

CONTACT



January 1975



Our 'Girl from MANWEB 1975'

OUR COVER PICTURE this month is of an attractive young woman with a great personality, **Miss Margaret Lynette Kemp**, who after a very close contest in the final round, was voted as the winner to become our eighth "Girl from MANWEB." She took over the title and the duties on New Year's Day, with her first official engagement at the new 'Kitchen Centre' opening in Liverpool on 14th January.

Lynette, who was 21 on 7th January, has been with the Board as a trainee demonstrator since September 1973 and works from the Clwyd District Office at Rhyl. She likes riding, ski-ing, cookery and dressmaking. She lives with her parents at the Point Hotel, Rhyl where she often helps out in the dining room and the bars.

This is the second year running that our Clwyd District have provided the "Girl from MANWEB."

Lynette, with runner-up, **Mrs. Louise Murthwaite**, left, a saleswoman at our Heswall shop, and in third place, **Miss Debbie Winzar** from Head Office Accounts.



Last year's "Girl from MANWEB" **Lesley Taylor**, right, with the other finalists, from left to right: **Mrs. Ann Mallinson** (clerk, M.S.U. Head Office), **Miss Stephanie Wickham** (saleswoman, Birkenhead shop), **Mrs. Jean Ann Foxley** and **Miss Norma Crick** (clerks from Mid-Cheshire District).



The judges with their final choice. From left to right: **Mr. M. R. Cowan** (Chief Commercial Officer), **Mrs. Doreen Tysall** (Principal, Patricia Platt Model Agency, Liverpool), **Lynette**, **Diana Pulson** (Women's Page Editor, Liverpool Daily Post) and **Mr. B. R. Hastings** (Deputy Chairman), who, on his first "Girl from MANWEB" panel, was faced with a very close-run contest.



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Editorial

Spelling it out

“ENERGY CONSERVATION” is one of today’s fashionable phrases, dropping frequently from the lips of public figures, and from the pens of the writers of newspaper editorials.

It is unfortunate, but perhaps inevitable, that the man-in-the-street, confronted with these words, tends to think first of all of electricity and petrol. Disconnections, “Switch off Something,” and the cost of running his car, have seen to that.

For we who serve the electricity supply industry, however, it is important to remember that electricity, in itself, is not a source of energy—just the most efficient means of transmitting the energy locked up in our primary fuels to the homes and factories of those who use it.

In certain aspects of the drive to conserve energy our industry has already played a leading part. The wisdom of insulating our homes, to achieve ‘warmth without waste,’ is now widely accepted as sound common sense, both from the point of view of conserving energy, and of cutting costs.

In some other areas of energy conservation the last words have not yet been said. Already there is evidence that in certain industrial applications it is more economical of basic energy resources to apply electrical processes, rather than those employing primary fuels. Clearly more water must pass under the bridge before all the basic rules for preserving the earth’s supplies of fossil fuels are spelled out clearly for all to understand.

Editorial Staff

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

North Mersey Get-together

Nearly 200 people gathered together at Bootle Town Hall a few weeks ago to take part in North Mersey District's annual employees' meeting—preceded by a most enjoyable meal.

"In the chair" was Mr. H. Telfer, Group Manager, and the guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Joe Riley, art critic of the *Liverpool Daily Post and Echo*, who by request kept his speech brief due to shortage of time. Also present, from Head Office, were Messrs. D. G. Dodds (*Chairman*), A. P. Whyte (*Chief Accountant*) and M. R. Cowan (*C.C.O.*). Another guest was Mr. R. Colclough, vice-Chairman of No. 9 District Joint Advisory Council, while the 'Girl from MANWEB' (Lesley Taylor), made a very charming addition to the scenery. Members of other Local Advisory Committees also went along to share the evening.

Mr. George Shoesmith (*District Administrative Officer*) spoke on the year's work of the L.A.C., and after a few short but enlivening 'questions and answers,' the evening ended with 'Disco' dancing, to music provided by Mr. C. S. Shimmin, system engineer. For the old-stagers who attended there was the chance to renew old friendships—two pensioners present met for the first time for more than 20 years!

(We are indebted to Mr. Shoesmith for this report).

And why is this report of the jollifications of our North Mersey colleagues not embellished by our usual happy picture of our friends enjoying themselves? Well, thereby hangs a rather sad tale (which not everyone seems able to swallow!)

Our *Contact* photographer **did** make his way to Bootle on the night in question, arriving too late for the start of the feasting, but in plenty of time to listen to the speeches and to photograph the gather-

BRASS BAND CONCERT

MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club
present

BESSES O' TH' BARN BRASS BAND
the oldest first class brass band in the country.

on Wednesday, 26th February at 8.00 p.m.
in the Head Office Restaurant,
Sealand Road, Chester.

*Tickets 50p each from Mr. J. G. Roberts
(Welfare). Head Office 2146.*

ing. And what happened? Well . . . very security-conscious they are at Bootle—and they built their Town Halls to keep out the riotous mob in those days! Heavy, locked, oak doors confronted our man—with no signs of any means of summoning those within. The ground floor was in darkness—even though the upper areas blazed with light, Vigorously he knocked, loudly he called through an unresponsive brass letter-box, eagerly he sought for side entrances and fire-escapes . . . all to no avail. Passers by regarded him, first with curiosity, then with suspicion! How were they to know that the bag he carried contained photographic equipment? Could it not just as well have been sticks of gelignite? Not to be put off, our man went to a telephone . . . and in the dim and distant recesses of the Town Hall, a phone rang out, ignored and un-noticed by the revellers above.

Dispirited and defeated, our man retired from the scene. And he firmly denies that it was Walton Gaol he had been trying to get into!

New Power Station

The Central Electricity Generating Board is to apply to the Secretary of State for Energy for consent to the construction of an oil-fired power station of about 2,000 MW (megawatts) capacity on land owned by the Board adjacent to the existing power station at Connah's Quay in the County of Clwyd, North Wales. The new station would be known as Connah's Quay 'B.' The Board will be seeking the views of the local planning authorities.

Electricity produced at the station would be fed into the transmission system through the existing 400 kV Deeside switching station on the site. No additional transmission lines would be required from the site although some reinforcement would be necessary elsewhere on the system. It is envisaged that fuel supplies to the station would be by pipeline from existing tanker reception facilities in the Mersey.

"Invisible Invaders"

The 'Invisible Invaders'—the whimsical cartoon characters who focus attention on the need for good standards of thermal insulation—have proved an immediate success with the public. Results of a survey into the effectiveness of the 60-second TV commercial have shown it to be the most successful ever produced by the Electricity Council in terms of audience perception and response. The 'Invisible Invaders,' who steal heat from the home through uninsulated roofs and walls, unlagged hot water tanks, gaps in door and window frames, were seen by millions of viewers.

Correct Pricing Essential —Chairman

“THE ONLY way we can put our affairs in order is by allowing the price of electricity to match the cost of the resources used in delivering that electricity to the consumer” said MANWEB Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds, speaking at the annual conference of the electricity supply industry’s Merseyside and North Wales Area District Joint Advisory Council.

The conference was held at Fiddler’s Ferry power station, near Warrington.

The consequences of the oil crisis, as far as Britain was concerned, were equivalent to a defeat in a major war, said the Chairman. He added that many people did not want to face those consequences, but they were profound and had to be recognised.

Forecasting that MANWEB was facing a deficit of £15-million-plus in the current financial year, Mr. Dodds said that these losses were due to rapidly-escalating fuel costs and the fact that the price of electricity to domestic users had been artificially restrained to help Governments get round their political corners.

Due to the fact that electricity was not correctly-priced, there was an ‘over-demand.’ Generating plant programmes had to be increased to meet this demand, thus using resources which the country could apply in other essential directions.

Correct pricing, said Mr. Dodds, would perhaps

PRIZE CROSSWORD

An Apology

We, together with our crossword compiler, deeply regret the mistake which crept into the bumper crossword puzzle in our last issue when ‘Ridotto’ was changed, in error, for ‘Risotto.’

However, we decided to eliminate clues 58 Across and 53 Down when we made the draw for the £5 prizewinners who were:

Miss Y. M. Coleby, Stores Accounts, Head Office.

Mr. H. L. Greer, former 1st Asst. D.E. at St. Helens.

Mr. E. O. Stubbs, Cash Office, Head Office.

