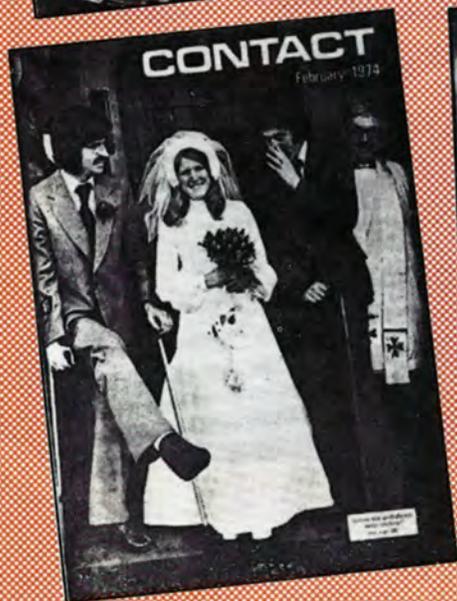


Contact

September 1981

THE END OF AN ERA
(See Editorial Comment)





V.I.P. Visitors to the Dee Valley District, from left to right: Messrs. J. G. Parkes, Richard Gales, John Scudamore, Ben Hastings, Glyn Dodd and Mrs. Sheila Garston have the V.D.U. system explained by Mr. Arthur Ellinson (D.A.O.), right, and operated by Mrs. Pat Davies.



Mrs. Garston deep in conversation with Mr. Stan Colley (administrative assistant).

Board Members & Management visit our Dee Valley District



Mr. Gales has a word with Mr. Emyr James (District records draughtsman).

Groundsman Keith Bell, left, at Legacy depot, chats with Mr. Scudamore and Mr. Dodd.



Mr. Parkes and Mr. John Parry (D.E.) talking to Mr. Peter Stansfield (2nd engineer—Transport).



Mr. Hastings seen here with Mr. Allan Jones (mechanical fitter) in Legacy garage.

A comment from Mr. Iorwerth Morris (foreman—Stores) brings a happy smile to the face of Mrs. Garston.



Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE
OF THE
MERSEYSIDE AND
NORTH WALES
ELECTRICITY BOARD

Vol. 33 No. 9

September 1981

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A NEW-STYLE 'CONTACT'

THE publication of this number of 'Contact' marks the end of an era in MANWEB's history. Since *Volume 1, No. 1* rolled off the printer's press back in December 1948, there has never been a month when our house journal did not find its way into the hands of the staff—a record, we believe, unique in the electricity supply industry.

Now the time has come for change. Two main considerations—the need to keep abreast of a changing world, and the ever-increasing cost of producing the traditional kind of magazine—have led to the Board's decision that 'Contact' should change to a newspaper-style journal. The first number will be printed next month.

Our industry is a vital and complex organisation, with a comparatively small workforce in view of its importance to the life of the nation. Every employee is inevitably involved, in some way or other, in the work of colleagues doing many kinds of jobs. We are all likely to be expected to be knowledgeable experts on all matters electrical, and for this reason it is vital that our workforce should be well-informed. House journals are an essential element in this process.

The first rule for any publication is that people should be eager to read it. If our new-style 'Contact' is to do its job properly, we shall need the support and interest of all. Contributions, suggestions, letters (and criticisms) will be more than welcome. Help to make our new production the kind of newspaper that you will look forward to reading!

