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THIS MONTH'S COMPETITION

Who's Who?

It is a well-known fact that the human personality forms at a very early age, but do physical features remain the same throughout life? What was a cute little nose often turns out to be a real landmark in later life, and those baby blue eyes disappear under mounds of make-up or fade into bloodshot oblivion. On occasions you have no doubt faced the situation when someone thrusts a faded photograph in your hand saying, "This was me in Class 1, can you pick me out?" You gaze down at a group of forty-odd children and in despair stab your finger at the nicest dressed and cleanest one. You are always wrong.

All this brings us on to this month's competition and your chance to prove how observant you are. Reproduced on this page are pictures of four members of the staff taken at a very early age and as they are now. What you have to do is to match up the four pairs. If you think picture '1' shows the person in picture 'A' when young, write down '1 = A' and then carry on and pair up the other six pictures.

There will be three prizes of ONE PREMIUM BOND each to the senders of the first three correct solutions opened on June 1st. The competition is restricted to Manweb employees, pensioners and their families. Add your name and office or home address when sending in your entry to The Editor, *Contact*, Manweb, Love Lane, Liverpool 3. To avoid permutations, only one entry per person will be allowed.

JIG-SAW COMPETITION

A record number of entries were received for our last month's competition, and we were very pleased to hear from so many of our pensioners, although none was lucky enough to win a prize. The youngest competitors were only eight years old, namely Miss Margaret Adey from Warrington and Miss Linda Basset from Llandudno Junction. Our oldest competitor was 80 years old Mr. F. L. Mason who used to work at Birkenhead. Entries were received from as far afield as London and Yorkshire. Solution: 1—Page 97; 2—Page 103; 3—Page 85; 4—Page 98; 5—Page 107.

Winners of the one-guinea prizes:

Mr. Hugh Jones, Colwyn Bay Sub-district Office.
Mr. E. Steer, Drawing Office, Headquarters.
Mr. W. Mongey, Electrician, Wallasey.



A



B



C



D



May
1961

The Staff Magazine
of the
Merseyside and North Wales
Electricity Board

Contact

"BARA BRITH" AND COFFEE—(see page 117).





Mr. & Mrs. Rogerson

SPRINGTIME WEDDINGS

ROGERSON—REGAN

Congratulations to Mr. R. C. Rogerson (General Assistant Engineer, Northwich) and Miss W. A. Regan, who were married recently at Holy Trinity Church, Castle. After the reception Mr. and Mrs. Rogerson left by car to tour Devon and Cornwall. From his colleagues at Manweb, Ralph received a present of a canteen of cutlery.



Mr. & Mrs. Guilford

GUILFORD—GOULDEN

Best wishes for future happiness to Mr. J. B. Guilford (Electrician, Northwich), who married Miss R. J. Goulden at St. John's Church, Hartford, recently. The happy couple spent their honeymoon at Bournemouth.



Mr. & Mrs. Fisher

FISHER—BRADSHAW

Congratulations to Miss I. Bradshaw (Service Centre Assistant, Crewe) on the occasion of her marriage to Mr. F. P. Fisher (Electrician, Nantwich). The wedding took place at St. Paul's Church, Crewe, and after the reception the couple left for their honeymoon in London. On behalf of their colleagues, Mr. N. Walsh (District Commercial Engineer) presented Miss Bradshaw with a set of pans and Mr. J. R. Jenkins (Consumers' Engineer, Nantwich) presented Mr. Fisher with an electric kettle and an electric iron.



Mr. & Mrs. Williams

WILLIAMS—REYNOLDS

Congratulations to Mr. Stanley Williams and Mrs. K. Reynolds, who were married at Newtown a few weeks ago. Mr. Williams, who is employed as a transport driver with the Newtown Construction Department, has been with the Board since 1948, and is particularly well known in the Wrexham area.



Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE MERSEYSIDE AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

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VOL. 13

MAY, 1961

No. 5

EDITORIAL

Another Great Year

More electricity supplied to more consumers than ever before... this is the salient point which emerges from an analysis of the Board's work in the year which ended on March 31st.

More than six thousand million units were supplied to over 946,000 consumers—a substantial increase over the corresponding 1959-60 figures of 5,556 million units and 926,000 consumers.

When one considers that 1959-60 was itself regarded as a year of great expansion, the new records of 1960-61 represent no mean achievement—a result which should be a source of justifiable pride and satisfaction for every member of the Board's staff. And these results are even more impressive when we consider that in 1948-49, our first year of operations, we supplied a mere 2,500 million units to 661,000 consumers.

Of the 21,000 new consumers connected to the network, nearly 1,900 were farms—again a record. This figure was achieved despite a hold-up in rural development due to the restrictions imposed by widespread outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease which affected work in some districts over several months. Since Vesting Day electricity has been taken to more than 15,000 farms.

Looking Forward.

Electric cookers and water heaters continued to be in great demand, and more of these appliances were sold than in any previous year. At this year's Spring Sales Conferences—reported elsewhere in this number of Contact—our Commercial staff were called on to make even greater efforts to sell more appliances and to increase our revenue from contracting work to help provide the money needed for capital investment.

We have no doubt that 1961-62 will see further advances in the use of electricity by an even greater number of consumers. Our financial target for the year is a surplus of something like £1,500,000.

The task before us is one in which everyone can play an important part. If each one of us does our best to increase our own efficiency, to give every constructive help to our colleagues, and to convince our friends and neighbours of the advantages of electrical living we shall have another fine year's work to report in twelve months' time.

MINISTER OF POWER VISITS WALES

The Minister of Power, Mr. Richard Wood, paid a flying visit—in more ways than one—to the Manweb area on April 20th and 21st, arriving on the shores of the Menai Straits by helicopter. After visiting the Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Station site the Minister spent the night of April 20th at Vaynol Hall, the home of Sir Michael Duff. Early next morning, accompanied by Mrs. Wood, Sir Michael and members of the Manweb staff, including Mr. D. H. Kendon (Chairman), Mr. D. G. Dodds (Deputy Chairman), and Mr. R. N. Pegg (District Manager), the Minister visited the David Hughes Comprehensive School at Beaumaris, a large new school in course of construction to meet the educational needs of children drawn from the South and South Western parts of Anglesey.

