

CONTACT

May 1972

Ready to Serve

(See page 92)





Group Manager Mr. H. Telfer addresses members of the North Wirral District staff who attended the Conference.

NORTH WIRRAL STAFF CONFERENCE

The impressive surroundings of Birkenhead Town Hall provided the setting for the last of the recent series of staff conferences organised by Local Advisory Committees—in this case No. 5 Committee, for MANWEB employees in North Wirral District.

An encouragingly large turnout of staff and pensioners heard Mr. H. Telfer, Chairman of the Committee, report on the Committee's work during 1971/72.

Guest speaker for the evening was Mr. A. P. Whyte, the Board's Chief Accountant, who outlined the role being played to a continuously-increasing extent by our computers.



Two more candid shots taken at the Conference showing a fair sprinkling of females and quite a number of the younger members of the staff.



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Keith Baldwin
John F. Perry
Sam Doughty

EDITORIAL

Long-Serving Values

IN THESE rapidly-changing times the devotion of a lifetime—or even half a lifetime—of working service to any particular firm or organisation has become the notable exception, rather than the accepted custom.

In the days of feudal England it was commonplace to be born a serf, to grasp the plough handles after the most rudimentary education, and to die a worn-out serf after a lifetime of toil on the same patch of ground. No-one would wish a return to these conditions, but they had one advantage—the serf really got to know his cabbage patch!

The industrial revolution and the development of rapid communications led to a mobility in the labour force which has increased right up to the present day. Indeed, there are those who maintain that he who wishes to climb to the top of the tree must change his job with clockwork regularity!

Despite this idea, there is no doubt that if we all jumped around like grasshoppers the resilience of the organisations for which we work would be seriously weakened, and in electricity supply, as in other industries, the value of many years' continuous service is recognised by the presentation of Long Service Awards.

Presenting such awards to MANWEB employees recently, our Chairman (as reported in this number of *Contact*), laid emphasis on the value of long service in stabilising society and industry during periods of rapid change.

Stability and continuity, however, are conditions of value both to employers and employed.

Their value to the employer, when outside circumstances may be rocking the boat, are often stressed. To the employee they offer steady and continuous career and family lives, combined—in the case of essential public services at least—with a considerable degree of job satisfaction.



Four of our 45-year men with their wives and Mr. Dodds, centre.

Recognition for Long Service

The immense value of long service to our industry was stressed by MANWEB Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds at a Head Office ceremony recently, when he presented Long Service Awards representing over 3,000 years' service to electricity supply.

The awards went to more than 100 MANWEB stalwarts from Head Office and from South Lancs, Mid-Cheshire, and Oswestry Districts, and the great majority of the recipients, many accompanied by their wives, turned up to receive their awards in person.

"In the unstable and changing world in which we live, long service to any cause is valuable, providing stability which is often so badly needed" said the Chairman.

"The service you have so ably given does much to keep things going, often while other sections of society 'mess about,' and for an employee to give service of this nature is always a joint effort by his whole family," he added.

"In this way, therefore, the various gifts which you have selected represent a genuine joint recognition to both husband and wife for the contributions made to MANWEB and the industry over the years."

Awards were presented as follows, and afterwards Mr. A. Kidd (Assistant Secretary, Personnel), who himself received a 35-year award, thanked the Chairman, and added that the presentation of Long



Above: Mr. J. W. Trimble (Group Manager), seated centre, joins Head Office recipients of 35-year awards.
Below: Some members of the Head Office staff who received 25-year awards.





Awards for 35 years and 25 years were presented to these members of the South Lancashire District, *above*, and the Mid-Cheshire District, *below*.



Service Awards was one of those occasions when the good fellowship in the MANWEB organisation came clearly to the fore.

Head Office

45 Years: Messrs. R. W. Appleton, E. Covington and W. Williams.

35 Years: Messrs. S. Adams, A. E. O. Clark, T. H. Dutton, A. J. Favager, J. E. Foster, H. Griffiths, T. E. Griffiths, J. W. Groom, F. Jackson, D. G. Jones, A. Kidd, A. D. Malcolm, J. Metcalfe, T. W. Parrott, G. Parry, R. K. C. Sheldon, E. Taylor, V. H. Thomas and F. Wilding.

25 Years: Mrs. A. B. Jones. Messrs. A. G. Almond, G. Bellis, T. A. Caunt, F. J. Clinch, S. Duckers, D. E. Evans, H. G. Gleave, G. J. Grady, J. H. Hampton, A. Houghton, R. Norbury, D. G. Price and P. D. Smallman.

South Lancashire District

35 Years: Messrs. T. C. P. Baines, L. Case, J. Cotgreave, G. H. Dodd, F. R. Fryer, T. C. Mulheirn, F. Nuttall and A. K. Owens.

25 Years: Mrs. Q. Bamber, Messrs. J. R. Bilton, T. Brown, E. Cockins, H. V. Collard, T. N. Dutton, J. Fairclough, R. Gittens, J. Goode, N. Hardman, A. E. Houghton, N. Howden, F. Jackson, W. Jones, F. G. Parker, J. Smith, D. Tomlinson, T. Traverse, A. Tucker, J. F. Walker, D. Willis and H. Worsley.

Mid-Cheshire District

45 Years: Messrs. C. P. Booth and L. G. Cooke.

35 Years: Messrs. M. Anderson, G. Clarke, W. E. Dodd, R. Gartside, J. F. Grimmett, J. P. Hewitt, D. Hodgetts, J. R. Jenkins, D. A. Jones, W. Salmon, R. Senior and T. V. Walley.

25 Years: Messrs. O. Brodie, A. Clifford, A. Cutler, A. Daniels, A. E. Evans, A. Gleave, H. J. Hargrove, J. Mason, K. Mason, A. Palin, H. Price, N. E. Pritchard, F. R. Ratcliffe, J. L. Rathbone, F. Riley and I. Williams.

Oswestry District

45 Years: Mr. G. Warburton.

25 Years: Miss E. M. Morris. Messrs. G. H. Davies, L. Purcell, W. H. Griffiths, C. H. O. Wilkinson and J. L. Williams.

Staff from Oswestry District who received awards.