Thanks to all who entered and condolences to those who did not get a prize. Better luck in the draw next time.

E.E.I.B.A. ‘200’ CLUB

The monthly draw in December for a prize of £30.75 was won by Mr. A. A. Booth from Head Office.

be unpalatable in the short term for our customers, but was very necessary for the country, and the real interests of our customers, in the medium and long term.

Other principal speakers at the conference were Mr. W. F. Cusworth, Director General of the CEGB’s North Western Region; Mr. R. Houghton, Director of Generation; and Dr. A. T. Churchman, Director of the Electricity Council’s Research Laboratory at Capenhurst.

The conference was well attended by representatives of both sides of the electricity supply industry in the area.

New Group Managers

Mr. S. Fairclough (*Installation and Service Manager*), and Mr. R. J. Barraclough (*Assistant Chief Accountant—Administration*), have been appointed as Group Managers in succession to Messrs. H. Telfer and J. W. Trimble (whose retirements were reported in the last number of *Contact*.)

Mr. Fairclough, an electrical engineer by profession, received his early training with Liverpool Corporation Electricity Supply Department and at Metropolitan Vickers. He later occupied a number of responsible posts with the Liverpool under-



Mr. S. Fairclough



Mr. R. J. Barraclough

taking, and with MANWEB following the nationalisation of the industry. His new post gives him responsibilities in MANWEB’s Liverpool, North Mersey, and North Wirral Districts.

Mr. Barraclough, formerly responsible for our District accounting organisation, and for the administration of stores throughout the Board’s area, is a qualified accountant. Previously he held positions with Handley Page Ltd. and the Plessey organisation. He will now have responsibilities in our Oswestry, Mid-Cheshire and Mid-Mersey Districts.



Far left: Guest speaker Mr. E. Thomas, left, with Group Manager Mr. K. Helliwell. Left: District Administrative Officer, Mr. W. J. Thompson, left, chats with Deputy Chairman, Mr. B. R. Hastings.

Questions and Answers at Oswestry Meeting

Guest speaker thanks MANWEB

“ARE THESE conferences really necessary?” was one of the questions put to a most experienced team from Head Office and Oswestry District facing over 160 members of the District staff attending their annual Conference at the Pedigree Hotel a few weeks ago.

Following an excellent turkey dinner, Mr. Ken Helliwell (*Group Manager*) welcomed everyone with a special mention of the retired employees present, and went on to explain his own presence in place of his colleague Mr. J. W. Trimble (*Group Manager*) who had recently retired. He thanked the guests for attending including Messrs. Eric Thomas, the principal speaker, B. R. Hastings (*Deputy Chairman*), F. J. Brown (*Chief Engineer*), K. S. Leach (*Deputy Chief Accountant*), T. Dean (*Appliance Marketing Manager*), D. J. Lock (*Productivity Services Officer*), J. G. D. Greenhalgh (*executive officer—Personnel*) and Mrs. Lesley Taylor, the 1974 “*Girl from MANWEB*.”

Mr. Helliwell then spent a few minutes reviewing some facts and figures extracted from the Board’s

Powerful escorts for our ’74 “*Girl from MANWEB*” Lesley Taylor, are Messrs. D. J. Lock, left, and Keith Griffiths, a visitor from the Clwyd District.



Annual Report, saying, “Our total income from the sales of electricity, etc., amounted to just over £121 million and after paying for the electricity we distribute (£101 million), interest and depreciation (£14 million) and £11 million required to run our business, we had a loss of approximately £7.88 million—the biggest-ever loss by MANWEB.

“One of the many reasons why we are losing money is the uneconomic price we are charging for domestic units.”

He went on to say that for the past five years, up to September ’73, our tariffs to domestic customers had been very uneconomical and, in fact, during this period tariffs had only risen by 19 per cent at a time when the retail price index rose by 41 per cent.

Referring to the printed copies of the Report on the work of the No. 9 Local Advisory Committee, Mr. Helliwell thanked Committee Secretary Mr. S. W. Warburton (*administrative assistant*) for his work in its preparation and encouraged all members of the staff to keep their own copies to read later as some very interesting points were covered.

He apologised for the hurried manner in which he had presented the Reports saying that he wanted to allow sufficient time for questions before the Meeting closed.

Mr. Helliwell then introduced the special guest speaker Mr. Eric Thomas who he said was, “*Chairman of North Wales Newspapers, a small family publishing business founded by his grandfather, which now controls nine weekly newspapers one printed in Welsh, and an evening newspaper, all combining to cover a considerable part of the Border Counties and North Wales territory. He is also a Director of Harlech Television, and a Past President*



**Staff and
Retired
Employees
attending
The
Oswestry
Annual
Conference**





A trio of Accounts clerks, from left to right, Carol Jones, Pat Barratt and Jean Davies.

of the Newspaper Society and a Freeman of the City of London.”

Mr. Thomas, realising that the Meeting was running a little late, opened his remarks very brightly and soon had the audience on his side with an expertly-told humorous story and a promise of a short speech.

He spoke of his interest in the Caxton Press at Oswestry and talked nostalgically of the old days when gas was used to heat up the lead pots and type was cast at a record rate of two lines a minute. “Today,” he said, “we are one of six newspapers using a most advanced method of type-setting with a small computerised box of tricks controlling a machine turning out 150 lines of type a minute. We have three such machines each with 96 separate founts of type-face.”

Speaking of the build-up of Caxton Press from one newspaper to four and then on to the whole group, he remarked that none of this would have been possible without electricity to turn the presses and keep up production. He thanked the men from MANWEB for the security of supplies despite strikes and storms.

Mr. Thomas invited members of the District staff to have a look around the local newspaper offices to

see for themselves how things were done. (*Perhaps the Sports and Social Club will take this one up?*)

Moving on to another of his interests—television—Mr. Thomas spoke knowledgeably of the Harlech set-up with its 48 masts pumping out programmes from studios in Cardiff and Bristol. He explained briefly how programmes were produced and taped for colour vision and sound in the station’s seven studios. Again he made the offer of a conducted tour to see the complex, intricate and unusual uses of electricity in TV.

After praising the electricity industry’s system of worker participation, as exemplified by the Conference, Mr. Thomas brought his remarks to a close, and sealed his popularity, by telling his listeners of his recent tour round the District Office at Maesbury Road. “When I found that you took care of 45,000 accounts every quarter,” he commented, “I realised just how damned efficient you are.”

After thanking Mr. Thomas for his informative and inspiring talk, Mr. Helliwell turned the rest of the time over for questions. These came slowly at first, and ranged through car parking facilities, the smell from the local sewage works, manual workers at Board Room level—*this stimulated a fair debate*—the economic crisis, vending machines, the future of depots and the Board’s organisation and “*Are these Conferences really necessary?*”

The answer to this last question was evidenced by the lively flow of questions and answers during this Open Forum period. It was obvious that a great many members of the staff had gone along to the Meeting and put something into it and it was equally obvious that many had got something out of it.

The final remark came from Mr. Helliwell who said, “If everyone goes away from the Conference tonight with the question in their mind—‘What can I do to be more efficient at work, to put in a little more effort without prompting and to avoid wasting time and materials?’ then this Conference will have been worth while.”



After the excellent dinner we see, from left to right: Mr. G. W. B. Pryce, Mrs. Sheila Barnett, Mrs. Rosie Owen, Mrs. Mina Rodger and Miss Hazel Plimmer.



MID MERSEY SAFE DRIVERS Awards presented at Warrington

Excessive speed and lack of courtesy were the two main causes of road accidents, said Inspector Peter Carey, of the Cheshire Constabulary, when he presented Safe Driving awards to members of MANWEB's Mid-Mersey District staff recently.

On the speed issue, Inspector Carey said that police experience in the Warrington area, in the early days of the 'radar trap,' clearly showed that when speed was reduced the number of accidents fell considerably.

Lack of courtesy, he added, might be an even greater cause of accidents than speeding. An example of a situation where road courtesy could play an important part was over giving way to traffic coming from the right at roundabouts.

Safe Driving awards, added the Inspector, gave satisfaction and made life more enjoyable for those who earned them.

Awards were presented as follows:

20-Year Brooch: Messrs. F. Evans, A. A. Heathwood and A. M. Turner.

Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Messrs. W. Appleton, N. Gabbott, C. F. Oultram and J. Smith.

15-Year Brooch: Messrs. F. R. Fryer, A. Sutton and T. Topping.