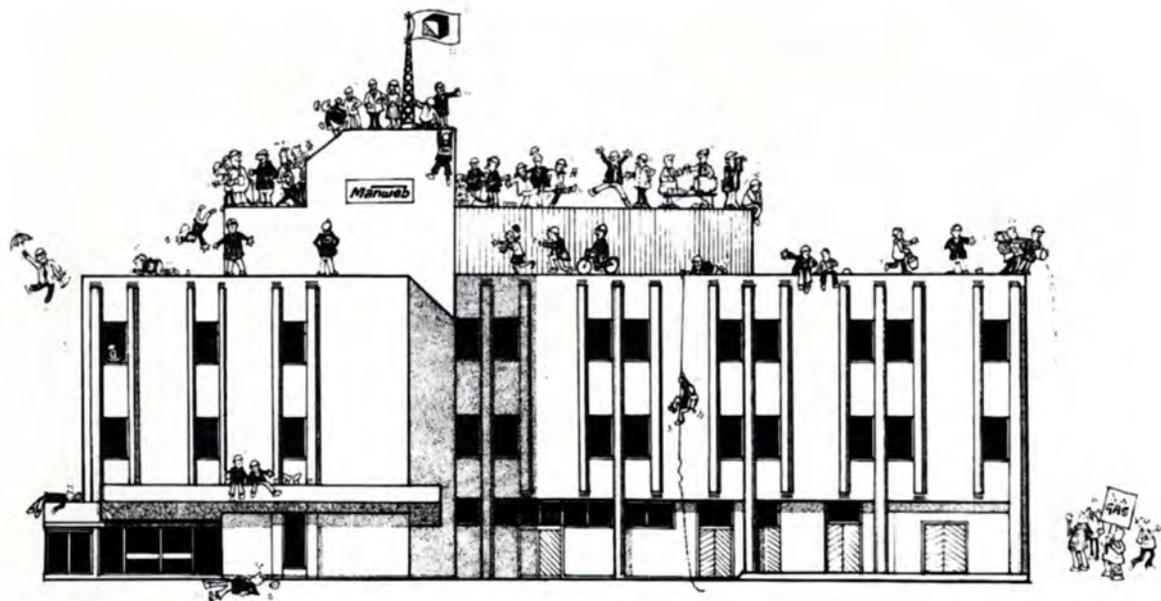
Editorial

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OUR COVER PICTURE shows some of the changes in the cover design of 'Contact' since its inception—392 issues ago!

With the new format to tabloid newspaper next month, we intend keeping the name 'CONTACT', originally chosen from suggestions by Messrs. Kenneth G. Lea from Birkenhead—now retired—and J. R. P. Jones from Rhuddlan, who died in 1970.



Topping Out at Prenton



Work continues apace on our new North Wirral District office at Prenton, and representatives of the Board, the main contractors and the specialist consultants gathered recently for the traditional "Topping Out" ceremony—with the traditional beer for the lads who do the work!

Wielding the float is Chief Engineer **Jim Fisher**. Standing behind him are Messrs. **Peter Flinn** (main contractors), **Gerry Murray** (site agent), **John Sargent** (architects), **Harry Allen** (quantity surveyors), **John Scully** (structural engineers) and **Harry Foreman** (our Civil Engineer—*right foreground*)—with some of those vital workers.

A traditional gift from the client to the main contractors took the form of a framed cartoon (*reproduced above*) by **Jeff Baker**, display assistant at Head Office.

It is expected that the new building will be occupied by the end of next year.

Talking Notes

AIDS FOR THE DISABLED

AT a three-day exhibition held recently at the Post-Graduate Medical Centre at Clatterbridge Hospital, MANWEB featured their attractive exhibit in the main entrance hall.

In this prime spot, our inviting display was organised by **Marjorie Scregg** (*demonstrator*) and **Christine Williams** (*trainee demonstrator*) . . . with a little help from **Ivor Maddocks** (*Sales Supervisor—Kitchen Planning*) from Head Office.

Centre-piece of the exhibit was Belling's new cooker—Britain's first "goes-under" built-in electric cooker unit. Its placing under the kitchen worktop enables wheelchair-bound disabled people to use the oven and grill easily and in comparative safety. The oven is accompanied by a fold-away hob unit.

Marjorie Scregg demonstrates the new Belling cooker for disabled Dorothy Wilson from Eastham.



Another feature of the exhibition was the "Studio K" mobility kitchen unit—produced by specialists as a truly functional kitchen for the disabled person.

Marjorie told us that, on the first day of the exhibition, a customer with a disabled wife ordered a kitchen unit, cooker hob and micro-wave oven.

Cash Saving

Thanks to a clever idea from Sheila Hughes, a clerical assistant at our Hoylake Training Centre, the Board saved over £2,000 on the travelling expenses for apprentices coming from the far corners of our area.

During the week, these particular apprentices stay with the Hoylake landladies but, for about 40 weekends, they travel back to their homes. For the 33 youngsters involved in our last intake, Sheila put forward the suggestion to buy Young Persons' Rail Cards which, after the initial cost at £10 each, allowed each apprentice to travel at half-fare. For buying 33 Rail Cards we also received a quantity discount from British Rail!

As the idea demanded prompt action in order to gain full benefit, Sheila was unable to go through the normal Suggestion Scheme procedure.

