge silo at a Wrexham plastics factory. What was the job? See our story headed 'Lightning Service.'

### Lightning Service

Some time ago, our crew from the Test Laboratory at Queensferry, led by **Mr. Tom Owen** (2nd engineer), had a call to check the proficiency of a lightning conductor fixed on a church at Wrexham. They put their theories into practice and, like the good boffins they are, they learned many things.

The knowledge gained came in very handy recently when a plastics factory—again at Wrexham—in building an extra silo asked **Mr. John Robinson**, one of our Dee Valley District installation engineers if they could connect up to either of the two conductors fixed to the existing silos.

Tests were made by our lab men Messrs. **Harry Sharples** (3rd engineer) and **Max Cookley** (electrician) who found that the conductors being used were inadequate for the job they were intended to do and it was fortunate for the firm that lightning hadn't already struck!

We were asked to rectify this and now that the job is done, come the worst electrical storm that Wrexham can produce at least one church and three silos at a plastics factory will be strike free!

### Record-Breakers!

When a huge gas explosion rocked Mersey Towers, a 15-

storey tower block of flats in North Mersey District, the first six floors were severely damaged.

All the residents were at once evacuated from their homes while experts went in to assess the damage. The block contained 15 pre-payment meters, which held between them a considerable amount of cash. Although a security watch was being kept on the building, North Mersey District decided to empty the meters to prevent looting, and to make a small contribution to the peace of mind of the people who had been obliged to evacuate their homes in such a hurry.

A team of volunteers, led by foreman **Jim Lennon**, donned safety helmets and went into the building, emptying the meters in record time.

### Top Chef

If you appreciate good food, expertly prepared, cooked and presented, and you dine out fairly frequently in North Wales, then you may know a chef—male or female—who regularly tickles your taste buds and pleases your palate with consistent offerings of tasty dishes. If you also know that he—or she—maintains a high standard of hygiene in the kitchens, then you can recommend him—or her—for the award as "Chef of the Year."

Volunteer danger men from North Mersey, from left to right: Messrs. **Jim Lennon, Mike Taylor, Billy Bennett, Ken Hughes, Bill Benbow, Dave Morris, Dave Cowhig, Tom Shaw, Dennis Owen, George Canavan and Don Daley.**



aiders to pass their exams we are now pleased to report that three of them took up the gauntlet and applied for a re-sit examination at Head Office.

They must have worked very hard at 'genning-up' on their first-aid knowledge for they all passed with flying colours.

In offering our congratulations to them we hope that their example will prompt others who might fail their examinations for the first time to try again and succeed—just like our Liverpool friends.

This is the title awarded by the North Wales Division of The Cookery and Food Association who have initiated the search.

Application forms may be obtained from our own catering expert, **Mrs. Joan Dittrich** at Head Office ('phone 2060). Please don't delay though for the application forms must be returned before November 30th, 1975.

The eventual winner will be presented with the award at the Association's Annual Banquet and Ball to be held at the St. George Hotel, Llandudno, early next year.

### Aberystwyth Queen

After a lapse of some time Aberystwyth's Carnival was revived this year—and the honour of being Carnival Queen went to **Miss Julie Richards**, a member of the staff of our Aberystwyth District office, who won the title at a dance held shortly before carnival day.



Queen for a week, **Julie Richards.**

"Queen Julie"—who lives at the small village of Capel Seion, near Aberystwyth, reigned over a week jam-packed with fun and celebrations, including olde-tyme dances,



Widnes Golf Club captain **Mr. Harold Gow**, left, presents the Alcester Cup to MANWEB man, **Martin Lloyd** whose perfect putting helped him carry off his first competition win with the Club.

fashion shows, swimming galas, etc. Julie also presented prizes and cheques for such diverse competitions as *Yard of Ale, Tug o'War*, and *Reveille Rover*.

Julie told 'Contact' that she had greatly enjoyed her week in office, even though things tended to get very hectic when rushing from function to function. She likes meeting people and has a host of happy memories of the "regal week"—with only one regret, that it was not possible to make greater use of one of her queenly privileges, free hair-dressing. After all, how many hair-dos can a girl crowd into a week?

The revival of the Carnival proved an outstanding success, due in no small part to our Queen Julie!

### Putting Perfection!

Congratulations to Widnes Golf Club member **Martin Lloyd**—one of our engineers at Liverpool District—who won his first competition with the Club when he carried off the "Alcester Cup" recently.

In the words of the local paper: "*Martin Lloyd was streets ahead of the opposition. As he*

*sank his putts with alarming regularity his rivals sank without trace.*"

Surely the kind of report which every keen golfer dreams about on those days when he hits every bunker and tree within sight!

### Chairmans' Choice

On Radio Merseyside's 'Personal Choice' programme a few weeks ago, listeners heard **Mr. Denis Dodds**, MANWEB's Chairman, talking about his musical tastes to Mr. Rex Bowden the station manager.

In the hour-long programme he spoke of his musical background which started in his native Tyne-side with both his parents talented musicians. It was also revealed that Mr. Dodds too is an accomplished pianist and all his five children play musical instruments.

The conversation was punctuated with recordings of music selected by Mr. Dodds, each piece having some personal memory.

In a most interesting and entertaining hour, Mr. Dodds' personal choice in music illustrated his great enthusiasm and knowledge of this art form.

## Two Men in a Boat

Stuck in a maintenance boat, half way up one wing of the Head Office building, broiling for two hours in the fierce sunshine recently, was the sheer unpleasantness experienced by Messrs. **Tom Blundell** (3rd engineer—Civil) and **Jimmy Scouler**, a maintenance man from J. Jarvis and Sons.

