

CONTACT

FEBRUARY, 1977



Jackpot Joy
(see page 45)

ANNUAL BALL



Bottles of 'bubbly' being handed to the men . . .

A touch of class marked this year's Annual Ball for members of the MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club, held recently at Head Office.

As the ladies arrived they were invited to choose a flower to match their beautiful dresses. Their partners then picked up a free bottle of champagne!

With such a delightful start the success of the evening was assured and a great time was had by one and all.

An excellent meal was prepared by Taylor-Plan Caterers and music for dancing was played by the Reg Ellis orchestra.

Mr. Gren Roberts (*principal assistant-Welfare*) organised the event and was Master of Ceremonies.



. . . while the ladies collect their flowers.

Sports and Social Club Officials and Committee members with their partners and guests. *From left to right:* Mrs. and Mr. Harry Foreman, Mrs. and Mr. Gren Roberts, Mrs. and Mr. Harry Shone, Mr. and Mrs. Denis Dodds, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Henderson, Mrs. and Mr. John Pemberton, Mr. Don Roxburgh, Miss Jane Wills, Mrs. and Mr. Frank Astbury, Mrs. and Mr. Eifion Jenkins.





CONTACT

Vol. 29 No. 2

February 1977

Editorial

*On other
pages . . .*

We Get Letters	36
'A Pain in the Neck'	37
First-Aid Classes	38
News from Aberystwyth	40
Fighting the Drought	41
Safety-First Exhibition	42
Jackie at Llandudno	44
Talking Notes	45
Long Service at Oswestry	49
Our Consumers' Responsibility	50
Swan Lake Ballet	52
Sales Staff in Training	53
Retirements	54
Illegal Use of Electricity	56
Obituary	56
More Letters	56

MINIMISING DAMAGE

LIVING is a dangerous business. The world in which we live is full of objects which are sharp, hot or heavy. Once we reach the toddler stage most of us spend the rest of our lives accumulating a series of scars and bumps which testify to our hostile environment.

The unpleasant consequences of this climate can be reduced in two ways. Firstly by learning to avoid dangerous situations, and secondly by ensuring the existence of men and women who know how to minimise the damage when things **do** go wrong. This number of *Contact* contains articles relevant to both these aspects of the situation.

If potentially dangerous situations are highlighted and explained—as in local Safety Exhibitions—so that safe working practices become second nature, then the number of scars and broken bones acquired in work situations will be reduced.

If an ever-higher proportion of workers can be trained in basic First Aid then the consequences of those still-inevitable accidents can be eased.

Every MANWEB employee should be conscious of both sides of the safety coin. After all, it might be **your** turn next!

Editorial Staff

Phone H.O.

Keith Baldwin 2164
John F. Perry 2167
Sam Doughty 2166

A Thought for the Month.

Do you realise that . . . the cost of electricity to run a refrigerator for a week is less than the cost of two pints of milk?

WE GET LETTERS . . .

Bouquets for our staff at North Mersey District . . .

Re-wiring Campaign

Additional fruits gathered from this highly successful project are letters like these . . .

Dear Sir,

I have just had my house re-wired and I am writing to thank the two men who did the job. They were very helpful and kind and very tidy. They cleaned up every time they left. I am very pleased with their work.

Once again, thanking you,

(Signed)

Our electricians involved here were Messrs. Les Turner and his apprentice Alan Hesford.

. . . and another . . .

Dear Sir,

I would like you to know that I am very well pleased with the work done here recently in replacing power sockets and wiring.

I was most impressed by your electrician's pleasant manner as well as by his industry and efficiency. One point that I noticed with satisfaction was the neatness of the wiring in the vicinity of the fuse boxes.

Yours sincerely

(Signed)

This time the bouquet goes to Mr. Ellis Tomlinson (electrician).

Follow Through

A customer from Aintree is very pleased with quite a few members

of our staff. She writes . . .

Dear Sir,

I selected and purchased a refrigerator from your Walton Vale shop recently, receiving, while making a choice, the help, courtesy and most kind attention which is always given to customers at Walton Vale shop.

The 'fridge was promised for delivery early on Thursday morning and duly arrived as promised.

A Mr. Hughes, who said his depot was at Bridle Road, carried out the work of wiring and fitting same, as I needed a plug socket.

This work was done in a most excellent manner with the minimum of mess and my husband

and I couldn't be more pleased with the way in which this order has been put through.

In these days, I'm afraid never enough credit is given to people who provide such excellent service.

We are two very satisfied customers and thank most sincerely all those concerned in having this order put through in such a satisfactory manner.

Yours faithfully

(Signed)

Staff at Walton Vale shop led by manager Mr. Peter Brady are, Mrs. Edith Devine, Mrs. Eileen Maddox, Mrs. Eileen Tulloch and Mr. Alec Runciman.

The electrician who did an excellent PR follow-up was Mr. Bill Hughes.

. . . and Dee Valley District

Cheerful

From a Chester lady to Dee Valley District:

"This is to thank you for the prompt and efficient way your staff got my washing machine mended last week. They came on the right day at the right time, didn't take too long, and the cost was reasonable.

"I paid the bill this morning and am now cheerfully getting the washing done once again."

Very Rare Breed

And from another Chester lady:

"I would like to express my sincere thanks to all staff concerned in repairing a fault at my home on Friday last.

"The electrician was extremely pleasant, cheerful and polite—a very rare breed nowadays.

"I thank you all for your prompt and efficient service."

And that pat on the back goes to service electrician Mr. Geoff Swindley, of New Crane Street depot.

"Steel

appreciation"

After speedy attention to a 33kV cable fault at Brymbo steelworks, the works chief engineer (Mr. C. L. Jackson) wrote in the following terms to Mr. E. T. Peters, our Dee Valley District Engineer:

"I am writing to express our thanks and appreciation for the assistance given by your engineers and their staff in carrying out the above repairs last weekend.

"When we find ourselves in such difficulties as we were in during the early hours of last Sunday morning it is reassuring to know that the help and resources of both yourself and your staff are so readily at hand.

"Perhaps you would be kind enough to accept and pass on our thanks to all of those who contributed in effecting what was an extremely efficient and speedy repair."



MANWEB's medical adviser, Dr. Kenneth Turner, *holding papers*, with some of the delegates to the annual Technical Meeting for first-aiders.