Mountain Safari

Extensive electrical floor warming and water heating systems are being installed in this school, and the Minister paused to inspect work in progress and to chat with members of the Board's staff on the job. Most of the building work has been completed and the school is already operating, but some construction still has to be done.

After leaving the school the Minister went on to meet members of the Llanberis operations gang—popularly known as the “Stern Gang”. In doing this he was accepting an invitation extended to him by Mr. R. H. Owen, a high tension linesman and a member of the gang, when Mr. Owen received the British Empire Medal from the Minister in London recently.

The Minister (holding stick) sees floor-warming cables being laid by members of the Board's staff at the David Jones School.



In the school gymnasium. The Minister and his party watch P.T. being carried out under the instruction of Miss G. Ll. Lewis, a member of the school staff. Miss Lewis is the daughter of the Board's Anglesey District Manager, Mr. Ll. Lewis, who is on the extreme right of the group.

The cars carrying the Minister's party crawled up a stony mountain track on to Bryn Mawr mountain to meet the men as they worked on the 33 kV line running between Waenfawr and Llanberis. Sheltering from driving rain squalls and tearing wind under a tarpaulin sheet draped from a lorry, the Minister chatted with all the members of the gang. Together they ate home made “*Bara Brith*” (currant bread) spread with Welsh farm butter, and drank coffee from mugs.

The weather was bad enough to give the Minister a clear insight into the conditions which these men so often have to face, working as they do in one of the toughest stretches of countryside in Britain.

Later in the day the Minister visited the Pumped Storage site at Blaenau Ffestiniog, before leaving North Wales for York.

OUR COVER PICTURE shows the Minister (*centre*) surrounded by the members of the “Stern Gang”. Included in the picture are the Chairman of the Board, Mr. D. H. Kendon (*second from left, wearing cap*), and the “gang's” leader, Mr. W. H. Blunt, Section Engineer, Llanberis (*wearing duffle coat*).

News from . . . **NORTHWICH** . . .

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to Mr. S. Littlewood (Third Assistant Commercial Engineer, No. 2 Sub-Area) on his recent promotion from the position of Assistant Consumers' Engineer at Northwich. On his last day at the District, Mr. Littlewood was the recipient of a small token of esteem from his colleagues and Mr. A. Stewart (District Commercial Engineer) wished him well in his new sphere of activity. The Northwich office will certainly seem less bright without Stanley's Yorkshire stories.

* * *

We congratulate Mr. N. Simes on his promotion from Assistant (Engineering Clerical) to District Senior Clerk. Mr. Simes joined the Northwich staff in 1950 and his promotion has given great satisfaction to his colleagues in the office.

HELLO GIRL'S GOODBYE

Miss G. Garner, the telephone operator at Northwich, whose voice has greeted many callers, left the Board in April to take up an appointment with the English Electric Company as a demonstrator. Her many friends wish her the best of luck in her new job.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

The highly successful First Aid team formed by members of the staff from Nos. 2 and 3 Sub-Areas have hit the headlines again by gaining first place in the British Electricity Authority National Finals held in London a short time ago. In the final placings the Manweb team were a clear six marks ahead of their nearest rivals. A team from Northwich has now appeared four times in the National Finals, but this was the first occasion on which they have won the trophy.

In the Ladies' section, the No. 3 Sub-Area Ladies' team from Chester gained fourth place.

Mr. A. Stewart (*right*), Northwich District Commercial Engineer, wishes "Good Luck" to the First Aiders on their departure for London. They are (*left to right*), Messrs. T. A. Brindle (Northwich), L. C. Hampson (Chester), L. Smith (Captain, Chester), and B. Livesley (Northwich).



. . . **ST. HELENS** . . .

BACK HOME

Ronald Pinner (Electrical Fitter), one of the last of the National Servicemen at St. Helens District, returned from service recently.

Ronnie was in the Royal Engineers and for the last year of his service was stationed on Christmas Island, two degrees north of the Equator. Quite a lot of his time was spent swimming and fishing on the Island, and another popular sport was spear fishing for sand sharks in the shallow water of the lagoons. He made frequent visits to Honolulu and the Island of Ohau.

VISITOR

A very welcome visitor to St. Helens District Engineering Department recently was Daniel Massey.

Mr. Massey, who is looking well after his recent illness, called in to tell us that he is retiring to a farm in Bedford. Now well in his seventies, he has been working since his retirement from the Board, and we don't doubt that he will find something to do "down on the farm".

GET WELL SOON

Colleagues of Donald Cain—Jointer at St. Helens District—wish him a quick recovery to good health following upon his motoring accident.

Donald, who is a keen dancer and member of a Liverpool formation team, has won many trophies. He was returning from such an event when the car in which he was travelling had an accident in which two of the occupants were killed and the other two taken to hospital with injuries.

LONG SERVICE

Joe Pilkington, Street Lighting Attendant at St. Helens, tells us of an 80 watt mercury vapour street light in the Windle area of St. Helens District which has burned continuously for seven years from dusk to midnight without being changed—Is this a record?

. . . **RUNCORN** . . .

HEATING EXHIBITION

A clean air exhibition dealing with space heating equipment was staged at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Runcorn, from March 20th to 25th.

The hall was ideally suited for this task as it is "all electric" with overhead heating.

Equipment featured included coal-effect fires, convectors, grate conversion equipment, infra-red heating, comfort lamps, water heaters, and the electric fire lighter.

One part of the hall was screened off as a cinema. The exhibition was run by members of the District Commercial and Service Centre staffs, and the display was designed and erected by the Sub-Area display department.

. . . and **CREWE**

DISTRICT SOCIAL

Nearly 200 members and friends attended a Supper Dance and Cabaret organised by the Crewe District Sports and Social Club recently. A most entertaining evening was enlivened by comedian John Worsley of Macclesfield, and dancing was to the music of Alec Cutler and his band. The Sub-Committee headed by Mr. W. Jones are to be congratulated for the arrangements.