Tom and Jimmy—no pun intended—had set out to do a routine inspection of the fabric of the building when a fault developed in the electrical cable controlling the movement of the boat.

They attracted the attention of a member of the staff who in turn called out maintenance engineer, **Mr. Ken Appleton**. The faulty cable was disconnected from the boat, hauled to the top of the building and repaired, but it was two hours before the dangling duo could be lowered to the ground and out of the boiling summer sun.

Out in the mid-day sun, trapped in the maintenance boat high on the side of the Head Office building, **Tom Blundell**, left, and **Jimmy Scouler** found it hard to raise a smile for photographer **Gordon Lewer**.



## Palace Visit

Among Clwyd County Council members who recently attended a Buckingham Palace Garden Party for representatives of local authorities was **Mr. William Rhys Thomas**, storekeeper at our Legacy depot, who represents the Rhosyllen and Johnstown ward on the County Council.

Mr. Thomas was accompanied by his wife, and the Clwyd party was led by Councillor J. O. Davies, Chairman of the Council.

Bill joined our industry in 1948 in the stores at Rhosyllen, after many years in the mining industry at Hafod colliery. He has served on Local Advisory and Works Committees with MANWEB, and is currently a member of the District Ambulance Centre.

His interest in local government began in 1970, when he became a member of the Esclusham Below Parish Coun-



After their visit to the Palace, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas.

cil. This was quickly followed by a seat on the former Denbighshire County Council, a seat retained on the new Clwyd County Council following re-organisation. But Bill has not lost touch with the "grass roots," and still serves on the re-named Esclusham Below Community Council.

He is also a member of the Wrexham and District Trades Council, and of the Clwyd Trades Council.

## Tally Ho!

Just how fast will your car go? With the current speed limits probably very few people have ever been in the position of driving 'flat out', but North Mersey District energy sales development engineer **Ron Harper** had occasion to put his foot down hard recently.

Ron was busy discussing an industrial process heating project with **Ken Tester**, development engineer at Ross Warmafoam, Formby, when someone noticed that Ken's car was being driven off down the factory drive.

After shouting instructions to call the police, Ron and Ken raced out to Ron's car and set off in hot pursuit. The thief, realising he was being followed, put his foot down, and the chase continued through Formby, along the Formby by-pass towards Liverpool, through Ince Woods and into Thornton, where a police car was spotted. A quick word with the police

driver saw the police vehicle take up the chase, and after some excellent driving by the policeman the runaway vehicle was stopped and a young boy and his girl friend escorted to the local police station.

Ken got his car back undamaged—and was heard to remark that he had no idea it would go as fast as that!

## Engagement

Our congratulations go to **Miss Gill Adams**, a clerk in the consumers' accounts section at North Wirral District,



Miss Gill Adams, a nice girl who likes a sailor—and a game of football!

on her engagement to **Mr. Richard Scrimgeour**, a Scot serving as an engineer in the Merchant Navy.

Gill is a very keen footballer playing mid-field for the Cabin Club Ladies team in the Merseyside League. She is also the assistant secretary for the team. She has been keeping in trim with training during the summer months in readiness for the hard season ahead when, in addition to competing for the League Cup, the team will play in the local Con. Rogan Cup Competition and the nationwide Mitre Cup competition.

If you live in the Heswall area and would like to see a great game of football and support one of our girls, then take a trip to Whitfield Common on Sundays at 2 p.m.

## St. Helens Bowlers

The St. Helens Gas and Electric Bowling Team includes among its regular players several serving and retired MANWEB employees from St. Helens, as well as CEGB personnel from Bold power station. The team plays regularly in the St. Helens Bowling League (Division III), and have twice won the Championship Cup.

The team includes **Frank Evans** (courier), **James Fenney** (retired), **Bert Roughley** (painter) and **Harold Thorpe** (retired). Mr. Fenney has been on the executive committee of the St. Helens and District Bowling Association for many years, and has been Chairman for the past two years.

## Keeping their cool

To discourage petty pilfering in most of the Board's shops, small appliances on display are linked to an alarm system which

sounds off a bell if any of the appliances are unofficially moved.

The only way to switch off the alarm system is with a special key, usually kept by the shop supervisor.

If for any reason the main supply is switched off then the alarm system automatically switches over to battery operation.

When our St. Johns shop staff finished their day's work recently, the cleaning ladies—**Nellie**, **Maggie** and **Ann**, who was deputising for **Betty**—took over to do their work. Unfortunately, the alarm system had not been switched off, so when they moved one of the small appliances from the shelves—which proves that they really do give the place a thorough cleaning—the alarm bell started ringing.

They had no idea how to shut off the noise—it sounded worse when they put the alarm box under a bucket! Then they hit on a bright idea and popped it into a deep freeze cabinet and quickly closed the lid.

Silence reigned as the girls continued with their work.

Some of the members of the St. Helens Bowling team, from left to right, standing: Messrs. **Peter Kelly**, **Sam Sephton**, **Derreck Swift** and **Frank Evans**. Seated: Messrs. **Harold Thorpe**, **T. Lawton** and **T. Penketh**.



### People write in praise . . .

An encouraging letter received by **Mrs. A. Oliver**, work control section, Dee Valley District, from Capt. A. H. Kay-Williams, of Parkgate Road Chester:

"Dear Mrs. Oliver,

I have nothing but praise for the two young men **David Bird** and **Michael Casson**, whom you sent to rewire my electric system.

