

Merseyside and
North Wales
Electricity Board
staff newspaper

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ONE FOR THE ROAD

BUOYANT
APPLIANCE
SALES

MAJOR appliances featured prominently in the sales boom achieved by MANWEB shops during December. The month's figures show an increase in overall appliance sales, which maintains the year's running total of a rise of 12% over the same period last year.

A warm home at an economic price seems to be the main Christmas present MANWEB families have given themselves, with storage heater sales up by 55% over December 1983. At the other end of the temperature spectrum fridge/freezers showed a rise of just under 20% in numbers sold and an even greater rise in cash value.

Direct acting heating appliances — convectors, fan heaters, radiant fires etc. sold in increasing numbers, up 17%. Tumble dryers were only a couple of percentage points behind and microwaves sold 13% more.

Commenting on the figures, Marketing Services Officer, Keith Sowden, said, "The traditional Christmas gifts, small appliances, such as hairdryers, shavers and the like, have continued to sell reasonably well but our main growth area is with storage heaters and larger appliances."

November was also a very good month for trading in our shops, with sales 16.3% up on the same month last year.

Most categories of appliances showed healthy increases, with microwave cookers, fridge/freezers, water heaters, clothes driers, cleaners and storage heaters all up by more than 30%.

The initial figures for January would appear to confirm that the buoyant trend is continuing in 1985.

Novel electric vehicle from Sinclair

THE LONG and sometimes rocky road towards the development and public acceptance of electrically-powered road vehicles took another significant step forward last month, when Sir Clive Sinclair's latest brain-child, the battery-powered, pedal assisted C5 "trike", was launched nationwide.

Reaction from press and TV, from motoring and safety organisations, from experts and the man-in-the-street, ranged from bubbling enthusiasm to outright condemnation. The only certainty is that no-one ignored it, and that within a matter of a couple of days everyone had a pretty good idea of what the new "baby" looked like, and what it was likely to be capable of.

The electricity supply industry has always encouraged and supported the development of electrically-powered vehicles. Time was when tramcars and trolley-buses, drawing mains power from overhead conductors, provided the backbone of public transport in most of our big cities.

Those days, of course, are long gone — to

the regret of a small band of enthusiasts. Those efficient and pollution-free vehicles have been pushed into the history museums by millions of diesel-engined buses, filling our streets with choking, black exhaust fumes.

On the other hand, to an ever-increasing extent, the railway locomotives of the past, devouring tons of coal shovelled by sweating firemen, have been replaced by silent, more powerful and pollution-free locos hauling our high-speed, inter-city trains.

In recent years the main drive on the road transport front has been devoted to battery power. In some limited areas the battery-electric vehicle has attained supremacy. The silent efficient milk-float is familiar to us all. The fork-lift truck provides unpolluted energy in the confines of warehouses and factories. More recently, battery-powered vans, capable of holding their own in busy traffic, have established themselves as playing commercially useful roles and seem to have an assured future.

● TURN TO PAGE 2

Janet Britten, a 19-year-old Commercial assistant at Head Office, demonstrates Sir Clive Sinclair's electric baby to journalists from local newspapers, and poses in the vehicle for press photographer pictures. (See the photographers-eye-view of Janet on page 2)



THE C5 — FACTS AND FIGURES

PERFORMANCE—Maximum speed — 15 m.p.h. Range on one battery charge - 20 miles approx.

CONSTRUCTION— Corrosion protected steel chassis. Injection moulded polypropylene body.

WHAT MAKES IT GO— One high-spec. battery, rechargeable from flat in eight hours. Power at the touch of your thumb. Pedals to help it out — or get you home if battery runs flat.

DIMENSIONS— Length 5ft. 9ins. Width 2ft. 5ins. Weight (without battery) - 66lb. Luggage boot - one cubic foot.

STEERING AND BRAKES— Cycle type handlebars, with bike-style brake levers.

PURCHASE AND PRICE— Basic £399, plus packing and delivery to your door. Mail order only.

SERVICE— Via the Hoover Service network.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS— Weather-beating side panels. Wing mirrors. Indicators. Horn. High-visibility mast. Tonneau cover. Weather-proof clothing.

A crown for the Jewellers

AT the end of January, the judges of the MANWEB Shop Display Lighting Competition announced that the Challenge trophy, a framed Award of Distinction and more than £200-worth of modern display lighting equipment donated by Thorn Limited, had been won by Chique Jewellery of Watergate Street in Chester.

At a special ceremony to be held at Head Office on February 12th, Peter Hopkins (Chief Commercial Officer) will present the Trophy to the owners of the winning shop, Jill and Danny Bock.

Last November, MANWEB invited shopkeepers throughout the area to enter their shop window or in-store displays for the competition.