Course on April 17th. In ideal conditions 36 players paired off for their 18-hole four-ball matches. The results were as follows—(Manweb teams first): Messrs. W. B. Parkinson and M. M. Parker won one-up versus Messrs. A. O. Johnson and T. E. Daniel; Messrs. W. J. Thompson and G. A. White won one-up versus Messrs. C. Broucher and L. Swan; Mr. J. W. Trimble and Sir Geoffrey Summers lost 3 and 2 against Messrs. G. A. Howe and E. G. Wardle; Messrs. F. J. Brown and R. M. Gravett won one-up versus Messrs. J. Wallace and H. Fletcher; Messrs. J. Ekbery and W. Wallwork won 6 and 5 against Messrs. K. Whittle and E. Bowker; Messrs. L. J. Havill and W. J. Forster won 4 and 3 against Messrs. H. Holt and H. L. Partington; Messrs. H. C. Thompson and H. Millyard won 4 and 3 against Messrs. J. Eatock and K. C. Coop; Messrs. D. G. Dodds and P. Bregazzi finished all-square with Messrs. F. Linley and S. Dodd; Mr. H. Strange and Mr. G. A. Richardson (N.W.E.B.) lost 7 and 5 against Messrs. J. P. Heslop and J. Simpson.

This very successful day for Manweb finished with a dinner at the Club House where Mr. T. E. Daniel, Chairman of the N.W.E.B., congratulated the winners, and Mr. D. G. Dodds replied. It is hoped that this match will be the first of an annual competition.

RHOSTYLLEN SPORTSMEN

Left: Billiards and Snooker team winners in the North Wales (NALGO) Sports Competition. Left to right: Messrs. R. J. Jones, R. Phillips, V. Jones, G. Morris, and I. Thomas.

(Mr. R. J. Jones also won the Billiards individual event for the fifth year in succession).

Below: Runners-up in the table-tennis team event. Left to right: Messrs. I. Cox, K. Pritchard, D. Rogers, P. Williams, J. Barraclough and W. H. Thomas.



Mr. A. A. W. Hawley



Mr. D. A. Hamblin

MAINLY ABOUT PEOPLE

* * *

New District Managers

New District Managers have been appointed for the Board's Aberystwyth and Conway Valley Districts.

Mr. D. A. Hamblin, District Engineer at Aberystwyth, becomes District Manager in succession to Mr. J. L. Williams.

Mr. A. A. W. Hawley, Senior Assistant Technical Engineer with the South of Scotland Electricity Board, has been appointed District Manager at Conway Valley in succession to Mr. J. A. Winchester.

Messrs. Williams and Winchester have recently been appointed as Managers of larger districts in the Manweb area, following retirements.

Mr. Hamblin began his career as a trainee with the South Wales Electric Power Company Limited. After service in the R.A.F. he returned to that company as an Assistant Mains Engineer, joining the staff of the South Wales Electricity Board as assistant to the Rhondda District Engineer on nationalisation. He was appointed District Engineer with Manweb at Aberystwyth in 1949.

Mr. Hawley began his career with a Birmingham company in 1930 and later joined the staff of the Birmingham Electricity Supply Department. On Vesting day he became a member of the staff of the Midlands Electricity Board, and later joined Manweb No. 3 Sub-Area staff at Birkenhead and Chester.

In 1953 he moved to Glasgow, and since then has gained varied experience with the South of Scotland Board.

HELLO

Welcome from his new colleagues at Towyn to Mr. T. J. H. D. Jones, newly appointed Assistant Consumers' Engineers, who took up his duties recently.

Mr. Jones, who was born in Wales, spoke only Welsh until he was six years old, when his family moved to Yorkshire. Over the years he forgot his native tongue but hopes to quickly make up the deficiency again.

Before coming to Towyn he was

Installation Inspector at Heckmondwyke.

. . . . GOODBYE

Staff at the Colwyn Bay Sub-District Office said farewell to Mrs. Maureen Williams (Shorthand Typist) when she resigned after six years' service with the Board, in order to devote her full time to her home and family. Mr. H. R. Davies (Consumers' Engineer), on behalf of her colleagues, presented Maureen with a coffee table.

TALKING NOTES



A MARK OF GRATITUDE

In the January number of *Contact* we reported how, when the River Severn burst its banks and swept through Newtown on the night of December 3rd, our Senior Service Centre Assistant, **Mr. C. E. Arthur**, helped to rescue a local doctor from drowning.

The doctor, **Dr. Stewart Dallas**, became trapped in the passageway of his home and was unable to open a door to escape because of the pressure of the flood waters.

His shouts for help were heard by Mr. Arthur and Mr. Harold Evans, manager of Newtown gas undertaking, who were outside in Broad Street at the time. Between them they managed to force the door open enough to allow Dr. Dallas to escape.

Gift Watches

Recently, the doctor presented Mr. Evans and Mr. Arthur with a gold watch each, as a mark of his appreciation of their action on the night that the Severn swamped Newtown. (We hear that the ravages of the flood have been thoroughly cleared up. Our readers may remember that at the time the Service Centre was 4 feet 6 inches deep in water.)

President

Congratulations to **Mr. H. J. Fraser**, District Commercial Engineer for Liverpool Central District, who has been appointed as the new President of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association.

Mr. Fraser has been a member of the Association since 1942 and had held numerous offices at all levels, including the Chairmanship of the Association's national education and training sub-committee. He has also given long service on the National Executive Council.

Councillor

Congratulations to **Mr. Ll. Lewis**, the Board's District Manager in Anglesey, who has been returned unopposed as a member of the Anglesey County Council.

Challenge

The Bowling Club of No. 1 Sub-Area pride themselves on being a fair side and are prepared to challenge a team from any other area to a game to be played either home or away, preferably on a Saturday evening.