They obviously know their job, they are non-stop workers, they made far less mess and caused far less upheaval than I expected. They clear up what little mess they make, and are a most courteous and helpful pair. We shall be quite sorry when they go!

Thank you also for sending your sales representative **Mr. Strange** so promptly. He also was most helpful and I have ordered an electric fire.

I am delighted with the service I have received from MANWEB and shall write my cheque with pleasure!"

In the words of D.C.E. **Mr. J. A. Winchester**: "It makes very good reading and certainly was by far the best thing in my morning mail!"

### . . . of success . . .

. . . from one of our advertisers in 'Contact's' "Exchange and Mart" feature:

"...I managed to let my caravan every week that it was available and received enquiries from far afield, with an additional bonus of greetings from some of my old colleagues . . ."

### . . . speed and efficiency

Letter from a lady at Heswall, Wirral:

"I would like to place on record the excellent efficiency of the work recently carried out to my Creda cooker by your engineer. I required a replacement grill, and within a couple of days the engineer called with the replacement (which astonished me as I thought I would have to wait

weeks for it.) He worked quickly and efficiently and was extremely pleasant, and informed me of the other services to appliances which MANWEB carry out . . . I certainly will not hesitate to avail myself of your services for my domestic appliances."

If only the newspapers would print a few like these for a change!

### For Sale

'J' registered mini clubman. "Got no frills, had no spills, Need £650 to pay some bills." Please call G. Roberts at Caernarfon 3627.

### Wanted

Copies of the following books: Atlas and Military History of the Napoleonic Wars by Esposito and Etting. Background to Napoleonic Wars by Quimby. The Anatomy of Glory by Lae Hoque (translated by W. E. Brown). 'Phone Wrexham 3814.

### GRAND SUPPER DANCE

in aid of the EEIBA in the MANWEB Restaurant, Sealand Road, Chester on **Friday, October 17th** Tickets—£1.75 from your District Admin. Officer or Welfare, Head Office.

### Exchange and Mart

Don't forget 'Contact's' Exchange and Mart service. Advertisement space is free to all members of the Board's staff, past and present. You can buy, sell, let, hire or exchange almost anything by putting an advertisement in our columns.

Just jot down what you want to say on a piece of paper, add your name and home address or telephone number and send it to *The Editor*, "Contact." MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

**Please use block letters and keep it brief.**

### Jeux Sans Frontieres

When television's "It's a Knock Out" presented their show at Southport a short time ago, a window display contest was organised for the town's traders.

Our Head Office display team, led by **Mr. Gordon Lewer**, designed a display to frame the window of our Lord Street shop . . . and it won the first prize!

The caricature figures, with striking colour art work cleverly executed by **Mr. Geoff Baker**, depicted the seven countries taking part in the competition.



Above:  
The Lion of  
England.  
Left: Italy,  
Germany &  
France.  
Right:  
Netherlands,  
Switzerland  
& Belgium.

## Gwyn Does it Again!

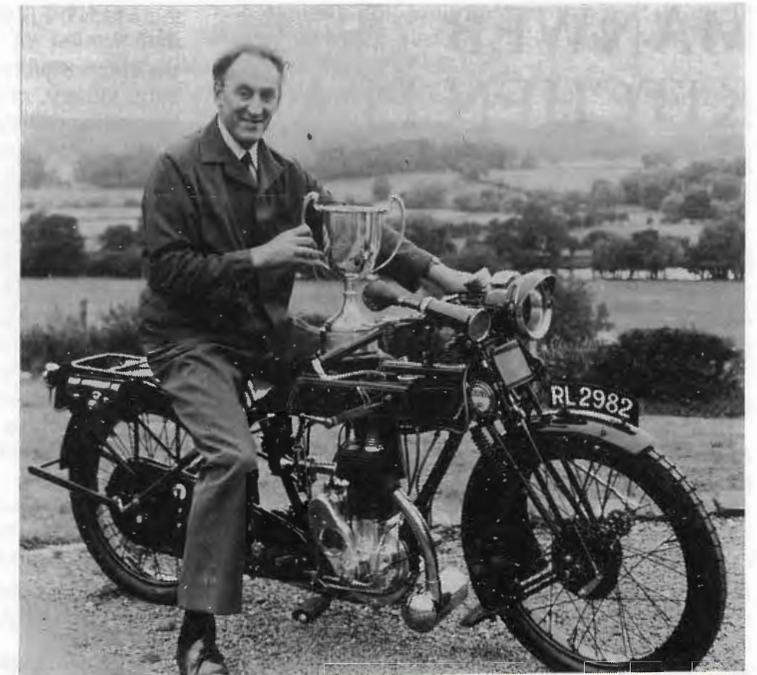
### Top award in Vintage Motor Cycle world

ONCE again, repeating his success in 1972, our vintage motor cycle enthusiast from Corwen, service electrician Mr. Gwyn Williams, has carried off the Industrial Association Challenge Trophy, the premier prize awarded annually by the Vintage Motor Cycle Club.

This year, Gwyn won with a 1926 Light Solo Sunbeam machine owned by an Englishman living in Paris. He had bought the machine in a delapidated condition and chose Gwyn as the craftsman in restoration to emulate the craftsmen of the original in bringing it back to its former glory.

After obtaining a copy of the specification chart, now nearly half a century old, Gwyn quickly got down to the job of re-boring, fitting new bearings and bringing the engine to its original state. He had a shiny new exhaust assembly made to the exact dimensions by a Coventry firm, then it was nickel-plated in South Wales.

