



Appliance sales up

MANWEB shops finished the 1983/83 trading year with another good month. The value of appliances sold was a healthy 30.1% up on the same month last year.

Almost all categories of appliance did well, with a massive 110% increase in sales of fridge-freezers and increases ranging from 13% (water heaters) to 50% (microwave cookers) in other domestic appliances.

The full year (April to March) has been heartening for our shops and appliance marketing staffs, with an overall increase of 17.8% in the value of sales. All Districts have shared in this success.

Types of appliance which have led the way included microwave cookers, fridges, fridge-freezers, washing machines, clothes dryers and cleaners. The steady increase in the popularity of Economy 7 off-peak heating is underlined by a 48% rise in the number of storage radiators sold during the year.

Dinorwig will save £50m a year

— power mountain project

THE Dinorwig pumped-storage power station, the biggest in Europe, built at a cost of £425 million, will save electricity customers almost £50 million a year, said Sir Walter Marshall, Chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, last month.

He was speaking to more than 50 journalists, from TV and radio and the national, regional, local and specialist press, who toured the site and the station.

MANWEB staff have played a vital role in helping all involved to make the stupendous Dinorwig project into a success story.

Sir Walter told the pressmen that the construction of the station, involving the excavation of around three million tonnes of rock, had been a major feat of civil engineering. It was a tribute to the skill and determination of the mainly Welsh workforce, and to the best of British industry.

★ Power Mountain page 3



SEE PAGE SIX

STUDENT'S DEVICE TO BEAT METER FIDDLERS

AT an end-of-term 'Bright Spark' exhibition at Salford University, two MANWEB sandwich course engineers, Peter Jones and Fred Wightman, submitted their joint project which should, if proved practical, drastically reduce the amount of meter fiddling which goes on in every Board. With their special method of detection, many millions of pounds of lost revenue may be saved.

● FULL STORY PAGE 2

'Bright Sparks' Peter Jones, left, and Fred Wightman with their prototype anti-fiddling device for electricity meters.



'Switch on' at Dinorwig by CEGB Chairman Sir Walter Marshall watched by Lady Marshall.

Electric
fryers
safest
—'Which?'

THE Consumers' Association magazine 'Which?' warns it's readers that there are more than 17,000 kitchen fires that are started by fat or oil catching alight, causing the deaths of over 100 people.

'Which?' advises anyone who does a lot of deep frying to buy a separate electric fryer—it proves much safer than the conventional chip pan because

the electric fryers are thermostatically controlled.

MANWEB shops sell five different electric fryers by Kenwood, GS Iona, Russell Hobbs and Tefal, which are available to Board present and retired employees at staff terms, with prices that range from £18-35 to £31-15. You won't get a better buy elsewhere!

COMMERCIAL MANAGER

THE recently-advertised post of Commercial Manager for the Liverpool District has now been filled with the appointment of Bryan R. Ogden, a former Principal Engineer in the Commercial section at Head Office.

these clogs
are made for
working...

(see centre pages)





Federation Conference

The Merseyside and North Wales Federation Conference of the Electrical Association for Women was held recently in Southport. Here we picture, from left to right, guest speakers Lyndon Thomas (North East Wales Institute of Higher Education) and John Walker (MANWEB), with, Ivy Bailey (Chairman), Mary Evans (Treasurer), Brenda Williams (Secretary) and Sheila Beese (Liaison Organiser, North).

NEW EAW HANDBOOK

ESSENTIAL Electricity—A User's Guide is the title of a new handbook produced for the Electrical Association for Women.

The new book provides a unique link between the technical and domestic worlds, covering the basic principles of electricity including generation and supply.

Information is given on a wide range of household electrical appliances and also on those used for commercial purposes, together with chapters on heating and lighting, advice on safety and protective devices, and information on energy costs and conservation.

The booklet is published by Hodder and Stoughton at £6.95p.

● FROM PAGE ONE

STUDENTS' ANTI-FIDDLE DEVICE

"The object of our project was to construct a device which could indicate when a theft had taken place and give an indication of the amount of electricity stolen," Fred informed us.

"We had seen from the Board's annual reports that large amounts of revenue was being lost every year through thefts of electricity," added Peter. "We also discovered that, over the past years, many experiments had been carried out in an endeavour to reduce thefts through meters."

The two bright sparks began their project on the assumption that detection of any theft would first be seen by the meter reader, the only employee with regular, natural access to meters. To find a way of building a device based on a very simple theory—where all the best ideas originate—at low cost from readily available components, which would immediately alert the reader that the meter had been tampered with, became the problem tackled in their final year project.

What they achieved was a solid-state device, difficult to corrupt, which would resist external force and was protected against over-currents ensuring no internal damage. Installed next to the meter itself, it would be inexpensive to produce consisting of a custom-made single microchip mounted on a circuit board the size of a normal credit card.

The trial model gives an immediate and clear indication to the meter reader that theft has taken place. It detects any significant amount of theft by any method known to the Board at present and it gives an approximate evidence of the amount of energy used, but not recorded, on the normal meter following the previous reading.

In all their experiments, an electricity meter of the type currently used by the Board, was slightly but inexpensively modified. It was designed to maintain, in a memory hold, the amount of energy stolen should the supply fail completely at some later date.

"To conclude completely that our theft detection system will work as intended, extensive field trials would, of course, be necessary," commented Peter. "As our time at University is rather limited, and facilities for the type of test we would have liked to carry out were simply not available, the overall performance of the device can not be confirmed."

"However," interrupted Fred, "despite the absence of these trials to prove the device under real conditions, since we started on the project, many more ideas have formulated for its further development as a commercially viable and reliable invention which should save us all a lot of money."

In their respective reports submitted to the University and to MANWEB, both Fred and Peter acknowledge the generous help given by GEC Measurements and to the Board's own Meter Test section, headed by David Crangle at Lister Drive.

These young men have had parallel careers since they joined MANWEB within weeks of each other at 16 years of age. They spent a couple of years at Birkenhead Technical College before taking the four-year BSc. Honours sandwich course in Electrical Engineering at Salford University in 1979.

During all this period together they have had mirror marks in their examinations—and they state, categorically, that they have not been sitting next to each other!

Other MANWEB students on sandwich courses at Salford University also successfully submitted end-of-term projects.

Jeff Hunt from Pensby, and **Michael Jones** from Chester, worked jointly on a study of permanently switching surge breakdown and heat transfer characteristics of Nomax insulation.

Carl Woodman, from Liverpool, produced a prototype of a three-phase multi-winding transformer.