"The response to this, our first major display-lighting competition, has been most gratifying," said the Board's Lighting Development Engineer Gerry Worthington. "The timing for the promotional special lighting effect — just before Christmas — was very opportune."

"Judging however, proved to be quite a task. We looked at the problems and limitations of the various entries and at the design, effectiveness, originality and cost of the lighting installations."

▲ TURN TO PAGE 2



Pole 1 Caravan 0

Gale-force winds lifted a static caravan and crashed it against an overhead line pole carrying a transformer at Ysgo Rhiw, Aberdaron in our Gwynedd District. The pole stood its ground but the caravan was broken like matchwood. Our thanks to 'R.T.' Jones (2nd engineer) who took photographs when he and his team went out to restore supply.

▲ FROM PAGE ONE

**JEWELLERS
WIN DISPLAY
LIGHTING
COMPETITION**



Gerry Worthington.

The eight organisations short-listed for final judging were scrutinised by Gerry and Dr. Peter Boyce, a vision research officer at the Electricity Council Research Centre at Capenhurst.

"Really effective use of lighting has tremendous pulling power, both in daylight and after dark," Gerry continued. "Every trader needs to give careful consideration to making the best use of artificial light, taking into account all the factors which affect his particular shop. Planned lighting, which is energy effective, is very important in making retail business competitive."

"Modern lighting aids are now so varied and versatile that they can enhance the appeal of any kind of merchandise". He concluded, "We expected a good standard of entry in our com-

petition and we got it. This reflected the growing understanding of the importance of good lighting by trader's throughout the Board's Area."

**Shop
window
for
Sinclair's
baby**

THE electricity industry's role, in accordance with our policy of encouraging the development of electric vehicles, is to provide a "showcase" for the C5, which will be on display at around 100 Electricity Board shops throughout the country. We shall not be actually selling it as a direct commercial exercise.

The C5 is on show at six MANWEB shops — Liverpool, St. John's, Bootle, Birkenhead, Chester, Wrexham and Crewe.

During the first few days enormous public interest was reported from all shops concerned. Supplies of leaflets rapidly became exhausted, and shop staff were bombarded with enquiries. St. John's were asked by an association representing disabled people whether it could be bought in bulk!

But probably the prize inquiry, also made at St. John's, came from a harassed looking lady with two small children in tow.

Said she: "Please show me where to put the ten-pence piece in so that little Johnny can have a ride!"



"It's great fun", says Janet Britten as she puts C5 through its paces.



"... and where do I put the 10p to give Johnny a ride"

● FROM PAGE ONE

**SIR CLIVE'S
ELECTRIC ONE
FOR THE ROAD**

The single seater C5, developed by electronics wizard Sir Clive, does not, of course, pretend to be a load carrier or a family vehicle. What the manufacturers do claim, however is significant—

"The C5 is just the beginning... by the early 1990's Sinclair will have on the road a range of fast, quiet, astonishingly economical family vehicles."

If that claim proves to be justified, then the millions of pounds spent by Sinclair will indeed be the key to a transport revolution!

VIP AT BRIDLE ROAD

COUNCILLOR Mrs. Jean Jessop, J.P., paid an official visit to our North Mersey District Office complex a short time ago. She was welcomed by senior officers and conducted on a tour when she met members of the Board's staff. She gained an insight into aspects of the work carried out. Mrs. Jessop is quite knowledgeable on electrical matters being President of the Southport Branch of the Electrical Association for Women.

Before leaving the offices, Roy Roughley (2nd engineer), on behalf of the District staff and as Chairman of the Sports and Social Club, presented the Mayor with a cheque donation of £150 for her personally-sponsored Ethiopian Appeal Fund.

On tour at Bridle Road, from left to right: Danny Dutton, (Research and Development Officer), Councillor Cliff Jessop (The Mayor's Consort), The Mayor, Ken Appleton (District Commercial Manager) and Roy Roughley.



Loading a compact disc into the Sentra 880 is Head Office administrative assistant, Elaine James.

STAFF OFFER

**TRY A LITTLE
'LIGHT' MUSIC**

A REVOLUTION in the music business is taking place as more and more music lovers turn to the compact disc. With disc prices set to fall and players already stabilising at about half their launch price of about two years ago, sales of both look set to take off.

The robust 4½ inch disc is virtually indestructible. Up to 75 minutes continuous music is stored on this single-sided disc. There is no wear and tear on the disc's digital information

which is read by a laser beam. This is converted into unpolluted sound — no tape hiss, clicks from scratches, hum or rumble. It is unlikely any damage to the disc could occur but the player will compute, through its error correction circuits, a compensation for missing sections.