“A Pain in the Neck”

**WARNING FROM
DR. KENNETH TURNER**

IN a speech which caught the interest and made quite an impact on his audience of first-aiders, Dr. Kenneth Turner, the Board's medical adviser, concentrated on the correct use of head restraints in cars. He pointed out that if these are not correctly positioned, the driver or passenger could finish up with a broken neck following a rear-shunt accident.

“Much publicity has been given to the correct use of seat belts. Even now, the new MOT tests

A section of the audience at the meeting held at Head Office.



include a rigorous check on seat belts," he went on. "However, I believe that the correct use and positioning of head restraints is just as important. Properly adjusted seat belts and badly adjusted head restraints can be lethal."

He emphasised that head restraints should always be adjusted for the height of the person actually driving the car, pointing out that on many occasions, a wife took over from her husband and often her head height differed from his. Therefore re-adjustment of the head restraint was necessary.

"Many drivers today," he continued, "tend to use the head restraint as a head rest with the padded section resting in the nape of the neck."

He then illustrated the dangers in this practice by showing how, when a car is struck from behind, the driver's or passenger's head is snapped backwards. "The neck acts as a fulcrum on the badly adjusted head restraint and could actually be broken," he warned.

Dr. Turner then explained how many other injuries resulted from the misuse of head restraints.

"Often, some six to 18 months after an accident, however slight, I have had patients come to me and

complain of pains in the arms or of tingling in the hands. After questioning, they invariably recall a 'slight' accident they had.

"At the time of the accident," he continued, "the head would be thrown violently about causing nerve damage. Months later this would show itself through arm and neck pains or weakening and tingling in the hands."

Nearly 100 delegates from MANWEB and the CEGB attended this annual Technical Meeting of the Merseyside and North Wales Branch of the Electricity Supply Ambulance Centre, held at Head Office a short time ago. This was the third meeting held in the area during the past few months, the others being held at Bangor and Warrington.

After a welcome to the delegates a cleverly-made film was shown, "Drive Carefully Darling." This had a dream theme throughout and a very dramatic ending fading into a long eerie silence. This was an ideal lead into Dr. Turner's talk, aptly titled, "A Pain in the Neck!" Another excellent film, "Handle Him With Care," having a different approach to some basic first-aid do's and don'ts, concluded the Meeting.

+ Classes at North Mersey . .



It looks like a casualty clearing station after a multiple pile-up on the motorway but in reality it is simply the members of North Mersey District's first-aid class—all done up—for our photographer. They are, seated, from left to right: Libby Ardren, Bill Gibbs, Kathy McDonough and John Neill. On the floor, from the rear, Margaret Jones, Ellis Tomlinson and Teresa McVeigh. They all passed their examinations shortly after this picture was taken.



This remarkable picture shows members of the Liverpool District first-aid class full of smiles on the day before their examinations. *From left to right, front row:* Kevin Mawdesley, Ken Taylor, Steve O'Brien and Ken James. *2nd row:* Bill Bowers, Peter James, Pat Hanwell and Janet Needham. *Back row:* Tony Eden and John Howson. They must have felt confident for they all passed!

Liverpool and Gwynedd

Nurse Dorothy Davis explains the art of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to members of the Gwynedd District class who are, *from left to right, rear of table:* Pauline Jones, Frank Ellis (*instructor*), Alun Griffiths, Richard Vaughan Parry and Owen Richard Thomas. *Front:* Ieuan Davies, Margaret Williams and David Eurwyn Jones. They too, all passed their examinations. Congratulations!



APPRECIATED

A note from an elderly gentleman living at Llanbryn-mair, Powys—signed simply "W.N.S."—expressed "my thanks to the chaps who brought the light back so quickly last night. I am 88 years old, was alone, and expected to have to spend the night sitting in my chair. I was agreeably surprised when it came on so soon. It can't have been a pleasant job turning out on a filthy night, but anyhow one person was grateful."

A nice little note, coming from an old gent on his own, but carrying the real weight of judgement and authority when coming from no less a person than Sir Wintringham Stable, better known as Lord Justice Stable.

The standby staff concerned would like him to know that his thanks are appreciated. Clearly one of the most respected minds in the history of the administration of justice has lost none of its perception with the passing of the years!



DISTRICT GOLF COMPETITION

The idea of a District golf competition went down very well, resulting in an excellent turnout, despite a poor start to the day on the weather front.

Borth Golf Club (the oldest golf club in Wales) was the venue, and the winner was Mr. Billy Owen, of Aberystwyth, with Mr. Cliff Roberts, of Machynlleth runner-up.

It is hoped that this event will be the forerunner of many more to come.

Our picture, above, shows, from left to right: Messrs. Roy Healey, Reg Bright, Cliff Roberts, Ivor Griffiths, David Bennion, Billy Owen, John Davies, Alan Galbraith and Ifor Evans.

SWIMMING CLUB

Although Aberystwyth District's boundary borders the sea for many miles, it seems that there are at least some members of the staff who are non-swimmers (perhaps not too surprising—it can be a bit cold and rough along that coastline).

Things are changing, however, and the initiative of the Aberystwyth Sports and Social Club has led to organised Club swimming on Sunday evenings at the Plas Crug pool—with the result that a number of Club members have relinquished the pool rail for the open water and are steadily

progressing towards the Channel-beating class.

Tuition from expert Club members, led by Alan Carr, has been much appreciated. The learners

have shown great determination, and regular swimming sessions will surely become a standard Club activity.

Aberystwyth swimmers 'in the pool.'



A Thought for the Month.
Do you realise that . . . the cost of electricity to run a refrigerator for a week is less than the cost of two pints of milk?

"FOCUS ON FEED"

FARM ELECTRIC CONFERENCE

FIGHTING THE DROUGHT

The long hot summer provided us all with ideal holiday weather, but the drought conditions were a disaster for much of Britain's farmland and for those crops which are completely dependent on regular and adequate rainfall.

As pastures withered and scorched in the baking sun livestock farmers had to make an early switch to Autumn rations, and to buy in feedstuffs for their animals.

These problems were very much to the fore at a conference on the theme *Focus on Feed*, organised by MANWEB in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the National



A MANWEB trio at the Conference, from left to right: Messrs. Lyn Price (DCE, Oswestry and Aberystwyth), Ron Andrews, our agricultural specialist, and Ernie Redman (Principal engineer—Industrial).