Always the best of friends, a state, however, taken to breaking point on many occasions while working on their joint project.

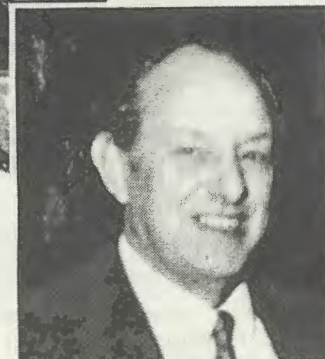
Fred is very keen on photography—he was one of the prizewinners in our last photographic competition. He is also a radio amateur and is interested in computers. For relaxation he likes a game of darts or pool. During the Summer, he plans to marry Debby Moloney.

His father—same Christian name—is a 2nd engineer in the Oswestry District who has recently completed his 30 years' service in the industry.

Peter is already married to Janet who is a bank clerk. Together they are looking for their first home. He is interested in hi-fi audio and car maintenance—"It's the only way I can keep my car on the road!" he quipped.



40 year men, right, Phil Williams outside Prestatyn shop with the appliance delivery vehicle. Below, Harry Aindow.



Long Service

WE offer congratulations to the following members of the staff who have completed, during the month of May, 40, 30 and 20 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

40 YEARS—North Mersey District: **Harry Aindow** (3rd engineer—Installation). Clwyd District: **Phil Williams** (craftsman, electrician).

30 YEARS—Mid-Mersey District: **Fred Crossley** (Installation Engineer). Clwyd District: **Robert T. Davies** (craft attendant). Oswestry District: **Bill Ellis** (foreman—Engineering) and **Fred. H. Wightman** (2nd engineer). Transmission: **Arthur K. Humphries** (1st engineer).

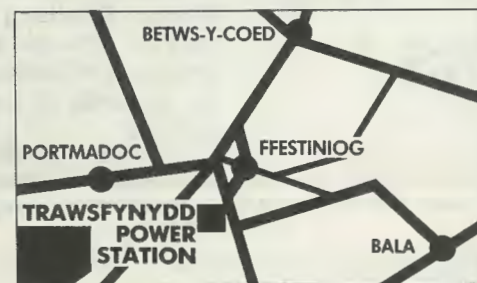
20 YEARS—North Wirral District: **Trevor G. Parry** (2nd engineer). Mid-Cheshire District: **John Mutton** and **Gilbert Powell** (craftsmen, overhead lines). Clwyd District: **David E. Evans** (craft attendant). Head Office: **Thomas L. Bishop** (2nd engineer—Plant and Construction), **Nora Kneale** (data preparation operator) and **Ronald Trowler** (foreman, instruments—Technical).



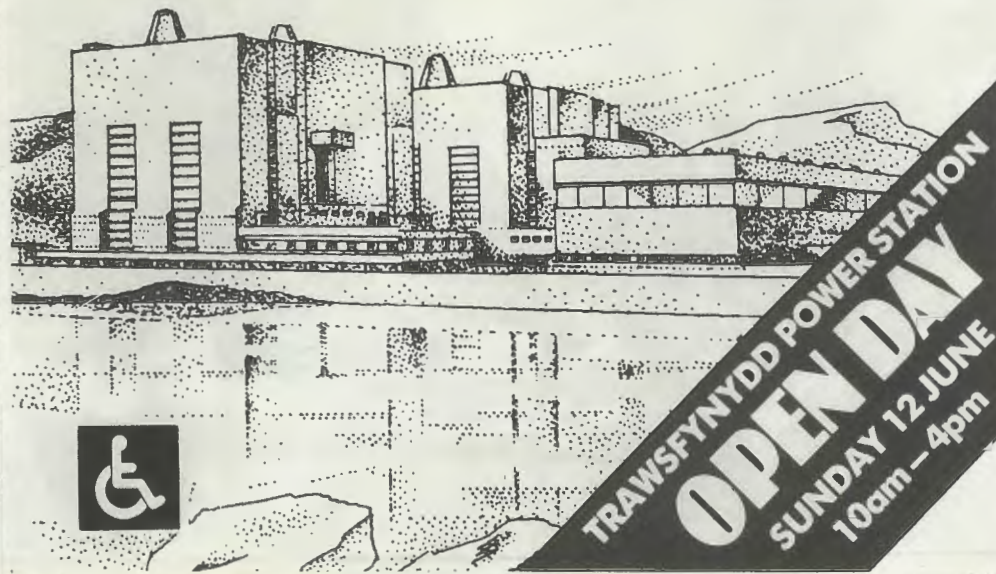
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Trawsfynydd nuclear power station, in the heart of the Snowdonia National Park, came of age this year. To celebrate, we are opening our doors to the public.

Come in and see for yourself how electricity is made, from beginning to end, and find out all about nuclear power.



CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD
North Western Region



Inside 'Power Mountain'

At the press visit to Dinorwig Sir Walter Marshall told journalists: "Together they have built a 'power mountain'—a project that required the power of vision to conceive, great power to construct, and that will now provide power to help meet peak demands for electricity and to replace the sudden loss of generating capacity."

Dinorwig will be capable of supplying enough electricity for several large cities for up to five hours. It is powered by water flowing from a mountain reservoir through tunnels to drive the station's turbines. After use the water is collected in a lower reservoir and pumped back by off-peak electricity at night to the upper reservoir ready for re-use the next day.

Sir Walter explained that the station would achieve savings in three main ways.

First, it would enable the Board to reduce the amount of coal and oil-fired plant that had to be kept inefficiently on partial load to provide reserve in case it was needed to meet sudden increases in demand. This would bring savings of between £15 and £20 million annually.

Secondly, it would reduce the use during the daily peak demand for electricity of the older, expensive-to-run power stations, bringing savings in fuel costs of around £25 million a year.

Thirdly, it would produce savings in maintenance of some £5 million annually through cutting wear and tear on conventional generating plant by reducing the need for it to be run up and down in following the daily demand curve.

Dinorwig would help the Board to fill the overnight trough in demand by providing extra load for its under-utilised, highly efficient coal-fired plant which would pump the water back to the mountain reservoir.

In an emergency, he said, the station would have one of the fastest response times of any pumped storage station in the world. It could contribute substantial amounts of electricity to the National Grid in just ten seconds, compared with several minutes for high fuel-cost gas turbines and partially loaded steam plant.

HALF-WAY THERE!

Three of the six generating sets at Dinorwig are now available for use, and from time to time have contributed a maximum output of 980 Megawatts to the National Grid. Work on the others is at an advanced stage, and all six are expected to be fully operational by the end of the year.