The Sentra 880 is one such machine which has come down below the £300 barrier, and has been available through the Board for £259 with a free disc. Now MANWEB have broken the £200 barrier — just — with a special offer to MANWEB present and retired staff of £199.95. There are a limited number and they are only available from Chester shop — anyone interested should ring supervisor Tony Owen to reserve their player immediately.

The Sentra comes complete with a display number for the track being played, elapsed and remaining time, auto time, auto repeat, pause, repeat for track or whole disc, and a two speed facility — forward or reverse. It also has auto track selection, auto drawer opening, auto play, one touch load, play, stop and eject.

**CASHLESS
PAY**

"OUR aim for 1984 was to achieve a target of 50 per cent of the Board's industrial staff transferring to monthly pay by bank transfer. I am pleased to record that the year-end figure was 62 per cent," said Peter Falcon (Assistant Chief Accountant).

"A further ten per cent are receiving their pay through weekly bank transfer leaving only 28 per cent of NJIC staff receiving their wages in cash each week."

Mr. Falcon told us he hoped the trend would continue so that we could eliminate cash payments by the summer period.



SAFETY SCENE

Handle with care

TODAY in Great Britain, over one quarter of all injuries at work happen to employees who do not take the necessary precautions when lifting, moving or handling objects.

Over the past 60 years, statistics show that, with few exceptions, the total number of people injured in this way has increased annually. As a consequence, current figures point to more than 70,000 employees incurring injuries resulting in absence from work for more than three days.

Last year, 623 members of the electricity supply industry staff sustained injury through incorrectly lifting, moving and handling objects. In MANWEB we had 33 such accidents amounting to 27 per cent of our total 'over three days' accidents in our Board.

Injuries in the 'Handling Objects' category are generally caused by attempting to lift, move or carry excess weight. Often the result to the body is over-strain through sudden

stress or violent movement. However, this is not always the case. Many injuries are brought on by the cumulative effect of doing simple, everyday jobs in the wrong manner.

It is not only industrial staff who suffer from this type of accident. Members of our staff employed in sedentary occupations can be just as much at risk



MORAL: DON'T TEMPT FATE — GET THE HELP OF A MATE!

of bodily injury through not taking precautions when lifting, moving and handling objects.

There are simple rules to follow in order to prevent a 'Handling' accidents happening to you.

When moving things, if the load is awkward or heavy — get help. Use mechanical aids if they are available. Check for sharp edges, nails or other projections and use correct gloves as an additional precaution to save damaging your hands. Get a good grip on the object to be moved and use the palm of the hands for holding on to the object, never just the fingers. Finally, when lifting heavy objects, bend your knees, keep your back straight and lift slowly and steadily using your leg muscles as a source of power.

Lifting and moving instructors have been appointed in all Districts as well as at Queensferry Stores and Hoylake Training Centre. With their guidance and by following the rules, let us hope that 1985 will see a dramatic reduction in the numbers of 'Handling Objects' accidents.

"Safetywise '85" campaign

In general, the campaign in MANWEB has got off to a slow start. Prizewinning posters have been displayed on noticeboards and most Districts have held introductory meetings dealing with the safety drive.

It is most essential that for an effective outcome the campaign should quickly gain momentum and involve every member of the Board's staff. Even though you may not be working in a particular area, if

you see a dangerous situation, do something about it to make it safe.

Hopefully, our next progress report will be more encouraging and show a definite dip in our accident figures.

Long Service



40-year man, Gordon Harris.

WE offer our congratulations to the following members of the Board's staff who, during the month of January, have completed 40, 30 or 20 years in the electricity supply industry.

40 YEARS — Dee Valley District: **J. A. Gordon Harris** (craftsman electrical inspection).

30 YEARS — Mid-Mersey District: **William H. Royden** (shop supervisor, St. Helens). Dee Valley District: **Len Davies** (craftsman overhead lines).

North Wirral District: **Ken Bull** (driver). Clwyd District: **Brian Davies** (craftsman electrical inspection). Gwynedd District: **John Elwyn Roberts** (general duties assistant). Oswestry District: **Ted Beach** (craft attendant). Head Office: **Denis Farquhar** (Assistant Chief Engineer).

20 YEARS — North Mersey District: **J. Don Ashworth** (craftsman electrician). Liverpool District: **John R. Hessom** (craftsman metering). Mid-Mersey District: **Keith Davies** (craft attendant) and **Ena Harding** (administrative assistant). North Wirral District: **Ronald Farrell** (craftsman Civil). Mid-Cheshire District: **Alan M. Hough** (craft attendant) and **Harry Wilson** (craft electrician). Clwyd District: **J. Eddie Garrett** (craftsman electrician). Gwynedd District: **Emlyn Williams** (driver, general duties assistant). Head Office: **Robert Wright** (principal assistant, Queensferry Stores).