Bar to 10-Year Medal: Messrs. T. B. Almond, C. Antrobus, J. Arstall, R. Bramhall, L. Case, J. B.

Edwards, G. K. Hazlehurst, F. Nuttall, J. Tart, R. Vickerstaff and T. Whitney.

10-Year Medal: Messrs. J. A. Brown and T. O. Mannion.

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Messrs. J. R. Antrobus, G. L. Bevan, H. Blythe, L. Bowler, J. B. Brassington, C. W. Butterworth, J. Dutton, S. Ford, B. Hope, A. Horrabin, E. Hough, A. Houghton, A. E. Houghton, J. Huyton, A. R. Lovelady, C. J. Osborne, L. Percival, A. Smith and G. A. Williams.

Five-Year Medal: Messrs. G. McCarthy, W. E. Mills, J. Povey and J. Rae.

Diploma: Mrs. E. Kennett, Mrs. M. Waller and Messrs. H. R. Abbott, J. Allen, J. W. Atherton, R. Balmer, A. Bate, W. Blake, A. Blears, W. Boughey, J. Brown, R. J. Cartwright, G. Caulton, J. Clarke, J. P. Cox, M. Craven, W. Crooks, J. Cunliffe, N. Dennett, D. Eckersley, T. Fillingham, J. Fishwick, J. Fitzpatrick, K. Forber, H. Furnival, N. Gamble, B. Hayes, P. Healey, B. Howarth, D. A. Johnson, M. Joyce, E. Keogh, L. Keough, A. Kinsey, M. J. Lindon, W. Lomax, K. T. Mather, J. McKague, P. C. Medlicott, J. K. Melvin, T. C. Mulheirn, J. T. Neville, J. C. Robinson, T. D. Roddick, H. J. Roughley, J. A. Shaw, N. Stubbs, W. Sutton, J. J. Thornton, E. J. Watkins, W. Weaver, A. Webster, S. Welburn, J. W. Wells, A. L. Wilkinson, D. R. Willis and T. York.



"Scottie" Pilkington, the Middlewich magician with a bewildered volunteer.



Above: The youngsters tuck into the "goodies". Right: Mr. Percy Booth comes out of retirement to play Father Christmas as he hands a present to Ann Thompson.

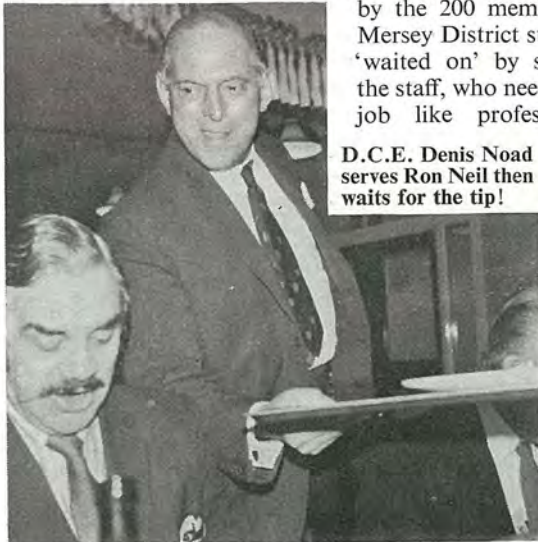
Christmas Party at Northwich

The annual party for children organised by members of the Northwich Sports and Social Club was, once again, a huge success and voted a 'hit' by all concerned.



Christmas Lunch at Bridle Road

Excellent turkey dinners were made more appetising and welcome by the 200 members of our North Mersey District staff when they were 'waited on' by senior members of the staff, who needless to say, did the job like professionals.



D.C.E. Denis Noad serves Ron Neil then waits for the tip!



Production Engineer Ken Crabtree looks after the ladies, Cath Munro left, and Joan Rugen.



Dee Valley District staff and their guests pack the conference hall at Deeside Leisure Centre.

Record attendance at Dee Valley

BBC Man as Guest Speaker

THE DEESIDE Leisure Centre was chosen as the venue for this year's Dee Valley District Employees' Meeting, held a few weeks ago, and judging by the record attendance of nearly 300 people, this was an excellent choice. No doubt another reason for the very high turnout was the attraction of guest speaker for the evening, Mr. D. Alun Williams, number one commentator for B.B.C. Wales.

First came the dinner, appreciated by one and all, and then Mr. Ken Helliwell (*Group Manager*) opened the business part of the Meeting by welcoming the guests before asking No. 4 Local Advisory Committee Secretary Mr. Eifion Jones (*principal assistant—Admin.*) to present his Report.

After greeting everyone in both English and Welsh, Eifion said that all members of the District staff had the opportunity during the year of seeing the printed Minutes of the L.A.C. and so they should know what had been discussed and achieved.

"Therefore, in the time allotted to me tonight," he went on, "I propose to review and remind you of the fields covered by the L.A.C." And this he proceeded to do most ably and clearly, emphasising that the Committee was constituted to deal with Safety, Health, Welfare, Efficiency, Education and Training of all members of the staff.

He quoted Lord Citrine when he said that joint consultation belonged to the employee as a right. He said that the Committee worked as a team with management and staff discussing constructive ideas to improve working conditions and so increase productivity in our industry.

In closing, Eifion said that it was not sufficient to look back, but we had to compare the present with the possible future. It was only then that we could realise just how far we have come and how far we have to go.

"It is a challenge to us all," he said "*The elected members of the Committee each have a responsibility and you who elect them also have a responsibility—to keep them hard at work.*"

Mr. Helliwell then thanked all the members of the Local Advisory Committee—by name—for the helpful contributions they had made throughout the past year.

As time was pressing, Mr. Helliwell gave a much shortened resume of the Board's Report in which he reminded everyone of the tremendous loss we had incurred, the largest since we became MANWEB in 1948. He spoke strongly of the restrictions imposed upon the domestic tariff despite the rapidly rising costs all round, with fuel alone costing a massive additional £47 million in our area alone. Also, through no fault of our own, we lost 700 million unit sales last winter through the effects of the fuel crisis.

"A business cannot continue making huge losses



The guest speaker with friends from MANWEB. From left to right, Messrs. K. Helliwell, T. P. Shell, J. A. Winchester and D. Alun Williams, Mrs. Lesley Taylor ("*Girl from MANWEB*"), Messrs. E. T. Peters and E. Jones.



Mr. Norman Kenyon
calling the dancers on to
the floor.



District delegates relax after the meeting





Rhostyllen revellers enjoying the social evening which followed the business part of their annual meeting.

every year," he commented, "We should be allowed to charge the economic price for electricity to all our customers."

Mr. Helliwell then spoke of the tireless efforts made to achieve economies and save money, speaking specifically of the Board's use of the new waveform cable which by next year could effect a saving of around £250,000.

Bringing his brief but informative remarks to a close, Mr. Helliwell then introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Alun Williams.

A most eloquent speaker and gifted storyteller, Mr. Williams soon had his audience hanging on to his every word. He spoke of childhood memories, of places he'd been to and of people he'd met. Of broadcasting and his first time before the microphone and of many subsequent commentaries from royal occasions to the recent Lions rugby tour. He described other special moments in his life—VE Day and VJ Day, and when he was stabbed in Columbo.

This uninterrupted flow of interesting reminiscences was punctuated with many humorous anecdotes.

He remembered the time when covering a royal event and the programme producer gave him one

minute to speak in the Welsh tongue. "*What an opportunity,*" exclaimed Mr. Williams, "*the whole world would be listening and here I was, completely free to say anything I liked with no-one to censor what I said.*"

However, being a true BBC-man, Mr. Williams did not say anything out of place and following the broadcast he received many letters from Welsh exiles all over the world. One from Canada wrote that as his words came over the air, 'even Niagara was quietened.' Another, from Mr. Evan Thomas of the Melbourne Welsh Society in Australia asked him to visit them on St. David's Day, provided the BBC paid his expenses! Nine years later, when in Perth to cover the Empire Games, a chap came up to him and said, "*I'm Evan Thomas. I see we made it at last boyo, and they've paid the fare for you!*"

Showing his experience as a broadcaster, Mr. Williams brought his 35-minute address to an end, right to the second. Unfortunately for his listeners, it went by in a flash, all too quickly.

Then followed an Open Forum session with some very interesting and a few lively questions from the staff. Later a Disco Dance was run by Mr. Norman Kenyon from Head Office.