To achieve such a swift and substantial output, the station was equipped with massive mechanical and electrical plant. Each of its six generator-motor stators weighed 382 tonnes and each rotor 445 tonnes. Up to 400 tonnes of water a second will flow through Dinorwig's 21st century 'water wheels' to drive them at full power.

The main machine hall inside the mountain, believed to be Europe's biggest man-made cavern, is the height of a 16-storey building. The creation of this 'power house inside a mountain' has caught the imagination of visitors from all over the world, including Russia, China and Japan.

The electrical output will be 1,680 megawatts for five hours. The design life of the civil works is 80 years, and that of the plant is 40 years.



Just one of the giant holes scooped out of the Power Mountain. Nearly 200 yards long, 25 feet wide and about 65 feet high, this cavern houses the enormous draft tube valves which serve as isolation valves for the lower lake.

The MANWEB role at Dinorwig

"BEFORE Dinorwig can help to meet Britain's electricity needs, you will have to meet ours. To build the station we must have substantial and secure electricity supplies, to every part of the site, both under and above ground, often to most difficult and seemingly inaccessible places."

This was the brief from the CEB to the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board when MANWEB was contracted to plan, construct, commission and operate a supply network for the entire site, at 33kV, 11kV, and low voltage. It was to prove one of the most challenging tasks ever faced by MANWEB.

The Board's area includes the highest mountains south of the Scottish border, so our staff are well versed in working in wild terrain and bad weather, but the problems of the Dinorwig site soon tested their experience and ingenuity. Here was a slate mountain, soon to be honeycombed with tunnels and caverns, with additional construction work to be carried out up to 800 metres above sea level. Steep inclines, and atrocious weather conditions, all compounded the difficulties involved in ensuring safe working and transporting men, materials and plant around the site.

It was MANWEB's job to ensure that adequate, reliable electricity supplies were made available at every work-point, and it soon became obvious that "the flexible approach" would have to be the watchword for the task.

Planning to meet the known requirements, and to cater for any increase in demand, MANWEB engineers decided to establish a 33/11kV substation with provision for two 7.5MVA transformers on the main site. Higher locations would be supplied by 11kV overhead lines, and an 11kV ring main was planned to supply portable substations for onward transmission to portable 415/240V distribution units at the various workplaces.

Because of the nature of the slate rock, special steps had to be taken to provide adequate earthing. This included a large number of additional earth electrodes at various points, some as deep as 19 metres.

MANWEB began work on the site in August 1975 and soon received a foretaste of the problems to come. The 33kV overhead line bringing power from Llanberis, nearly two kilometres away, had to cross Llyn Peris, and this involved a span of 268 metres supported on 18 metre poles on each bank. The 11kV lines supplying the upper regions called for specially strengthened construction, while many difficulties had to be overcome in supplying power to workpoints deep inside the mountain.

The planning of flexible arrangements, which would facilitate adding or removing substations without affecting the network, was proved to be a very necessary precaution. As the work progressed the load centres and demands changed. Although it was originally anticipated that 14 strategically placed 11kV/415V substations would meet requirements, at the height of construction activities 40 substations were actually required.

All work was carried out on time, often under most arduous conditions, and secure supplies of electricity were made available to all parts of the site.

MANWEB was also involved in some tunnel

lighting, and the permanent cabling from the underground power station to the headworks at Marchlyn Mawr, the upper reservoir.

The manifold area showing the tunnels that carry water to the turbines. Nearly 10 miles of hydraulic tunnels have been driven deep into Elidir Mountain. The walls have been lined with concrete to reduce drag.





Spotlights give high illumination on the many gaming machines in the Las Vegas style reception area at Pontins Holiday Village at Ainsdale. In the foreground we see, from left to right: Harry Aindow (3rd engineer, Installation), Joyce Hey (Village Manager) and Bill Armistead (Consultant Executive, Pontins Technical Services).

HOLIDAY VILLAGE CONTRACT

THE Installation team in North Mersey District have recently completed a contract at Pontins Holiday Village at Ainsdale.

The main entrance hall has been redesigned with the office block being taken away and in its place, a Las Vegas style gaming-machine area.

Board electricians used underfloor ducting to install nearly 100 twin-socket outlets to feed electricity supply to close on 200 massive machines.

A new ceiling incorporates nearly 200 spot fittings to brightly light an area which, during the season,

will be a hive of activity with the rattle of revolving tumblers, the clink of coins dropping in and, sometimes, pouring out to the yell of 'Jackpot!'

The contract also called for re-lighting the plush bingo hall enabling players to see the numbers of the cards more clearly.

Further work planned at this modern holiday village is the replacing of all emergency lighting throughout the public areas.

The next phase of development, for which we have quoted, is the installation of solar cells to replace the time switches on roadway lighting and the illumination on the chalet stairways. Also, next Winter, work will start on the construction of three new shops and special telephone booths in the entrance hall.

Men from MANWEB hope to be asked to put in the new lighting and power installations.

BRIDLE ROAD TEN YEARS ON

JUST over ten years ago, North Mersey District staff—and Sam the Stores cat—moved from their offices and industrial block at Marsh Lane into the sparkling new District depot at Bridle Road.

Shortly afterwards, a reminder of Marsh Lane in the form of one of the Terrapin buildings, formally the En-

gineering office, was re-erected at Bridle Road by volunteer staff. After much electrical and decorating work, the building now thrives as the North Mersey District Sports and Clubhouse.

A few weeks ago, a District Recreation Centre was added to the complex.



You saw the clogs on page one — now here is the man who proudly wears them, Roger Dutton.

These clogs are made for comfort

The unusual 'clip clop' sound of clogs on the ground heralds the approach of electricity Dutton who is based at the Southport depot.

To our younger readers, clogs are a very old and comfortable form of footwear worn by mill workers in bygone days.

Roger resurrected the fashion about six years ago. "They are simply great to wear," he says. "The leather uppers are soft and pliable, the soles are very strong. Unfortunately the fashion has not quite caught on again, except for those teams of clog dancers. My claim to fame is that I am the only member of the MANWEB regularly wears clogs!"

Roger joined the Board as an apprentice at Hoylake in 1965. He now lives at Broomfield, Southport and is married to Janis. They have two daughters, Maxine (10) and Rebecca (6). Roger is keen on body building, weight lifting and all sports.

SPONSORED WALKERS

A SPONSORED ten-mile walk by some of the North Mersey District staff, and their families, will take place later this month.

The route will be the same as the one taken last year—from Bridle Road offices, along the coast past five pubs to the finish back at the District Clubhouse. As a result of that walk, over £1,000 was raised for the MANWEB Staff Appeal for the Kidney Unit.