MANWEB BADMINTON TEAM TRIALS

MANWEB hope to field a strong team this year in the Electricity Supply Industry Championships and the search is on for good players.

The championships, sponsored this year by Norweb, will be held in Manchester at the Stretford Sports Centre, on the 12th, 13th and 14th April. Accommodation has been arranged at Manchester University.

Trials for the MANWEB team are planned for late February or early March, and Joe Pugh from Head Office Computer section tells us he would like to hear from good players. If you are handy with a racket why not give Joe or Carol Gorman, a ring on 2306 or 2342.

COST-EFFECTIVE ELECTRIC HEATING

MODERN electric heating systems for business premises, schools, colleges, hospitals and other public buildings, are described in a new Electricity Council booklet, "Heatelectric — The Business Proposition". It is a comprehensive illustrated guide, not just to the many different forms of electric heating, but also to energy efficiency.

Storage heating systems are recommended for premises with long hours of occupation and direct actual heating for premises which have irregular or infrequent occupancy. Radiant heaters, forced air and



CIVIC SHIELD AWARD

A special ceremony was held at the Llys Glan Aber sheltered-accommodation housing development in Vale Road, Rhyl, to present a 'Civic Shield' Award to Rhuddlan Borough Council.

Our picture, above, shows Council Chairman Cyril Roberts, right, receiving the Award and Certificate from David Mellor (Customer Services Manager). Also in the picture is the builder of the properties Ken Williams, second from right, Eric Davies (foreman engineering and Rhuddlan Borough Councillor), left, and Colin Edwards (2nd engineer), fourth from left.

natural convector heaters, floorwarming and ceiling heating are also described, and examples of suitable applications in industrial and commercial premises are illustrated. There are also sections on water heating, heating with ventilation and heat pumps, and

there is advice on management controls to help reduce energy consumption. "Heatelectric — The Business Proposition" is available post free from the Electricity Council, Marketing Department, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD.

Second Year apprentices return to Hoylake



Top: Electricians — from left to right: Alan Simcott (Dee Valley), John Rigby (Oswestry), Shaun Gallagher (Liverpool) and Ian Forshaw (Liverpool).

Centre: Jointers — from left to right: Gary Barnes (Mid-Cheshire), Steve Waring (Mid-Mersey), Alan Crutchley (Mid-Cheshire) and David Hughes (North Mersey).

Below: Linesmen — from left to right: with Instructor Bob Wilson we see: Graham Parry (Clwyd), Chris Powell (Gwynedd), John Roberts (Gwynedd) and Ian Price (Aberystwyth).



Items from Aber



Iona and Andy Stubbs.

STORK VISIT

OUR popular telephonist at District Office for the past 11 years, Iona Stubbs, left on maternity leave just before Christmas. Colleagues subscribed to present her with a number of personal gifts in addition to a few useful 'things' for the new arrival.

Husband Andy (2nd engineer) now proudly informs one and all that Iona has presented him with a beautiful daughter weighing in a 6lb and half-an-ounce. The child was born on January 17th, Iona's own birthday!

GREEN CHAMPIONS

AFTER a number of years languishing in the Queens Road Bowling Club League, the MANWEB team from the District Sports and Social Club has completed a very successful season. They have gained promotion to the 1st Division and have carried off the League Cup.



The bowlers, from left to right, standing: Dilwyn Thomas (linesman), lori Edwards (installation inspector) and Tony Keevan, captain (meter operative). Seated: Elwyn Clarke (installation inspector, retired) and John McTavish (linesman), Andy Stubbs (2nd engineer) and Cliff Thomas (joiner) are team members who missed the picture.



THE BIG CATCH

THE first one-day fishing competition held at Dinas Reservoir, Ponterwyd, was organised for the District Sports and Social Club by Tony Keevan (meter operative).

The Perpetual Shield, and a smaller personal trophy, went to the winner of the Adult Section, David Burgess, a former meter operative prior to his retirement due to ill health.

The Junior Section prize went to David Ricketts, the son of Tom Ricketts, yet another meter operative. David also picked up the special trophy for netting the heaviest catch of the day.

Left: Trophy winners David Burgess, left, and David Ricketts.

Mr. E. A. BOLD
"WE are sorry to lose such a reliable and conscientious member of our Runcorn depot staff," commented Mid-Mersey District Commercial Manager Glyn Norbury when making a farewell presentation to Ernest Arthur Bold, a craftsman electrician on the occasion of his early retirement after 44 years' service.

Arthur started his working life in 1940 as a 15-year-old apprentice with the former Mersey Power Company. He had a four-year spell in the Army from 1944 and reached the rank of sergeant in the Grenadier Guards.