Some of the lads, and some of the lasses enjoying a drink prior to taking a turn on the dance floor.





MID CHESHIRE PENSIONERS

THE "get-together" movement of MANWEB retired employees went a stage further recently with the formation of the **Mid-Cheshire Retired Employees' Association**, with District office at Macon Way, Crewe, as their 'base.'

Four pensioners from Crewe and four from Northwich were elected to form a committee to organise outings and social events, and to try to bring together the retired employees from all parts of the District.

Two events have already taken place—the first a trip to Ness Gardens (with a conducted tour of Head Office included), and a trip to the Liverpool Sports and Social Club at Wavertree. Plans are now in hand for an annual dinner towards the end of February.

Membership of the Association (which includes wives or husbands of pensioners) costs 50p a year. Further information can be obtained from the secretary, **Mr. T. V. Walley**, of Clyde Cottage, Swanley Lane, near Nantwich, or from **Mr. C. P. Booth**, 4 Vale Road, Hartford, Northwich.

Thanks!

Most letters, alas, received by Electricity Boards tend to be written to complain—so it is indeed pleasant to read the following letter, received at Head Office (together with payment of an account), from

Mr. Arthur Johnson, of Holly Lane, Alsager:

"Dear Sirs,

"May I thank you for your service during the past year. Under difficulties the power stations have kept producing, and the distribution has remained excellent—thank you.

"Against the smell of gas the price of electricity in a household (if used properly) is still a 'best buy'—I think so anyway.

"No—this is not a 'nut' letter—just an old-fashioned Thank You!

Sincerely."

And we thank you, Mr. Johnson. Nice to know that some people, at least, can still see the positive side of things!

Visitor from Africa

At present spending twelve months with MANWEB studying system design and management, is **Mr. Louis Callu Nwosu**, a design engineer with the National Electric Power Company of Nigeria, based in Lagos.

The Nigerian Company supplies electricity throughout the country, and operates a two tier system of management similar to the MANWEB Head-

Office and Districts organisation.

Mr. Nwosu, who has a science degree, is spending his time at Head Office taking an



Mr. L. C. Nwosu

interest in most aspects of engineering work and commercial activities, but with a special interest in network planning and layout.

Slippery Story!

Every employee who ever worked in a MANWEB shop probably has his own pet story—funny or otherwise—about those Very Important People—the customers.

Top mark for the *Story of the Month* goes to **Bryan Kaye**, of Kirkby shop, who was a bit taken aback when a customer came in to ask for advice on an electric heating installation suitable for providing comfortable conditions for a five-foot-long boa constrictor!

It seems that the gentleman keeps one as a pet (*it takes all*

sorts), and it further appears that if boa constrictors are not kept warm they refuse to eat and die (*all of you who are thinking of buying boa constrictors will find that information very useful!*).

Well, it seemed to Bryan that what might be good enough for piglets might suit the boa constrictor (*though perhaps not as mixed company—there might be a shortage of piglets and a very well-fed snake!*) Why not, he suggested, install some infra-red lamps? The customer, it seems, thought this a splendid idea, and we did hope to get a picture of the boa enjoying electric comfort conditions, but we don't seem to have found a sufficiently brave photographer yet.

The danger is, of course, as mentioned earlier, that when they get warm they start feeling hungry . . .

Candle Power

Then there was the customer who called at our former shop at Birkenhead market—to ask for a “lining for a fridge.”

This somewhat unusual request led to inquiries as to how it came about that a fridge lining needed replacement.

The answer?—“I lit a candle and put it in the fridge to de-frost it—and the lining buckled!”

* * *

Perhaps other members of our shop staff have an unusual or humorous story to tell us?—Please let us know!

Christmas Day . . .

Congratulations to Miss Linda Morris, a telephone and v.h.f. radio operator in our Oswestry District and to Mr. Desmond Lloyd, who works for the Technical Section at Head Office.

Linda and Des announced

their engagement on Christmas Day.

. . . New Year's Day . . .

Best wishes for a happy future go to our 1974 “*Girl from MANWEB*” Lesley Taylor, an energy sales demonstrator in the Clwyd District, whose engagement to Mr. Peter Williams was announced on New Year's Day.

They first met at the sailing championships held in Llandudno last year.

Lesley's fiancé works with his father in the family electro-magnet business in Solihull.

. . . and Birth-day

Congratulations to Mr. Gerry Cain (*former assistant engineer*), Liverpool District, and to his wife Wynn, on the birth of a daughter, Amanda on December 27th. All good wishes go from his friends at Lister Drive on his recent transfer to Head Office.

One in a million?

One of our million customers with a poetic sense of humour, sent the following few lines to our North Mersey District Office.

*Oh! MANWEB dear,
I feel so queer,
You have not sent our bill.
My best friends, two,
Have heard from you,
Which makes me very ill.
We sent our reading
Thus not impeding
Your dear Computer's art.
Now make no error,
We're sweating in terror,
But you must do your part!*

The good lady concluded her letter by wishing a Merry Christmas to all our meter readers.

Following such a pleasant request, our colleagues at Bridle Road did their part and the account is now cleared.

To Let

Six-berth caravan sited on Pen-y-Berth Caravan Park, Pwllheli. Mains water and electricity. 'Phone: 051-648 3701.

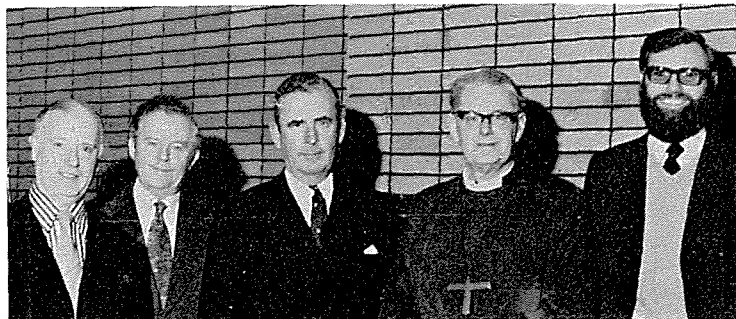
For Sale

MANWEB engineer has to sell his car due to his ill health.

Ford Cortina 1600L, M reg (blue). First registered January 1974. Only 1700 miles. Extras: rust-proofed and undersealed, radio with twin speakers, mud flaps, heated rear window. Cost £1,450. Offers please. 'Phone: Crewe 60477.

BISHOP VISITS HEAD OFFICE

The Bishop of Chester, the Rt. Rev. Victor Whitsey, spoke at the lunchtime meeting of the Head Office “*Christian Fellowship*” group just before Christmas. He is pictured here with Mr. M. M. Parker *Secretary and Solicitor, centre*, and members of the group Messrs. G. Irish, *left*, T. Rowlands, *second left*, and S. Woods, *right*.





Still smiling after the talk, MANWEB staff are seen here with their guest speaker, from left to right: Messrs. H. H. Wilson, B. R. Hastings (*Deputy Chairman*), P. Maloney, D. G. Dodds, M. M. Parker and D. I. Buchanan (*Secretary No. 11 L.A.C.*).

No. 11 L.A.C. Employees' Meeting

Maloney Mirthquake Rocks Head Office

The restaurant at Sealand Road was the venue of the Head Office Annual Employees meeting. There were 440 delegates and the Head Office caterers, Taylors Northern, provided 440 excellent meals, prepared by canteen manager Gary Warburton and his staff.

Delegates were just about able to digest their steak dinner before they were confronted by a large helping of Scouse. This was dished up not by the restaurant staff but by the guest speaker Mr. Peter Maloney. The Scouse he served his audience was not the well known Liverpool gastronomic delicacy, but the alternative definition of 'things appertaining to Liverpool.'

In his many occupations Mr. Maloney had collected numerous stories and anecdotes which had the Head Office listeners roaring with laughter. As school teacher, a novice in a monastery, or even as a

paratrooper, communication and a sense of humour were most important, this was the basis of his talk.

The meeting had opened with Mr. M. M. Parker, the Board Secretary and Solicitor and Chairman of the L.A.C., welcoming delegates and introducing MANWEB Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds.

Mr. Dodds spoke briefly knowing the staff were fully aware of the state of the industry's finances and that the MANWEB loss was caused by Government restrictions and international events.