This year, unfortunately, we shall not be able to take advan-

tage of this cash-saving idea. Of the 22 apprentices who will report to the Centre in September, only four will be travelling any appreciable distances.

Still, it was a good idea at the time, and could come in useful again.

Carnival Display

A joint effort between our Corwen shop supervisor **Emyr Jones** and **Elsie Edwards**, the lady who keeps the shop—and the rest of the depot—clean and tidy, resulted in a top prize award for their window display during the Corwen Carnival Week.

They took as their theme Royal Ascot and, amid the colourful selection of ladies' hats and the occasional gent's topper and set of binoculars, was the subtle message that you were on to a certain winner with any of the

OSWESTRY DISTRICT

Annual Arts, Crafts and Horticultural Exhibition

will be held at District Office, Maesbury Road on
Sat., 19th September

Judging is to take place at
12 noon.

All the exhibits may be viewed between 12.30 and
4.30 p.m.

Why not come along and see what some of your colleagues — and their families—do in their spare time?



The winning team, Elsie Edwards and Emyr Jones.

electrical goods on display.

For having the best-decorated premises in the town, Emyr and Elsie were presented with a large shield as their trophy. This will hold a place of honour in the shop for the next 12 months—at least!

Incidentally, during the week of the carnival, Corwen shop turned in £2,338-worth of business! This was well up on normal business for an average week at the shop.

The Two Donalds

A most unusual coincidence concerns two of our colleagues working at Shotton shop. Both **Olivia McLean**, a cleaner, and



Pictured together, Sheila Jones and Olivia McLean.

Sheila Jones, a saleswoman, have husbands named Donald who have had replacement kidney operations.

The two Donalds have the same birthdays and their transplants, although five years apart, took place within days of each other, one on 30th June and the other on 4th July.

Donald McLean is now back at his work at Connahs Quay power station, while Donald Jones is recovering from his operation and hopes to be back at work soon, albeit with the Gas Board!

Olivia has worked for the Board for the past five years, keeping Shotton shop spick and span. Sheila has been giving advice and selling goods to our customers for the past 12 years.

Seminars

Two specialist seminars, organised by the Electricity Council, with the help of MANWEB and Norweb Commercial staff, were held at the Eurocrest hotel at Runcorn recently.

On the first day, representatives of many local council and housing authorities saw a presentation centred on the industry's Civic Shield Award scheme.

Case study examples of construction methods, capital and running costs were well illustrated. A housing authority guest speaker gave details of how the scheme worked in practice.

A special film report, introduced by Robert Troop of the *Sunday Times*, brought a brief and most informative session to a close.

Chairing the proceedings was our own Chief Commercial Officer, **Peter Hopkins**.

On the following day, a great number of private builders and estate agents went along to hear speakers, including **Stewart Griffiths** (*Principal Engineer—Energy Sales*) extol the advantages of building homes to the Electricity Council's Medallion

Award standard.

Specialists from the Council included Doug. Ackery, John Grear, Ron Halliwell and David West.

All in all a worthwhile show, from which both MANWEB and Norweb will no doubt benefit.

Man of Letters

The University of Birmingham recently conferred the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering Production on **Jeffrey Morgan**, a project engineer in the Planning and Review section of our Management Services Department at Head Office.



With "Three Degrees"—Dr. Jeffrey Morgan.

Jeff, who hails from Breconshire in South Wales, gained his first degree—B.Sc. Engineering—from the National College of Agricultural Engineering. Then, for the next two years, he went to work for Babcock and Wilcock Limited, in Scotland, followed by six months' employment in Canada.

During his stay in Glasgow, he met Kate, who later became his wife.

In 1972, Jeff returned to the U.K.—and the University of Birmingham—where he earned his Master's Degree in Work Design and Ergonomics. Sponsored by the motor industry, he continued

his studies at the university, taking up a Research Fellowship to gain his Doctorate.

Dee Valley Golf

With good conditions and a high wind, it was the in-form golfers who figured prominently in the top places of the fifth Dee Valley Sports and Social Club Annual Golf Competition.

The Stableford match was held at the Wrexham Golf Club, and the winner—with 35 points—was Production Engineer **Norman Clark**. Second, two points adrift, was **Iuan Evans**, 1st engineer—Systems, and third—after a card play-off—was Installation Engineer **Derek Jones**, from mechanical fitter **Thomas Glyn Morris**.