The front mudguard and the driver's seat were not from the original model so Gwyn scoured the vintage motor cycle clubs for spares. He was successful in getting a seat but he had to hand-



Gwyn Williams, our vintage motor cycle restoration expert sits astride his latest masterpiece, the 1926 Sunbeam on which he won the top trophy. On the right, our picture shows the state of the machine before Gwyn got to work on it.



make the special type of front mudguard, complete with valances.

Soon the Sunbeam was ready with engine tuned and running sweetly and the whole machine in showroom condition. It was entered in a road rally at Colwyn Bay where it collected three awards!

Then on to Banbury, a top rally on the Vintage Motor Cycle Club calendar. The Sunbeam easily won its class award—1925 to 1930 models—against 170 other entries.

### Sporty Machine

Designed for the enthusiast, it was a sporty machine with a 500 c.c. engine, very light for its day and because of the protecting valances on the front mudguard and the covered chain case, it was considered to be a machine

for gentlemen. This model sold at 80 guineas.

During the past year it has done well in many events up and down the country, but now that the season is over, the machine will go to its owner in France.

As a reward for his restoration work on the Sunbeam, our Vintage motor cycle repair and reconditioning specialist has been given a 1907 N.S.U. to work on.

Gwyn has already started his search for parts to restore this machine with the hope that he will collect the Vintage Motor Club's premier award again—next year or maybe the year after!

# MANWEB KITCHEN PLAN PAYS OFF

## 100th installation completed

**E**ARLIER this year our Commercial Department launched a complete kitchen planning and installation service. The results so far have proved the venture to be a great success, with a high degree of customer satisfaction.

The packaged deal can be arranged through any of the Board's 68 shops, six of which have complete kitchens on display, at Southport, St. John's, Chester, St. Helens, Middlewich and Llangefni, with a seventh planned for Llandudno.

The elimination of the customer's nightmare of trying to arrange for the various tradesmen to co-ordinate their work has proved a major factor in

the MANWEB success. The Board have pioneered the 'whole job right' concept by undertaking the responsibility for planning, the electrics, plumbing, joinery, tiling, flooring, in addition to selling the appliances and arranging financing.

To date over 300 estimates have been submitted and the 100th kitchen was installed during August. The costs of the completed kitchens vary from £250 to £1,770, with an average of around £800 each.

Careful organisation by the newly created Kitchen Centre Section, supervised by Mr. Norman Kenyon, is required to ensure materials and equipment are available when needed and once the work starts the old kitchen is removed and the new installed in 2 or 3 days. Speed and flexibility are two important factors in selling the scheme, and the Commercial Department claim there is not a kitchen they cannot fit.

They will incorporate existing appliances into the plan and with their installers, the Hostess Centre of Chester, can modify the standard units to fit the job.

The major supplier of units is the Evans Bellhouse Company, whose 'Peerless' range have proved most

Mrs. Ross of Gayton on the Wirral happily prepares a meal in her brand-new MANWEB modern kitchen.



popular with MANWEB customers, for not only do they supply the standard units, they are prepared to do 'one offs,' to ensure fitting those awkward corners.

Recently a party of lady journalists visited the firm's Manchester factory, where they saw how the quality products were made. The highly automated section of the works produces the standard units, boring holes, edging, trimming, cutting and fixing fittings and finally packing the completed cabinet in a polythene envelope ready for assembly on site.

A separate section of the factory deals with the special orders the odd shapes, filler units, oven and

hob housing for built-in cookers, and those 'L' shaped working surfaces. This helps MANWEB with their flexibility of design.

Mr. Stewart Griffiths of the Head Office Marketing Section said "We are delighted with the success of the MANWEB Kitchen Centres considering the difficult times in which we live. Whatever the current economic difficulties the housewife needs efficient and pleasant working conditions.

"A fitted kitchen helps her in the smooth running of the home, it also adds value to the property, and with inflation rising at its present rate fitting a new kitchen is proving an excellent investment."

### Promises and Price kept

Dear Sir,

*"May I take this opportunity to thank you and express the complete satisfaction of my wife and myself with the Peerless Kitchen you and Hostess have completed at my home... indeed a pleasure to have promises of dates and prices kept, and a special word of praise for the care and attention to detail."*

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed)

### Extremely smart and neat

Dear Sir,

My husband and I are very pleased to tell you that the MANWEB kitchen we have had fitted is a complete success.

We found the planner, the kitchen unit fitter and tilers most courteous, conscientious and pleasant people to work in our home.

The Hostess kitchen units look extremely smart and neat and the standard of workmanship is 100%. The men worked very hard on an extremely hot tiring day to complete my kitchen as quickly as possible.

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed)

## Some tributes from satisfied customers

### Excellent workmanship

Dear Sir,

May I say how pleased I am with my kitchen installation which has now reached completion, and how much I appreciate your help in the matter which seemed so protracted...

I must pay particular appreciation to the excellent workmanship of the men who installed the fitted units and the tilers who worked so efficiently and energetically.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed)

### Kitchen transformed

To whom it may concern,

I would like to say a heartfelt thank-you to all the workmen who helped to transform my kitchen. They all worked so well.

Also, thank-you for the advice about the damp walls which has been noted.

Thanks all round again.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed)

### Disturbance to a minimum

Dear Sir,

I have just had a new kitchen and would like to compliment Hostess Centre for the efficient manner in which it was done. The job was started on the day arranged and finished inside the estimated time and throughout the job, the men working kept the disturbance to a minimum.

It is very reassuring to find in this day and age that work can be completed efficiently and in the time specified and I should like you to pass on my appreciation to those concerned.