Following Mr. Dodds, Mr. Parker introduced Mr. Peter Maloney whose hilarious talk was followed by the open forum. There were a variety of questions which included one about the shortage of beans in the restaurant. The assistant secretary responsible for the catering 'Admiral' Reg Thomas produced a huge can of beans, denying any shortage as the kitchens were very well stocked with this particular commodity. He then added the beans as an extra prize in the raffle, which was drawn immediately after the close of the meeting.

Mr. Harold Wilson, vice Chairman of the L.A.C. thanked the guest speaker and the meeting ended, but the evening continued with disco style music with Norman Kenyon and his Sealand Sound.

Some of the delegates at the Head Office annual conference.





Head Office
Delegates to
the Meeting





Above left: Councillor Mrs. Jean Jessop, Chairman of Sefton District Council who officially opened our exhibition in the Bootle Town Hall, is taken on a conducted tour by Mr. D. E. Noad (District Commercial Engineer) and "Girl from MANWEB," Lesley Taylor.

Above right: Energy sales engineer John Rigby chats with ladies from the E.A.W. Left: Mr. C. L. Jessop, left, with Mr. D. St. C. Barrie (Energy Sales Engineer).

'Warmth without Waste'

District Exhibitions at North Mersey and Dee Valley . . .



At the informal evening opening of the exhibition in the Memorial Hall, Wrexham, we picture, left, some of the invited guests with Mrs. Alison James (energy sales demonstrator), left, and Mr. D. H. Hinsley (energy sales engineer) and Mrs. Hinsley, right.

Below: From left to right, Mr. T. P. Shell (District Administrative Officer), "Girl from MANWEB" Lesley Taylor, Mr. J. A. Winchester (District Commercial Engineer), Mr. E. Myers (Director of Public Works, Wrexham Maelor Council), Mrs. Myers and Mrs. Shell.



The Memorial Hall, was the venue for the Oswestry exhibition which was officially opened by The Mayor. In the picture, right, we have, from left to right: Mr. R. A. Williams (District Commercial Engineer), Mrs. Mina Rodger—the District telephonist who on this occasion was a most capable stand-in for our "Girl from MANWEB," Mr. G. I. Maddocks (District Sales Supervisor), and the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs. Jim Best.



... Oswestry and Gwynedd

The last of the season's exhibitions was held at the Royal Hotel, Caernarfon. Pictured right is "Our Girl from MANWEB" Lesley Taylor doing a good job on cavity wall insulation. Below: Mr. W. G. Wakelin (District Sales Supervisor) talks with a couple of visitors, and the bottom picture shows a party of V.I.P.'s watching a demonstration of cavity wall insulation.



No. 7 L.A.C. Employees' Meeting

Clwyd Clued up on Scouse

FOR the employees' annual meeting, Clwyd District Local Advisory Committee invited as their guest speaker a man of many occupations, TV and radio personality Mr. Peter Maloney, whose subject was a *Dish of Scouse*.

The evening started with an excellent turkey dinner at the Fours Oaks Restaurant, Colwyn Bay. Group Manager Mr. K. Helliwell started the proceedings by introducing L.A.C. Secretary Mr. Keith Griffiths to report on the activities of the Committee during the year.

Mr. Helliwell then gave the meeting a report of the Board's activities over the previous twelve months. It had been a rough year on MANWEB finances with first Government restrictions then the power crisis and the three-day week. With last year's loss of £7.8 million Mr. Helliwell thought there was not a chance of MANWEB making a profit this year.

Next to speak was our 'Girl from MANWEB' Lesley Taylor, talking to an audience from her own District. Lesley was also the winner of the MANWEB area public speaking contest and represented the Board in London in the National Finals. 'Public Speaking' was the subject of her talk. She told the delegates of her experience in the Electricity Industry's competitions and urged members of the audience to enter, especially ladies.

Then came the Scouse. Ex-paratrooper, ex-Cistercian novice, ex-school teacher, ex-well almost anything 'Sounds as though I'm a Bum who can't hold down a decent job' was Peter Maloney's comment at his lengthy introduction. Then followed 35 minutes of hilarious anecdotes of Merseyside humour which had some members of his audience rolling in the aisles.

The meeting concluded with an open forum with some hectic questioning from the floor. The business over the delegates then cleared the tables and a 'disco' provided music for dancing the remaining hours of the night away.

Past and present get together with, from left to right: Messrs. R. J. Barraclough (Group Manager), A. R. Train (former District Commercial Engineer, Conway Valley), H. S. Dunning (former Supply Engineer, North Wirral) and J. Fisher (Deputy Chief Engineer).



Above: Mr. Helliwell chats with Mr. T. J. Griffiths (former meter reader)



Mr. Maloney serving his "Dish of Scouse."



Our '74 "Girl from MANWEB" speaking on "Public Speaking."

Heads together, from left to right: Messrs. K. Griffiths (principal assistant - Admin.), J. L. Williams (former Oswestry District Manager) and E. Roberts (meter reading foreman).





Clwyd Staff at their Annual Conference





Childrens'
Christmas
Party at
Head Office





Christmas
Party Time...



..with Head
Office Staff



Commercial Notes

DEE VALLEY SCORES AT BALA

Team work by our colleagues in Dee Valley District has recently landed a lucrative contract for electrical installations at Bala with Merionnydd District Council. This follows foundations laid by previous work on behalf of the old Bala U.D.C.

The new job involves space-heating and water-heating installations in 65 new homes and a Community Hall, plus the supply of 32 cookers and refrigerators, and laundry equipment. All electrical installations, including a ventilating system, street lighting, and even the conduit for a communal TV aerial, are part of the order, and the total load will be 1,167 kilowatts. Fine progress against the background that up to three years ago the local authority at Bala heated almost all their homes with solid fuel or gas.

REDUCING FEED COSTS

Joint efforts between Head Office and Mid-Mersey staff have meant the installation of a 60-kilowatt grain dryer at a Bold (near Widnes) farm owned by egg-producers R. and C. Love.

The firm intend growing and preparing their own feedstuffs, at a substantial saving as they use 80 tons a week. But to guarantee good storage grain must be dried to an acceptable level—and the new dryer at Bold was installed just in time to save 180 tons of barley!

ONE UP FOR THE U.K.

The American Carborundum Company—which has one UK plant at Bradford—has recently decided that it will be more profitable to produce one of their Ceramic-fibre products in this country, thanks in part to our Mid-Mersey District colleagues.

The new process requires temperatures approaching 2,000 degrees Centigrade, which only electricity, of the recognised fuels, can readily attain. But there was a possibility that the new product would be produced in America, and the company made careful economic comparisons.

Eventually they decided to go into production at Rainford, with a 700-kilowatt electric arc furnace—and possible further big demands to follow.

FURTHER PROGRESS AT KNOWSLEY

Another 44 Electricaire units for the Lickers Lane Estate, Huyton, is the achievement to Liverpool District. This follows

a load of 2.7 megawatts covering all electrical services for 130 homes on an earlier phase of the estate. The new order means another 396 kilowatts, and it is hoped that the new flats will also have electric cooking.

NORTH WIRRAL JUMPS TO IT

A short time ago North Wirral District were asked to provide a scheme and quotation for heating a suite of offices at Heswall—with the proviso that the scheme, if accepted, should be installed and operational in eight days! This meant a replacement service, a re-organisation of the meter position, and a new sub-main in the building—but the challenge was met, and so was the deadline, with a £1,000 contract and a 30 kilowatt storage heating load!

Efficiency and Economy in Fuel Utilisation

Five papers on the theme of "Electricity and Economy in Fuel Utilisation" were presented under the auspices of the Department of the Environment at the Public Works Congress in London.

In his chairman's address, Mr. John Platts, Energy Sales Manager of the Electricity Council, said that the unsettled circumstances which have followed the 1973 October revolution in oil prices have focussed attention on energy conservation.

"The electricity supply industry is fully committed to stimulating the wise use of electricity," said Mr. Platts. "And it is paying much more than lip service to the situation. For some time its promotional activities have concentrated on the wise use of electricity and it has launched a Warmth Without Waste campaign, highlighting the energy savings the domestic customer can achieve with good insulation of his home. It has promoted the

Integrated Environmental Design concept for commercial buildings, in which use is made of the heat from lighting, office machinery and even the staff themselves. The whole theme of its advice to the industrial customer is effective utilisation."