Prizes were presented by **Don Hinsley** (energy sales engineer) with **Dennis** and **Hywel Jones** organising the event.

On Course

One of the many instructional programmes conducted by colleagues in our Education and Training section is a Basic Industrial Relations Course for NJIC members of the staff who are taking seats on committees for the first time.

On a recent course, organised by **Lesley Smith** (admin. assistant), the delegates were wel-

comed by **Jim McLennan** (Personnel Manager). For the following few days they listened to talks and took part in discussions on a wide variety of subjects. These ranged from human and industrial behaviour, through committee meeting procedure, negotiating machinery and agreements, to case studies.

Among the speakers were members of the Personnel and Education and Training sections at Head Office, with special guests **Norman Barr** (Area Official, EEPTU) and **Adrian Warmley** (Assistant DIRO, Electricity Council).

Sportsnight

Engineers from our North Mersey District avenged an earlier defeat by soundly beating engineers from the Liverpool District by six matches to nil in a recent crown green bowling tournament held at Abbey Park, Bootle.

Despite the one-sided result, all the bowlers enjoyed their matches. When the last wood was bowled, both teams retired to the North Mersey Social Club at Bridle Road for some exercises in elbow-bending.

The evening was rounded off with contests at pool and darts.

Here the honours were evenly shared between the District teams.

Link-Up

Entering into the matrimonial stakes a short time ago were two of our colleagues, **Keith Anthony Leonard** and **Mary Elizabeth Jones**. They were married at St. Michael's Church in Abergele, and honeymooned in the Lake District.



A happy couple, **Beth and Keith Leonard**.

Keith is our sales supervisor for the Clwyd and Gwynedd Districts. Beth, prior to her marriage, was the energy sales demonstrator in our Liverpool District. Now she works in the Wayleave section at Head Office.

We join with their many friends throughout the Board in wishing them both many years of happiness together.

Another Wedding

Our best wishes for a very happy future go to **Barbara Sage**, a clerk in the Material Control section in Liverpool District, and to **John Smith**, a chef at Park Hospital, who were married recently at St. Mary's Church, West Derby.

Barbara's mother, **Iris**, is a floor supervisor at the Board's shop in St. John's Precinct in Liverpool.

Pictured during one of the occasional breaks for a "cuppa" are these staff delegates on an Industrial Relations Course at Head Office. From left to right, we see: **Lesley Smith** (organiser), **Joe Kelvin** (Mid-Mersey), **Frank Gibb** (Mid-Cheshire), **Ellis Parry** (Clwyd), **Terry Varney** (Gwynedd), **Chris Wharton** (North Wirral), **Ken Sculthorpe** (Liverpool) and **Dave Miller** (Clwyd).





A close-up photograph showing the extent of the damage to a section of cable caused by not-very-nice mice.

Mice Work

On three or four occasions, our engineers have noticed that cable on drums coming from the Queensferry storage compound has been damaged.

Following investigation, it was found that mice from the nearby fields had gnawed through the lead sheath of the cable itself.

Tom Garmory (*Principal Engineer—Cable and Lines*) suspects that the mice might be attracted by the tallow on the cable-ends. On future deliveries, the manufacturers have agreed to clean up their ends.

Trade Fair

Once again, our Commercial colleagues flew the MANWEB flag at the annual Greenall Whit-

ley Trade Fair, staged over two days at the Lord Daresbury hotel a short time ago.

Well over 2,000 managers and tenants from the food and drink business toured the show. Many showed great interest in our inviting exhibit, with continuous demonstrations of back-bar equipment.

Other attractions included microwave ovens, sandwich toasters and a hot-dog carousel direct from the United States.

Top men from Greenall Whitley were delighted with the response to their Trade Fair, and agreed with most of the visitors that the use of electrical equipment provided the only practical and economical approach to "in-pub" catering.

Our team on duty at the Greenall Whitley Trade Fair. From left to right: Maeve Moran (on attachment from F. L. Calder College, Liverpool), Joan Dittrich and Anne Reney-Smith from Head Office, and Jane Hall (Mid-Mersey District).



Audit Change

The Board's Deputy Chief Accountant, **Kenneth Leach**, has now assumed overall responsibility for the management of the Audit section, following the recent retirement of **Don Tomsett** from his post as Assistant Chief Accountant—Internal Audit.