Round
the
tables
at
the



North
Mersey
Staff
Meeting



Successful Conference at Bootle

LOCAL M.P. AS GUEST SPEAKER

THE palatial surroundings of the Bootle Town Hall was the venue for the first general meeting for employees covered by the No. 1 (North Mersey) Local Advisory Committee.

Exactly 200 people turned up to enjoy an excellent meal and hear an interesting talk from Mr. Simon Mahon, M.P. Among those gathered were some 78 former colleagues, now in the ranks of the retired. One old friend had taken on the round trip of over 100 miles to come from the north end of Fleetwood.

The catering was excellent, with the food well-cooked and the service well-planned and organised.

After the inner man was satisfied, Mr. H. Telfer (*Group Manager*) welcomed everyone to this inaugural meeting and congratulated members of the sub-committee for their excellent arrangements. He had a special welcome for Mr. Mahon together with his agent Mr. Joe Benton. Members of the Head Office staff present were Messrs. M. M. Parker (*Secretary and Solicitor*), L. J. Scudamore (*Management Services Officer*), K. S. Leach (*Deputy Chief Accountant*), S. Fairclough (*Installation and Service Manager*) and Mr. A. Kidd (*Assistant Secretary—Personnel*).

Board Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, who had a prior commitment, paid a brief visit at the beginning of the conference, but had to leave shortly afterwards.

Mr. Telfer said that contrary to normal practice of presenting an annual report at the meeting, he thought that because of the change in the District organisational structure, a report of the work carried out by the former No. 1 Local Advisory Committee would be somewhat irrelevant at this stage.

He said that the new Committee had quickly got into its stride and as Chairman of the Committee he offered the assurance that all the representatives were

very active in putting forward the staff's views on any particular subject.

He then went on to introduce Mr. Mahon, saying that he had been a Member of Parliament since 1955 and had served in local government for all of his adult life as a labour supporter and trade unionist.

Mr. Mahon started his working life on the docks and later rose to become the managing director of his own company until he entered Parliament. During the war years he served with the Royal Engineers and was wounded while in the Far East. Because of his own disablement, he is a Government appointed trustee of the Far Eastern Prisoners of War fund.

A former Mayor of Bootle, he was responsible for the re-planning of Bootle's housing immediately after the last war.

Following this brief biography, Mr. Mahon rose to address the audience. His talk was interesting and varied in content. He made brief references to the situation in Ireland and Rhodesia and he talked of strikes and of violence.

Looking and Seeing

He told a story of first meeting with Mr. Anaurin Bevan and how he was taught the lesson of looking and seeing. He said that many people looked but could not see because they were on top of the problem. The solution was to push the problem some distance away—not too far—and by doing so you would be able to get it in perspective and see exactly what was going on.

(Continued on next page)



Mr. Mahon



Mr. Telfer welcomes everyone to the conference and introduces the guest speaker.

Answering questions in the Open Forum session, from left to right: Mr. Parker, Mr. D. E. Noad (*District Commercial Engineer*), and Mr. Scudamore





conditioning

A BOLD punch-hole design has been used for the cover of The Electricity Council's latest publication "*Air Conditioning—What it is and what it can do for you.*" The visual impact is increased as the first page is printed in blue which shows through the 163 holes.

This 18-page brochure has been published by The Council on behalf of the Air Conditioning Advisory Bureau.

Air conditioning is a method of controlling the atmosphere in buildings where people live, work and take their leisure. It is a scientific operation which automatically maintains temperature and humidity within limits appropriate to the activities being carried out—whether eating or shopping, office work or study, medical treatment or watching a show. At the same time it keeps the air clean and fresh, removing airborne dust and, if required, odours.

There are a number of non-scientific ways of improving the atmosphere which do indeed have a certain limited effect. By fluttering a hand-held fan or switching on an electric one, you will

keep the air moving and create an illusion of freshness. By opening a door or window you will admit 'fresh' air, even if you also admit noise and smell and create draughts.

By installing a ventilation system, you can extract stale air as well as let in fresh air: but you cannot control temperature and humidity—the air you let in will only be as good or as bad as the air outside.

Only air conditioning will do the complete job—heating or cooling as required, keeping humidity levels down, purifying the air continually, without manual attention, quietly and unobtrusively, creating no draughts or irritating air movements. Only air conditioning allows you to live and work under controlled atmospheric conditions.

Everyone can benefit from an air conditioned environment.

Staff are able to work at peak efficiency for sustained periods and customers enjoy making frequent return visits to air conditioned shops and restaurants.

A recent survey showed that more than 95 per cent of commercial users were satisfied that their investment in air conditioning had been worthwhile.

A wide range of air conditioning equipment is available now to suit widely differing needs. They all work on the same basic principle of refrigeration, for without this, a system cannot be described as air conditioning.

The most popular packaged air conditioning units generally cool, dehumidify and clean, which is adequate for most situations. The brochure illustrates variations on the basic system, how component parts can be separated or arranged depending on the size of the cooling load, layout of the premises and personal preferences.

Many people have already experienced the benefits of air conditioning, and case histories of some typical installations are included in the brochure, copies of which are available from Electricity Boards or The Air Conditioning Advisory Bureau, 2 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DR. Single copies are free.

North Mersey Conference—continued

He made a point that in dealing with people it was essential not to have bitterness within you. "Bitterness only brings more bitterness" he said, "hatred breeds more hatred."

He said that many people polarised everything, black or white, catholic or protestant, but it was only by talking things out that many difficult situations could be avoided.

In offering a vote of thanks to Mr. Mahon for his entertaining talk, Mr. Syd Owen (*electrician*) said that no doubt many of the older people present knew exactly what had been said and what the message was and he suggested that the younger end, who might not fully understand at this stage, might try to learn a lesson from the speaker.

The highly successful meeting was brought to a close with an open forum session during which

varied questions ranging from fringe benefits to accidents in Board vehicles and the new District Office to our service to the public were tabled and answered.



L.A.C. Secretary Mr. J. F. Graham-Glover, left, and the 'sound expert' for the evening, Mr. C. S. Shimmin (system engineer).