He returned to his civilian work with MANWEB in 1948.

A special claim to fame for Arthur was that up to last August, he held the District record for safe driving with an unbroken 29 accident-free years.

He is a widower and has daughter practicing as a doctor in London.

His hobbies include supporting Runcorn F.C. at home and away. During the summer months he watches

RETIREMENTS

Farewells to friends and colleagues



Glyn Norbury, left, says farewells to Arthur Bold as friends at Runcorn depot look on.

Lancashire C.C.C. at Old Trafford. Arthur received retirement gifts of a carriage clock from colleagues in the District and a road atlas from the LJCC.

Mr. A. E. EVANS

FRIENDS from MANWEB and other Boards gathered at Head Office to give District Sales Supervisor, Arthur Evans, a fine send off into retirement.

After serving in the Second World War as a glider pilot — he was at the Battle of Arnhem — he joined the Birkenhead Corporation Electricity Department as a meter reader in 1946 and came to MANWEB with nationalisation two years later. Five years later he returned to the Corporation for a short spell before becoming a sales representative with MANWEB in 1954.

A year later he took over as senior service centre assistant at the old Bootle shop. He remained in charge there until he was appointed as District

Early days in retirement, pictured in the garden of their home at Nantwich is Arthur Evans and his wife Bess.



Sales Supervisor for Mid-Cheshire in 1970. He added the shops in Mid-Mersey to his brief in 1982. Arthur and his wife, Bess, have two daughters, both of

whom are married and have three children between them. To give his retirement a bright start, he and Bess are taking the whole family on the holiday of a lifetime to America. The number one priority being a visit to Disneyland for the grandchildren.

When he returns home, Arthur plans to put some of his boundless energy into playing golf and woodwork. His first project is to make toys — we can see three grandchildren being spoiled rotten! We add our best wishes for a long and happy retirement to those of his many friends and colleagues in the industry.

RETIREMENTS IN DEE VALLEY

AMONG the staff who have recently retired from our Dee Valley District are:

Percy Bowen, a substation attendant in the District Reporting Centre, who had completed 31 years' service.

Eddie Edwards, a storekeeper at the Legacy depot, who rejoined the board in 1953.

Tom Evans, the popular shop supervisor at Wrexham, who had been with the industry for 34 years.

Dennis Hopwood, a general duties assistant at the Legacy depot, who had completed 37 years' service.

Mona Jones, a shop assistant at Shotton for the past 14 years.

Miss N. KNEALE

Computer staff gave Norah Kneale a fine send-off into retirement with a lunchtime 'Kissogram'. Norah who has completed 22 years with the Board

is seen in the centre of a group of colleagues. From the left are Ann Briffa, Wendy Callcott, Computer services Manager, John Peaker, and Barbara Jones.



OBITUARY

WE deeply regret to record the deaths of former colleagues and extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

Mr. James Green, aged 85, a retired linesman from our Dee Valley District.

Mr. John Roland Griffiths, aged 84, a former shift electrician based at Nothwich.

Mr. John P. Hammond, aged 48, a 2nd engineer in Plant and Construction at Head Office, who died suddenly last month.

Mr. Winston Jones, aged 69, a general duties assistant at Legacy depot prior to his retirement.

Mr. Emyln James, aged 77, an electrician with the Clwyd District prior to his retirement.

Mr. John Daniel Roberts, aged 72, a former joiner based at the Legacy depot prior to his retirement.

Mr. H. E. L. Webb, aged 65, a former electrician at Corwen depot who retired in 1982.

Come and join us!

THE North Wirral District Retired Employees Association is sending out a call to all former electricity supply industry employees, now living in the North Wirral area, to join the group.

They meet regularly on the first Wednesday of every month at 2.30 p.m. in the Board's District Office in Prenton Way, Birkenhead.

At the meeting on February 6th, a guest speaker from the DHSS will pass on information about benefits. On March 6th, a representative from Swan Hill Dairies will give a talk and, on April 3rd, there is a provisional booking for a speaker on the subject of income tax!

Among the trips to places of interest already arranged are

outings to Warwick on Thursday, 25th April and a drive to the Vale of Evesham on Thursday, 6th June.

So, don't just sit at home. Go along to the Prenton Way Office on the first Wednesday of every month. You will be sure to meet many old — and some new — friends.

Cartoon by GAB



"It seems to have an insatiable appetite for single socks!"



Pictured behind a mass of farewell gifts we see Dick Goodwin, left, with his wife Carol and Alan Wadcock.

Mr. R.G. GOODWIN

AN excellent and talented jazz musician, left-handed bass player Dick Goodwin, decided against earning his living in the world of music for a more 'secure' career in commerce. Now, this very popular colleague in the Liverpool District has retired from his post as a principal assistant in the Accounts section.