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed)

## Future Energy Patterns

Some points from the evidence by the Department of Energy to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in connection with its study of radiological safety:

- \* Even though the UK is well-endowed with fossil fuels, nuclear fission at present offers the only practical possibility of filling the gap between the supply and prospective demand for energy.
- \* If the UK economy continues to grow at the historic rate of 2.75% per annum the total demand for energy would be in the region of 465-495 million tons of coal equivalent (mtce) by 1990. By the year 2,000 total energy demand could be 600-650 mtce, and the gap to be met by non-fossil fuels up to 250 mtce. This would mean a need for between 20,000 and 45,000 megawatts of generating capacity based on nuclear fission by 1990, and up to two or three times as much by the year 2,000.
- \* Electricity demand may account for more than half of all energy consumption in the UK by 2,000.
- \* Alternatives to fossil fuels include:
  - Nuclear fusion.** Immense problems to be overcome, making it likely that it would be well into the 21st Century before fusion is available on a commercial scale).
  - Wave Energy.** Costs of harnessing this source

being assessed—likely to be higher than nuclear fission.

**Tidal Energy.** A Severn Barrage might be possible, but probably at a higher cost than nuclear fission.

**Solar Energy.** Could have some limited application in domestic heating.

**Wind Power.** Is unlikely to become an important resource.

**Geothermal Power.** Might make a useful contribution in the longer term.

- \* **Nuclear Safety:** Precautions against a sudden catastrophe are so rigorous that it is not possible to foresee a situation where someone would be killed.

Nuclear fission raises safety and environmental problems involving the need to balance several factors:—the prospect of satisfying our prospective energy requirements on an acceptable economic basis without it; the safety and environmental disadvantages of the radioactive products, taking account of the fact that there are reasonable prospects of overcoming them satisfactorily, and the fact that no other source of energy is entirely free from safety and environmental problems. Decisions on further nuclear programmes would be taken in the light of circumstances and developing knowledge. If developments showed that the associated safety and environmental problems could not be dealt with satisfactorily, either other forms of energy would have to be used, or consumption somehow reduced.

## 'Contact' Correspondent



Our new Correspondent in the North Wirral District is 26-year old **Edna Jacobs**, a clerical 3 officer in the consumer liaison section at Craven Street.

Edna has been with us for the past five years and before that she worked for the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.

Born in Birkenhead and educated at Park High School for Girls, she likes cooking, swimming and making clothes. She also enjoys a chat.

Her telephone number at work is 231.

Now that you know who she is, where she works and how to get in touch with her, make sure that North Wirral District gets a mention in 'Contact' every month.

There are lots of things which make news and interesting reading. Large or unusual engineering

or commercial projects, social or sporting occasions, hobbies and pastimes, special contributions like short stories, poems and cartoons.

Pass them on to Edna and she will see that they get to us.

### OTHER OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENTS

*Liverpool District.*

**Mrs. V. A. R. Roberts**  
Work Control (722)

*North Mersey District.*

**Mrs. Edna Courtney**  
Work Control (213)

**Mrs. Rita Tomlin**  
Liaison (269)

*Gwynedd District.*

**Mr. Richard Wyn Parry**  
Administration (33)



*Before*

To most people this was an old, battered and draughty barn, but to Bill Holland it had the makings of a beautiful home.

## Living in a Barn

### Conversion job to a dream home

*How would you like to live in a barn?*

You may think that you are already living in one especially when someone leaves a door open in your home. But, for Bill

Holland, for 23 years a MAN-WEB service electrician in the Mid-Cheshire District, the big, draughty, dusty barn on a three-acre smallholding at Stonely Green, Nantwich, acquired from

*After*



It's hard to believe that this was once a barn, but after some tough conversion work and about £3,000 in cash, this dream home in its lovely rural setting is a testimony to Bill's handiwork.

his father-in-law, had great possibilities as a beautiful home for his new bride.

Bill set about obtaining planning permission to convert the barn into a cosy detached house and naturally decided to carry out all the electrical installations himself.

While the building was being gutted in readiness for the conversion work, he approached Dave Fisher, an energy sales engineer with Mid-Cheshire District for advice on an electric central heating scheme.



Dave Fisher, left, discusses plans with his 'customer' Bill Holland.

They decided to install an 18kW Enviwarm Centralec unit to supply ten radiators throughout the house heating the lounge, dining room, two bedrooms, bathroom and kitchen. There is also a 40-gallon tank with two immersion heaters to supply all the hot water needs. Bill opted for the white meter tariff.

"We are particularly pleased with the way this installation went," said Dave, "We didn't come up against any real problems."

So now, this old untidy barn, used successively after its original purpose as a stable, a garage and a wash house, now graces the area in its lovely setting as a comfortable neat and tidy, easy-to-run, all-electric home for a very happy couple.

All credit to Bill's foresight, planning and hard work.

# POET'S CORNER

## Waxing Lyrical

We can always be sure that some members of the MANWEB staff will rise to the occasion no matter what approach our customers make.

Recently, a lady from Rhuddlan had cause to complain about an unlit street light and penned the following 'light hearted' letter:

Dear Sir,  
It is with deep regret  
I feel I must regale  
You with a tale of deep neglect,  
That circulates this Vale.

It happened on a certain day,  
Three months ago, it's said,  
That a certain person, in your pay,  
Toward our street light sped.

He hammered at the rotting wood  
And, nodding 'suredly,  
He watched the wood-lice leaving  
home  
To find a safer tree.