This time, the gallant walkers, through the generous sponsorship of many individuals, hope to raise another sizeable amount for the Merseyside Bone Marrow Unit Appeal.

Organisers Margaret Davies and Christine Parker, both from the Drawing Office at Bridle Road, would like to hear from anyone willing to take part in the venture and from anyone willing to sponsor any of the walkers.

PART-TIME

AN electrician in the North Mersey District has found painting pictures as his spare-time hobby.

"I was introduced to the world of art by my father," he told us. "He was a fantastic artist with a pencil and I used to watch him for hours."

A few years later, after he had established himself with a career, Billy decided to learn the rudiments of painting so he enrolled at night school.

"Although I paint landscapes and still life, I enjoy portrait painting most of all," he continued. "Friends hand me a photograph of their youngster and ask me to reproduce it as an oil painting. It might take a week, it might take a month. I paint in my own time and they accept this."

JOINTERS ON THE LINE

Our man from 'CONTACT' recently came across a team of jointers repairing a faulty 33-kV cable alongside the main Southport/Liverpool railway line. On seeing the camera, the men quickly took off their safety helmets to comb their hair in readiness for the picture. They are, up above, Stephen Jones (mate), left, and Keith Morris (craftsman, joiner). Below, Frank Adamson (mate) and a B.R. safety stand-by man.

Successful first-aiders

LAY instructor in first-aid for North Mersey District, Margaret Davies (senior records draughtswoman), is highly delighted at the results achieved by her first-aid class.

In a joint effort with a group from Liverpool

District, supported by their lay instructor George Deakin (craftsman, jointing), only one of the North Mersey first-aiders missed the pass mark in the final examination.

Those who did qualify for their certificates of competency were, Bob Edwards (craftsman, electrician), Keith Gore (craftsman, electrical fitting), Maria McDaid (clerk) and Christine Parker (records draughtswoman).

"The results were most encouraging," said Margaret. "I am now planning further classes for re-examinations for existing first-aiders in the District under the new First-Aid at Work Act."

Lay instructor Margaret Davies, left, was present when Engineering Manager Bert Eyres presented First-aid Certificates to Christine Parker and Bob Edwards.



Commercial comment...

from JOHN WALKER
(Load Development Engineer)

AT the time of the transfer from Marsh Lane to Bridle Road, the District Commercial section was still swinging along in a golden era. The energy crunch had not yet hit us. Industry was still buoyant and expanding, particularly on the new estates at Formby, Sefton and Knowsley.

The large office complexes for Sefton Council were completed, and fully occupied, and the meters were turning. Southport was awash with holidaymakers. Our electricians were installing one Electricaire unit a day in local authority new housing.

Contracting and appliance sales had not really felt the effect of the encroaching difficult economic climate. District staff were feeling good with the move from the antiquated and inadequate surrounding at Marsh Lane to the new, technologically-advanced office complex at Bridle Road. Considerable interest was being shown with the IED concept in the offices—the first of its kind on Merseyside. It was an energy-conscious building well ahead of its time.

On the housing front, business was booming. Local authorities were putting up more properties than ever before. Marshside Developments and the Cantril Farm estate were nearing completion. Our network was expanding with more substations being erected to cope with the additional load.

We had hardly set foot in our new home when the golden era came abruptly to an end. The price of oil quadrupled bringing about a pricy-energy situation which is still with us.

This became the time for consolidation with the whole of the District defending what it had. We also went out and aggressively sold our products and services at every opportunity.

Now, ten years on, the wheel has turned full circle. By virtue of the hard work and commitment shown during the dark decade, the District is entering its second golden era. Industry is pulling itself out of the recession—there are signs that our unit sales are on the increase.

We are not back to the stage where we were installing one Electricaire unit a day but we celebrate our tenth anniversary with bulging order books for storage radiators.

The Cantril Farm estate, which suffered badly during the lean years, has now been given a new lease of life. Houses are being modernised and more new homes are being built—complete with electric space and water heating—all on the beneficial *Economy 7* tariff. Sefton's, Marshside Development is also being brought up-to-date and the Grosvenor and North Cheshire Housing Associations are re-affirming their belief in electricity by refurbishing their flats with storage and water heaters—again on *Economy 7*. Knowsley local authority is now installing storage radiators in their blocks of flats.

We are seeing an increase in the sales of electrical appliances in our shops and the contracting amount is in profit with turnover increasing.

Yes, ten years on heralds a situation which presents us all with a golden opportunity to grow, and grow and grow.



Dressed for the part, attractive Christine Parker with samples of her talent at cake decoration and awards received for her work.

THE ICING ON THE CAKE

WINNER of the Lucas Smith Award, presented this year for the very first time, was Christine Parker, a records draughtswoman at the Board's North Mersey District offices.

This special medal award was presented to Christine for submitting the best entry in the Colquitt Street Internal Bakery Competition. The whole range covered confectionery, bread and cake decorating.

Christine was delighted, and surprised, at winning the award. "I only developed an interest in icing techniques a couple of years ago," she told us. "I decided to take a first-year preliminary course at the Colquitt Street school. I found satisfaction in what I was doing there so I decided to take-up a two-year City and Guilds Course. I have just finished the first half and the results are most encouraging."

One has only to see examples of her work to realise that she is extremely talented at her hobby. She is kept very busy by her family and friends

at the office. Whenever an occasion demands a cake—Christine is called upon to ice and decorate it.

She has quite a sense of humour too. On the occasion when she was asked to decorate a cake for a friend's husband who had reached the 40 mark, she iced and painted to perfection a replica of the well-known bottle of tablets which 'fortifies the over 40's!'

"I can be serious too," Christine added.

She is often helped on the artistic side by her boy friend Brian, who is a design assistant with Mersey TV.

Her father runs a health club on the Kirkby Industrial Estate and Mum is 'on the staff'. Christine's brother, an electrician, is, unfortunately one of the thousands of unemployed.



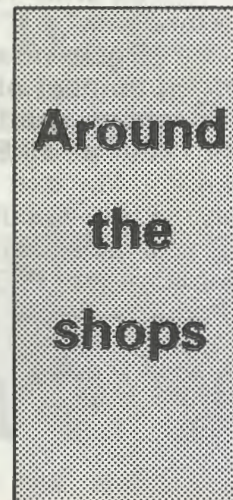
Bootle From left to right: Margaret Bjork, Sue Wilson, Dave Melling (supervisor) and Jean Long.



Waterloo Service with a smile. From left to right: Joan Brophy, Ruth Moore and Pat Gleaves.