Dick's first job of work after leaving school was with a chartered accountant in Liverpool. Later he went to work for a shipping company prior to joining the former Wallasey Corporation Education Department.

During the war years he served with 'The Loyals' in Ireland, Italy, Egypt, Syria and Palestine. He took part in the action on the Anzio Beachhead and in the liberation of Rome and Florence.

Back in civilian life he was employed in an estate agents office before joining MANWEB thirty-five years ago.

His musical talent blossomed during his army days. He formed his first band on St. Valentine's Day 1949. This was to become the famous Merseysippi Jazz Band. "We had some great times playing the music we liked for people who liked our music," he reminisced. The group is still going strong and has four of the original band still playing. A special dance night was arranged at the Thingwall Road Club-house on the Saturday following Dick's retirement, with the Merseysippi Jazz Band as the main attraction.

After clearing up one or two slight medical problems, Dick intends to take his wife Carol to live in their Spanish villa. We don't know what he will do with

his record collection of over 600 L.P.s which include a handful he made with the Merseysippi Jazz Band!

At his farewell party at Lister Drive, Administrative Manager Alan Wadcock paid tribute to Dick's popularity and his service with the Board as he formally handed over a table laden down with dozens of farewell gifts from friends and colleagues throughout the Board.

Mr. F. NEWELL

JUST five months short of half a century in the electricity supply industry Frank Newell, engineering foreman at Crane Street, Chester, has retired.

He joined Chester Corporation as a lamp-lighter in 1935. With the outbreak of war in 1939 he joined the RAF and served as an electrician in the Western Desert and Italy. He returned to the Corporation and the Crane Street depot on demobilisation, becoming a member of MANWEB staff on

nationalisation in 1948. He has served all his working life at Crane Street.

He and his wife Ann, who recently retired from the Head Office staff at Sealand Road, have three children, a son and two married daughters. They also have three grandchildren.

Frank keeps fit by cycling and walking and plans to do more in retirement. Friends and colleagues subscribed to a colour television as a parting gift.

District Engineering Manager, John Parry, presents Frank Newell, left, with a colour TV and Frank's wife Ann, with a bouquet on behalf of Dee Valley colleagues.



Mr. J COLLINS

ONE of the electricity supply industry's longest serving members, James Collins, a meter reader at Lister Drive, has now retired after completing more than 50 years with the former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department and MANWEB.

Jimmy began his working life in March 1934 as an office boy before taking up an apprenticeship as an electrician.

Immediately after he qualified, he was called-up for service with the Royal Navy. For the next six years he served in a variety of ships, including submarines. He was on board HMS Jersey when it was torpedoed on its way to Malta and Jimmy was in the water for many hours before being rescued.

Later he saw action in the Pacific zone before returning home.

Jimmy then resumed his civilian occupation as an electrician with the 'Corpy' and carried on his trade when MANWEB took over in 1948.

About ten years ago he changed his job and became a meter reader. "I love my work", Jimmy told us. "I am very proud of my record in the industry and pleased to have completed it without any serious hitches."

Married to Elizabeth, they have two sons, James and Philip.



Jimmy Collins, front right, with his wife Elizabeth and colleagues Billy Whittington, left, and Mick Connor.

Jimmy's gift from the LJCC, a book on gardening, points to his favourite pastime. His colleagues at Lister Drive subscribed to buy him a radio which was presented by Alan Wadcock (District Administration Manager).



Colleagues at Northwich depot gather round as Mike Metcalfe, centre left, has a farewell handshake for John Goulding.

Mr. F. GOULDING

STARTING work as a 'store lad' at the Northwich depot, John Goulding has now retired as a storekeeper at the same place exactly 47 years later.

During the war John served with the RAOC and became a cook — (we still won!). Soon after 'D' Day in 1944 he went to France, Belgium and Holland and at one time 'brewed-up' for Field Marshall Montgomery.

He returned to Northwich and did a variety of jobs from overhead line work to winding up the street lighting clocks. After a while, he returned to the stores and among other

duties, became depot 'cat keeper'.

A bachelor, John is a keen bowls player and has won a number of team trophies over the years. He also enjoys a spot of dancing.

Colleagues gathered recently to wish John happy retirement as Mike Metcalf (Administration Manager) presented him with their parting gift of a portable colour TV.

As a racing man, John will be able to follow his favourite horses — he recently pulled off a big win — anywhere around his home.

Mr. J. PARRY

HAVING completed over 28 years' service with MANWEB, senior photographic assistant at Head Office, John Parry, has taken early retirement.

After serving in the Royal Air Force as a flight mechanic during the Second World War, he returned to civilian life in 1947. For several years he was the proprietor of a fish and chip shop in Rhos, near Wrexham.