Since then, I know, there has not  
been  
The faintest light or even gleam,  
Where once we had the strongest  
light  
We now must stumble in the  
night.

## Vanishing Picture

by Mr. W. G. Boylin (Prepayment Accounts Head Office)

The trees leaves raindrop  
patterned  
with condensed globules of life,  
changing Natures face  
from smooth green spiderveined  
leaves  
to a different something,  
not caterpillars,  
multilegged, holebiting  
mounds of movement, destructive.

But,  
iglooshaped mounds of  
watercooling,  
sitting on lifesleaf,  
not holingthro' it,  
But,  
worse is which,  
a bearingdown weight or,  
an ever increasing vanishthro'  
hole . . . . .

## GOODBYE THURSDAY

by Bill Boylin

our Cheshire poet

And I stood cold and  
disconsolate  
at the station,  
concrete dirty, steel girders  
rusting,  
glass roof no longer transparent,  
railway lines neither coming  
or going,  
my stomach empty, sick,  
a lump in my throat, choking.  
Your train standing in platform 5,  
diesels unrhythmically  
ticking over,  
doors open, the handful of  
passengers  
already on board.

I wanted to take you in my arms  
as always, before,  
hold you close, feel the warmth  
of our good-byes, talk of the  
next time, but  
no warmth, no next time,  
I'd hurt you, by saying I love  
you, but.

The concrete was cold, the  
steel was cold,  
the thin wind passing through  
the station was cold,  
your stare was cold, not hate-cold,  
but, numb-cold, I'd hurt you  
with words,

just as I had warmed you with  
words,  
you didn't want to believe,  
but you had to,  
I didn't want to say, but I had to,  
it was time for good-bye  
good-bye,  
no more good-bye see you  
Thursday.

You'd said it wouldn't hurt  
when it happened,  
but it did, both of us,  
the train moved, you stared  
at me,  
the platform stood still,  
I stared at you,  
no wave, no good-night,  
no good-bye,  
just a fading into the distance,  
endless interminable distance,  
no time, time was no more . . .

But, I with faith in MANWEB yet  
Will swear those wood-lice  
could not get  
That light to work with wheels  
and cogs,  
And blame the black-out on  
the dogs.  
Yours faithfully,  
(Signed).

## The Reply

. . . in the same vein—composed  
by Mr. Wyn Hughes, a clerical 3  
assistant in the Work Control  
Admin. section in our Clwyd  
District, read as follows:

Dear Madam,  
I regret to learn you have no light  
It is these dogs you see,  
The lamp was always burning  
bright  
And everyone could see.

Highly bred these dogs have been,  
They do not feel they should be  
seen,  
And so with an unerring aim  
They doused the light that  
caused them shame.

Do not despair this lamp we'll  
light  
And though I'm no Cyril  
Fletcher,  
This time we'll make it watertight,  
. . . I Betcha!  
Yours faithfully,  
(Signed)

## PRIZE CROSSWORD

Here is another prize puzzle from Mr. Cam Shimmin, North Mersey District's System Engineer.

Prizes of £2 each will be awarded to the senders of the first three all-correct solutions opened on 6th October, 1975.

Entries, on plain paper if you wish, are eligible from all MANWEB employees, pensioners and their families—but only one entry per person is allowed.

These should be sent to, *The Editor, 'Contact,' MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.*

### Clues Across

- 7 Round smashers—they're electric! (7.8)
- 9 Bad weather up aloft (1.5.6.3)
- 10 Choral effort about a label, giving a theatrical effect (7)
- 12 Back-chat in the laboratory (7)
- 13 Fly around the pole to get this marine instrument (5)
- 15 Concealed by Spenser (5)
- 18 This heavenly body is able to work (7)
- 19 Expressionless lifeless utensil (7)
- 21 Sells compact rot (anag)—but they value their possessions! (5, 10)

### Clues Down

- 1 A Goddess's atonement is not pleasing (15)
- 2 From his Christian name you might think he was a Chapel man, but he gave his staff a dickens of a time (7)
- 3 Method of high speed recording pertaining to a miner (7)
- 4 Unpopular at a meeting (7)
- 5 Heavens! Let go an army manoeuvre at a great height (3.4)
- 6 Smashed the gate at high speed (5.3.7)
- 8 Simon Aleyn lived here some years ago. An ass of a fellow! (4)
- 11 Parts of ladies dresses produce nasty cuts (5)
- 12 Shouted at the value given (5)
- 14 Spinner much superlatively the highest (7)
- 15 A reformed bus chap will probably have these on his car (7)
- 16 Relies on rests (7)
- 17 Little Edward the First starts to strike a bell, simplifying the result (7)
- 20 Contaminate a musical notation (4)

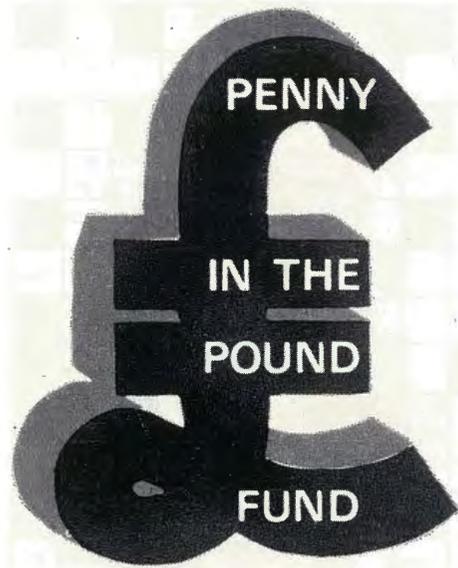
Don't forget your entries for the

## 'CONTACT' '75 Photographic Competition

Copies of Rules, etc., may be obtained from

The Editor, 'Contact,' MANWEB Head Office,  
Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

The closing date for entries is extended for a few days to  
October 6th, 1975.