Farmers' Union, and the Electricity Council, and held at Oswestry a few weeks ago.

More than 100 farmers attended to discuss the problems created by big increases in costs, such as the 50% increase in the price of bought-in feeding compounds, over the previous year's price.

Experts presented papers on various aspects of animal feeding, including the use of equipment for feed preparation and the automated feeding of concentrates. Much emphasis was placed on the value of cattle foods according to their energy content, and methods of producing rations economically by making the best use of home-produced feedstuffs.

From our Mid-Cheshire District, energy sales engineer Mr. Dave Fisher, right, discusses the cost effectiveness of electricity with farming customers during a break in the Conference proceedings.

AUTOMATIC FEEDING

FARM ELECTRIC

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL CENTRE
DIPLOMA UNIT

Electricity consumption -
AUGUST 1975 - AUGUST 1976
(152 farms)

Less than 100 cows	100 to 200 cows	200 to 500 cows
18912	319	211-93

Approximate cost of Electricity for
Milk production (52 weeks)
at Electricity at 2.3c per unit

Less than 100 cows	100 to 200 cows	200 to 500 cows
£434-97	7-33	£4-87

Average N° of cows in milk
59-25

Total milk produced
89,237 gallons



Mr. A. W. Hawley, right, demonstrates one of the exhibits to, from left to right: Messrs. Bill Sutton, Chris Curley, George Laurie, Bob Lewis and Sid Jones.

Safety Impact Week

North Mersey District shows the way

NO MATTER how many precautions are taken to achieve a one hundred per cent safety record in our industry, accidents still happen. Sometimes the incident is serious, even fatal, while on other occasions it may seem minor, except to those who suffer the cut hand or twisted ankle. Many accidents are caused through thoughtlessness, forgetfulness or by sheer stupidity.

At one of the exhibits we see, from left to right: Mrs. Hilda Crompton, Messrs. Peter McVay, Billy Higton and Vic Heard (Senior engineer—Safety).



Every one of our Local Advisory Committees has a statutory responsibility to look after the safety and health of all our staff. Sub-Committees are formed so that a concentrated effort can be made to achieve accident free offices, depots and general working conditions.

Some time ago, the Sub-Committee of our North Mersey District LAC staged a comprehensive exhibition in an endeavour to show members of the staff how to avoid accidents in coming to work, while at work and going home from work.

Many aspects of safety were covered. Later we talked to one or two members of the staff who had visited the exhibition.

Mr. Joe Kehoe, a joiner's mate said, "*It was a great idea and we could do with this type of thing more often, maybe about four times a year. Possibly an exhibit, on smaller scale, could be housed in a corner of the new Sports and Social Club building from time to time. The damaged tools exhibit prompts me to suggest that we should use better quality tools to work with. I believe that quality lasts longer and in the long run is more economical.*"

On the Commercial side, Mr. Bill Morton, supervisor at our Maghull shop commented, "I enjoyed the exhibition and would have liked all the staff to have seen it. One disappointment was that I don't think enough emphasis was given to the treatment of electric shock. A film, or a practical demonstration would have been most helpful for in our industry, electric shock is a major hazard and we, as staff, should know how to treat its victims."

Some of our ladies learning how to correctly wire a plug, watched by a couple of men who know how. From left to right: Judith Morgan, Eric Morris, Olive Jones, Brenda Baden, Carol Birch and Harry Rimmer.



Finally, we spoke to Mrs. Edna Courtney, a Clerical 3 assistant from Work Control section. Edna too, thought the exhibition was a good idea. "But unless it is done again, very soon, we shall lose the message." She went on, "The safety aspect of our work should be brought home to us and we should have constant reminders. I work in the offices and am therefore mainly interested in what dangers lie around me. I also feel that when dangerous situations are reported to senior members of the staff or to members of the safety sub-committee, I would like to see quicker action taken."

There was no doubt that the exhibition was very well received by all who made the visit. Members of the Health and Safety Sub-Committee, led by Mr. A. W. Hawley (District Engineer) are to be congratulated on their efforts.

In our next issue, we hope to publish comments from Mr. Hawley on the points made during the Safety Impact Week project.



Regional Safety Officer Mr. Ted Clarke, wearing glasses, with two visitors to the exhibition.



Mr. Bernard Scott (1st engineer—Safety) describes an exhibit to Messrs. Cliff Weave and Peter Scrimshire.

Visitors to the exhibition take an interest in the varied exhibits neatly displayed in the North Mersey District Sports and Social Club room at Bridle Road.





"Girl from MANWEB," Jackie Pemberton escorted by V.I.P's, Councillor F. C. D. Tinkham (*Mayor of Llandudno*), left, and Councillor H. Lloyd-Jones (*Mayor of Aber Conwy*).



Men from MANWEB, Messrs. Bill Anthony (*sales representative*) left, and Arthur Thompson (*senior sales representative*) with Jackie.

Our "Girl from MANWEB" at the Welsh Coast Resorts Catering Trades Exhibition

Enjoying a tasty snack—cooked by electricity—on the MANWEB stand. From left to right: Mrs. J. T. Williams, Councillor H. Lloyd-Jones (*Mayor of Aber Conwy*), Jackie, our 'Girl from MANWEB,' Councillor J. T. Williams (*Chairman of Llandudno Hotel and Restaurant Association*), Councillor F. C. D. Tinkham (*Mayor of Llandudno*) and Miss Megan Lloyd Williams (*Mayoress of Llandudno*).



Jackie receives approval from Mrs. H. Lloyd-Jones (*Mayoress of Aber Conwy*), for the food cooked in the micro-wave oven.



Talking Notes

'PLACE THE BALL' WIN

WHEN Geoff and Barbara Keeling decided to give up their newsagent's business in Walsall and move to live in the peace and quiet of Snowdonia there were two links with their former home town that Geoff didn't manage to break.

One was his enthusiastic support for Walsall Football Club—the other his affection for the *Birmingham Evening Mail and Sports Argus*, which he had sent on to him at his new home at Carmel, a few miles outside Caernarfon.

Now his second "old habit which died hard" has proved to be something of a gold-mine, for Geoff has just won £19,000, a new Vauxhall Chevette and petrol for 10,000 miles of motoring in the newspaper's "Place the Ball" competition.