Kevin Healey (*Internal Auditor*) will be responsible for the day-to-day work of the section.

DEE VALLEY RETIRED MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION

(Wrexham Area)

All members are informed that a special meeting will be held in the canteen at Rhostyllen on

**Wed., 16th September
at 2.30 p.m.**

Business to be discussed:

*Future Meetings and
Activities*

Also Lecture with slides.

Please help the Association to survive by coming along

FOR SALE

House

Hoole, Chester. Terr. house, gas centrally heated. Lounge with feature fireplace. Archway leading to dining room, with feature fireplace and gas fire. Fitted kitchen, partially tiled and wood panelled. Two double bedrooms. Bathroom with Aqua suite and Redring shower unit, partially tiled and wood panelled. Re-roofed last December. Loft insulated. Gardens front and rear. £18,950.

'Phone: Chester 28453.

Car

Audi 100 LS, 'S' registered, 12 months M.O.T., six months tax, radio. £1,650 o.n.o.

'Phone: 051-489 4943.



At Winsford . . . occupying a prime site on the stage area in the town's Civic Hall was the Board's well-planned, colourful and informative exhibit at the Vale Royal District Council's Industries Fair. Our pictures show Mid-Cheshire District's Mike Potts and Robin Sharvin on the stand and talking to Council Chairman, Councillor Michael Roche.

MANWEB ON SHOW

At the Warrington '81 Industries Fair, following last year's very successful show, double the number of exhibitors took part this year. MANWEB's stand attracted much attention, with its "live" demonstrations of equipment. Guest on the opening day was "Girl from MANWEB" Rosemary Tomlinson, who is seen, below, with Allan Hill, Tony Swift and Arthur Bent. Our other picture shows Dave Tinsley (energy sales engineer) with Derek Lambert (President of Warrington Chamber of Trade).



CENTENARY OF SERVICE

FROM the first public supply of electricity—at Godalming in Surrey, exactly 100 years ago—to the original invention of most of today's electrical appliances, the thought and design were British.

These electrical aids to living are inventions which have changed domestic life out of all recognition. Electric lighting and electric labour-saving aids—never imagined in 1881—are now commonplace in every home in Britain. Appliances like vacuum-cleaners and irons are now found in over 90 per cent of all homes in the U.K.

This interesting reminder of technical progress and social change can be found, with many more items of information, in the 100 pages of the new illustrated book "Centenary of Service", published by The Electricity Council.

The author is Anthony Byers, Chief Press Officer to the Council, who has spent 20 years in the elec-

tricity industry, including a period with the former Electrical Development Association. It was from their archives that he collected many of the interesting illustrations for his book.

Copies are available, for staff, at 60 pence post free, from the Information Section, Room 5S1, Head Office.

POETIC PRAISE

One of our many customers, appreciative of the staff working on the cash desk at the Wrexham shop, put her thoughts down on paper and quietly handed in the following lines:—

*In these days of glum and dismal news,
When bills arrive, we blow a fuse.
We have some stamps, but not enough,
To find the rest is really tough.
And so to MANWEB we wend our way,
Feeling anything at all but gay.
But then, to greet us with a merry smile,
MANWEB ladies our hearts beguile;
Always pleasant and helpful too.
So, from me to them—a big "Thank you".*



"Yes, I know you're proud of the uniform, but . . ."



"A dozen two-kilowatt fires, please . . ."

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we report the deaths of the following former colleagues:

Mr. John Raymond ("Nobby") Clark, aged 56, who worked on the Debt Control section in Liverpool District prior to his early retirement, after 39 years' service.

Mr. Terrance Gordon, aged 61, an installation inspector in the Liverpool District. He had completed 47 years' service in our industry.

Mr. Norman Howden, aged 63, an electrical fitter at our St. Helens depot. He had been with the Board for 36 years.

Mr. George Murphy, aged 76, a former clerk in the Engineering section at Liverpool and North Mersey Districts, died suddenly while on holiday. It was a double family tragedy, as his widow, Dorothy, died a few days later.

Mr. Leslie J. Murphy, a higher clerical assistant at North Mersey District prior to his ill-health retirement in 1972 after 37 years' service.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Every Local Advisory Committee throughout the Board has been invited to select four of their members to attend the 1981 annual conference of the Merseyside and North Wales District Joint Advisory Council, to be held on Thursday, 29th October, at the MANWEB Head Office in Chester.