A party of visitors from La Belle France after their conducted tour of the building by Mr. D. S. Webb Jones, *extreme right.*

“We have built a new climate at Chester”

The above title appears as a headline over an illustration of the MANWEB Head Office, and is currently appearing in the quality daily papers advertising 'IED'—Intergrated Environmental Design. The Electricity Council who have placed the advertisement are aiming to persuade the 'top people,' who plan and design new buildings to follow the MANWEB pattern.

Already at Sealand Road we have seen many of the decision makers from this country and abroad being shepherded around the building by our commercial colleagues, Messrs. D. S. Webb Jones, E. Covington and J. Edwards.

Whether it is the proposed entry of Great Britain into the Common Market, the Queen's visit to France or just the 'entente cordiale' we are not sure

but we have had several parties from France, visiting 'notre batiment.'

Another theory put forward by one of the commercial men was that word had got around France that we had so many lovely mini skirted dollies working here, and being Frenchmen . . . !! Certainly our girls seem to excite as much interest as do the technical features of the building.

Two of the latest parties to visit us were in fact from France and are pictured on this page. In one group are representatives from the French Ministry of Culture, who intend to construct a building five times that of our Chester Office. Should they decide to build one on the MANWEB pattern perhaps a party of Men from MANWEB could visit them and compare notes—on the building of course!

Another party of French visitors to Head Office, this time with a British beauty among them, Miss Susan Holmes, our receptionist. On the *extreme right* of the picture is Mr. E. Covington, and on the *extreme left* is Mr. J. Edwards.



Ideal 'all-electric' flat for elderly people

AN IDEAL flat with many built-in devices for the safety of an elderly person was reconstructed by The Electricity Council on their stand at the recent Health Exhibition held in Eastbourne. Based on a unit specially designed by architects for the Help the Aged Housing Association, the 300 square feet all-electric home conforms to guidelines recommended by the Department of the Environment.

Central heating, shared in practice with three similar flats, is provided by a small bore water radiator system operating from a single Centralec unit. This electric heating system, which has been undergoing extensive field trials this winter, uses mainly off-peak electricity through a White Meter. Heat is supplied to two radiators in the living room and a bathroom towel-rail in each flat. The radiators have thermostatic valves, adjustable by the occupants, to maintain desired temperatures automatically. These valves monitor air temperatures and there is no risk of the rooms overheating through solar radiation on sunny winter days.

A focal point fire in the living room provides warmth on colder days outside the normal central heating season for which the Centralec system is set to operate. The Centralec unit is housed in a cupboard accessible from a corridor outside the flat so that adjustments and maintenance can be carried out without disturbing the occupants. Hot water is also provided by an off-peak electric system so designed that it can be charged for, with the central heating, in an inclusive rent.

The separate kitchen is designed specifically to meet the needs of old people. The cooker is a split level Baby Belling with separate hob and oven and the refrigerator is a wall mounted Electrolux Mini, all of which are mounted at convenient heights. Other equipment includes a spin

dryer, a coffee maker, a food-mixer and a stainless steel kettle. The kettle switches off automatically when it boils and can be brought back to the boil by a handle switch. This is especially useful for old people who may forget they have switched a kettle on or who may be slow to reach it when it does boil.

The combined bathroom and lavatory is fitted with a small 80W tubular towel drier for use outside the central heating season

The two characters who visited our Prescott shop one Saturday in April were very keen to buy a vacuum cleaner on hire purchase—and to take it away with them.

So keen, in fact, that Mrs. Christina McDougal, one of the assistants at the shop, was somewhat suspicious.

The cleaner, she said, was a shop-soiled display model. We would deliver a new one!

Undeterred, the "customers" insisted that they had to have that cleaner—it was for an anniversary present—and one of them produced an electricity bill as "proof of identity."

Now it could be that Mrs. McDougal thought that a man who would give his wife a cleaner for an anniversary present must be up to no good anyway, but she took the precaution of passing a note to Mr. S. Douglas, asking him to check on the address on

and an infra-red radiant heater mounted high on the wall.

Electric sockets in the flat are fitted at the standard height of 9 inches above floor level; but their switches have been mounted 30 inches above the floor to make it easier for people who may have trouble in stooping. By the bedside, a double socket outlet and switches are both mounted 30 inches above floor level. Miniature circuit breakers which can be re-set easily by press-button are used instead of fuses on an easily accessible mains distribution panel.

In emergencies, the occupants can communicate immediately with the warden of the flats through an alarm system which has pull cord switches hanging from the ceiling in the bathroom and at the side of the bed. Alarm buttons can also be mounted in the living room skirting so that, even after a fall, help can be summoned.

Time Wasting Pays Off!

the account. A quick phone call proved this to be fraudulent.

A "stalling" operation then began, with much time-wasting over wrapping the cleaner, looking for the guarantee card, and so on. During this time the phones were buzzing furiously behind the scenes, and in no time at all the police came along and escorted the two gents away.

A third man, obviously keeping watch, made his escape, while a taxi, waiting round the corner for the "getaway," proved to be unnecessary!

FOUND

At the Commercial Sales Conference, a gentleman's umbrella. If it is yours, please get in touch with Miss Beth Tinsley, Commercial Department, Head Office. (Tel. 2640).

The Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Alderman Charles Cowlin, tries out the deep-fry equipment watched by our Girl from MANWEB, Miss Caroline Smith, left, and Mr. Shires and Mrs. Dittrich.

'Cater Electric' Exhibition at Liverpool

"THIS exhibition holding the key to modern catering must be considered on its merits as one of the most vital events in the Merseyside calendar," said Alderman Charles Cowlin, J.P., Lord Mayor of Liverpool, when he officially opened MANWEB's "Cater Electric" exhibition at our Industrial Development Centre in Liverpool recently.

After welcoming the many caterers present, he said that at an exhibition such as this, other people were made aware of the skills involved in the industry. He went on to praise the Board for organising the specialised show and the representatives of the various firms, together with MANWEB staff who were on hand to explain and demonstrate the many exhibits on show.

In thanking the Lord Mayor for opening the exhibition, Mr. W. N. Shires (*Deputy Chief Commercial Officer*) said that the Board now felt that they had succeeded in establishing a close and valuable liaison with the catering trade by holding the electric catering exhibitions as an annual event in Liverpool.