In 1956 he became a meter reader with the Board and two years later was made a print room operator in the former Area 4 at Wrexham. Following

the Board re-organisation in 1970, John moved to Chester and became a senior photographic assistant, where he gained a reputation for his meticulous record keeping.

John is married, and he and his wife Gwenda enjoy travelling. He is a reluctant gardener and likes nothing better than to sit and relax with some classical music playing on his hi-fi equipment, or going to see the real thing at orchestral concerts.

We join with John's many friends and colleagues in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

Surrounded by colleagues John Parry, centre in dark suit, and his wife Gwenda holding bouquet, at a farewell presentation at Sealand Road.

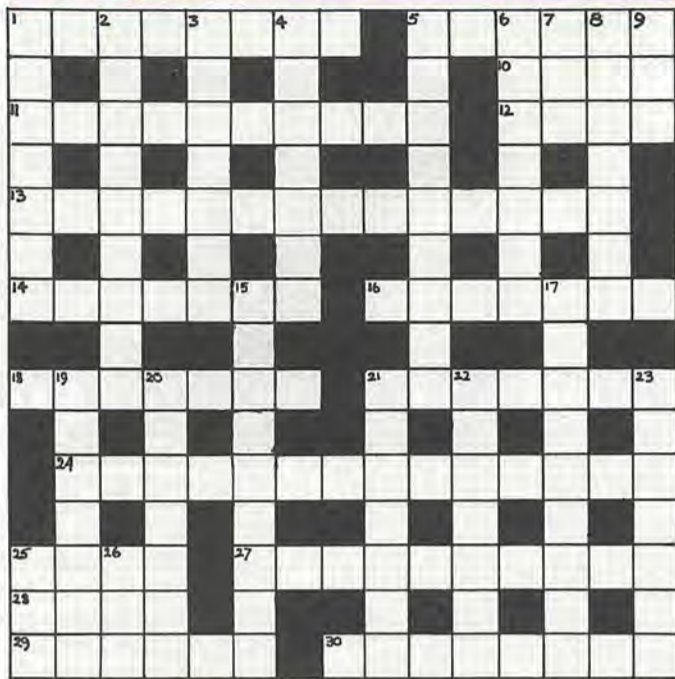


Life begins at . . .

by **MITCH**



PRIZE CROSSWORD



You can win a 'Fiver' in our crossword competition if your all-correct entry is one of the first three drawn out on February 15th. Send your entry to: 'CONTACT' MANWEB Head

Office, Sealand Road, Chester, CH1 4LR.

Competition open to all MANWEB present and retired staff.

CLUES

Across

- 1 Possessing as many sides as there are edges to 50p. (8)
- 5 Mary Tudor said we would find 'Calais' lying in her heart when she was dead and (6)
- 10 Stravinsky's type of bird. (4)
- 11 Instrument for surveying the broken die-tool. (10)
- 12 This chart shows computerised sequence of events. (4)
- 13 Seek hideous man to establish servant's complaint. (10, 4)
- 14 Italian Port. (7)
- 16 Clear-cut decision overturned without love..(7)
- 18 upsets any girl furiously. (7)
- 21 One variety of these presupposes waywardness in the sowing thereof. (7)
- 24 Said to work hard for a living (9, 5)
- 25 Hold on to Barnaby's raven. (4)
- 27 Sweet white food. (10)
- 28 Three-toed sloth of French assistant (4)
- 29 With this magazine there shouldn't be a dull moment. (6)
- 30 Royal hero of the battle of Thermopylae. (8).

Down

- 1 "Buried was the bloody . . . Buried was the dreadful war club" (Hiawatha) (7)
- 2 Quietly starting again taken for granted. (9)
- 3 Speech about an item of women's clothing? (7)
- 4 For birthdays on the farm? (3, 4)
- 5 Upset in case O.B.E. awarded for paying homage . . . (9)
- 6 . . . to a foreigner (7)
- 7 (3)
- 8 For rhetorical question, adjust term (E. & O.E.) (7)
- 9 We'd return as soft as Annie's footfall. (3)
- 15 Rally to be treated indulgently l(9)
- 17 Appointed by British Rail? (9)
- 19 Airline! (7)
- 20 Does it again in photograph typescript. (7)
- 21 Peppery place in Guiana. (7)
- 22 Unfair evictor of sitting tenants. (7)
- 23 Not to be compared with Rosalind's badness when she's bad (J. M. Barrie) (7)
- 25 Stuff joke (3)
- 26 A modification of Esperanto familiar to those getting married (3)

(Dictionary: Chambers Twentieth Century)

Prizewinners and solutions

PRESSURE on space available in our January issue of 'CONTACT' pushed out the report giving the winners and solutions for the Prize Crosswords published in the November and December numbers.