Geoff and Barbara, who both work as clerical assistants in our Gwynedd District office, live in a converted cottage with views of the mountains and sea, and keep two Welsh ponies as pets on the five acres of fields attached to their home.

Their golden windfall will mean that they will be able to pay off their mortgage and finish converting their home. Their four-year-old mini-van will go, and the new Chevette

—and all that lovely petrol—will enable them to make regular trips to Walsall to see friends and relatives, and allow Geoff to maintain his loyalty to "The Saddlers," as Walsall F.C. are known locally.

We are sure that their pleasure over their lucky success will be shared by all their MANWEB friends at Caernarfon.

How Now, Brown Cow!

At successive sittings of the examinations held by the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, 22-year-old **Mr. Malcolm E. Arthur** has passed the Silver and Gold standards.

For the latter, he delivered two prepared speeches and one impromptu speech. There was also a sight reading test and a discussion on technique. The examiner was Mr. Peter Hearne brother of the well-known Mr. Richard (Mr. Pastry) Hearne.

Malcolm went to Wigan Grammar School and Birkenhead Technical College, achieving six "O" levels and three "A" levels in English Literature, British Constitution and History. He joined the Board in August 1973 as a junior administrative trainee in our North Wirral District. Later he spent some time in our Legal

Section at Head Office before returning to Craven Street.

He goes to evening classes in 'Self Expression' at the Royal Institution in Liverpool, under the auspices of the W.E.A. His tutor, Miss L. Mainwaring is the Liverpool Secretary for the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, and she advised Malcolm to sit for the examinations.

After his 'Gold' he now intends going for The Diploma—the highest award. He feels that his ability to stand before an audience and put his thoughts into words will be a great asset in his chosen career.

Another step in this direction is being taken by Malcolm as he works for his law degree having already passed the Intermediate examination.

Mind you, giving speeches—impromptu or prepared—is no great hardship to him for he



Mr. Speaker—Malcolm Arthur

OUR COVER PICTURE shows Geoff and Barbara Keeling with winning smiles. They are joined by their two Welsh mountain ponies, Charlie left and Trystal.

Picture by 'Birmingham Post & Mail'

was 'top man' in MANWEB's section of the Electricity Supply Industry's Public Speaking Competitions in 1974 and 1976. He took second place in 1975.

He enjoys reading and is fond of old movies. The late night films on TV are a must with him, especially if the film was made in the 30's!

Runcorn Success Story

The closure of the old MANWEB shop in High Street, Runcorn, and the opening of the new shop four miles away in the Shopping City precinct has proved to be a very worthwhile move.

The first year's trading shows that turnover has more than doubled, while the choice of this new plum site, catering for a much larger shopping public, has placed MANWEB in a much more competitive position in relation to other electrical retailers.

Study Success

Congratulations to **Mr. David John Ellis**, 2nd engineer in the Head Office industrial sales section, specialising in electroheat, who gained his M.Sc. degree recently.

Mr. Ellis, who joined us from



The Master—David John Ellis

the British Steel Corporation in 1973, embarked on a year-long course in Electroheat and Industrial Process Heating at Loughborough University, supported by MANWEB and sponsored by the Electricity Council.

His wife and baby son accompanied him to Loughborough, where they rented the house belonging to the local curate—apparently the church could not afford a vicar and a curate at the time!

Among his hobbies is cricket—and although he regards himself as a batsman he made a name for himself last summer by taking nine wickets for 54 runs in a MANWEB v. Y.E.B. match.

Special Party

Our Gwynedd District staff at Caernarfon were the sponsors of a rather special Christmas Party for 40 children from the Pendalar Special School, Caernarfon—and the organisers were **Margaret Williams**, a recent finalist in the "Girl from MANWEB" competition and **Laura Anwen Jones**, of consumer accounts section.

Well-known entertainer Mr. Tony Jones sang to his own

guitar accompaniment, and to everyone's delight some of the children joined in the singing—including some solo performances.

Margaret and Anwen were helped by **Sheila Wood** and **Joyce Sizer** (consumer accounts) and **Pauline Jones** (Engineering work control).

CEGB Fisheries Awards

Two Welsh fisheries and fish farms owned by the CEGB received a major commendation in the 1976 awards announced recently by the Business and Industry Panel for the Environment.

The North Western Region's Director-General, Mr. W. Cusworth, received the award at a presentation at the Royal Society of Arts last month.

The fisheries were among 80 entries for the awards. The citation reads 'It is an example of what can be done by large-scale industries in contributing positively to the amenities of the area in which they operate.' The Panel also commended the Region for its pioneering work in using warm water effluent from power stations to aid fish farming so enabling local reservoirs and rivers to be stocked.

The fisheries, at **Ffestiniog**, Gwynedd and **Rheidol**, near Aberystwyth, attracted 14,500 visitors last year including many from overseas.

Over 21,000 brown and rainbow trout specially reared in the Region's hatcheries at Trawsfynydd and Rheidol were stocked in the two lakes on a 'put and take' basis.

A full programme of competitions has been arranged for both lakes this year:

Ffestiniog

5th—6th March—Fire Service National Benevolent Fund Open Championship (for details send

MANWEB
MID-CESHIRE
RETIRED EMPLOYEES
ASSOCIATION

1976-77 ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING

on Wednesday, April 6th at
2.30 p.m. at the MANWEB
Offices, Macon Way, Crewe

All members are cordially
invited.

SAE to Mr. J. Whincup, Fire Service Headquarters, County of Clwyd Fire Service, Lletwr Dryw Hall, Abergele Road, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd).

11th—12th June — North Wales Open Trout Championship (a jamboree fish-in before the lake is closed from 22nd June—27th July during the power station overhaul).

2nd October — Cusworth Shield Open Competition.

Rheidol

30th April—1st May—British Open Trout Championship.

27th July—Mid-Wales Open Trout Championship.

18th September — CEBG Closed Competition.