He said that MANWEB was able to maintain a very good relationship with caterers in the area with each of our Districts having teams of specialised staff who could be in immediate contact with all concerned with catering. Their service was backed up by more specialists at Head Office, led by the Board's catering engineer, Mrs. Joan Dittrich and headed by our Energy Sales Manager, Mr. Roy Stewart.

"We recognise that catering is the third largest industry in this country and like electricity is out to give a first class but profitable service," he went on.

"Catering customers demand better and more varied menus, and in many cases a faster service, all of which can easily be available with electricity no matter how small or large the establishment might



be . . . snack bars or pubs, colleges or 1,000 bedroom hotels.

"Automatic equipment with precise controls ensures perfect results every time. Labour costs can be reduced by using electric labour-saving machines.

"Properly designed electric systems and kitchens, using properly designed modern electrical equipment, can save space in the preparation and cooking areas which allow greater returns to be obtained."

Mr. Shires then commented on the equipment in the exhibition and said, "Each year we try to introduce something new and this year it is the 'Cook-Freeze' story.

"Liverpool School meals have used this system successfully—although until recently bought the prepared meals. But now they are preparing their own in the recently installed blast-freeze kitchen.

"Cook-freeze is a revolutionary new method of cooking in which high quality food is prepared and cooked in required quantities then retained in a state of 'suspended freshness' by rapid freezing and freezer storage. The secret of successful cook-freeze is the freezing—blast freezing—the passing of cold air swiftly across the face of the food, is the most common method.

"We are most fortunate in having a blast freeze unit on demonstration," concluded Mr. Shires, "and when the exhibition closes down, the unit is to be installed at the College of Crafts and Catering in Liverpool."

The exhibition remained open for a further four days during which time a great many people from the world of catering went along to see what the Board, and the 29 manufacturers taking part in the exhibition, had to offer.

More pictures overleaf



Left:
Miss Barbara Strange from North Mersey District, gets the interest of a potential customer.



Right:
In happy mood are Mrs. Eelys Hughes from Gwynedd District and a visitor to the exhibition.

OUR COVER PICTURE

shows the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Alderman Charles Cowlin on his tour round the exhibition stands. Here he stops to become a top chef as he griddles a piece of prime pork steak. Our "Girl from MANWEB," Miss Caroline Smith, stands by ready to sample the tasty morsel.



Some of our Energy Sales Girls at the Exhibition



Above: Miss June Berry, of our South Lancashire District, demonstrates her culinary skills to Mr. D. S. Webb Jones.

Left: Mrs. Barbara Christian from Liverpool District, tours the exhibition with one of the visitors.

Right: Surprise! Surprise!! as our candid cameraman catches two more members of the energy sales team, Mrs. Alma Burrows of Liverpool, *left*, and Mrs. Lesley Taylor of Clwyd.





Above: Group Manager, Mr. J. W. Trimble, centre, is given food for thought at the exhibition by a duo of D.C.E's, Mr. N. Walsh (Mid-Cheshire), left, and Mr. G. Bowers, (North Wirral) right.

Below: As Group Manager Mr. K. Helliwell, left, tries his hand at a spot of cooking, our other Group Manager, Mr. H. Telfer watches for the results.



Energy Sales demonstrator from Mid-Cheshire District, Mrs. Margaret Corlett is seen here demonstrating the back-bar equipment which consists of a two-pot Baine-marie, a half-size griddle, a fryer, two boiling rings and a grill toaster—all snugly fitted for £250 complete!

MORE COMMERCIAL CATERING

Mrs. Erllys Hughes, a demonstrator in the Gwynedd District, and Mr. Arthur J. Thompson, centre, a senior sales representative in the Clwyd District, study the design of a new commercial kitchen during an advanced training course at the Electric Catering Centre in London. With them is Mr. John Ling, manager of the centre.

Sponsored by The Electricity Council, the Catering Centre provides a shop window for all that is best in electric catering in addition to running induction, intermediate and advanced training courses for selected staff from the Area Boards.





Drivers at Mold after receiving their awards from Mr. Mellor, second from right, front row, and Mr. Griffiths, third from right, front row.

“Luck alone not enough”

Safe Driving Awards were presented by Mr. L. Griffiths (*District Engineer, Clwyd*) and Mr. D. R. Mellor (*District Commercial Engineer, Clwyd*), to MANWEB employees at Mold recently.

Mr. Griffiths, congratulating the men on their achievement, said, “A lot of people say you have got to have a lot of luck, but you don’t get by on luck alone.

You have also got to be alert and show a lot of skill as well.”

Presentation ceremonies were also held at Rhyl and Llandudno Junction and the full list of Clwyd District staff who received awards is as follows:

Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Mr. D. Jones.

Bar to 10-Year Medal: Messrs. T. Hughes, G. Simpson and R. Smith.

10-Year Medal: Messrs. W. Taylor and E. Thomas.

Bar to 5-Year Medal: Messrs. J. T. Davies, R. K. Davies, J. R. Evans, M. Evans, T. Fields, I. W. Griffiths, P. M. Horsley, A. K. Jones, D. A. L. Jones, W. O. Jones, I. J. Nethercott, R. G. Roberts, S. V. Taylor, E. A. Thomas, F. Thomas, I. H. Williams, J. Williams, J. E. Williams, T. R. Williams and W. E. Williams.

5-Year Medal: Messrs. H. W. B. Berry, B. James, H. Hambley, C. Kirkman, W. E. B. Roberts,

W. Sutherland, C. H. S. Wheeler and B. Williams.

Diploma: Messrs. R. G. Ball, D. Bartley, B. Davies, H. S. Davies, R. T. Davies, E. M. Evans, H. Evans, T. A. Everley, E. P. Fagan, J. E. Garrett, R. Harkness, K. E. Hatley, I. T. Hughes, W. A. Hughes, C. Johnson, B. Jones, G. M. Jones, J. B. Jones, L. H. Jones, M. I. Jones, R. H. Jones, T. A. Jones, T. H. Jones, H. M. Kearsley, E. Owen, B. Parry, C. E. Parry, K. J. Parry, W. Pendleton, S. Richardson, B. Roberts, D. J. Roberts, A. E. Salisbury, G. Schloegh, N. Stanley, David Thomkinson, R. Walley, E. J. Williams, J. Williams and J. A. Wooley.