Please send your enquiries to:—

Mr. A. KINRADE,
CENTRAL INSPECTION DEPARTMENT,
NO. 1 SUB-AREA.

A True Story

A "Mr. X" called recently at the Oswestry Service Centre and said that he wished to pay "Mr. Y's" electricity account, as Mr. Y. had died, and he was his Executioner.

One of Those Days

A short time ago the engineering staff of No. 1 Sub-Area had occasion to disconnect a short section of medium voltage main in order to carry out some work which was rather urgent. Arrangements were made for all consumers in the vicinity to be notified, and in cases where there was

no one at home a note was left to inform the occupier.

In one case the consumer returned home to find his supply disconnected and the note behind the door. He immediately sat down and wrote a rather strongly worded letter to the Board. Our District Engineer sent a representative to see the consumer, in order to explain the circumstances, and the following is an extract of the report which was received.

"Mr. — said he was sorry he had written the letter, but it would appear that it was one of those days when nothing goes right. His wife was in hospital, he was held up at the canal swing bridge, on arriving home he found the supply had been disconnected, and on looking for an alternative means to boil water, the methylated spirits bottle was empty. On his return from the chemist's with a fresh supply of methyls the burner caught fire, filling the kitchen with fumes. At this stage he thought it time to write a letter to the Board, telling them just what he thought."

≡BREVITIES≡

DEMONSTRATOR LEAVES

Miss M. Boffey (Demonstrator, Crewe) resigned from her position with the Board on March 17th to prepare for her forthcoming marriage. Presenting Miss Boffey with an electric kettle and an electric iron, Mr. N. Walsh (District Commercial Engineer), thanked her for all the assistance she had given and wished her much happiness in the future.

EVERSLEY ENGAGEMENT

Congratulations to Miss Wendy Wright and Mr. Michael Johnson, who announced their engagement on April 8th. They are both employed as clerks in the No. 2 Sub-Area Accounts Department.

APPOINTMENT

Congratulations to Mr. H. Holburt (Foreman Meter Reader), No. 1 Sub-Area, on his recent appointment as

Representative Manager of Parkhill County Primary School, Liverpool.

PRESENTATION

On the occasion of his retirement after 11 years' service with the Board, Mr. G. Murray (Electrician, Crewe) was presented with two easy chairs by Mr. N. Walsh (District Commercial Engineer).

SUGGESTION AWARDS

We offer our congratulations to the following employees who have received cash awards under the Employees' Suggestion Scheme: Mr. J. Mooney (£5) and Mr. T. A. Bailey (£5). Both are employed in our No. 3 Sub-Area.

CONDOLENCE

We send our deepest sympathy to Mr. R. Owen (Linesman, Llangefni), and Mrs. Owen, on the tragic loss of their three-year-old daughter, Susan Maureen, on March 19th. Susan had been ill for seven months.

—OBITUARY—MR. E. KENDRICK—

It is with deep regret that we report the death in retirement at the age of 73 years of Mr. Edward (Ted) Kendrick who passed away on April 12th at Cophorne Hospital, Shrewsbury, after a short illness.

The interment took place at Oswestry Cemetery, where members of the Oswestry staff attended to pay their last respects. The four bearers were members of the mains section where Mr. Kendrick was employed prior to his retirement in 1958. He had served the Supply Industry for 23 years, first with Oswestry Corporation and later with Manweb as a Cable Ganger and Joints' Mate. He always made a point of keeping in touch with the "goings-on" down at the yard.

Mr. Kendrick was a former member of the Oswestry Park Bowling Club but his chief hobby was fishing and he was a member of the Oswestry and Ellesmere Angling Societies. He was also an Honorary Water Bailiff for the Severn River Board.

He leaves a widow and a son, who is at present at Cambridge University.



The pictures on this page show members of the Board's staff who attended the Bangor conference.

Spring Sales Conferences

About 450 members of the Board's sales and commercial staff from all parts of the area attended this year's Spring Sales Conferences, which were held at Hoylake, Wrexham and Bangor during March and April.

The opening of each day's proceedings was marked by the screening of a short colour film, in which the Chairman of the Board (Mr. D. H. Kendon) explained to his audiences the importance of their work, and expressed the hope that the conferences would prove fruitful and constructive.

Other Board personalities who addressed the conferences included Mr. W. B. Parkinson (Chief Commercial Officer), Mr. E. J. Lollar (Chief Accountant), and various leading members of the Board's Commercial staff.

Each conference included "Question Time" and "Open Forum" sessions, questions for the latter being submitted to the panels in advance.

POINTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S TALK

- ★ 12% of our income comes from contracting and sales of appliances.
- ★ Last year these fields of work brought in a profit of over £400,000.
- ★ Each year we must find about £7,000,000 for capital expenditure. The bigger our surplus the less money we need to borrow from the Treasury to finance this.
- ★ The Minister of Power and the Treasury approve our capital expenditure programme on the understanding that we only borrow a certain proportion.
- ★ Manweb is on trial this year, because I have said we shall achieve a surplus of about one and a half million pounds to help finance our capital expenditure.
- ★ A special effort in the field of appliance sales will help to make sure of this surplus.
- ★ I have said that you and your colleagues can do it. I will back you up vigorously. I shall watch eagerly the results. On with the good work!



This picture, and that at the foot of the page, show those who attended the Wrexham Conference.