The CEBG has produced a free booklet containing details of the lakes, permit prices, and tried and tested fishing methods. There is a bonus section giving details of local accommodation and things to do to keep the family busy whilst you enjoy the fishing! Obtainable from *The Fisheries Administration Officer, Department A15, CEBG, Bron Heulog, Conwy Road, Llandudno Junction, LL31 9TQ. Tel. 0492 81397.*

Star Student

On completion of a two-year course of study in the Catering Department of Llandrillo Technical College, 18-year-old **Miss Mary Elizabeth Owen**, Beth to her friends, became the "Student of the Year."

This award is presented to "the most outstanding 2nd year student from all sections of the Hotel and Catering Departments at Llandrillo Technical College, Colwyn Bay."

Points considered for the award is the student's record of attendance, an assessment of her work during the year, final examinations and her enthusiasm for the work.

Leaving College, Beth joined MANWEB last September to



Top Student—Mary Elizabeth Owen

work as a trainee demonstrator in our Liverpool District.

Born in Aberystwyth, Beth moved to Abergele with her parents about eleven years ago.

She is a much travelled young lady. In her schooldays she went on a number of cruises visiting Russia, Denmark, Sweden, Greece, Malta, Yugoslavia and Morocco.

Beth put in lots of hard work during the holiday breaks earning money in hotels and restaurants to pay for her trips abroad.

"There are still many places I have not seen," she told us. "I would very much like a trip to the United States of America."

However, we hear that she is only making a short trip for her holiday this year... to Jersey!

Diamond Day

Congratulations from all old MANWEB colleagues to **Mr. Griffith Owen Wyne**, who is 80, and his wife **Mabel** (81) who recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding.

Mr. Wynne, who lives at

Gatefield, Hightown, Wrexham, was a painter at our Legacy Depot prior to his retirement in 1962, and later a watchman at Willow Road.

'200' Club.

Recent winners in the Club's monthly draw were: **Mr. H. W. King**, Civil Engineering (No. 116, December) and **Miss L. Gillibrand**, Financial Department (No. 234, January).

Warm Seat

The wind was howling and the snow lay thick on the night of the big January blizzard when **Mr. Frank Jones**, our foreman at Corwen, received a call for help at one o'clock in the morning.

He was told by Control that the farmer who was 'off supply' would meet him at the end of his farm track high in the moors above Cerrigy-drudion—so off set Frank on his errand of mercy.

At the appointed spot waited

ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION—
 LIVERPOOL DISTRICT
 To be held on April 30th at Thingwall Road Sports and Social Club.
 All District employees and their husbands, wives, and children, and also retired colleagues, are invited to take part.
 Entry forms from General Services section, Lister Drive.
 Twelve classes —
 Photography, Woodwork, Crocheting, Art, Embroidery, Metalwork, Handwriting, Cake Making, Toymaking, Knitting, Dressmaking and Flower Arranging.
 Closing Date for entries—March 31st.

the farmer—with one horse! So, "two up," they plodded along a mile of snowbound track to the farm, where Frank found that rats had gnawed at the wiring in the loft.

Supply restored, Dobbin carried Frank and the grateful farmer back to the point of contact with civilisation.

Riding tandem on a bare-backed horse was a new one on Frank, but, as he said "At least it helped to keep us warm!"

Pensioners' Progress

Mid-Mersey District's Pensioners' Association, which came into being in May 1975, has proved to be a very lively baby, and the report on the first year's activities by Secretary **Mr. George Wheeler** says that membership reached the 74 mark.

Annual subscription for 1976/77 will be £1.

There have been well-supported day trips to a number of interesting places (previously reported in 'Contact'), and future plans include further outings and fund-boosting draws con-

nected with the Grand National the Derby, and Christmas.

Leaves Cefndy Road

After five years with the work control section at Clwyd District **Mr. Roger Evans** left recently to join the staff of Northern Dairies. On behalf of his friends he was presented with an assortment of gifts by **Mr. David Mellor** (District Commercial Engineer).

New Arrival Pending

After eleven years with our North Wirral District, the last three in charge of the hire purchase section at Craven Street, **Mrs. Janet Green** has left us to await the arrival of her new baby. She takes with her the good wishes of the many friends she has made over the years.

Crewe to Warrington

Friends at Crewe presented a standard lamp to **Mr. Bob Martin** (principal assistant, consumers accounts, Mid-Cheshire) when he moved recently to take up a similar post with Mid-Mersey District at Warrington.

Making the presentation **Mr. J. E. Roberts** (District Administrative Officer) wished Bob good luck and success.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

LLANDRYRNOG — Bed and breakfast. Comfortable bungalow in peaceful countryside. Ideal touring walking centre for mountain and sea. Adults only. S.a.e. for details to **Mrs. Massey, The Spinney, Llandryrnog Denbigh, N. Wales.** 'Phone: Llandryrnog 325.

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OUR "GIRL" WITH THE "COMMERCIALS"

At a recent meeting at Head Office, senior members of the Board's Commercial Department were introduced to our new 'Girl from MANWEB' **Mrs. Jackie Pemberton**. We took the opportunity to take the picture, below, showing, from left to right, front row: Messrs. **Warwick Saunders** (Appliance Marketing Manager) and **Roy Stewart** (Energy Sales Manager), **Jackie**, Messrs. **Matt Cowan** (Chief Commercial Officer), **Derek Holman** (Commercial Economist) and **Don Higgs** (Installation and Service Manager). Back row, D.C.E.'s. Messrs. **Glyn Norbury** (Mid-Mersey), **George Bowers** (North Wirral), **Dennis Noad** (North Mersey), **Ron Williams** (Dee Valley), **Norman Maden** (Gwynedd), **David Mellor** (Clwyd), **Norman Walsh** (Mid-Cheshire), **Lyn Price** (Oswestry and Aberystwyth) and **Bob Jowett** (Liverpool). **Mr. Bill Shires** (Deputy Chief Commercial Officer) was in London and therefore missed the picture.





Some of the Oswestry District 20-year award recipients seen here with Group Manager Mr. Joe Winchester, centre in striped shirt.

Long Service Awards at Oswestry District

OSWESTRY District colleagues who gathered at the District office recently to receive Long Service Awards were told by the Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ben Hastings) that both the public and the Board owed them a debt of gratitude. Long service by employees was a tradition of the electricity industry, said Mr. Hastings, and the main reason why people stayed with the industry for long periods was because they knew the vital importance of their work.