Exemption Certificate: Messrs. D. Brown, J. C. Jones and P. C. Williams.

Some of our colleagues based at Rhyl who received Safe Driving Awards.





Mr. Mellor, centre left, presents a RoSPA 10-year Medal to Mr. Thomas of Llanrwst as other award recipients at Llandudno Junction complete the picture.

"A Shining Example"—Crewe Drivers told

When Safe Driving Awards were presented recently to members of the Board's Mid-Cheshire District staff, Sgt. R. G. Platt of the local Police Traffic Department said that today's drivers needed good example in the form of "shining stars to follow."

He added that there were now 72 vehicles for every mile of roadway.

A spokesman for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, Mr. E. Yates, said that during 1970/71 there were 780

deaths on our roads—an increase of almost 50% in three years. The cost of accidents, both financial and human, was enormous.

Chairman for the occasion was Mr. J. W. Trimble (*Group Manager*), and the awards were presented by Inspector H. J. Brown, officer in charge of traffic, as follows:

20-Year Brooch: Mr. J. Gilbert.
Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Messrs. F. C. Astles, J. Hough, J. Mason, R. Pennistone and R. Preston.

Bar to 10-Year Medal: Messrs. E. J. Everall, P. Roche, L. Waltmaier and F. Warburton.

10-Year Medal: Messrs. F. Broadhurst and G. D. Steele.

Bar to 5-Year Medal: Messrs. W. F. Butler, G. K. Morrey and K. E. Sandlands.

5-Year Medal: Messrs. P. Davenport, W. H. Jones and W. Salmon.

Diploma: Messrs. T. Aspinall, S. J. Davies, G. N. Latham, E. Leighton, J. B. O'Hara, W. K. Penhall and A. Rowlands.

Safe drivers at Macon Way, Crewe, with Mr. Trimble, seated centre, and their special guests.

(Crewe Chronicle picture)



GROWELECTRIC

THE ELECTRICITY COUNCIL'S new style horticultural information and advisory service, *Grow-electric* was launched at the 1972 British Growers Look Ahead Conference held at Harrogate on May 16th to 18th. Based on the Council's existing commercial and technical information service, *Grow-electric* provides a clear channel of communication for growers through their Electricity Board contacts and specialised staff.

A new series of *Grow-electric* handbooks was introduced at the conference, the first of these, "Growing Rooms," is the most comprehensive publication ever to have been produced on the subject. The ever popular "Elec-

AT HOME WITH ELECTRICITY

Electric supply and installation with the different wiring circuits and fuses are all explained, with clear illustration and text, in a new 32-page booklet published by the Electricity Council, "At Home With Electricity."

Half the booklet is devoted to electric appliances in the home and how they work. Guidance is given on such questions as how to read a meter and mend a fuse; how to wire a plug and a lamp holder; and how to calculate the amount of electricity an appliance will use.

The booklet is written for house-holders, and students, who can use it for reference or as a guide that will take them progressively through steps of understanding to a fuller knowledge of electricity.

"At Home With Electricity" costs 20p and will be obtainable through Electricity Board shops or post free from The Electricity Council, Marketing Department, Trafalgar Buildings, 1 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DS.

tric Growing" has been revised and reprinted.

Research by The Electricity Council into supplementary lighting, which is enabling progressive growers to increase both yields and quality, has been directed towards new light sources capable of producing better crops at less cost. Two lamps which hold distinct promise are low pressure sodium (SOX) and high pressure sodium (SON). Both of these light sources were demonstrated at the conference.

One grower claims to have saved ten weeks from seed sowing to planting out tomatoes compared with plants grown without

artificial light.

Comparative trials of spray and pot chrysanthemums under 180W low pressure sodium lamps at Sandymere Nurseries at Tarporley, Cheshire, show that the extra cost can be justified. Ten week varieties can be grown, enabling five crops per year, compared with three-and-a-half without supplementary light.

Ventilation

Extractor fan ventilation for glasshouses, virtually non-existent before 1966, is developing rapidly, with 100 acres of glasshouses with fans installed by 1971. It is estimated that by 1976 at least 500 acres will be ventilated this way.

Seminar

In conjunction with the *Grow-electric* campaign, The Electricity Council is collaborating with the National Farmers Union in organising a seminar to discuss the contribution of engineering to the future of the glasshouse industry.

Obituary

Mr. A. M. TYLER

It is with very deep regret that we report the death, only a few short weeks after his retirement, of Mr. Alec M. Tyler, former foreman electrician at Caernarvon.

Mr. Tyler's retirement—after 50 years' service to the industry—was reported in the March *Contact*, and his many friends will feel much distressed that he was spared for so short a time.

Several of his former workmates attended a service, held at Mr. Tyler's Caernarvon home, and later went on to Colwyn Bay for the cremation.

Mr. W. H. THOMAS

We regret to record the death of Mr. W. H. Thomas, who prior to his retirement nine years ago, after 40 years' service, was an assistant consumers' engineer at Holyhead, Anglesey.

Mr. W. G. M. THOMPSON

We have just learned of the death of Mr. Bill Thompson at the age of 73. Bill was employed as a clerk in the engineering section at Beam Street, Nantwich prior to his retirement several years ago.

Mr. J. E. KINSEY

Another of our pensioners, Mr. Joseph Ernest Kinsey, died a few weeks ago. He was 67. Before he retired in 1969, he worked for 20 years in the Stores at Northwich.

Mr. P. F. ELLIOTT

A labourer at Northwich for the past 13 years, Mr. Peter Frederick Elliott died a short time ago. He was 59 years-of-age.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the widows and families of these former colleagues.



A representative group of the Safe Drivers in our North Mersey District who received awards recently. From left to right: Messrs. P. Quinn, T. E. Matthews, A. W. Briscoe, H. Reynolds, T. H. Hodge, A. W. Hawley (District Engineer), A. G. Whaite and D. E. Noad (District Commercial Engineer).

North Mersey Safe Drivers

A local hotel was the venue for drivers in our North Mersey District to gather and receive their Rospa awards for safe driving. Following the presentations by Mr. A. G. Whaite (*Accident Prevention Officer, Bootle and Litherland*), he gave a short talk and showed a safety film. Then dinner was enjoyed by one and all. The awards were as follows: **Bar to 20-Year Medal:** Mr. P. Moore, who is based at Southport.

Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Messrs. R. Armstrong, N. Robertson and F. Sheehan, all from Marsh Lane.

15-Year Brooch: Mr. T. H. Hodge from Southport. **Bar to 10-Year Medal:** Messrs. A. Briscoe, E. V. Harrison, T. E. Matthews, W. S. Owen, S. Paul and W. Riding, all based at Marsh Lane.

10-Year Medal: Mr. P. J. F. Quinn of Marsh Lane and Mr. H. Reynolds of Southport.

Bar to 5-Year Medal: *Marsh Lane*—Messrs. J. A. Bell, A. Bent, K. Cooper, R. S. Harper, B. King, F. N. McHugh, S. Mumford, W. J. Owen, B. Step-

hens, K. Stewart, W. Taunton, J. Tulley and D. Ward. *Southport*—Messrs. E. Brimelow, J. W. Lennon, J. P. Pritchard, K. Sproat and H. Woods. **5-Year Medal:** *Marsh Lane*—Messrs. H. Cooper, A. H. C. Evans, R. W. Harley, G. C. Heaton, G. J. Hughes and L. Lloyd. *Southport*—Messrs. W. Halfpenny and I. D. Ledson.

Diploma: *Marsh Lane*—Messrs. C. M. Arnold, D. C. Biggs, J. S. Bingham, D. Burleigh, M. J. Connor, J. S. Cushing, A. G. Grice, A. E. Johnson, J. Johnson, T. Lawrenson, J. Leatherbarrow, P. J. Lee, C. McCoy, R. D. Mellor, L. Riley, R. N. Simms, M. V. Stubbs, E. J. Willan and J. G. Williams. *Southport*—Messrs. J. Ashcroft, B. H. Cummings, P. N. Guppy, A. Harrop, W. Hodson, F. Illingworth, J. Kelly, A. Ormerod, D. S. Rimmer, J. Rimmer, S. Rimmer, M. Stevenson and P. Tew.

Exemptions: *Marsh Lane*—Messrs. J. McAvoy, R. N. Moore and H. Southwood (*now retired*). *Southport*—Mr. E. H. Berry (*now retired*).

DOCTOR'S ROUND

Former demonstrator at Northwich, Mrs. Muriel Jones, whose retirement is reported elsewhere in this issue, had a long period of illness prior to her eventual retirement, and while she was in hospital she wrote the following lines . . .

No beat of drum—no fanfare sound
Heralds the approach of Doctor's round
Treated like Gods—with circumspection—
The Ward with baited breath awaits inspection.
Sister arrives, starched apron rustling,
Stirs up the nurses, in general bustling—

"Is the Ward neat? Is it spick and span?
Do tidy up as quick as you can!"

The earth tilts its axis, the sun runs riot,
But the patients hush, and are deathly quiet.
All chatter stops—as with serious face
Gravely the Doctor explains your case
To the gathered students, who softly tread
In a hesitant group around the bed.

"Interior, anterior, posterior ad hoc"
They furtively glance at the Ward's ticking clock.
Vainly, the patient is trying to hear
The Latin jargon—but the untrained ear
Misses the gist and, less wise than before,
Sighs with relief as they go through the door.



The top picture shows our MANWEB "A" team, from left to right: Alan Snape (Caernarvon), reserve, Doreen Rushton (Birkenhead), Beth Tinsley (Head Office), Andy Stewart (Clwyd), Kath Hough (Head Office), Will Jones (Gwynedd) and Paul Wilkinson (Liverpool).

The bottom picture is of the MANWEB "B" team who are, from left to right: Joan Hughes (Head Office), Tony Tonks (Dee Valley), Ken Winrow (North Mersey), Geoff Phillips (Liverpool), Maureen Evans (Head Office) and Kath Knight (Head Office).

NATIONAL BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Near Miss for MANWEB

Men and women from MANWEB made up two of the teams to compete in this year's National Electricity Badminton Championships held at Loughborough College a few weeks ago—and they were very unlucky not to retain the trophy which they have held since the championships were started three years ago.

Players from Area Boards and Regions as far apart as Glasgow, Portsmouth, East Anglia, Cardiff and Chester made up the sixteen teams entered in the competition. They were divided into four groups of four teams, each having three matches to play, with the winning team in each group going forward to the semi-finals.

On the first day, Saturday, competition play

started at 9.30 in the morning and continued until midnight when most of the players were glad to crawl into bed. MANWEB "A" team were unbeaten in their group and so qualified to meet the South of Scotland Board team in one semi-final with the other match being played between teams from the East Midlands Board and the London Board.

The MANWEB "B" team, as second losing team in their group entered for the consolation prize.

The semi-final game against the South of Scotland Board was the match of the tournament. The teams had previously met in the final of the 1970 competition and this year, according to the majority of people present, the South of Scotland team had

shown great form and had been most impressive.

Nothing daunted, our team played at the peak of their form and won by a clear (*and surprising to everyone else*) margin of four games to one. In the other semi-final game, the East Midlands Board team had an easy win.

So the stage was set for a repeat of last year's exciting final. The first game was the men's doubles and the tension and excitement felt by players and spectators was tremendous. Unfortunately we lost the match by the narrowest of margins in three games, and this result seemed to have a demoralising effect on the whole team. Then came a most distressing incident when one of our lady players was

hit in the eye by the shuttle in the opening minutes of the ladies doubles match. From then on we seemed to lose our rhythm and could not recapture the semi-final form.

The final result was a win for the home team, East Midlands Board, and our congratulations go out to them.

"The overall standard of play in the MANWEB teams is improving each year," says team manager Mr. John Foster (2nd assistant engineer, Head Office). "We are now looking forward to next year's championships, which will probably be held in Surrey, so if you are interested in joining the team call me at Head Office (Internal 2423) or drop me a line."

ON THE GREENS

There was a record entry of 46 members of the MANWEB (Chester) Golf Society for the first meeting of the season at Upton-by-Chester Golf Club a short time ago.