Walton Vale Kevin Taylor (supervisor), left, with John Schevill (Marketing rep.) and Sue Johnson (Focus TV).



Norris Green Shop supervisor Peter Jones, flanked by Molly Stevens, left, and Delia Yeghiss.



From left to right: Edna Coughbrough, Beryl Hodgson, Jessie Huyton (cleaner), Pat Nugent (supervisor), Pauline Garner and Pat Halliwell.

Southport



Kirkby Taking the cash we see Brian Kaye (supervisor).



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PAINTER

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Amateur artist Billy Highton, pictured here re-wiring a customer's house.



Vegas style reception area at Pontins Ry Aindow (3rd engineer, Installation), re, Pontins Technical Services).

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A short time ago, he had one of his paintings accepted in a John Moore exhibition in Liverpool.

Billy joined the Board as an apprentice electrician at the Hoylake Training Centre in 1962. He completed his 'time' at Marsh Lane, the former District Office.

Amateur artist Bill Highton, pictured here re-wiring a customer's house.



Dressed for the part, attractive Christine Parker with samples of her talent at cake decoration and awards received for her work.

THE ICING ON THE CAKE

WINNER of the Lucas Smith Award, presented this year for the very first time, was Christine Parker, a records draughtswoman at the Board's North Mersey District offices.

This special medal award was presented to Christine for submitting the best entry in the Colquitt Street Internal Bakery Competition. The whole range covered confectionery, bread and cake decorating.

Christine was delighted, and surprised, at winning the award. "I only developed an interest in icing techniques a couple of years ago," she told us. "I decided to take a first-year preliminary course at the Colquitt Street school. I found satisfaction in what I was doing there so I decided to take-up a two-year City and Guilds Course. I have just finished the first half and the results are most encouraging."

One has only to see examples of her work to realise that she is extremely talented at her hobby. She is kept very busy by her family and friends

at the office. Whenever an occasion demands a cake—Christine is called upon to ice and decorate it.

She has quite a sense of humour too. On the occasion when she was asked to decorate a cake for a friend's husband who had reached the 40 mark, she iced and painted to perfection a replica of the well-known bottle of tablets which 'fortifies the over 40's!'

"I can be serious too," Christine added.

She is often helped on the artistic side by her boy friend Brian, who is a design assistant with Mersey TV.

Her father runs a health club on the Kirkby Industrial Estate and Mum is 'on the staff'. Christine's brother, an electrician, is, unfortunately one of the thousands of unemployed.

JOINTERS ON THE LINE

CONTACT recently came across a team of jointers repairing a faulty 33-kV cable on the main Southport/Liverpool railway line. On seeing the camera, the men quickly put on their safety helmets to comb their hair in readiness for the picture. They are, up aloft, (mate) left, and Keith Morris (craftsman, jointer). Below, Frank Adamson (mate) and a B.R. safety stand-by man.

Successful aiders

uctor in first-aid for North Mersey District, Margaret Davies, prior records draughtswoman, is highly delighted at the achievement by her first

rt with a group from Liverpool

District, supported by their lay instructor George Deakin (craftsman, jointing), only one of the North Mersey first-aiders missed the pass mark in the final examination.

Those who did qualify for their certificates of competency were, Bob Edwards (craftsman, electrician), Keith Gore (craftsman, electrical fitting), Maria McDaid (clerk) and Christine Parker (records draughtswoman).

"The results were most encouraging," said Margaret. "I am now planning further classes for re-examinations for existing first-aiders in the District under the new First-Aid at Work Act."



Youth training scheme



RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING PANEL IN SESSION.

From left to right: Ken Crabtree (Liverpool District Engineering Manager), Norman Walsh (Mid-Cheshire District Commercial Manager), Ken Leach (Deputy Chief Accountant), Arthur Ellinson (Management Services Officer), John Scudamore (Secretary), Chris Kilfoyle (principal assistant, E & T and Panel Secretary), Dennis Kernan (E & T Officer), Derek Holman (Deputy Chief Commercial Officer) and Jim McLennan (Personnel Manager). Other members of the Panel unable to be present when the picture was taken are, Gerry Haughan (Deputy Chief Engineer) and Dennis Hodgetts (Mid-Mersey District Administrative Manager).

For several years the Manpower Service Commission (MSC) have, in conjunction with employers, operated various training schemes for unemployed young people.

MANWEB have taken part in two of these schemes, a 26-week industrial work experience scheme carried out in Districts, and a 13-week craft course held at the Board's Hoylake Training Centre.

In spite of such schemes, the proportion of young people receiving some form of industrial or commercial training on leaving school has always been much lower in Britain than in many European countries. This, coupled with the rising unemployment among school leavers, led the Government to introduce proposals for a New Training Initiative, which were subsequently developed on a joint Trade Union/

Industry basis into the Youth Training Scheme (YTS).

The intention is that 16-year-old school-leavers will either obtain employment, enter further education or be offered a YTS placement.

The Youth Training Scheme programmes are intended to be broadly based, although there can be no guarantee of employment on the completion of a programme, the trainee will, nevertheless, be better placed to obtain employment or to transfer to further training, such as an apprenticeship.

The YTS Trainees

Trainees will receive £25 a week from which they will be required to pay any travelling expenses up to £4 a week—anything in excess of this will be refunded by the MSC.

The training programmes are of 12 months' duration and must conform to the requirements of the MSC. There must be, amongst other things, at least 13 weeks' off-job training and/or education which is to include specified skills such as communications, numeracy, interview/job-seeking, etc; planned work experience; arrangements for guidance and support and the recording and review of the trainee's progress. The electricity supply industry's participation in the YTS programme has been fully discussed in the National Joint Co-ordinating Council and MANWEB's AJCC where joint Management and Trade Union support to the programme has been given.

The Management of YTS

In some cases an employer will organise and manage all aspects of a YTS programme and MANWEB will undertake this for its Merseyside, Wirral and Chester areas where a total of 33 trainee places will be available.

In other cases the Local Education Authority,

or a consortium set up by the Confederation of British Industries, will organise and manage the Scheme with local employers providing the on-job training. This will be the arrangement in the remainder of the Board's area and the number of places will be agreed with the local Scheme co-ordinators.

Two MANWEB programmes will be offered:—

Craft/Operative—intended to provide participants with training and experience in basic skill-of-hand, but in no sense intended to be a substitute for or equal to the normal apprenticeship basic craft training.

After a period at the Board's Hoylake Training Centre, trainees will be placed with MANWEB staff in the on-job situation.