Opening and chairing the proceedings will be our own Chairman, Mr. Ben Hastings. Special guest speaker at the morning session is

former Chief Commercial Officer Matt Cowan, now Centre Director, The Electricity Council Research Centre, Capenhurst.

He will comment on the impact of advanced technology and its effect on employees in the electricity supply industry in the 1980s.

During the afternoon, there will be separate meetings for MANWEB and for CEGB staffs. These will incorporate progress reports and open forum sessions.

Mr. Allan Hill, centre left, chatting with Mr. Dennis Rattigan, beneath the newly-installed warm-air units.



Comfort Conditions in Warrington Bookshop

BROWSING over books—a very pleasant pastime for many people—is made more enjoyable in the comfortable conditions provided in Rattigan's new shop in Warrington's modern town-centre development, where Mid-Mersey District's first heat-pump installation is now operating very successfully.

Following a visit to the Electricity Council's Building Centre in London, and a subsequent trip to the "Shopex" show, an enquiry from Mr. Dennis Rattigan for advice on heating his new shop was duly dealt with by Mr. Allan Hill (2nd engineer) at Warrington.

Allan came up with the idea of using three heat-pump package systems, which would effectively heat the shop in cold weather and provide efficient air-conditioning during warm, muggy periods.

He quoted for the installation of three Myson HP 2000 heat pumps and a warm-air curtain across the entrance door at a price of around £4,000. This was accepted immediately.

The warm-air units are fixed unobtrusively close to the ceiling, so saving valuable floor and wall space. Air is drawn into units mounted outside on the roof of the

shop and is then passed through a refrigerator type of compressor. The heat from this air is drawn off and gently circulated throughout the shop.

In the warmer months, the system goes into reverse, with fans taking excess heat from the shop and dispersing it through the roof units.

With outside temperatures above 35 degrees F., enough heat can be extracted from the atmosphere to provide real comfortable warmth to the premises. Below 35 degrees F., electric heating elements—built into the units—can be brought on to the system, to provide "back-up" heat.

Air circulation created by the fans also helps towards the pleasant environment enjoyed by the customers and staff.

"Although a little apprehensive at first, I am now very pleased that I went ahead with the project," commented Mr. Rattigan. *"Right from the start, MANWEB have been most co-operative in helping me provide ideal conditions for my customers, who love to browse over my books."*

CUTTING COSTS

Heat pumps can save up to 40 per cent in heating energy for commercial buildings. They can provide 2½ times as much useful heat as the energy they consume. Under automatic control, they will change from heating to cooling, to provide a comfortable, air-conditioned environment throughout the year, despite our ever-varying climate!



Friends gather round at the farewell presentation to Mr. Don Tomsett, holding his commemorative card, as he receives their best wishes for a happy future, voiced by Mr. Geoff Barnes.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. D. G. TOMSETT

A large gathering at Head Office saw the Chief Accountant, Mr. Geoff Barnes, make a presentation and bid farewell to Mr. Don Tomsett, Assistant Chief Accountant (Audit), on the occasion of his retirement from the Board after 33 years' service.

Having been a works accountant and a director and secretary of private companies, he joined MANWEB as an assistant accountant in 1949. Four years later he became a principal assistant in the Internal Audit section. He was seconded to the Management Services Unit in 1966 for a period.

He was appointed District Administrative Officer in North Wirral in 1970, and was made the Board's auditor five years later.

He represented his management colleagues in their professional association—the Association of Managerial Electrical Executives—and for a while was the chairman of the Joint Managerial Committee, the management negotiating body within the electricity industry.

Away from the office, Don Tomsett enjoys music, and frequents many concerts. He also likes walking

and we understand he is—with his wife Irene—a keen ballroom dancer. The couple have two sons, both of whom are married, and one of them has two children.

MRS. P. CHAMBERLAIN

After joining the Liverpool Corporation in 1947, Mrs. Pat Chamberlain transferred to the newly-formed MANWEB a year later, in the Consumer Accounts section for the Southport District. Thirty-four years later, many of her friends and colleagues from those days at Derby House were gathered at Lister Drive to give her a good send-off into retirement.

As an administrative assistant at Lister Drive, she supervised the Customer Enquiries section. She joined the District staff in 1973 as part of the reorganisation of the Board.

Amongst her many gifts was a heated trolley—just the thing for when she entertains those many friends who will be sure to call.