The competition was a Stableford and the results were as follows: Messrs. K. J. Winrow (38 points), H. B. Parsons (37), M. Stranks (36), D. C. Jones (35), N. Jones (34), C. Reid (33) and W. A. Jones (32).

In this month's meeting held at the Chester Golf Club, there was an entry of 44 for a Medal Competition with the following results: Messrs. R. A. Norfolk (66), K. J. Winrow (67), L. A. Barons (68), W. Taylor (69), D. G. Jones (71), I. Evans (74), N. Jones (74) and I. W. Griffiths (74).

All the above qualified for the semi-final of the Gravett Cup Foursomes.

Membership of the Society is open to all full and associate members of the MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club. Anyone interested should get in touch with the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. A. Jones, Room 4S1, Sealand Road. Tel. 2195.



Just eight of the record number of players at the opening of the MANWEB Golf Society's season. Above, from left to right: Messrs. J. G. Norbury, T. Jones, D. G. Jones and F. T. Edwards. Below, from left to right: Messrs. J. H. Ramsay, G. H. Dodd, B. Hodgetts and D. Ellams.



RETIREMENTS

Mr. E. J. LOLLAR

A lifetime of service in the electricity supply industry was ended recently with the retirement of Mr. Edward Joseph Lollar, a former Chief Accountant and more recently the Board's Management Adviser.

A native of Wallasey, he was educated at Wallasey Grammar School, Mr. Lollar qualified as a chartered accountant in 1928, taking the 'Quilter' prize for the best paper on the subject of "auditing" in his final examination.

He served his articles with a Liverpool firm and after qualifying became their managing clerk. He began his long association with the electricity industry when he became responsible for the auditing of the accounts for the former Mersey Power Company Ltd.

At 25 years-of-age, he became the chief accountant for that Company and later was appointed to seats on the Boards, and as assistant general manager, of the Mersey Power Company and the neighbouring Mid-Cheshire Electricity Supply Company.

A feature of his influence during this period was the re-casting of the pension schemes, introducing such advanced features (*now common*) as pensions for manual workers and widows, and the preservation of pensions when changing employers.

On the nationalisation of the industry in 1948, he became MANWEB's Chief Accountant, taking over the responsibilities of Management Adviser when the Board entered its period of intensive re-organisation.

In 1958, he spent a period in Israel advising that country's electricity authorities, at their request.

Mr. Lollar's wide experience of most aspects of electricity supply, a background becoming increasingly rare in these days of specialisation and large scale operation, has been of immense value to MANWEB.

A number of farewell 'get-togethers' were held. At one, Mr. Lollar himself was the host at a tea-party for a group of former colleagues of the Mersey Power Company still working for MANWEB. At another, he and his wife were the guests of honour

Mr. and Mrs. Lollar surrounded by staff from all departments and Districts. Immediately behind Mr. Lollar is Mr. Thomas and behind Mrs. Lollar is Mr. Gwyn.



at a lunch given by Board members on May 19th when he was presented with some garden furniture.

At a staff presentation, when all departments and representatives from the Districts, including Aberystwyth, gathered to wish Mr. Lollar a happy retirement, Mr. Michael Thomas (*executive officer—Internal Audit*) said it was a unique occasion in that it was only the second time in the Board's 24-year history that a Chief Officer had managed to reach retiring age.

Reminiscing over the early days of MANWEB, when 'we were not the biggest Board but certainly the best,' Mr. Thomas said that members of the accounts staff were happy when Mr. Lollar, their chief, became the first member of the staff to be appointed to the Board. He went on to pay sincere tribute to Mr. Lollar's leadership and spoke of the three things which everyone hoped would sustain him in retirement—his being a good Christian—his regard that retirement was only a milestone on the road to ultimate fulfillment—and last but by no means least, his very happy marriage.

However, to help keep him active during his days at home, members of the staff subscribed to present him with a complete 'do-it-yourself' kit.

In reply to the tributes paid to him, Mr. Lollar said that he was most grateful for the 'send-off' in a most practical way, after his 40-years' service. He hoped that he would now be able to face the retirement he had been preparing for over the past year or so. He then paid his own tribute to his wife who, besides helping him in his career, had managed to devote a great deal of time to voluntary work for the local community, work in which he could now join her and devote more of his time.

Mr. Lollar said that over the years he had contact with most of the other Electricity Boards and was of the opinion that MANWEB was among the most strong and loyal of them all, and that we had a good

record of 'togetherness' and service to the community. He said that we should hold fast to these things which we have, and encourage everyone to feel pride and joy in the job they were doing and make it and the Board a success.

This was certainly a great farewell ceremony for those fortunate enough to be there.

Bringing the proceedings to a close, Mr. D. G. Gwyn (*Deputy Chairman*), who stood in for Board Chairman Mr. D. G. Dodds who was away on holiday, then thanked Mr. Lollar for his long and loyal service and on behalf of all the MANWEB staff, conveyed best wishes for a happy, useful, fruitful and enjoyable retirement to two very good people.

Miss L. I. MILLICAN

After 37 years' service—which began as a temporary loan from the comptometer school!—Miss Lilian Millican, comptometer supervisor at Rhos-tyllen, has retired.

Miss Millican—affectionately known to all and sundry as 'Milly'—joined the North Wales Power Company when the power samas system was discarded in 1935. Soon she decided that she liked North Wales enough to forsake her native Liverpool, and accepted the offer of a permanent post.

During the years since then she has served with four Area Accountants, while probably about 400 operators have worked under her guidance.

Her total dedication to the job earned her the respect of all, and her staff always regarded 'Milly' with affection—even when they were told to find a missing penny in £20,000!

Miss Millican was really due to retire in November, but was asked to stay on to see the transfer of accounts to Chester well under way.

To mark the occasion about 30 members of her

Mr. Helliwell sits with the ladies as they pose for Miss Millican's presentation picture. Milly is seated centre right.



past and present staff dined her and presented her with a "Teasmade," so that she can enjoy the extra lie-in when the need to catch the bus to the office had passed! Other gifts from her many friends included a tea-trolley and a silver wine cup, together with a box of chocolates and a bouquet.

"Milly" will be much missed, and very many people hope that she will find her hobbies of gardening, embroidery, and the "W.I." absorbing in a long and happy retirement.