"The high regard that most people have for you is not always obvious. Some times we seem to be surrounded by a sea of criticism, but that is not typical of the real feelings that people have for the people who work in the electricity industry" added Mr. Hastings, who then went on to make the presentations.

Awards were presented as follows: (*Oswestry-based staff unless otherwise stated*).

40 years: Messrs. A. R. Edwards (*installation engineer*) and R. A. Boyling (*electrician, Whitchurch*).

30 years: Miss E. V. Jones (*demonstrator*), Miss E. M. Morris (*shop supervisor*), Messrs. G. H. Davies (*foreman, Newtown*), L. Purcell (*joiner, Whitchurch*), C. H. O. Wilkinson (*driver*) and J. L. Williams (*fitter's mate*).

20 years: Miss N. S. M. Bebb (*former shorthand typist*), Messrs. W. H. Hughes (*former public lighting attendant*), C. H. Taylor (*installation inspector, Whitchurch*), F. D. Jones (*electrician, Whitchurch*), T. H. Ellis (*installation inspector*), J. R. K. Morris (*electrician, Newtown*), E. J. G. Beach (*joiner's mate, Whitchurch*), J. F. M. Davies (*linesman's mate, Welshpool*), K. A. Williams (*linesman*), G. Jones (*records draughtsman*), T. D. Ellis (*2nd engineer, Production*), W. H. Proctor (*consumer liaison*), N. G. M. Mason (*chargehand meter-reader/collector*), W. R. Evans (*installation inspector, Newtown*), G. Cross (*3rd engineer, Production*), E. L. Tegg (*linesman, Whitchurch*), G. Roberts (*linesman*) and A. E. Chandler (*driver*).

Oswestry District staff who received their 30 or 40-year Long Service Certificates from Mr. Ben Hastings (Deputy Chairman), fifth from right.





The speakers with the seminar chairman.
From left to right:
Messrs. Vic Heard,
J. G. Wallis, Glyn
Norbury and Albert
Cooper.

OUR CUSTOMERS' RESPONSIBILITY

WE ALL KNOW that electrical systems are reliable—even at high voltage. A switch, for example, can be left 'on' for years without anything going wrong.

But even with the very best of systems, sometimes faults do occur, either on the Board's side or on the customer's side. Then someone has to open the customer's switch and disconnect the supply.

To find out who this 'someone' is with the various HV customers in our Mid-Mersey District, we wrote asking for names.

However, the replies to our letter were not very good. In fact many said, in effect, "We are not sure what we have to do. What can you do to help us?"

Our District staff quickly organised three seminars at Runcorn, St. Helens and Warrington. Special invitations to HV (normally 6kV, 6.6kV or 11kV) customers were sent saying that we would explain their responsibilities as far as their power supply was concerned.

The three meetings were highly successful,

attracting 255 delegates who paid to come and listen to our speakers and later put their questions and take part in lively discussions.

The first speaker was Mr. J. G. Wallis (*Senior Electrical Inspector of Factories*). In a helpful and friendly manner he spoke about electrical legislation and statutory factory requirements. He advised those concerned to get to know their systems and practice operating a switching programme. He also suggested that a set of safety rules be drawn up and strictly adhered to. This was excellent advice clearly based on very sound experience.

Following on the theme, Mr. Vic Heard, the Board's Safety Officer expressed MANWEB's concern for the safe and sound operating procedures in all premises throughout our area. He went on to show various supply arrangements indicating where the Board's responsibilities ended and where the customer's began.

Mr. Glyn Norbury (*District Commercial Engineer*) then took the opportunity to speak to his customers about their utilisation of electricity. He said that as an Area Electricity Board we had a large capital investment in transmission and distribution mains.

"None of this has any purpose until you, as our customers, close your switch and make our meters turn. It follows that we as a Board are intensely interested in the way you use electricity."

Some of our Mid-Mersey District HV customers who attended the seminar at Warrington.





Mid-Mersey District System Engineer Mr. John Acklam, left, chats with a couple of delegates.

He then offered MANWEB's expert consultancy service to the various companies and organisations and went on to ask that the Board should be considered as bona-fide electrical contractors capable of meeting all requirements both on high-voltage and medium-voltage systems.

At each of the seminars, Mr. Albert Cooper (*District Engineer*) more than adequately chaired the proceedings. A vote of thanks to the speakers was offered by Mr. Ken Appleton (*Energy Sales Engineer*) who also commented that everyone who had attended the seminars had done so because of Mr. Cooper's real concern to improve relationships and standards at the point of contact between MANWEB and our customers.

The final outcome of the three meetings revealed that many companies do not have qualified staff to deal with their HV switchgear. All of these companies asked the Board where they could have their staff trained. Many of the questions put by the customers highlighted their inexperience towards their HV networks.

Back to that switch . . . Once our HV customers have trained staff to deal with switchgear operations, we advise that the HV switches be operated at least once a year, possibly during factory shut-downs.

One of our HV Customers seen here with Messrs. Denis Farquhar (*Assistant Chief Engineer, Systems Management*), centre, and Ken Appleton (*Mid-Mersey Energy Sales Engineer*), right.



Above: Mr. Derek Tomlinson, left, one of the District's section engineers, with a visitor to the seminar at Warrington.

Below: Mr. Harold Lever (*Electrical Engineer, Manchester Ship Canal Company*), left, with two other visitors to the exhibition, inspects a cartridge-operated cable-spiking gun.



SWAN LAKE BALLET.

by Albert Edmonds



JOHN Sidebotham—or so let me call him—is employed by the Electricity Board in a rural district not all that far from Warrington. His responsibility is the maintenance of the network of pylons in the area.

Recently, driving through one of the villages in his “parish”, he suddenly noticed one of the cables festooning down from a pylon set away from the road in an open field. He stopped his car, climbed out and went to investigate.

Reaching the field, he crawled under the barbed wire fence and walked over, noticing as he did so a large white object lying on the ground close to the foot of the gantry. He found, both to his surprise and his discomfort, that it was a large swan which had tangled with the cable and come off second best. Sidebotham never shouted it from the house tops, but he had a distinct mistrust of swans, which he feared for their obvious strength and uncertain tempers. He approached warily but, to his horror, the swan reared-up on its webbed feet, opened its wings, hissed what amounted to some deplorable four-lettered words and then began to canter towards him, beak agape and obviously in a truculent state of bad humour. Not wishing to emulate the early Christians in the Coliseum, John made a rapid and undignified exit and, despite his fifty or so years, cleared the barbed wire with Olympian ease.