Earlier this year, when speaking about the efficient use of energy, Mr. Eric Varley, the Secretary of State for Energy, said that we were not seeking austerity for austerity's sake. There was no question of asking anyone to go without energy if he was prepared to meet the full cost of his consumption. Nor were we asking anyone to save energy by uneconomic measures which did not pay for themselves in terms of the energy savings which they yielded. What we were asking was that people should cut their own fuel bills by eliminating waste and adopting some of the many ways open to them of making better use of energy.



A Maloney anecdote which brought smiles and applause.



Mr. Maloney, left, chats with Mr. Helliwell, centre, and Mr. Dodds.

NO. 2 L.A.C. EMPLOYEES' MEETING

The Liverpool Laugh-in

Below: Gales of laughter from the ladies during Mr. Maloney's hour of humour.



SPEAKING to a "really cultured lot" on his home ground in Liverpool, Mr. Peter Maloney was the special guest speaker at the Liverpool District Employees' Annual Meeting held at Dovedale Towers a short time ago.

He soon had all but two of over 200 who attended holding their aching sides as they laughed at his stories of the experiences he had enjoyed during his varied careers. His hour of non-stop stand-up comedy showed that here was another job at which he would excel. Mr. Maloney certainly proved his final point, made in all seriousness, that a sense of humour gives a person balance and is essential to a good and healthy life.

The assembly had previously enjoyed a good meal and had been welcomed by Mr. K. Helliwell (*Group Manager*). Special guests and visitors included Messrs. D. G. Dodds (*Chairman*), H. W. Hegarty (*Assistant Chief Accountant—Finance*), L. J. Scudamore (*Management Services Officer*), S. Fairclough (*at that time Installation and Service Manager*),

Hosts and guests, from left to right: Messrs. R. I. Jowett (*District Commercial Engineer*), H. W. Hegarty, L. J. Scudamore, A. W. Hawley and C. E. Donovan (*District Engineer*).



A. W. Hawley (*District Engineer, North Mersey*) and 59 colleagues from the ranks of the retired.

Mr. Helliwell expressed his great pleasure in being able to return to Liverpool to stand in for his friend and colleague, the District's own Group Manager, Mr. Harry Telfer, who was at that time in South Africa enjoying a well-earned holiday and retirement.

A report on the work carried out by No. 2 Local Advisory Committee was given by the Secretary, Mr. Norman Mitchell (*principal assistant—Administration*). He mentioned that the Safety Subcommittee had discussed some 91 accidents to staff and had followed up many cases in an endeavour to prevent similar incidents happening in the future.

Mr. James Nolan, who was unable to be present, expressed his sincere thanks through Mr. Mitchell to his District colleagues for the many kindnesses shown and for their contributions to the Fund to help his son John.

He said that many visits had been made to members of the staff who had long periods of sickness and he appealed to the staff who were fit and well when he asked for more volunteers to visit their sick colleagues.

Mr. Mitchell went on to say that the Committee were a little disappointed in the lack of enthusiasm for first aid training. He encourages all members of the staff to take advantage of the courses offered and to take an active interest in first aid so that the Liverpool District could once again have at least one team in the District Competition.

In conclusion he said that earlier in the year, the District had received 259 applications from young men eager to take up a craft apprenticeship with the Board. Unfortunately, the allocation for places at Hoylake was only four, "but four good ones were selected." "This," he went on, "seemed to indicate



Deep concentration at the Liverpool Meeting.

that people are rushing to join us at MANWEB, but unfortunately we cannot make room for them all!"

He then congratulated all the District staff on their selection of people to represent them on the Local Advisory Committee.

Mr. Helliwell thanked Mr. Mitchell for his selective summary and echoed his remarks in tribute to the L.A.C. members on the staff side for their continued co-operation and for their contributions. He encouraged all members of the District staff to read the Local Advisory Committee Minutes, copies of which could be found on the notice boards.

Chairman Mr. Dodds then added his own appreciation for the work done by all the Committee members saying that it was not always recognised by many members of the staff they represented. He went on to say that he was glad to be able to meet so many members of the Liverpool District staff at one time, but deeply regretted that he had to leave the Meeting so early to attend at another previously-booked engagement.

He paid tribute to a man whose integrity stood out so well, their own, recently retired Group Manager, Mr. Harry Telfer—known throughout the District as *Big Harry*. He concluded his remarks by wishing all members of the retired group continued good health.

Then the inimitable Mr. Peter Maloney kept his audience—with just two exceptions—in a happy mood for the next hour. A brief 'Open Forum' session brought another successful Liverpool District Employees' Meeting to a close.

Liverpool District staff—past and present.





Left: some of the 136 prizes in Liverpool District's Christmas Draw. Below: Just a few happy Liverpool District people—past and present,—enjoying their Christmas Dance organised by Mr. C. E. Donovan (Dist. Eng.) held at Dovedale Towers.

On the Liverpool Social Scene





Chester Sports and Social Club Chairman Mr. Harry Foreman presents Nigel Crossley skipper of Brewers Droop with the 5-a-side Cup. *Left to right:* Messrs. Geoff Green, Gren Roberts organiser, Harry Foreman, Nigel Crossley, Phil Roberts, Rob Jones substitute, Peter Ledsham and Barry Hart-Davies.

Five-a-side Winners

Christleton Leisure Centre was the venue for the MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club annual Five-a-side soccer tournament.

The 63 matches played were refereed by Leisure Centre staff and the competition was organised by Club Secretary Mr. Gren Roberts. The sixteen teams competing were drawn from different sections of the club's area.

The winners of the cup and individual medals were a team with the unlikely title of Brewers Droop. In the final against Test Centre team the winners hammered in four good goals and conceded none. Accurate passing and clever running off the ball proved the successful formula for this year's champions 'Brewers Droop.'

Top right, the runners-up, Test Centre, from the left, back row: Messrs. Keith Williams, Phil Mills, Bernie Haslam, in front, Dave Kenyon and Colin Ward. Keny



The losing semi-finalists, pictured left Legacy Lads, from the left standing, Messrs. Arthur Roberts, Robert McKenzie and Warren Davies, kneeling are Malcolm Fowles and Denis Vaughan. Pictured right are JAT (Junior Admin. Trainees), from the left standing, Messrs. John Gorman, Lawrence Kirby, and Harry Shone, front row are Neil Thomas, Keith Littler and Edwin Davies.





Industry facing big losses

Above: Gwynedd District staff in serious mood as they listen to remarks from Mr. Helliwell, below, at their annual meeting at Caernarfon. To the left of Mr. Helliwell is Mr. M. M. Parker (Secretary and Solicitor) and bottom left, is Mr. C. S. McKenzie, Chairman of the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Consultative Council.

THE serious financial predicament of the electricity supply industry was emphasised by Mr. K. Helliwell (*Group Manager*), when he commented on last years working at Gwynedd District's Annual Employees' Conference, held in Caernarfon.

Speaking of the current situation, Mr. Helliwell said: "We are losing money mainly because we are under-charging for domestic electricity. The fuel adjustment recently added to domestic accounts enables us to recover only the cost of fuel, and takes no account of the other inflationary costs we are facing in all directions.

"As far as the present year is concerned, this situation means that by the end of the year we shall have an even greater deficit than that of 1973/74" added Mr. Helliwell.

About 150 people from all parts of the far-flung Gwynedd District made the effort to attend the conference, where the guest speaker was Lieut.-Colonel Sir William Jones-Williams, former Chief Constable of Gwynedd Constabulary. Sir William spoke on the role of the police in society.

Mr. R. W. Parry, secretary of No. 8 L.A.C., reported on the year's activities, and the 'Open Forum' session covered such topics as high staff turnover at the District office, the use of the Welsh language on Board vehicles, improvements to car parks and convenience at St. Helens Road, communications within MANWEB, and incentive bonus schemes.



No. 6 L.A.C. Employees' Meeting

Peter Maloney at Mid-Cheshire

—K. H. in the chair
yet again—

GROUP MANAGER, Mr. K. Helliwell ended his marathon run of chairing District Employees' Meetings when he again stood in for retired Group Manager, Mr. J. W. Trimble at the Mid-Cheshire District meeting held at Alverston Hall, Nantwich a few weeks ago.

Despite the atrocious weather conditions about 200 people attended and enjoyed an excellent meal which was so good that it took a little extra time to clear which left the business side of the Meeting a few minutes late in starting.