This programme will only be available in the Merseyside area because the off-job component will be carried out at the Board's Hoylake Training Centre and trainees will need to live within easy-travelling distance.

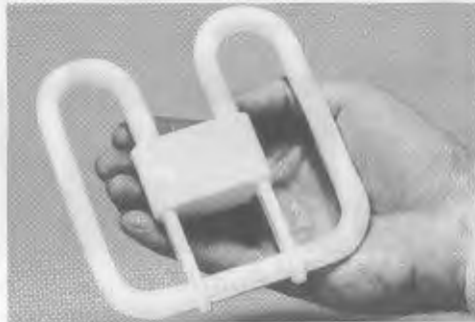
Clerical/Sales—intended to provide trainees with education, training and experience in a wide range of clerical activities which occur in the Board's financial, engineering and commercial functions, including, in the latter case, experience of sales organisation.

The recruitment of trainees will probably be through local careers offices, but this has yet to be confirmed by the Manpower Services Commission.

The Scheme is new and there are no precedents for guidance, consequently it is in a continually-evolving state—even though the start date is only three months away. Any developments which may be of interest to MANWEB staff and their families will be published in future issues of 'CONTACT' or by notice-board issue.



FOR
MANWEB
EMPLOYEES



FLUORESCENT BULB & ADAPTOR

This new THORN EMI 2D bulb and adaptor will fit any normal lighting point that accepts bayonet lamps. The 2D gives a lot more light for a lot less money. Rated at 21 watts the light output is equivalent to a 100 watt tungsten bulb. And the 2D's life expectancy is 5000 hours

compared with 1000 for the tungsten.

The 2D goes on sale in a limited number of MANWEB shops shortly and will retail at £9.95, inc. adaptor. For one month only—June—we offer the 2D and adaptor for a special price of £7.50, with the coupon below.

Normal retail price

£9.95

'CONTACT'
OFFER PRICE **£7.50**

TO: MANWEB MAIL ORDER
2W1 HEAD OFFICE
SEALAND ROAD, CHESTER

Please supply THORN EMI 2D lamp/s and adaptor/s at £7.50 ea.
I enclose my crossed PO/Cheque for £..... made out to MANWEB.
Please send to me at the MANWEB address given below.

NAME JOB

WORKPLACE (former if retired)

MANWEB Shop or office I will collect the lamp/s from (if different from above)

NB. THIS OFFER CLOSSES ON THE 1st JULY 1983

BETTER YEAR FOR INDUSTRIAL SALES

TOTAL electricity sales to industry in the MANWEB area for 1982-83—at 7,077 million units—were up by 3.4% over the previous year's figure, thanks to a substantial increase in demand from the chemicals industry, which is by far our biggest customer.

Across the industrial spectrum, however, the results were patchy. The mining and quarrying industries did well, as did cement, bricks and pottery. On the other hand the demand from the glass, oil refining, textiles and building industries was substantially down.

'Get a move on'

A NEW film, already premiered for some MANWEB staff, "Get a move on" is all about human kinetics—how to lift, handle, push, pull and even sit correctly.

In its 20 minutes of screening, "Get a move on" stresses the importance of sensible movement to lessen the risk of strain or more serious back injury. It contains a wealth of material and ideas.

As a point of interest, strains in general and back injuries in particular, keep more people off work than any other single health reason. Last year, in the UK alone, a staggering total of 24.8 million work days were lost by people sustaining back injuries.

"Get a move on" is the final result of lengthy research, conducted principally by Douglas Payne of RoSPA who has had over 20 years of practical training experience and is widely recognised as an authority on the

subject of human kinetics.

Selected NJIC staff from each of the Board's ten Districts have had the opportunity of viewing this excellent film during a special course held at the Hoylake Training Centre. Since then, North Wirral District have been very quick off the mark and some 80 members of their staff who are involved in lifting and handling materials and goods, have all seen the film and heard short instructive talks backing up the principles of human kinetics.

MYSTERY FIND

PART of Crewe police station had to be cleared while a 10 lb mortar bomb, found partly buried among rubble by MANWEB colleagues clearing a substation site in Nile Street, Crewe, was defused by experts.

The bomb, wrapped in carpet-type material showed long-term corrosion. How it came to be among the rubble is a mystery.

Mid-Mersey retired group trippers

THE indefatigable Mid-Mersey Pensioners Association members have got their 1983 touring season off to a flying start with an overnight stay in London and a day trip to the Bass museum and brewery at Burton on Trent!

The London trip include a night in a West End hotel, a theatre visit to see "Flanagan and Allen with the Crazy Gang", and a morning spent at Kew Gardens.

Lunch at the Bass Museum was followed by a chat with the famous Shire horses, and a conducted tour of the brewery. They don't tell us whether there was wild singing and riotous behaviour on the coach journey home!

Long hard push

LIVERPOOL District 'brickie' Mick Matthews would like to thank all his friends and workmates who supported him for a sponsored 'wheelchair push' to raise cash to help disabled people to visit Lourdes, where they stay at Hosanna House, a hostel run by the Franciscan Missionaries of St Mary and the Angels.

With his disabled wife Joan as a passenger, Mick pushed the wheelchair on a ten-mile circuit around the North end of Liverpool. A total of around £600 was raised by Mick and other sponsored 'pushers'. Disabled pilgrims make the journey to Lourdes in a specially equipped coach.

SAFETY POSTER COMPETITION



Are you a gambler?

—NO!
then why
not wear
protective
gear?

Make '83 accident free!

£10 PRIZES

THE poster idea, shown above, came from the Dee Valley District Safety Committee emphasising their endeavours to make 1983 accident free.

We now offer you the opportunity to design a safety poster. It should consist of a catchy headline—an illustration (you don't have to be an artist, just describe what you intend or do a very rough drawing) and finally, a short sharp message.

Prizes of £10 each will go to the two people who submit the best poster idea. Judging the entries will be John Parry (*Dee Valley District Engineering Manager*) and Bernard Scott (*senior engineer—Safety*).

Send your entry to **The Editor, 'CONTACT', MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR, to arrive by 30th June.** This competition is open to all MANWEB employees, past and present, and their immediate families.

Who knows, you may see your idea on a finished poster and be able to say "I did that!"

ANDY'S FOUR UNDER TAKES TROPHY

A MANWEB golfer won a trophy and the top prize on a championship course with a superb second round of four under par.

On the tough Conway links, Head Office Advertising assistant, Andy Critchley did a magnificent 68 gross, on the par 72 course, which is rated at standard scratch of 73. Added to his morning round of 75—three over—he was a clear winner of both the scratch and handicap competitions.