From a nearby phone box he contacted his office, asking them to arrange both for a team to reinstate the cable and someone to round up the swan before it clobbered the engineers with a kung-fu blow of its out-stretched wings.

Within an hour a small yellow

RSPCA van hove in sight and from it stepped a smartly turned out inspector who introduced himself as Frank Taylor. He seemed to consider local swan-apping as a routine day-to-day occurrence, and as he wriggled under the wire said “I’ll soon have him out”.

He approached within a yard or so of the swan and then made what appeared to be a flying rugby tackle. Regrettably, the move fell short, the inspector landing flat on his stomach. The swan, quick to appreciate its moment of advantage, fell upon the prostrate body of the “cruelty man”, beak and wing. John recalled it as the most astonishing fight he had ever witnessed, but ultimately Frank Taylor won and returned to the wire fence, breathing heavily but with the infuriated swan firmly grasped by the neck and its body pinioned under his arm. “Where’s the nearest stretch of water?” he panted, and was told it was a reservoir three quarters of a mile away.

Now came the problem of getting the swan through the barbed wire without releasing it, maiming it—or getting maimed. John Sidebotham was co-opted to hold it by the neck until Taylor had extracted himself but, being terrified of the bird, the engineer grabbed it so tightly round the neck that the wretched creature was well-nigh choked before the inspector could once more take charge.

The rear compartment of the van was separated from the

driving area by a metal grille and Taylor undertook to get into this with the bird while John drove the van unimpeded, to the water. The driver-to-be opened the door for the bird and its handler but, unfortunately, in climbing over the tailgate, Frank slipped and involuntarily released the bird, while John, in a panic of apprehension, slammed the door on the two of them.

All hell was let loose, the van rocking on its springs as the second battle of birdland was fought out. Eventually quiet was restored within and John Sidebotham gingerly opened the door at the back to assess the state of the game. He found the inspector lying on the floor, his smart blue uniform smothered in feathers, but the swan triumphantly clutched to his bosom.

Thus they drove to the reservoir. But all was not yet finished. The swan was carried to the water with a view to placing it gently on the surface but the bird had ideas of its own and, emitting a raucous squawk of pent up rage, broke loose at the brink and plunged into the water in a scatter of feathers. The inspector, caught off balance, followed him with an even louder and more ungainly splash.

Eventually the bird recovered from its injuries and flew off to join his kind elsewhere, while John Sidebotham, reckoning climbing pylons a sinecure compared with the life of an RSPCA inspector, has become a regular and enthusiastic subscriber to the funds of the Society.

Well, you never know—next time he goes repairing electricity cables he might need help with an eagle.

The real MANWEB engineer in this story was John Worth of our Mid-Mersey District.

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COURSE 275 . . .

Commercial Purchasing Officer Mr. Keith Sowden, *left*, explains the Board's buying procedures to, *from left to right*, sales assistants Mike McKay (*Prescot*), Kath Stuart and Sheila Bradshaw (*Knutsford*) and marketing representative Terry Williams (*Oswestry*).

Staff on Sales Training



The rest of Course 275, *from right to left*: sales assistants Jean Long (*Bootle*), Betty Gardler (*Runcorn*), Gwen Jones (*Portmadoc*) and Peter Jones (*St. Johns*), glean more information from Mr. John Capper (*Assistant Purchasing Officer*), *left*.



Below: On their final week at the Wallasey Sales Training School we found these members of Course 276. They are, *from left to right, seated*: Christine Jones (*Dee Valley*), Beth Owens (*Liverpool*), Gwen Owen (*Bangor*), Ceri Hughes (*Dee Valley*) and Marie Doyle (*St. Johns*). *Standing*: Anne Snape (*Newtown*), Edith Kennett (*St. Johns*), Val Eastwood (*sales training instructor*) and Peter Griffiths (*Aberystwyth*).



== RETIREMENTS ==

Mr. N. McINTOSH

After more than 41 years' service to the industry Mr. Norman McIntosh, assistant engineer at Nantwich, retired recently.

Norman began as a clerical assistant with Birkenhead Corporation in 1935, served in the Royal Navy from 1939 to 1945, and became a wayleave officer in 1949. Six years later he became assistant engineer at Nantwich.

Tributes to his loyal and conscientious service were paid by several speakers at an informal gathering, when Mr. G. Zeiher (*District Engineer*) presented Norman with a cheque to buy workshop tools. He has a workshop fitted with lathes and other machinery, where he spends many happy hours making models, his most recent being a scale model steam locomotive on five-inch gauge rails. Other hobbies include caravanning and playing the electronic organ.

Mr. G. N. LATHAM

During his 17 years with MANWEB as a meter-reader and foreman Mr. Noel Latham found himself in some interesting situations—but his most vivid memory is that of his first visit to read the meters at a nudist colony!

At a Mid-Cheshire gathering to mark his retirement Noel recalled the story to the great amusement of his colleagues (some suggest that it was just a case of the foreman keeping the plum jobs for himself). On behalf of his many friends Noel was

presented with a book on birds (feathered variety), and a set of oil paints (for painting the other kind?) by Mr. John Roberts (D.A.O.).

His colleagues hope that Noel, a keen fisherman and a proficient dancer, will spare them a thought when sitting on the river bank with his fishing rod or easel—and they look forward to the possibility of an appearance on "Come Dancing" on the box!

Mr. A. SEARLE

Although Mr. Albert Searle, who retired from the Clwyd District consumers accounts section recently, only worked for the Board for three years, he made many friends and looked after the finances of that ever-popular social occasion, the children's annual Christmas Party.

On behalf of his colleagues Albert was presented with a wrist watch by Mr. George Cooksley (D.A.O.) A noted long-distance runner in his younger days, Albert now takes a keen interest in bowls.

Mr. W. J. HUNT

After 43 years' service to the industry, Mr. Wil Hunt, foreman meter-reader at Gwynedd District, retired recently.

Mr. Hunt began his career as a meter-reader/collector in the days of the North Wales Power Company (riding a Norton 500 motor-cycle!) Soon after nationalisation he became a chargehand meter-reader/collector, and has been a foreman for the past five years.