Her health has not been too good in recent months, and we join with her colleagues in hoping the cruise which she has planned to the U.S.A. on the Q.E.II will restore her to her old self.

A happy group at our Liverpool District office, as they give a rousing send-off to their colleague, Mrs. Pat Chamberlain.





Commercial colleagues look on as Mr. Ted Johnson, centre left, says his goodbyes to Mr. Don Higgs (*Installation and Service Manager*).

Mr. E. JOHNSON

With just two months to go before he would have completed 50 years in the electricity industry, Mr. Ted Johnson retired from the Board. He was a 2nd engineer in the Head Office Installations and Service section of the Commercial Department.

He joined the Mersey Power Company as an apprentice electrician at Runcorn and later went into the R.A.F. for the duration of the Second World War, returning to the Mersey Power Company as a charge-hand electrician.

With nationalisation, he became an installation inspector for MANWEB, moving to Chester a year later. He was made a contracting engineer in 1953 and, a decade later, moved from the District to former Area Office as a 3rd assistant engineer. When the Board was reorganised in the early '70s, he joined the Head Office staff.

Away from the office, Ted and his wife, Edna, are seasoned travellers and enjoy visiting foreign parts. In addition they have a caravan on a site near Blackpool, and will no doubt be spending many happy hours there in the years to come.

Miss C. MARCUS

After an interesting life as a model—and an actress—Miss Connie Marcus joined MANWEB over 20 years ago as a sales assistant in our Allerton shop. Later she transferred to the Liverpool District Office at Lister Drive and, after a period in the customer accounts section, she was appointed as supervisor in the Hire Purchase section. It was from this post that she recently retired.

In offering their best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement, Connie's friends in the District presented her with a wide variety of farewell gifts.

Her interest in the theatre is as keen today as it ever was, and she regularly travels as far as Theatr Clwyd in Mold to see shows. In her younger days, she took to the stage with the Fortesque Players, touring the northern towns and acting in two different plays every week! As a model, she was trained in the famous Lucy Clayton Agency, and went on to do freelance work.

In retirement, she tells us that she intends taking a holiday in Israel and, when she returns, hopes to devote much more time to dressmaking.

Miss Connie Marcus, surrounded by some of her friends, has a farewell handshake from Mr. Dennis Hughes (*District Administrative Officer*).





Backed by friends from Oswestry District, Mr. Verdun Evans, centre left, receives one of their farewell gifts from Mr. Teg. Williams.

Mr. W. V. EVANS

A very well-known and popular member of Oswestry District staff, Mr. Willaim Verdun Evans has now retired from his job as courier driver. His ever-ready help and cheerful disposition will be greatly missed by his many colleagues.

The eager response to his farewell collection proved the high esteem in which he is held. At a special farewell ceremony, Mr. Tegwyn Williams (*District Administrative Officer*), on behalf of Verdun's many friends, presented him with a beautiful carriage-clock and a radio.

It was as a labourer in the Engineering section that Verdun began working for the Board, transferring to courier duties in 1973.

In retirement, he will be devoting more time to his beloved garden and, no doubt, be preparing his entries for the District's Arts, Crafts and Horticultural Exhibition later this month.

All his friends throughout the District send their best wishes to Verdun and his wife for many happy years of retirement together.

Mr. S. WILSON

A popular member of the North Wirral District staff, Mr. Stuart Wilson, wanted a quiet send-off to retirement. Although there was no official presentation at his request, many of his friends and colleagues popped in to wish him well.

Stu has completed 35 years' service in the electricity industry, join-

ing the Birkenhead Corporation in their meter-test department after being demobilised from the R.A.F. He was born in Ireland when his father was working there on a contract. He live for a while in the U.S.A. before he returned to this country to "join up" in 1939. His



Stuart and Vi—
Mr. and Mrs. Wilson.

war service was in the Far East, where he was an instrument mechanic.

He worked for MANWEB as a meter test inspector at Birkenhead, until the work was centralised at Lister Drive in the early 70s. With his friendly and gentle personality he has been employed since then as a kind of "trouble-shooter" in the Disputed Accounts and General Enquiries section of the District.

Stu and his wife, Vi, have a

married daughter, who is a school-teacher in the Isle of Wight. He is a keen photographer and enjoys taking landscape pictures. This fits in with his other major interest—walking in the Lake District. In addition, he enjoys good music and is a "regular" at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.