Over 120 golfers, including two Welsh internationals and a sprinkling of scratch men, teed off for the Conway Open on the cliff top course overlooking the picturesque harbour. Rain and wind added to the difficulty built into the course for competitors.

It was Andy's gross score that won the match outright not needing his five handicap—now docked to four after his win. As open champion he was presented with the Tattersall Trophy, a rose bowl and £100 worth of prizes.

A member of the Upton-by-Chester Golf Club, he started playing golf seriously when he was 19—although his dad, Jack Critchley, a 1st engineer at Chester, tells us he was a fairly good footballer as a schoolboy but turned to golf because he found it more profitable!

With a four handicap and still only 27, has he any ambitions—turning 'pro' maybe? He laughs



Andy, star golfer, with his trophies.

and says, "No, I just like playing golf. But I really do enjoy competitive golf, and I hope I can continue to improve. It would be great to become good enough to be considered for my county. Oh yes, I suppose you could say that is an ambition, I'd love to play for Cheshire."

At home he leaves a golfing widow, his attractive wife Julie. He says that she does not mind his golfing too much, just as long as he occasionally brings home some 'loot'.

CONTACT FREE ADS

WANTED

LARGE TEAK DINING TABLE—with chairs, if possible to match Nathan or G Plan range. Contact Marie Warrington at Chester shop.

SNOOKER CUE CASE—(one piece) suitable to hang in club. Tel: Chester 336954.

SERVICES

PHOTOGRAPHY—colour and video, for weddings and other occasions. Home demo if required. Tel: Chester 376469.

MACHINE KNITTED JUMPERS—All sizes and colours available. Size 24" £3.25, Size 42"—£7.00. Tel. Mrs G. Farren, H.O. 2124 or Rossett 570982

FOR SALE

GOLF CLUBS—junior Rodriguez 1-3 woods, 3, 5, 7, 9 irons. Putter. 'Hoylake' bag. £37.50. Also **GUITAR**—Grant's 'Fender Replica' plus amplifier. £50. Tel: 051-625 9302 or H.O. Internal 2274.

FRAME TENT—made by Hawley-Goodall, 18' 6" x 12'. 3 double bedrooms. Groundsheets. Large windows with curtains, plus 12' x 6' awning. £150. Internal Mid-Cheshire 235 (Mrs. Johnson).

ARTIST'S STUDIO EASEL—heavy oak, on castors. Buyer collects. £40. Tel: Prestatyn 5232.

CARAVAN HITCH LOCK—(new) £5. Caravan plate and cup rack (new) £2. H.O. Internal 2058.

BARBECUE SET—'Leisure king' with five piece tool set—unwanted gift, £20, and **AXMINSTER CARPET**—8' x 8' orange brown and gold—as new, £25. Tel: Chester 372193.

STAINLESS STEEL SINK—right hand drainer, £3.50. Tel: Internal H.O. 2056.

CARS

FORD CAPRI MK 1—1,300 GT engine. 10,000 miles. Can be heard. £75, plus many good parts also for sale. Tel: Chester 28826.

1976 MARINA 1.3 SUPER—White with navy vinyl roof. Excellent condition. Two new wings. Complete re-spray. With 12-months-old engine (10,000 miles). New steering rack, front ball joints and track rod ends. £800 o.n.o. H.O. Internal 2262 (Ray Morgan).

CORTINA 1600E SPARES—(breaking). Tel: Chester 312028.

HOUSES

COACH HOUSE—recently converted, with 1.5 acres and stables. Large lounge and kitchen. Separate dining room. 3 bedrooms, bathroom and shower room. Solid fuel central heating. Rural position, one mile from Crewe town centre. £54,950. Tel: Crewe 257372 or Internal Mid-Cheshire 157. (Anne Bridgett).

FORTY MILES BY FOUR FEET!

IN a brave and successful effort to raise cash to support a home for physically-handicapped children at Talacre, John Rigby (2nd engineer—Load Development) at North Mersey District and George Hogarth (craftsman, electrician) at North Wirral District, decided to go for a walk.

CROSSWORD PRIZEWINNINGS

We had a fair entry for our May Crossword Competition, and the first three all-correct out of the hat are from **Andy Palin** from Meter Test, Lister Drive, **Veronica Rooney** from Head Office Revenue, and **Oscar Stubbs**, a retired member of the Head Office Cash Office. Each receives £5.

Solution

Across
1 Scrap merchant; 10 Hearths; 11 Lamprey; 12 Inspired; 13 Arthur; 15 Magnetic compass; 17 Gastroenteritis; 21 Eroica; 22 Swindled; 25 Chagrin; 26 Millais; 27 Peloponnesian.

Down
2 Crabs; 3 Astride; 4 Mesmerised; 5 Roll; 6 Humdrum; 7 North-east; 8 Theism; 9 Cyprus; 14 Scots-woman; 16 Gasconade; 17 Greece; 18 Ricardo; 19 Rankles; 20 Sadist; 23 Liana; 24 Unto.

They took up the challenge of a sponsored stroll from Whitchurch in Salop to Birkenhead on the Wirral, a distance of 40 miles . . . pushing a wheelchair!

Their magnificent effort raised about £300 for the home and quite a few blisters on their feet.

The daring duo left Whitchurch in good spirits at 7.15 one Sunday morning. After a few miles, the tyres on the wheelchair developed punctures resulting in John and George having to drag it all the way to Chester—the half-way stage. They arrived in the City around 2.30 p.m. and, after a bite of lunch, continued on their way up the Wirral.

They arrived at their destination just before nine o'clock that night—after 13 hours on the road.

For the next couple of days, they both took every opportunity to soak their aching feet, happy and thankful in the knowledge that their friends were stumping up the sponsored cash.



Mr. and Mrs. Menzies.
—(picture by Stuart Pearson)

Wedding

CHEF WEDS

OUR congratulations to William Menzies and Jacqueline Done on their recent marriage at Christ Church, Ellesmere Port. Billy is a 2nd chef at Head Office working for Taylorplan, the caterers at Chester, and Jacqueline works for a local bank. He is 25 and she is 24.

Following the ceremony the reception was held at the Mollington Banastre Hotel. The happy couple then left for a honeymoon in Barbados.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR FREE AD. ON THIS COUPON
OR ON PLAIN PAPER

(BLOCK CAPS PLEASE)

Name:

Work place (or retired)

Send to: 'CONTACT' FREE ADS, MANWEB,
SEALAND ROAD, CHESTER CH1 4LR.

RETIREMENTS

Farewells to friends
and colleagues



'Cheers' to Ken Knight, right, from his close colleagues at Chester.