POINTS FROM THE CHIEF ACCOUNTANT'S TALK ON

"Financial Facts for Salesmen"

- ★ In business life everything has to be measured in money.
- ★ Stock must be bought and expenses paid out of money received from sales.
- ★ The way you deal with the public can have a profound effect on the Board's income.
- ★ Stock must turn over as quickly as possible, not be left standing on shelves or in warehouses.
- ★ To be successful we must buy goods that will sell rapidly. If we buy unwisely we must cut our losses and get our money turning over quickly again.
- ★ The basis of successful electrical contracting is to sell the skill of our electricians.
- ★ To sell this skill effectively, we must have first class craftsmen whose working hours are well organised.
- ★ Salaries (the cost of people) and transport (the cost of vehicles) are the two biggest items in our overhead expenses.
- ★ It takes many thousand pounds' worth of business a year to cover each member of the Sales staff.
- ★ We should only increase staff when we know such an increase will more than pay for its keep.
- ★ We should make sure that vehicles will fully justify their cost before putting them on the road.
- ★ Badly written letters, lengthy long distance telephone calls, avoidable visits to consumers' premises, and the effort involved in "chasing" poor payers all increase overhead expenses.
- ★ So do mistakes, misunderstandings, and carelessness.
- ★ We must all fight against the steady growth of overheads and keep efficient.
- ★ Consumer service is expensive. Let us look after our consumers well, but let us keep an eye on the costs.
- ★ I believe that Service Centres should be expected to bring in more than they take out in terms of money.
- ★ If your Service Centre is prosperous and economical you can feel gratified and confident.
- ★ Here are some maxims: A good surplus is vital. Sell more but hold costs. Stocks must turn over to earn their keep. Time and skill are precious—use them to the full. Ask often the question: "Does it bring in more than it takes out?"





PICTURES
FROM
THE
HOYLAKE
SALES
CONFERENCE



(See previous pages)





The above photograph shows a section of the Board's stand at the Kirkby U.D.C. 'Clean Air' Exhibition. On display were various types of electric heating appliances, water heaters and electric cookers.

EXHIBITION PICTURES

An exhibition of Modern Kitchens and Electrical Equipment was held recently at the Liverpool Bluecoat Display Centre. Three modern kitchen layouts were featured and all the electrical appliances on view were supplied by the Board.



FARM ELECTRIFICATION COURSE

The final stage of a three-phase course designed to equip members of the Manweb staff with an all-round knowledge of farming problems took place from April 17th to 21st at the Flintshire Horticultural Institute, Northop.

Since the nationalisation of the electricity industry the Board has connected more than 15,000 farms to its network, and this figure increases by about 1,500 each year, so the special knowledge gained on this course will be very usefully employed in helping farmers to make the best use of electricity.

Most of the 19 Manweb employees who took part had already attended two courses dealing with different aspects of agriculture, during 1959 and 1960.

Last month they devoted their attention to horticultural problems, and subjects studied included the effects of light, heat and soil in relation to plant growth, the control of these factors with the aid of electricity, and the application of electricity in glasshouses and in the poultry broiler industry.

The students received instruction from experts on the staff of the Institute and from within the electricity industry, and also from specialists of the National Agricultural Advisory Service. They visited a nursery and a broiler farm, as well as engaging in practical work (see pictures on following page).

BANGOR CONFERENCE

About 100 people drawn from the Board's staff in Caernarvon and Anglesey Districts, together with employees of the Central Electricity Generating Board, attended a one-day conference organised by No. 7B L.A.C. at Bangor University on March 25th. Chairman for the day was Mr. LI. Lewis (Anglesey District Manager).

The guest speaker was Mr. D. M. MacLaren, Chief Electrical Engineer for the Associated Ethyl Co. Ltd., who chose as his subject "*Your Motoring and Electricity*".

Other talks were given by Messrs. R. N. Pegg (Sub-Area Manager), F. Peel (L.A.C. Secretary), S. E. Jones (Public Lighting Attendant), G. H. Dodd (Principal Assistant, Costs), F. Jackson (Third Assistant Engineer, Queensferry Workshops) and J. Rees (Chargehand Linesman, Dolgellau).

A group picture taken at the Bangor LAC Conference.



STUDENTS OF RURAL ELECTRIFICATION TECHNIQUES

(See previous page)



STUDYING MIST PROPAGATION.

Left to right: Messrs. C. Jones (Caernarvon), B. Bourne Wrexham), their instructor, Messrs. W. H. Williams (Anglesey), and G. Pierce (Caernarvon).

MIXING THE COMPOUND IN WHICH THE SEEDLINGS ARE GROWN.

Messrs. H. Kaye (Liverpool South—*left*), and J. Dowker (North Wirral) mix together the sand and sterilised loam which form its basis, watched by (*left to right*), Messrs. P. Clare (Liverpool North), D. Hannaby (Wrexham), W. A. Bebington (Chester), and their instructor.

MAKING AN ELECTRICALLY-HEATED SEEDBED

Left to right: Messrs. W. D. Shreeve (Conway Valley), J. C. Lloyd (Clwyd), A. Miller (Aberystwyth), and S. Littlewood (Northwich).

MAKING SOILBLOCKS—for planting seedlings—with compressed loam. Mr. J. Evans (Oswestry), examines a block he has just made, watched by (*left to right*), Messrs. H. Greaves (Rhostyllen), E. G. Pugh (Oswestry), their instructor, and Messrs. J. Powdrell (Runcorn), and J. Hogg (Wrexham).





Mr. Williams (top left) pictured with No. 4 Sub-Area Officers and District Managers at a meeting at Rhosyllen just before his retirement.

Retirement of Mr. W. A. Williams

More than 80 members of the Oswestry staff attended a social at an Ellesmere hotel to mark the retirement of the District Manager, Mr. W. A. Williams.

Several former members of the Oswestry staff had travelled from Wrexham, Crewe, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Liverpool and Glasgow to attend. Also present were representatives from the Sub-Area Offices and Construction Department.

A presentation of an electric convector fire and cheque was made to Mr. Williams by Mr. H. G. Finchett (District Engineer).

Mr. Finchett said that Mr. Williams was regarded with respect and admiration throughout the whole District, and he congratulated him on the vast amount of development that had taken place during his six years as District Manager. In that period 941 miles of mains were commissioned, bringing the total mileage to 1,815. New sub-stations had been commissioned at the rate of one a day, and the total was now 3,363.

He pointed out that Manweb employed roughly 270 people in the District, and that almost half that number were employed at Oswestry. In the near

Mr. Finchett (centre left) makes the presentation to Mr. Williams, in the presence of colleagues and Mrs. Williams (holding bouquet).



future it was proposed to build additional office and stores accommodation at the rear of the premises in Salop Road.