Mr. G. HILL

A set of bowls, luggage, bottles of spirit and dozens of other presents were the farewell gifts from colleagues to Mr. George Hill, who recently retired from his job as administrative assistant in the Customer Accounts section in the Liverpool District.

Born and bred in Birmingham, Mr. Hill served—and travelled to many places—with the Army Dental Corps for six years during the last war.

Just over 30 years ago, he joined MANWEB at Lister Drive, where, in addition to working in various sections, he served as a member of the Local Advisory Committee for a number of years.

When looking at his many hobbies and pastimes, one wonders how Mr. Hill found time to come to work each day. He is a bowls enthusiast, loves gardening—he has two greenhouses, enjoys walking, wine-making and taking photographs. He is a keen "do-it-yourself" man around the home, and does his own car maintenance.



George and Margaret—
Mr. and Mrs. Hill.

Mrs. E. A. KING

A farewell dinner at a St. Asaph hotel marked the premature retirement, after a long illness, of Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) A. King, a Marketing demonstrator in our Clwyd District.

Betty had worked in both gas and electricity sections of local government prior to joining MANWEB in 1948 as a demonstrator in the original Clwyd District. Later, she turned to Marketing and made many friends among her colleagues in the shops and with her customers.

Staff who gathered at her retirement party heard Mr. David Mellor (*Customer Services Manager*) thank Betty for her long and loyal service. He then presented her with a farewell gift from the staff, coupled with their best wishes for an improvement in her health and for many years of happy retirement.

Mr. G. NEWTON

One of our Mid-Mersey District staff who requested "no fuss" on his retirement, Mr. Gilbert Newton, left quietly a few weeks ago. In his 30 years with the Board as a mechanical fitter's mate, he was never recorded as late for work.

A keen rugby league supporter, Mr. Newton also enjoys reading and touring holidays. Even though he left quietly, his colleagues did not let the occasion pass without subscribing to a farewell gift.

Mr. D. R. WILLIAMS

Spending a great proportion of his working life with MANWEB as a labourer on the North Wales Rural Development programme, Mr. David (*Dewi*) Richard Williams has now retired.

He first came to us in 1955 and, when the rural programme came to an end, he went to work at our Willow Road depot and then, upon reorganisation, at Legacy.

Mrs. P. G. JEFFERSON

Taking advantage of early retirement, Commercial clerical assistant Mrs. Pat Jefferson leaves after 33 years' service with the Board.



This parting picture shows Mrs. Pat Jefferson, in patterned dress, with colleagues from her section at Head Office.

She joined the newly-constituted MANWEB on Armistice Day 1948 as a clerical assistant in the Secretarial Department at Wrexham. It was her first civilian job, having been a member of the W.A.A.F. during the war, in the Meteorological Office.

After five years in the Secretarial Department, she moved to Commercial, and was involved with the huge rural electrification programme of North Wales, maintaining records until the programme was completed 15 years later.

Board reorganisation brought Pat to Chester, where she has been a member of the Tariffs and Statistics section. During her employment with the Board, she has been an active representative of her colleagues on the Staff and Local Advisory Committees.

Pat has a daughter, Ann, who is married to Dee Valley engineer Keith Herniman, and they have four children for "Granny" to spoil. Pat Jefferson is a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, and she enjoys reading,

music, gardening, walking and travel—which points to an active and interesting retirement.

MISS A. S. MONCHAR

The Deputy Chairman, Mr. Richard Gales, presented his secretary, Miss Anne Monchar, with a carriage-clock, on behalf of her friends and colleagues, to mark her retirement from the Board.

Anne joined MANWEB 32 years ago. For 17 years she was secretary to Mr. Massey Parker, the Board Secretary and Solicitor, who, with his wife, was present to welcome Anne to the ranks of the retired.

In addition to working with Mr. Gales, she has worked for two previous Deputies—Mr. David Gwyn and the present Chairman, Mr. Ben Hastings.

After pounding a typewriter for so long, she plans a complete rest, and intends to relax by reading, listening to music and going to the theatre. She likes to travel, and is thinking of visiting the United States. Should she find a little time on her hands, she is considering doing some sort of voluntary work.

Miss Monchar, seen here with Mr. Gales and some of her friends from Head Office.





"Sunset Scene"
by Mike Hall, Head Office