On behalf of his many friends, made in a lifetime's service, he was presented with parting gifts by Mr. D. Hughes (*District Administrative Officer*).

Friends from Gwynedd District gather round on the occasion of a colleagues retirement. On their behalf, Mr. Hughes, (centre left), presents their farewell gifts and has a parting handshake for Mr. Hunt.



Mr. J. L. TAYLOR

After 47 years' service to the industry Mr. Joseph Linden Taylor, meter installation inspector with North Wirral District, retired recently.

Mr. Taylor began as a messenger boy with Birkenhead Corporation, progressing through the years to apprentice meter tester and repairer, electrician, and installation inspector/meter fixer. A well-liked and respected colleague, Mr. Taylor (together with his wife, Betty) has been an active member of the District's Sports and Social Club.

On behalf of his many friends he was presented with a cheque by Mr. George Bowers (*District Commercial Engineer*).

Mrs. E. BURKE

"Every day has been a happy one," was the tribute paid to colleagues past and present by Mrs. Eileen Burke, private secretary at Head Office, when many friends gathered recently to wish her well in her retirement.

Starting as a shorthand typist in 1948 Eileen became successively head of the Area 3 typing pool and private secretary to the Area Accountant, a Group Manager, and finally the Deputy Chief Commercial Officer, Mr. Bill Shires.

During her Area 3 days she was the Secretary



Mrs. Burke, with husband, Fred, left, and Mr. Bill Shires.

of the Sports and Social Club. She is interested in music, and spends most weekends with her husband Fred in their caravan in Wales.

Goodbye—and Hello—at Oswestry

After 42 years' service in the Electricity Industry, Mr. W. J. (Bill) Thompson, retired from his position as Oswestry District Administrative Officer, and handed over the responsibility for the accountancy and administrative functions in the District to Mr. Arthur J. Ellinson.

Bill started his career with the Electricity Board for Northern Ireland in his native Ulster in 1935, as clerk and storekeeper.

In 1948 he came to MANWEB as a Stores Superintendent in the former Area 4 at Wrexham. Seven years later he moved to Head Office in Liverpool and on re-organisation of the Board in 1970 he was appointed D.A.O. at Oswestry.

No doubt much of his retirement will be spent on the golf course, trying to reduce his handicap—at one time Bill was playing off scratch.

His successor Arthur Ellinson joined the Board in 1962 as a student engineer. He obtained an Electricity Industry Scholarship and studied electrical engineering at Liverpool University, where he gained his Bachelor of Science degree.

After completing his training

he worked for a short while as a general assistant engineer in Liverpool, before joining the Management Services Unit in 1968. He became a member of the Corporate Development section of M.S.U. in 1971.

Arthur and his wife Ann have two daughters, Joanna and Tracy, and most of his spare time is tied up with church and youth work.

Changeover at Oswestry District on the District Administrative Officer's retirement. From left to right: Messrs. Mike Beard, Arthur Ellinson, Bill Thompson, Sid Warburton and George Wild.



"SUSPENDED SENTENCE FOR METER FIDDLE"

"Chester Man Fined £25 for Stealing Electricity"

THESE are two typical headlines which we have seen increasingly in newspapers during the past 12 months. They are the result of reports to the police by our District staff after visits to check that Board equipment is sealed and that electricity used is metered. It is estimated that the Board has been losing upwards of £1,500,000 per annum through the illegal use of electricity by interfering with meters.

To combat this problem, a programme of re-sealing Board

equipment in consumers' premises—meters, cut-outs, time switches, etc.—is being undertaken and will continue until all premises have been checked. In most cases where seals are broken or missing, it is for some innocent reason, possibly having been left off by the Board, and there is no sug-

gestion of tampering with meters. In some cases, however, our staff find evidence of criminal interference—sometimes ingenious, sometimes dangerous—and these are reported to the police.

In their capacity as consumers, Board staff will also naturally expect to be visited by our inspection teams as part of the re-sealing programme and the same checks will, of course, be made on their equipment.

As members of a public service, we are sure that staff will appreciate the necessity for this course of action and will co-operate to the full with their colleagues who are engaged on this work.

Obituary

We deeply regret to report the deaths of the following former colleagues.

Mrs. Winnie Hayes, formerly of our shops at Whitechapel and St. John's Precinct.

Mr. Joe Ince, a well-known character in Liverpool, aged 85.

Mr. W. N. (Bill) Nealey, administrative assistant at Head Office, whose retirement was reported last month.

Mr. Robert Roberts, a labourer at Vauxhall depot until his retirement a few years ago.

And from North Wirral District...

Mr. Alfred Hall, former storekeeper.

Mr. J. Henderson, former meter test repairer, later with the CEBB.

Mr. Herbert Holmes, former meter installation section.

Mr. G. Roberts, former Commercial asst and later Senior Electrical Lecturer at Birkenhead Technical College.

Mr. Bertie Tait, former gang labourer.

People Write . . .

From the landlady of a pub at Treuddyn, near Mold:

"On Christmas Eve I had occasion to call you for assistance for an Excel Superfry.

"The electrician who came was so helpful, and he received wonderful co-operation from the stores at your end—he even went to the trouble of finding my husband who was frantically running around Wrexham trying to buy the spare part required. In the days of constant complaint from customers I would put on record one customer's gratitude for a job very well done."

The bouquets go to Commercial foreman **Tudor Jones** and electrician **Geoff Jones**.



. . . a very grateful letter from a Runcorn lady to Mid-Mersey District . . .

"I am writing to thank your marvellous team of men at MAN-

WEB—two in particular—who worked for two and a half hours from 10 p.m. to 12.30 a.m. on New Year's Eve to give me a temporary supply of power after a failure, linking up from a neighbour's garage.

"They came out within 20 minutes of my call, found it was an underground fault, worked in the pouring rain, would not even accept a drink of tea, then left quietly to go to another job.

"I can't praise these men enough for their wonderful efficiency and co-operation so late at night . . . I must not forget, also, the men who put the underground fault right so quickly on the Sunday morning."

This special bouquet goes to **Mr. Geoff Lamb** (1st engineer) and **Mr. Eric Keogh** (joiner).

A Thought for the Month.

Do you realise that . . . the cost of electricity to run a refrigerator for a week is less than the cost of two pints of milk?