Mr. Finchett wished Mr. and Mrs. Williams many happy years of retirement in their new home in Devon.

Further tributes were paid to Mr. Williams by Mr. T. N. Farmer (District Commercial Engineer), Mr. H. F. Garrett (Principal Assistant, Secretarial), and Mr. J. L. Williams, the newly appointed District Manager.

Expressing his thanks, Mr. Williams said that he had a very happy stay in Oswestry, and paid tribute to the co-operation and loyalty shown by the staff.

Miss R. Roberts presented Mrs. W. A. Williams with a basket of flowers.

The artistes who provided the entertainment at the social were Miss E. Batho, Miss D. Johnson, Mrs. D. Coles and Sergeant Jervis (all of Ellesmere); and Mr. Gwilliam Roberts (Oswestry), pianist.

Wales—London—Wales

Mr. Williams left his native town of Blaenau Ffestiniog for London at the age of 14, where he received his technical training at the Paddington Technical Institute and later at the London Polytechnic.

After serving his apprenticeship with the North Metropolitan Electric Power Co. Ltd., he held various appointments at a number of Generating Stations, including Cwm Dyli, where he was Charge Engineer.

In 1924 Mr. Williams took over the duties of Engineer and Manager with the Macfarlane Electrical Co. Ltd., an old established London firm of electrical contractors, and became a Director of the Company. Eleven years elapsed before he returned to the Electricity Supply Industry, joining the staff of the North Wales Power Company as District Sales Engineer at Anglesey, and four years later he was transferred to Caernarvon. In 1949 he was appointed District Commercial Engineer at Oswestry, and six years later he was promoted to District Manager.

Mr. Williams served with the Grand Fleet in the Royal Navy from 1914 to 1918, and during his retirement, which will be spent at Exmouth, he hopes to pursue his hobby of cruising and deep sea fishing.

Mrs. Williams is a very keen bowler, and during her stay in Oswestry she has been Captain and Chairman of the Church Club Ladies' Bowling Section, and has won the cup on several occasions.

MR. R. O. WILLIAMS RETIRES

A large number of colleagues and friends gathered at the Section Engineer's Department, Llandudno, on March 23rd to pay tribute to Mr. R. O. Williams (Cable Joints) on the occasion of his retirement.

Mr. R. O. Williams with a group of his colleagues.



Starting work in the Electricity Department of the Llandudno U.D.C., Mr. Williams transferred to Manweb following the nationalisation of the industry in 1948. Mr. T. Berwyn Edwards (Section Engineer, Llandudno), presented him with an electric kettle and an electric fire, and recalled that during 40 years work, Mr. Williams had not lost even half a day through sickness. Also present at the ceremony were Mr. J. A. Winchester (District Manager) and Mr. T. Maguire (District Engineer).

At the beginning of the first world war, Mr. Williams joined the Royal Welch Fusiliers and was sent out to France, but it was discovered that he was under age, and he was immediately returned to this country.

A permanent member of the Llandudno town band, Mr. Williams is the only member of the original band, which was formed in 1910, and has now been honoured as a life member. One of his most prized possessions is the National Brass Band certificate signed by Sir Malcolm Sargent, which was presented to him last year.

Expressing his thanks to the staff, Mr. Williams said "I have seen many changes in the industry during the past 40 years and the work nowadays is much more complicated, but working conditions have improved considerably."

DOLGELLAU RETIREMENT

The best wishes of all his colleagues go with Mr. Ellis Humphreys, Labourer at Dolgellau, who retired recently.

Mr. Humphreys has been in the electricity supply industry since 1932, and together with two colleagues, who are still with us—Mr. E. O. Rees, and Mr. J. T. Hughes—he joined the Board's staff on vesting day.

On behalf of his friends and colleagues, Mr. Humphreys was presented with a 400 day clock by Mr. D. A. Hamblin, then District Engineer.

At one time Mr. Humphreys was a keen fisherman, but now retirement will mean that he will be able to devote more time to his present hobby of growing prize apples.

Mr. Humphreys, holding his presentation clock, surrounded by his colleagues. On his left is Mr. A. Jones (Section Engineer), and behind Mr. Jones, (wearing hat) is Mr. Hamblin.



Members of the Runcorn office staff. Left to right: Messrs. L. Fletcher-Boden (Assistant—Engineering), A. K. Owens (Assistant—Commercial), T. Brown (Clerk), D. White (Clerk), Mrs. B. E. Burns (Clerk), Messrs. D. W. Kenny (Clerk), and C. Shepherd (District Senior Clerk).

Runcorn Picture Round-up

This happy group are from the Meter department at Runcorn. Left to right: Messrs. G. Whitlow (Chargehand Installation Inspector), K. Tudor (Clerk), R. Yost (Installation Inspector), J. A. Grimes (Meter Fixer), S. T. Dale (Chargehand Meter Mechanic), C. J. Osborne (Meter Fixer), and E. A. Bold (Installation Inspector).



QUIZ REPERCUSSIONS

by Reg Jenkins (Consumers Engineer, Nantwich)

Readers of *Contact* will remember the banner headlines which announced Manweb's triumph when the Nantwich Townswomen's Guild Electrical Quiz team won the National Final at the Albert Hall in May last year. That exciting night and the immediate celebrations which followed might well have been the end of the affair but for a casual conversation on the train journey back from London in the compartment shared by the team, my wife and myself.

The get-together, which was planned there and then, was the first of many which have brought together not only the members of the team—Shiela Barnett, Lilian Fogg, Phyllis Evans, and Shiela Nicholls—but also their husbands and Norman Walsh (Crewe District Commercial Engineer), his wife Jean, my wife and myself. To complete the party have come team reserve Joyce Fooks and her husband Geoff.

The first gathering at Lilian Fogg's home took place in July and this was quickly followed by two evening picnics in the Bickerton Hills at which the Fook's Dormobile became a mobile canteen and drinks hard, medium and soft catered for all tastes—including the Junior section, and suitable relics of the Albert Hall victory were burned to placate the Goddess of Gas—and to assist her even earlier destruction.