Mrs. M. JONES

Friends and workmates gathered for a pleasant social evening at a Wimboldsley inn a couple of weeks ago to wish a happy retirement to a popular figure—Mrs. Muriel Jones, District demonstrator at Northwich for the past 14 years.

Before joining MANWEB, Mrs. Jones worked for NORWEB at Bolton.

During her stay at Northwich she has been a well-known local personality, being active in a number of spheres. Among these have been the Workers' Educational Association, being Chairman of the Northwich Branch, and the Northwich Soroptimists, of which she is a past President.

She is also a member of the Post Office Advisory Council, and holds the Teaching Certificate and Diploma of the Electrical Association for Women.

One of Mrs. Jones' main interests in life is painting, and she plays an active role in a local artists' group and recently had some of her paintings on exhibition in the Town.

Mrs. Jones
receives one of
her farewell
presentation
gifts from **Mr.
N. Walsh**
(District
Commercial
Engineer).



On behalf of her friends she was presented with a silver candelabra, a pearl necklace and bracelet, and a bouquet, together with good wishes for improved health and an enjoyable retirement.

Mr. M. HIGNETT

After 38 years' service to the industry Mr. D. Malcolm Hignett retired from Derby House, Liverpool, recently.

Mr. Hignett began his career with Liverpool Corporation City Treasurer's Department in 1934, moved to MANWEB on the nationalisation of the industry, and subsequently took control of pre-payment meter collections and the banking of cash.

During retirement he will be able to devote more time to his hobby of wine-making.

A happy group taken at Derby House on the occasion of the retirement of Mr. Hignett who is in the centre of the front row.



Back from the dead!

WHILE in Liverpool recently covering the Commercial Catering exhibition at the Board's Industrial Development Centre, our roving reporter was delighted to meet again, Mr. Bob Russell, a former handyman/driver when Head Office was based at Love Lane.

A short time ago, Bob suffered a serious illness and was rushed into hospital for an operation. The many friends he had made while with the Board in Liverpool, were shocked when the report came through that Bob had died.

This information was quickly and thankfully corrected when it was found that another man having the same name and in the same hospital ward was the one who had passed away.

Our Bob is still alive and although not fully fit yet, is able to get around. When we talked

to him recently he asked if we would pass on his sincere thanks to all who sent their best wishes during his illness.

He made special mention of two of his former colleagues, chauffeurs John Green and Gordon Phillips, who drive for the Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively, for their special kindness.

Thank You

A lovely thank you letter has been received from one of our colleagues, Mrs. Dorothy M. Wyatt, who works in the stock control section at our Queensferry Stores. Here she deals with the 'daily delivery' to shops and appliance deliveries to customers' homes.

While in hospital recently, undergoing a major operation, Dorothy received over 80 cards from MANWEB staff at Head Office, the shops and Queensferry Stores.

As soon as she was able, Dorothy penned the following lines...

Golden Wedding

We have just heard that pensioner Mr. Edward (Ted) R. Littlewood and his wife have just celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. The festivities were held in the Isle of Man, where the Littlewoods now live, and special guests for the occasion was another pensioner Mr. Jack Kinvig, who was joined on his trip from Liverpool by his wife.

Ted, a former chargehand labourer at Lister Drive, is due for another celebration on May 31st when he reaches his three score years and ten.

Congratulations from us all on both of these wonderful occasions.

FOR THE PENSIONERS

Chairman of the Liverpool Pensioners Group, Mr. Harry Robertson, informs one and all that the next meeting of the Group will be on Wednesday, June 14th at Thingwall Road Clubhouse, Liverpool.

At this meeting future plans will be discussed.

At the meeting to be held on Wednesday, July 12th, a Concert Party has been engaged to give a show starting at 2.30 p.m. and will last for about an hour. Members are invited to bring along their wives to enjoy this show which will be staged at the Thingwall Road Clubhouse.

Arrangements have now been made for a party of 52 people to visit the CEGB power station at Trawsfynydd on Thursday, July 13th.

We hear from the Retired Members' Group at Rhostyllen that they are to have a coach trip to Llandudno and Colwyn Bay on Tuesday, June 13th.

We are hoping to get our cameraman to meet them somewhere on their journey and show pictures in a future issue of *Contact*.

"I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank everyone for the kind enquiries, gifts of flowers, fruit and chocolates etc., many lovely cards and visits from MANWEB staff during my month's stay in the Maelor Hospital at Wrexham."

Dorothy's husband George also works for us at Queensferry.

Letter to the "Echo"

Sir—It would appear to persons reading the letters in the *Echo* that the favourite sport of writers is to "bash" the British working man, the trades unions and the nationalised industries. May I pay tribute to work of a nationalised industry which I experienced recently.

The "off-peak service" in my home was found to be off and there was no current at the distribution board. I telephoned MANWEB at 10.15 a.m., thinking from the gist of the letters I had read that I would be lucky to

have it repaired some time that week.

You can imagine my surprise when I was assured the repair would be done that day. At 10.40 a.m. the electrician, who had travelled from Southport, arrived. He found the fault in the service fuse, repaired same, replaced fuse, tested the circuit and was on his way at 11 a.m.

Perhaps the "bashers" have not been as lucky as I was, but I feel I must pay tribute for quick and efficient service.

(Signed).

SHE'S NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU?



You've never seen her before,
after all.

She was married to a
guy in your line of business.
But that's not your business,
is it?

We hope to God you prove us
wrong. Because it's everybody's
business to be human.

Especially when someone's in
trouble. Like the woman in our
picture. Her husband died
suddenly, left her with two little
boys, and a gap of £3 a week
between income and costs.

That's where total strangers
stepped in. They'd never met
her, and they never will. But
they'd had enough spark of
humanity to write off a little of
their own income to EEIBA.

We hope you'll help us too.
To help people who are nothing
to do with you.

Remember, one day you may need some total strangers too

Just pick up the telephone and call the Welfare Department at Head Office and ask for a salary deduction slip. Do it now—it's quite straightforward. Ten-pence a month is such a small amount and if it is automatically deducted from your salary it wouldn't break you, but it would certainly help to build up someone who would regard you as a good friend.



The Electrical & Electronics Industries Benevolent Association