Mr. and Mrs K. R. KNIGHT

A married couple who have completed 54 years service between them have retired within a few weeks of each other.

Ken and Kath Knight have 36 and 18 years' service to the electricity industry respectively. He was a principle assistant in the Head Office System Management section of the Engineering Department, and responsible for the clerical work in the section. And she was a record draughtswoman also in Chester.

It was in 1947 that Ken joined the Mid-Cheshire Electric Supply Company as a clerk. Two years later, after the formation of MANWEB, he was a clerk in the No. 2 Sub Area and 12 months later became an engineering clerical assistant. In 1954 he moved to Chester as a senior assistant, returning to Sandiway in 1957 to become a purchasing assistant.

Re-organisation brought him to Chester as an administrative

assistant and in 1980 he became principal assistant. Kath started her career in Sandiway as a clerk but was made a Drawing Office assistant a year later, moving to Chester in 1970 and becoming record draughtswoman in 1972.

Kath was very active in the Sports and Social Club and was a keen badminton player, and also liked tennis and bowls. She is a member of the Weaverham Women's Institute. Ken, on the other hand, likes to relax in front of the television and enjoys pottering around the garden.

They have a married daughter who is a physiotherapist and one grandchild for Ken and Kath to spoil now they have more time on their hands.

We hope that retirement—which is a rather premature one for Kath—will prove a long and happy one for both, and that Kath, who has been dogged by bad health in the past few months, will regain her old vitality.

Mr. A. R. SHAW

ENGINEERING Manager for the Gwynedd District, A. Russell Shaw, recently retired after more than 40 years' in the electricity supply industry.

He began his career with the GEC in Birmingham. Shortly after this, he served for a couple of years with the RNVR as an Electrical Sub-Lieutenant, being employed on the repair and maintenance of aircraft and electrical equipment at a Royal Naval Air Station.

In 1947, he rejoined the industry as an assistant District Engineer with the Yorkshire Power Company—later the YEB. Five years later, he came to MANWEB and was appointed as 1st assistant District Engineer for the former Anglesey District. In 1955, he was promoted as District Engineer and, on Board reorganisation in 1970, held the same appointment for the newly-formed Gwynedd District.

Russell is a very talented potter and his work has won

much praise from eminent adjudicators at the various exhibitions and Eisteddfodau around North Wales. He is also an apiarist and turns out excellent jars of honey.

At his farewell presentation, Glyn Dodd (Group Manager) paid tribute to Russell's long and loyal service, particularly the last 30-odd years with MANWEB. He then made the presentation of a canteen of cutlery which was a retirement gift from colleagues throughout the Board. Mrs. Shaw was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

Mr. J. BROWN

AFTER a lifetime of service in the electricity supply industry, James Brown, a foreman meter operative based at the St. Helens depot in the Mid-Mersey District, has now retired.

He first joined the industry when he went to work for the former St. Helens Corporation Electricity Department in 1941, transferring to MANWEB on nationalisation seven years later. For half of his 42 years' service, he has been a foreman.

Jim enjoys motoring, cabinet making and taking his labrador dog for 'walkies'. To prove that he will not be entirely idle in retirement, he chose a large book on 'Home Maintenance' as his farewell gift from the LJCC. He was also presented



Jim Brown, right, and his wife Mary and Mid-Mersey colleagues.

with a carriage clock from his colleagues while his wife, Mary, received a bouquet of flowers.



District Engineering Manager Albert Cooper, right, presents Bill Davies with a watch, a gift from colleagues, while Bill's wife Margaret looks on.

Mr. W. H. DAVIES

THE Board's depot at Carlton Street, St. Helens, has played a significant part in the life of William Haigh Davies, a 2nd engineer in the Mid-Mersey District.

It was there when, at 16-years-of-age, he started his apprenticeship as an electrician with the former St. Helens Corporation Electricity Department almost half a century ago. In 1939, he joined the RAF and his first posting was to Padgate, almost on his own doorstep. Soon afterwards, however, he became involved in the North African, Sicilian and Italian battle campaigns.

He returned to the electricity supply industry—at Carlton Street—in 1945 to complete his technical studies. While at the depot, which was also a power station, he met, and later married, Margaret, who was a station chemist, first with the Corporation and then with the CEGB.

Carlton Street again figured in Bill's life when it was the venue for the many colleagues

who gathered to pay their tributes to his work and friendship on the occasion of his recent retirement.

Engineering Manager, Albert Cooper, said that they were saying farewell to a first class colleague who never uttered an unkind word to, or about, anybody. "The Board could not have wished for a more competent engineer," he concluded. He then presented Bill with a watch from his colleagues.

In retirement Bill hopes to devote more time to reducing his golf handicap and to pursuing his interests in fell walking and photography.

Mr. H. CLARKE

The North Mersey Sports and Social Club was the setting for a farewell party for salesman Harry Clarke.

Harry joined the Board in 1961 and has worked in a number of the North Mersey shops, much of the time at Kirkby where he formed a happy partnership with Brian Kaye.

Taking advantage of the 'job release scheme', Harry, who for the last few weeks was transferred to Norris Green shop, made way for a young man from the unemployment register.

In retirement he and his wife Lil are moving to Buckley to be near their married son and three grandchildren. We join with his many friends and colleagues in wishing him a long and happy retirement.



Harry and Lil Clarke.

Mr. V. H. THOMAS

AFTER completing 47 years in the electricity industry, Vernon Thomas, a 1st engineer in the Planning Section of System Management in the Chief Engineer's Department, has retired.

He started his working life with the Wrexham Corporation Electricity Department, where he served an apprenticeship. He was an electrician in the RAF during the 2nd World War, returning to the Corporation in 1946.

After the nationalisation of the industry in 1948 he became a member of MANWEB staff and a year later was made a

general assistant engineer. He remained in Wrexham at the Area 4 Office until the Board's re-organisation in 1969/70 when he moved to Chester as a 3rd assistant engineer, becoming a 1st engineer in 1974.

Vernon and his wife, Gladys, a former typist at Wrexham, have a young son. Hi-Fi and good music are on Vernon's list of interests, and we hear he is keen on flying model aircraft. In his younger days he was a keen cricketer and a hobby planned for retirement is photography, as his retirement gift from colleagues was a very nice 35 mm camera.

Head Office engineers watch as Principal Engineer John Young bids farewell to Vernon Thomas, third from right.



Friends and colleagues from Gwynedd District line up for our photographer to record the departure of District Engineering Manager Russel Shaw, in the centre of our picture.