Both puzzles attracted a large number of entries from staff and pensioners. We are delighted with all this interest — surely it can't be the prizemoney that's the attraction!

All the December competitors managed to fathom out that there was a square in the puzzle which had not been 'blacked out'. This was our mistake and we are sorry for giving you something extra to puzzle over.

The first three all-correct entries out of the bag for the November crossword were submitted by Margaret Brent (*Customer Accounts, North Wirral*), Kathie Woods (*retired, North Mersey*) and Diane Powell (*Engineering, Gwynedd*).

The two present staff winners of the December puzzle were David Messham (*Meter Test, Liverpool*) and Kevin Gee (*Revenue section, Head Office*). The two prizes for our retired staff went to William Haig Davies from St Helens and Herbert Roland Johnson from Ellesmere, Shropshire.

Cheques have been sent out to the lucky winners.

We hope our 1985 crossword puzzles will continue to attract interest and participation.

SOLUTION—NOVEMBER

Across: 1 Clay, 3 Peacpipes, 10 Policeman, 11 Petra, 12 Rattle, 13 Vitreous, 15 Sportswear, 17 Trip, 20 Nest, 21 Mercantile, 23 Flautist, 24 Birdie, 27 Angle, 28 Aforesaid, 29 Title-deeds, 30 Fear.

Down: 1 Caparison, 2 Allot, 4 Emma, 5 Connivance, 6 Pipers, 7 Pot-pourri, 8 Spans, 9 Acolyte, 14 Sweepstake, 16 Onslaught, 18 Pretender, 19 Incited, 22 Athene, 23 Feast, 25 Drake, 26 Rood.

SOLUTION—DECEMBER

Across: 2 Lud, 4 Ate, 5 Aryan, 6 Don, 7 So, 9 As, 11 Patrick, 12 Ort, 13 Tip, 15 Ras, 16 Spa, 17 Wit, 18 Taw, 20 Sly, 21 Motel, 23 Ten, 25 Irate, 26 Two, 29 Enter, 30 Clean, 31 Erg, 32 Ascot, 33 Tow, 34 Gas, 36 Gem, 37 Bligh, 39 Error, 40 Crate, 43 Rove, 44 Is, 45 Em, 47 Stan, 48 Hive, 49 Ho, 50 Pia, 52 Ai, 54 Opts, 55 Terse, 57 Penge, 59 Tepee, 61 Cha, 63 So, 64 Bengali, 65 Lo, 66 Rud, 69 Ran, 70 Ado, 71 Ike, 73 Ire, 74 Magnet, 76 Prolonged, 79 Intend, 82 Maide, 83 Sen, 84 Yea, 85 Abide, 86 Ra, 87 Sou, 88 So, 89 Sop, 91 Ate, 92 Richard.

Down: 1 Cut your coat according to your cloth, 2 Lard, 3 Dean, 7 Sprat, 8 Oats, 9 Acts, 10 Skips, 12 Orient, 14 Palate, 18 Tor, 19 Wet, 21 Mirage, 22 Lecture, 23 Tergiversate, 24 Engage, 27 Waters, 28 Onomatopoeia, 35 Sh, 36 GC, 37 Britannia, 38 Love, 41 Tape, 42 Enteritis, 44 lo, 46 Ma, 49 He, 50 Pen, 51 Aga, 53 It, 56 Sod, 57 Peron, 58 Elegy, 60 Elk, 61 Cram, 62 Hagar, 67 Uredo, 68 Dene, 71 Ops, 72 Ida, 75 En, 77 Reno, 78 Eery, 80 NB, 89 Sac, 90 Pea, 92 Re, 93 Do.

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CAR RADIO CASSETTE — Radio-mobile, without speakers. Good condition £30 ono. Tel: Internal Head Office 2182 (Karen Bilham).

COMPUTER — Texas T1994A. With instruction manuals. Ideal for beginner. £70. Tel: Aberystwyth 828718 or Internal 97 (Alan Dickinson).

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WANTED

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OXTON, BIRKENHEAD — Purpose-built first floor flat with hall, lounge, two bedrooms, diner/kitchen, combined bathroom. Storage heaters on economic tariff with day time boost. Curtain rails, carpets, etc. Parking space, garage may be rented. £14,950 ono for quick sale. Tel: Ruthin 5258 or 051-652-8648.

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STILL WORKING!

Former installation inspector in our Liverpool District, 76-year-old Richard Blackburne is still active and living in Dumfries-shire. He is seen here handing the Stirrup Cup to Huntsman Peter Read at the local Hunt. Our thanks go to Richard's wife, Mavis, for the picture.



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