Mr. Helliwell welcomed everyone and made a special mention of the guests, Messrs. Peter Maloney (*principal speaker*), B. R. Hastings (*Deputy Chairman*), W. N. Shires (*Deputy Chief Commercial Officer*), G. G. Barnes (*Assistant Chief Accountant—Revenue*), C. Shepherd (*Executive Officer, Industrial Staff Relations*) and R. Colclough (*Vice-Chairman of No. 9 D.J.A.C.*), on his first visit to the District. Mr. M. M. Parker (*Secretary and Solicitor*) arrived later.

Following this, Mr. Helliwell gave a summary of the Board's Report and Accounts and forecast that the Electricity Supply Industry would lose something in the region of £250 million in the current year. He spoke of the inevitable and necessary increase in electricity prices and appealed to all members of the Board's staff to study the present situation in our industry and get a better understanding of why increases in our tariffs are necessary and urgent.

After the Meeting, from left to right: Messrs. Shires, Parker and Zeiher.



"Put me among the girls!" Mr. Maloney with some of our Mid-Cheshire District ladies.

Then Mr. Harold Allman (*principal assistant—Administration*) as Secretary of the No. 6 Local Advisory Committee highlighted points discussed by the Committee during the year under review.

He spoke of the 140 members of the District staff who had received Safe Driving Awards—practically doubling last year's figure—and of the increase in applications for places at the Spring and Summer Schools. He also reminded the staff of the new qualifying periods for long service awards.

Commenting on the LAC's welfare interest in the former members of the staff, he said that a newly-formed Retired Employees Association now operated in the Mid-Cheshire District and he advised all the Board pensioners living within the District boundary as well as former members of the District staff who may be living elsewhere, to get in touch with the Association Secretary, Mr. T. V. Walley at Clyde Cottage, Swanley Lane, Nantwich.

After dealing briefly with a few more items—the canteen (*no complaints*), sports and social clubs (*making progress*) and alterations at Macon Way (*satisfactory*), he brought his remarks to a close by expressing his appreciation to all the Committee members for their support during the past year, and he thanked all members of the staff, past and present, and the guests for attending the annual meeting.

Mr. Helliwell thanked Mr. Allman for his brief and concise report and added his own thanks to members of the Mid-Cheshire LAC for the work they had done. He advised all staff to keep in touch with what was going on in their own District by regularly reading the Minutes of the LAC meetings. These could always be found on the notice boards.

He then introduced Mr. Peter Maloney, the principal guest speaker who was quickly off the mark and within minutes had his audience in the



Candid camera shots of some of the District staff at their annual meeting. *Right:* Members of the newly-formed Mid-Cheshire District Retired Employees' Association, *from left to right:* Messrs. T. V. Walley, A. T. R. Knott and S. Jones, Mrs. M. M. Le Voi, Messrs. C. P. Booth, S. Broadhurst and H. Thorndyke.



palm of his hand as he followed the hilarious pattern he had set at four previous MANWEB staff meetings.

At the end of his 'performance' it took many minutes for the applause to die down before Mr. N. Walsh (*District Commercial Engineer*) was able to voice a vote of thanks on behalf of the "L.A. Thingey!"

Then followed an 'Open Forum' session with questions ranging from the use of electric vehicles (*to save petrol*), through air conditioning at District Office (*answered once and for all we hope by Mr. G. Zeiher, (District Engineer)*), the use of the hot water geyser in the upstairs kitchen (*answered with the use of visual aids by Mr. D. Hodgetts (District Administrative Officer)*) and staff terms (*once again*) to the possibility of shop floor representatives serving on the Board (*another for the Deputy Chairman*).

This concluded the 'business' side of the meeting and from there on in, the 'social' side took over with drinks at the bar and dancing disco style.



Caught chatting—Messrs. Barnes, left, and Hodgetts.

Above and right More Staff past and present



Honours Degree graduates with the Chairman and Education and Training Officer after receiving completion certificates. *Left to right*, Messrs. Derek Robinson, Denis Dodds (*Chairman*), John Brown, Lionel Ladner (*E. & T. Officer*) and Alan Reid.



Award Winners Lunch with Chairman

MANWEB Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds invited nine young men from MANWEB to lunch just before Christmas. The luncheon was to mark the completion of technical and academic training for six of them and to present study prizes to the other three.

Despite the depressing state of the electricity industry's finances which were caused by outside influences, Mr. Dodds told the newly qualified young men that their future and the industry could be a very bright one.

Conservation of the nations

energy was now an important factor which had to be considered when planning networks and selling electricity. It would be the job of his luncheon guests in years to come as they climbed to positions of authority to ensure the economic use of this industry's commodity, electricity.

Also attending the luncheon were the Deputy Chairman Mr. B. R. Hastings, and the two men responsible for guiding the young men through their training, Mr. J. L. W. Ladner the Education & Training Officer and Mr. Oscar Lloyd, one of Mr. Ladner's staff.



Above: Completion certificates were presented to students after finishing their training during 1974. Pictured *left to right*, Messrs. Bernard Hastings (*Deputy Chairman*), Oscar Lloyd, Robert James, John Mayes, David Makin and Chairman Denis Dodds.

Below: Study prize winners, Messrs. Ian Baird, *left*, John MacDonald, *centre*, and Chris Kilfoyle, *right*, with the Chairman and the Deputy.



Helping the Needy

It was the task of Government, and not the electricity supply industry, to identify those households which were in need, said Mr. Lawrence Robson, a Member of the Electricity Council, speaking at a recent one-day symposium on the management of energy in buildings.

It was commonly pointed out, he said, that because fuel and power took a higher proportion of family budgets in poorer households, increased energy prices might tend to redistribute income away from these households.

"However, the electricity industry is not in a position to identify which households need assistance, and believe that Governments could alleviate this redistributive effect more cheaply and more efficiently by increasing pensions and social benefits than by subsidising energy prices," Mr. Robson stressed.



Some of the staff from Superannuation and Salaries surround Mr. Ron Patterson, centre right, as he welcomes his successor Mr. Peter Briggs.

Farewell to Ron . . .

After many years looking after MANWEB's superannuation schemes, Mr. Ronald G. Patterson is now drawing his own following his retirement at the end of last month.

Ron began his working life in 1931 when he joined the Treasurer's staff of Wallasey Corporation. He took up an appointment with MANWEB in 1949 where his first task was to assimilate the various details and rights of 37 pension schemes and formulate them all into the Electricity Supply Staff Superannuation Scheme which was constituted in August 1949.

Later, in April 1955, came the Manual Workers' Superannuation Scheme, which was, and still is, a voluntary scheme giving all manual workers in the industry the opportunity of saving for superannuation for the first time. At the moment, in MANWEB, only about 66 per cent are taking advantage of it, and Ron asked us to appeal to the remaining 34 per cent to think hard about joining the scheme.

In 1965, Ron was elected as a representative on the Management Committee of the Staff Superannuation Scheme, and has recently been elected to serve for a further three year term. He was Joint Secretary of the District Management Committees of the Staff and Manual Workers' Schemes, Secretary to the Trustees of the Mid-Cheshire Company Pension Scheme and Honorary Treasurer of the Manual Workers' Benevolent Society. He is Honorary Treasurer for the EEIBA, West Lancs, Merseyside and North Wales Area.

He has been a member of Nalgo for well over 40 years and served on the Branch Committee many times.

During the war, Ron served for five years as a fitter/armourer with Coastal Command of the R.A.F.

In his early years with MANWEB, he made many contributions to 'Contact' - including the occasional crossword - under the pseudonyms 'Patron' and 'Nortap'. He was also a business manager / actor / stage manager with the former Electron Players in Liverpool.

Away from his daily work, he managed to find time for many interests. He entered 'lay' scouting in 1953 and during his term as Chairman of the 10th Wallasey Scout Group they 'self-built' a £4,500 group headquarters. He is still Treasurer for the Wallasey District Scout Council.

Ron enjoys walking and suffers gardening. In 1960 he started collecting pennies dated from 1860 to 1967, the last penny before decimalisation. He has a complete set with the exception of 1933—*has anybody got one tucked away somewhere?* He also collects book match covers.

In retirement, Ron and his wife Hilda, hope to do some travelling around by caravan when they are not too busy with their grandchildren. He also intends to take up golf and with this in mind part of his farewell presentation from his colleagues was a golf bag which went with a nest of tables and an electric blanket.