**All these benefits are yours for only 15p per week**

**HOSPITAL IN-PATIENT GRANT**

Contributor £15.75 per week  
 Wife/or children of contributor £3.50 per week

**OUT-PATIENT GRANT**

£5.25 per week for contributor only

**OPTICAL GRANT**

Now once in 12 months

For contributors only  
 £3.75 for one pair of spectacles  
 £7.50 for two pairs of spectacles or bifocals

**CONTINUATION SICKNESS GRANT**

£5.25 per week for contributor only

**DENTAL GRANT**

Now once in 12 months

For contributors only, towards cost of treatment, extractions or dentures when charges are £2 or more. Grants from £2 to £7.50

**MATERNITY GRANT**

£10.00 for each baby born  
 (Two claims if both husband and wife are contributors)

FIRST CLASS CONVALESCENT SERVICE MAINTAINED

**BE WISE—BE A CONTRIBUTOR**

For further details please get in touch with Mr. J. Pilkington, Welfare, Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN NORTH WIRRAL**

**Saturday, 18th October**

Grand Cabaret and Dance with the fabulous

“MINUS ONE”

Free Buffet—Late Licence (11.45)

Tickets 75p (limited)



**Saturday, 1st November**

Halloween Buffet Dance music by

“SONIC CITY SOUNDS”

Dress optional—prizes for fancy dress

Free Buffet—Late Licence (11.45)

Tickets 75p (limited)



**Friday, 7th November and Saturday, 8th November**

Olde-Tyme Night presented by

“THE WALLASEY CHRYSANTHEMUMS”

— A great show —

Tickets 75p (limited)



**Wednesday, 31st December**

NEW YEAR'S EVE BUFFET DANCE

Free food—Late Licence (1 a.m.)

Tickets £1.50 each



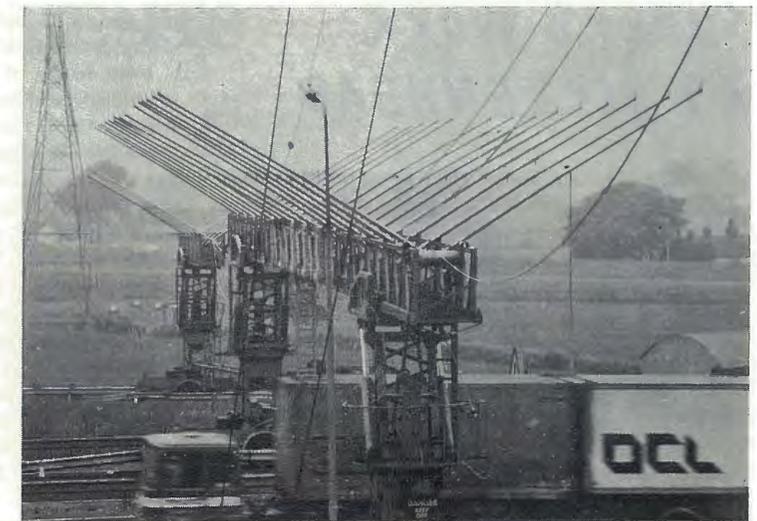
All tickets on sale at the Club Rooms in Seaview Road or from Mr. Ken Cambridge at District Office (Phone 361)

**Up and over the Motorways**

OPERATION “Skycradle” again came into use in the MANWEB area when nearly two-and-a-half kilometres of 132 kV double-circuit overhead line between Warrington and Dallam had to be diverted across two motorways, the M6 and M62 and five associated link roads at the interchange near Croft, north of Warrington.

For the first time ever in this country, three “Skycradles” were used in one operation. One was positioned on the link road from the M6 South to the M62 and two more sited on either side of the M62 itself.

This precision-planned job was under the direction of Mr. Don Wright (*1st engineer, Special Projects*) who commented: “The co-operation we received from our CEGB colleagues, Connah’s Quay District in particular, and from the Greater Manchester and Cheshire County police forces



Overhead lines being drawn across the “Skycradles” as the motorway traffic rushes by underneath.

was terrific. The police stopped all traffic on the Motorway for short intervals in the early hours of a Saturday and Sunday morning, to allow for the existing conductors to be lowered, cut and removed. Such was the efficiency of our men that it only took one minute for each of the six conductors and one earth wire, so minimising the traffic hold-up.

“The Cradles” were moved and manoeuvred 18 times at nine locations during the operation. Sometimes the move was for only a few feet, but the positioning had

to be spot on every time. In fact, there was not a single hitch in the whole job.”

Don had high praise too for one of our own heavy goods vehicle drivers, Mr. Terry Almond from St. Helens who expertly handled the trailer and towing vehicle which he brought up on loan from the CEGB at Bristol.

This overhead line diversion followed a request from the Warrington District Council in connection with their New Town Development Scheme at Birchwood.

Two “Skycradles” in position over the six lanes of the M62, left, and a third stretches out over the M6 link road.



## SUPERB WORK AT BIRKENHEAD

It was a case of "MANWEB to the rescue" when a fire which raged through the main switch room of two blocks of multi-storey flats at Ferny Brow Gardens, Woodchurch, Birkenhead, left 250 families without heat, lights, cooking facilities or lifts.