Next it was the turn of the Nantwich Guild to entertain the Walsh's and the Jenkins's at their Annual Dinner, an occasion which had double significance for the Guild, marking as it did their twenty-fifth birthday and their chance to wine and dine their successful Quiz team members.

Council's Guests

In October came the Nantwich Urban District Council Chairman's Ball and this time it was bibs and tuckers for all fourteen of us, a pleasing recognition of our efforts on the part of Councillor Joe Blagg, the Council Chairman. Councillor Blagg had incidentally already given the team a Victory Welcome by meeting them at Crewe Station on their return from London in May.

During November and January we turned to theatre-going, first to Manchester for "Salad Days" and then to Hanley's Theatre Royal Pantomime "Mother Goose" and, before the seasonal decorations were down, the "association" met yet again to enjoy the hospitality of Shiela and Ken Nicholls.

February's date was at the Walsh's for a fast and furious evening of games interspersed with a sight of colour pictures of the Regional and National Finals at Harrogate and London. Unfortunately, we have no colour pictorial record of the Philharmonic Hall session as Norman himself was "on stage" as a scorer that night. (I recall that one of the games played involved completing well-known sayings and proverbs from a list of the initial letters in each work. I am ashamed to say that none of the "team" solved "G.U.T.D.G.E.")

With spring around the corner plans are now afoot for further gatherings, and already we have marked our diaries for June 3rd when Joyce and Geoff Fooks are laying on a barbecue at their home. It was Shiela Barnett who first suggested that we call ourselves "The Inner Circuit" and after such a successful series of "contacts" who can tell what this summer will bring to help us maintain the friendships begun during last year's common effort?

I doubt whether E.D.A. had any notion, when they hatched the Electrical Quiz Competition, that the story would develop as it has done for the victors and I am quite sure that the answer to the question "What comes after the Quiz?" cannot be found within the covers of that well remembered book,

"All About Electricity". That we of the "Inner Circuit" have answered our own question in a most satisfying way is beyond doubt.

Like most good stories, mine has a tail-piece? At a recent Whist Drive, organised at her home by team-member Shiela Barnett, Norman Walsh and Reg Jenkins won three prizes and a fourth one went to Mrs. Mathias, wife of Sub-District Clerk (Nantwich) Bill Mathias. Almost a Manweb benefit night!

HOYLAKE JOINTERS' COURSE

A series of courses are held regularly at the Hoylake Training Centre which enable an employee to gain promotion from labourer to 33 kV Jointer. The trainee starts with an Aptitude Course, after which the instructors report on the man's suitability for further training. Next comes the Jointer's Mates Course, which lasts for two weeks, followed by the Service Jointer's Course, which takes a further five weeks to complete. The employee is then qualified to undertake work on housing estates and other domestic services. Later he is called back for further training on the Medium Voltage Refresher Course which prepares him for the more complicated jobs on the M.V. system. The final two courses cover the 6-11 kV system and the 33 kV system, and are both of five weeks' duration. To complete the full cycle of courses, the employee has to spend nearly six months in training at Hoylake.

The four trainees in the picture reproduced below have just completed their final course. Three of the men started with the Board as labourers and the other as an apprentice. Up-to-date, 19 men have been trained as 33 kV jointers, and are now fully qualified to work anywhere on the system.

Left to right: Messrs. E. Headen (Instructor); W. Hughes (Jointer, Llandudno); P. Fleet (Jointer, Wrexham); J. Devaney (Jointer, Wrexham); E. Davies (Jointer, Rhyl) and G. Parry (Senior Instructor).





This picture shows most of those who took part in the Denbigh Conference.

DENBIGH CONFERENCE

The eighth annual Employees' Conference organised by the Nos. 5 and 5A Local Advisory Committees was held at the Denbighshire Technical College a few weeks ago. After an introduction by the Chairman, Mr. W. A. Williams (then District Manager), the Conference was addressed by Mr. D. G. Dodds (Deputy Chairman).

The guest speaker was Mr. G. Nicholls, Area General Manager of the National Coal Board, who spoke on *Britain's Wealth from Coal*. Mr. R. N. Pegg (Sub-Area Manager), gave a talk on *Discipline in an Industrial Democracy*, and a number of films were shown. Speaking in the *My Job* series were Miss M. Boffey (Demonstrator, Crewe), Mr. F. Jackson (Third Assistant Engineer, Workshops, Queensferry) and Mr. S. E. Jones (Public Lighting Attendant, Blaenau Ffestiniog).

A report on the year's work of the L.A.C.s was given by the Committee Secretary, Mr. F. Peel. The Conference ended with an 'Open Forum', when questions submitted by employees were answered.

The Conference Sub-Committee. Left to right: Messrs. R. Williams, D. Fenwick, E. J. Brett, R. N. Pegg, R. M. Broadfoot, F. Peel, V. D. J. Heard and J. E. C. Jones.



BREVITIES

BIRTHS

Congratulations to Mr. C. F. Pare (Third Assistant Commercial Engineer), No. 2 Sub-Area and Mrs., Pare on the birth of their son, Nicholas John, on March 19th.

* * *

Congratulations to Mr. W. E. Rose (Third Assistant Engineer, Planning), No. 2 Sub-Area, and Mrs. Rose on the birth of a daughter, Janet Gillian, on March 19th.

* * *

Congratulations to Mr. J. W. Powdrell, Assistant Consumers' Engineer, Runcorn, and Mrs. Powdrell on the birth of a son, Andrew James, on March 16th.

Mrs. Powdrell was formerly an employee of the Secretarial Staff at No. 2 Sub-Area Headquarters.

* * *

MIAOW!

A member of the staff of No. 3 Sub-Area was inspired to compose these verses after a notice had appeared on the Notice Board advertising the "Show on Ice" at the Empire Theatre, Liverpool (to be attended by H.M. The Queen) at a cost of twenty guineas a seat to members of the Sports and Social Club.

Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat
Where have you been?
I've been to the Ice Show
To see the Queen!

Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat
What did you do there?
Spent 20 flippin' guineas
To sit in a chair.

Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat
That was a lot!
It's a wonder you paid that
You silly old clot!

Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat,
How did you go?
I went with some
Manweb friends I know.

"JERRY" (No 3 Sub-Area).

JUST IN TIME

Special efforts by the Board's staff are often appreciated by individual members of the public, but community organisations also welcome "that little extra" as the following letter indicates:—

"Ty Coch,
Ganllwyd,
Dolgellau,
Merioneth.
March 14th, 1961

Dear Sir,
I am writing to you on behalf of the Ganllwyd Village Hall to express our appreciation of the services of the engineers at the Dolgellau Centre.

I would particularly refer to the very valuable assistance given to us by your Consumers' Engineer, Mr. Edwin Wharton. Mr. Wharton came to our aid at a difficult time when the wiring of the Hall had to be completed by a fixed date in order to qualify for a grant offered to us by Carnegie Trust. Through his efforts we were in time to qualify for the grant (of some £200) which would otherwise have been lost to us. I would also like to mention that Mr. Wharton on many occasions gave valuable advice on matters not connected directly with his duties.

Now that the work has been completed we would like to express our appreciation of the assistance of Mr. Wharton, and the pleasant and efficient manner in which he co-operated with us.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) Trefor Wood
(Hon. Sec.)
Ganllwyd Village Hall.



WINNING WINDOWS NORTHWICH ↑ . . .



KIRKBY ↑ . . . and MIDDLEWICH ↓



WINDOW DISPLAY COMPETITION

Service Centres at Northwich, Kirkby (St. Chads), and Middlewich have been adjudged winners in their respective classes in this year's Manweb Spring Window Display Competition. All the Service Centres in the Board's area, totalling more than 70, participated.

The contest was based on the theme of "Home Laundry", and all the displays incorporated the latest washing machines, spin dryers, and other home laundry appliances. Northwich Service Centre, which is under the control of Mr. D. Pennington, took the award in Class 1—for Service Centres of any size. The Class 2 award—for Service Centres with no more than three assistants—went to Kirkby, where Mr. S. F. Gordon is in charge, while the Class 3 prize, for one-man Service Centres, was awarded to Middlewich, which is run by Mr. J. E. Shaw.

The judges were Mr. Allan Plowman, Editor of *Display*, and Mr. J. D. Smith, a Director of the Board's advertising agents.

(see pictures opposite)

OUR 1961 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Contact's Photographic Competition breaks new ground this year. In response to popular request we are including a class for colour transparencies, to cater for the ever-increasing number of devotees of this modern branch of photography.

So when you go on holiday this year, or on day trips to the seaside or the country, or even when you take a few pictures around your home or garden, remember—any of your shots may be the one which will win a prize for you.

RULES

1. Entries may be concerned with any subject.
2. Each photograph submitted must be the original work and the copyright property of the person submitting it.
3. Prizes of Premium Bonds will be awarded as follows:

BLACK AND WHITE PICTURES

- 1st FIVE Premium Bonds.
- 2nd THREE Premium Bonds.
- Best print measuring not more than six inches by four: THREE Premium Bonds.

COLOUR TRANSPARENCIES

- 1st FIVE Premium Bonds.
 - 2nd THREE Premium Bonds.
5. Any number of entries may be submitted by each competitor.
 6. Competitors must enclose a note with entries, stating clearly their name and address (either office or home), and the title of each picture.
 7. The competition will be judged by an independent panel.
 8. Closing date for the receipt of entries, which must be addressed to The Editor, *Contact*, MANWEB, Love Lane, Liverpool 3, will be September 30th.

Great care will be taken of entries, all of which will be returned. When submitting your photographs, it is advisable to protect them during transmission by post by packing them with a piece of stout cardboard, slightly larger than the photographs themselves.



1



2



3



4

THIS MONTH'S COMPETITION

Who's Who?

It is a well-known fact that the human personality forms at a very early age, but do physical features remain the same throughout life? What was a cute little nose often turns out to be a real landmark in later life, and those baby blue eyes disappear under mounds of make-up or fade into bloodshot oblivion. On occasions you have no doubt faced the situation when someone thrusts a faded photograph in your hand saying, "This was me in Class 1, can you pick me out?" You gaze down at a group of forty-odd children and in despair stab your finger at the nicest dressed and cleanest one. You are always wrong.

All this brings us on to this month's competition and your chance to prove how observant you are. Reproduced on this page are pictures of four members of the staff taken at a very early age and as they are now. What you have to do is to match up the four pairs. If you think picture '1' shows the person in picture 'A' when young, write down '1 = A' and then carry on and pair up the other six pictures.

There will be three prizes of ONE PREMIUM BOND each to the senders of the first three correct solutions opened on June 1st. The competition is restricted to Manweb employees, pensioners and their families. Add your name and office or home address when sending in your entry to The Editor, *Contact*, Manweb, Love Lane, Liverpool 3. To avoid permutations, only one entry per person will be allowed.

JIG-SAW COMPETITION

A record number of entries were received for our last month's competition, and we were very pleased to hear from so many of our pensioners, although none was lucky enough to win a prize. The youngest competitors were only eight years old, namely Miss Margaret Adey from Warrington and Miss Linda Basset from Llandudno Junction. Our oldest competitor was 80 years old Mr. F. L. Mason who used to work at Birkenhead. Entries were received from as far afield as London and Yorkshire.
Solution: 1—Page 97; 2—Page 103; 3—Page 85; 4—Page 98; 5—Page 107.

Winners of the one-guinea prizes:

- Mr. Hugh Jones, Colwyn Bay Sub-district Office.
- Mr. E. Steer, Drawing Office, Headquarters.
- Mr. W. Mongey, Electrician, Wallasey.

A



B



C



D



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Electricity Board

Contact

"BARA BRITH" AND COFFEE—(see page 117).