. . . and welcome to Peter

Ron's successor is Mr. Peter Briggs, who comes to us from the CEBG in Gloucester. Prior to that he worked at Finchley and at HQ in London where he went straight from school.

Born in Hammersmith, he used to play football in the Spartan League and later took up refereeing reaching Combination standard before turning to golf. He won the Captain's Day prize with the CEBG Golf Society at Gloucester last year. Peter and his wife Pamela have two children, Gillian (16) and Graham (10).

Mrs. M. BOWEN

Electing to take an early retirement on the 31st December, Mrs. Mabel Bowen, a clerk in our Clwyd District, said goodbye to her friends and colleagues after 40 years' service in the Industry.

She started work with the North Wales Power Company at Rhosyllen in 1934. Many years later she went to Ruthin, first as a senior service centre assistant and then as sub-District clerk. Finally, in 1971, she moved to the Clwyd District Office at Rhuddlan.

On behalf of her colleagues, Mr.



Mr. Hislop presents Mrs. Bowen with a farewell gift.

S. L. Hislop (*Commercial Supply Engineer*), presented her with a Teasmade set and wished her a long and happy retirement.

Mr. H. KELLY

Colleagues gathered at Head Office to say farewell to Mr. Harry Kelly, who retired from the Board after 25 years service. He started his career with a property company, worked as a draughtsman for the Fire Service during the war and joined the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board in 1945.

. . . and more Retirements

Mr. D. KEAN

After nearly 30 years' service Mr. David Kean, meter reader/collector at North Mersey District, retired recently, slightly earlier than normal, on health grounds.

Mr. Kean began work in the industry in 1946 with the 'cable gang,' after serving in the Royal Artillery during the war (when he saw action in the

defence of London). He is a keen Evertonian, and during his long service has made many close friends at Bridle Road and Derby House.

At an informal gathering at Bridle Road he was presented with a superb chair, together with a bouquet of flowers for Mrs. Kean, by Mr. G. Shoemith (*District Administrative Officer*). Mr. Lennon (*foreman*) expressed his appreciation for the valuable work done by Mr. Kean over the years.

Mr. Kean, seated centre, surrounded by friends and colleagues at Bridle Road. Second from left is Mr. Shoemith.



Harry is married with two married daughters Linda and Joan. He and his wife Mabel have, thanks to their daughters, two grandchildren. Harry is a keen photographer and enjoys painting with water colours.

His friends knew him as a very quiet man with dry sense of humour. There is a tale which they tell in the Drawing Office of the time Harry went on holiday on his motorcycle on the South Coast. Being hot and sticky in his riding leathers he stopped at a secluded cove and went for a swim—without his trunks. While, as nature intended him, in the cool water he turned and was shocked to see



Mr. Kelly, left, says 'Good-bye' to his chief, Mr. D. W. Hughes (Chief Draughtsman).

a large party gathered on the beach. The group undressed and joined Harry in the water, it was only when he saw they were not wearing costumes his face was saved.

Apparently he had stumbled on one of the few naturist beaches and was able to wade ashore as though he was one of the party and with relatively little embarrassment.

Mr. O. S. NUNNEY

Mr. Sam Nunney, principal assistant (legal), took early retirement a short time ago, with the good wishes of his many friends at Head Office for a long and happy retirement.

Born in Derbyshire, Mr. Nunney went to live at Machynlleth as a boy, and worked for a solicitor



Mr. Nunney, front, flanked by his "Legal" colleagues on the eve of his retirement.

in private practice before joining Machynlleth UDC in 1950. He came to MANWEB in Liverpool in 1956, moving to Chester on re-organisation.

Sam served in the RAF during the war, having a world tour of duty first with Fighter Command and later with Combined Operations in the Pacific, India and the Far East. When serving for a time in Australia he was a member of a RAF team which managed to beat the Aussies! (But they had more than eleven men to choose from).

Sam now hopes to be able to spend a little more time with his wife, and to see more of their grandchildren. His son is curator at Leeds museum.

Mr. A. LITTLEMORE

After 18 years' service to the industry Mr. Alan Littlemore, a meter reader at Northwich, has retired.

The problem of keeping fit in retirement seems unlikely to worry Alan—he is a keen cyclist, and Chairman of the Northwich Cycling Club. His many friends at Mid-Cheshire District wish him a long and happy retirement, and expect that he and his wife will be often seen pedalling along the Cheshire lanes they know so well.

At an informal gathering at the Northwich depot, Mr. and Mrs. Littlemore were presented with a stainless steel tea service on behalf of his colleagues.

Mr. and Mrs. Littlemore with their parting gift from friends at Northwich.



'The Gentleman'

An appreciation by Mr. G. Wells

Jack Flanagan was the garage foreman in Runcorn, and I worked in the MANWEB shop.

It was a bitterly cold day, and Jack and I stood shivering as we waited for The Gentleman to come along with his car to give us a lift to lunch at Percival Lane power station—a privilege extended to us by the Generating Board.

As we drove along by the canal bank at Top Locks we noticed that the water was completely frozen over, and remarked that winter had indeed come.

We crossed the bridge over the canal. Suddenly The Gentleman said "I say—did you see that?"

Quick as a flash he stopped and scrambled out, calling on us to follow him—and to try to find a ladder!

After marking the way he went, we were lucky enough to find a ladder quickly, and raced with it to where he was standing at the water's edge. As we approached he threw off his coat, and asked us to hold his feet as he lay face-downwards, reaching out with the ladder across the ice. At the end of the ladder was a hole in the ice—and in the hole was a dog, quickly drowning in the freezing waters.

With the ladder barely an inch away from the dog, The Gentleman shouted to it to "Get on the blasted ladder." He must have mesmerised the animal, for with a supreme effort it heaved itself out of the water and crawled along the rungs towards the lock wall. Then it slipped off, through the ice again, and back into the water.

Again the exhortation rang out, and again the animal struggled out to resume its shivering crawl

to the side. As soon as it was within reach The Gentleman grasped it, and threw it on to the lock wall.

There it stood—utterly frozen and soaking wet—but alive! As The Gentleman stood up—very dirty and cold—the dog went towards him, shook itself furiously all over him, gave him a lick—and disappeared.

The Gentleman?—he was our District Commercial Engineer in those days—Mr. G. H. O. Speight

The above tribute came in response to the untimely death of Mr. G. H. O. Speight, who was the District Commercial Engineer for the Aberystwyth District. He was 59 years of age.

He joined MANWEB in 1949 from the Yorkshire Electricity Board. He was D.C.E. at Runcorn District until 1966, after which he held a similar post in Chester District. With Board re-organisation he was appointed as D.C.E. in Aberystwyth in 1970.

During World War II he was in the Technical branch of the R.A.F. where he held the rank of Flight Lieutenant. We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and daughter. Mr. Speight's other daughter was lost a few years ago on an Alpine climbing holiday.

Mrs. E. WAREING

Many members of the Lister Drive staff were saddened recently when they heard that their friend and colleague Mrs. Edith Wareing had died suddenly on 28th December.

Edith joined MANWEB shortly after nationalisation in 1948 and worked since then as a typist in the Liverpool District. She was a fine athlete during the early years

of the Sports and Social Club and was a very keen and capable tennis player. Swimming was also one of her pastimes and many friends were helped to become good swimmers with Edith's able tuition.

She will be sadly missed by her friends, many of whom attended the funeral service and cremation at Anfield Crematorium earlier this month.

Mr. HUMPHREY ROBERTS

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. Humphrey Roberts, our Area 2/3 Stores Superintendent prior to his retirement in 1966, after nearly 40 years' service with the industry.

Mr. Roberts started in the industry with Birkenhead Corporation Electricity Department, dealing variously with wages, costing, transport and stores work. On the nationalisation of the industry he became senior assistant in the Stores Accounting section at Chester, and was appointed Stores Superintendent on the merger of Areas 2 and 3.

Mr. E. ROBERTS

We regret to announce the death of Mr. E. Roberts, formerly of St. Helens depot, who lived at 36 Bruce Street, St. Helens.

Mr. Roberts worked in the mains department until retiring in 1970 due to ill-health.

Mr. E. J. DAVIES

It is with regret that we record the death of a retired employee, Mr. Evan John Davies, of The Rock, New South Wales, Australia, at the age of 71.

Before migrating to Australia, Mr. Davies lived at St. Asaph.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families
and relatives of these former colleagues.