The blaze, which broke out at 4 a.m. on August 19th, destroyed the main incoming and outgoing cables supplying the blocks, and also the switchgear. Wirral Borough Council at once mounted a big operation to make life bearable for the hundreds of people dependent on electricity supplies. Alternative cooking facilities were set up in a nearby school, a "meals on wheels" service was provided for the elderly, while social service department officials visited the stranded tenants with flasks of hot water, tea—and torches.

A quick assessment of the damage convinced the Council officials that only MANWEB was capable of coping with the size of the task which confronted them in getting those vital electricity supplies back on, and an "open order" to do just that was in

the hands of our North Wirral District colleagues within a few hours.

Four teams of jointers and labourers, under the on-the-spot direction of District Engineer Ron Morley and third assistant Production Engineer Dave Wood, together with four teams of electricians led by Installation Engineer Frank Kay, were soon at work on the scene. The damaged incoming cables were excavated, ripped out and replaced, together with four main "risers" serving the blocks, while the commercial teams installed temporary switchgear and set to work to get the "emergency supply"—serving landing and lifts—back into service.

Starting at 11 a.m. on August 19th, the MANWEB men worked throughout the day and the following night. By 11 p.m. the emergency supply was back in operation, while full supplies were restored to the two blocks of flats at 2.30 a.m. and 6.45 a.m. respectively.

Wirral's Director of Housing, Mr. Cliff Darley, was quick to express the Council's appreciation of the way our North Wirral colleagues had bettered his most optimistic expectations of the time which would be needed to restore supplies—and instructions to carry out the necessary permanent repair work were soon in the hands of the men who carried out such a terrific temporary repair!

was also Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths for the locality, and his involvement as a local Councillor also went back for more than 40 years.

Over the years he held a host of public offices as school governor and with many sporting and charitable organisations.

Mr. Jones was a member of one of the town's oldest families. He gave all his energies to his community, and was a respected 'elder statesman' with whom many people discussed their problems.

Senior members of our Aberystwyth staff represented MANWEB at the funeral. We extend our sincere sympathies to his widow, son and daughter.

### Mr. JOHN GREENHALGH

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. John Greenhalgh, executive officer (Personnel) at Head Office, who tragically lost his life while holidaying in Majorca earlier this month.

Mr. Greenhalgh, who was 46,

joined MANWEB as a general clerk at our former Area 4 office at Rhostyllen in 1949. Soon afterwards he was appointed administrative assistant in the engineering department, and later held posts as senior assistant in that department, and also in the welfare section of the Area secretarial department.

He had a long-term interest in the affairs of NALGO, representing the clerical and administrative employees of our industry, and at the time of his death he was Chairman of the union's National Electricity Committee, and a member of the NALGO National Executive Council. He was also a member of the staff side of the National Joint Council and of the NJC Negotiating Committee.

His leisure interests included cricket, tennis, and photography.

On behalf of his friends and colleagues we extend our sincere sympathy to his wife.

## Obituary

### Mr. R. ALFRED JONES

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. R. Alfred Jones, a retired MANWEB employee who devoted his entire adult life to the welfare of his home town of Towyn, near Aberystwyth. He was 75.

Mr. Jones, who up to the time of his death was Chairman of his local Council, was affectionately known as "Alfie" by most people in the locality. His interest and involvement in local affairs and good causes were legion.

The former secretary of the Towyn, Aberdovey and District Electricity Company, he joined MANWEB on nationalisation and represented the Board at Towyn until his retirement about ten years ago. His daughter, Mrs. D. P. Jones, is at present the supervisor of our Towyn shop, carrying on the family tradition.

For about 40 years Mr. Jones

## RETIREMENTS

### Mr. M. THOMAS

Amid the spate of retirements from Head Office a couple of months ago, we regretably missed reporting the departure of the well-known and popular member of our Accounts staff, Mr. Michael Thomas who retired from his post as Assistant Chief Accountant—Internal Audit.

For this lapse, we sincerely apologise to our former colleague and his many friends.

Michael was educated at Oundle School and in 1928 was articled to a Wolverhampton firm of Chartered Accountants. Shortly

after qualifying in 1933 he went to work for the West Midlands Joint Electricity Authority.

From 1941 to 1946 he served as a navigator in the Royal Air Force and on his return to civilian life he worked as the Assistant Chief Accountant to the Calico Printers' Association in Manchester.

Two years later he came to MANWEB as the former Liverpool Sub-Area Accountant. In 1954 he moved to Head Office and worked in Central and Financial Accounts prior to his appointment as Assistant Chief Accountant in 1970.



Chief Accountant Mr. A. P. Whyte, left, with a farewell handshake for Mr. Thomas.

### Mr. J. FITZPATRICK

Mr. James Fitzpatrick, a jointer on the Mid-Mersey District staff, retired recently after 42 years' service to the industry at St. Helens.

Jim was deeply involved in the workings of electricity supply at St. Helens for many years, being an LAC and Works Committee representative for 24 years, and a shop steward for his union for five years. He will continue his keen interest in the welfare of his retired colleagues, being active in the football, pontoon and Christmas dinner arrangements.

As a boy of 18 he emigrated to Canada, where he stayed for four years in the tough world of farming, road-making and lumberjacking before working his passage home on a grain boat. He served in the RAF during the war as a PT instructor, and saw service in Normandy.

On behalf of his many friends he was presented with a cheque by Mr. W. Jones (*Production Engineer*), while Mrs. Fitzpatrick received a bouquet of flowers.

A few friends at St. Helens gather round as Mr. Jones, centre, hands over their farewell gift cheque to colleague Mr. Fitzpatrick, centre right.

