

CONTACT

November 1976

Tower Lift
(see page 230)



TOWER TRANSFER

Delicate Engineering Operation

THE UNIQUE operation of lifting a three-and-a-half ton, 86 feet-high tower and re-positioning it on top of a ten-foot base some 95 feet away was successfully carried out a short time ago under the direction of MANWEB construction engineers.

This first-time effort was achieved at Llandegai, Bangor and was done to provide additional clearance for high loads taking the B4409 roadway to the new pumped storage station site at Dinorwic.

Readers of *'Contact'* may remember a report published in our June issue dealing with the novel use of 'Trident' line technique to raise these 132-kV lines over the roadway on a temporary basis until the 'tower lift' could be undertaken.

In planning the move, the new position for the tower had to give maximum clearance over the roadway and, if possible, improve the agricultural aspect. Both objects were achieved.

Time was all important. To strip down the tower and rebuild

it in its new position would have taken several days. In this instance however, the whole job had to be done quickly because circuit-loadings limited shut-downs to a maximum of two days on one circuit and only one day on the other.

Murphys, the contractors, built the ten-foot base on foundations some weeks previously. The wait began for a suitable time for the shut-down.

'Lift-day' was decided and a 45-ton Grove telescopic crane, with a 120-foot jib extension, arrived on site. This was carefully positioned as close to the line as possible and midway between the existing tower and its new situation.

Linesmen from the CEBG,

Pentir, lowered the conductors, still under tension, but supported by temporary scaffolding over the busy roadway.

Chain slings from a lifting hook at the top of the crane were attached to the tower sides, taking the weight as the holding-down bolts were removed from its base.

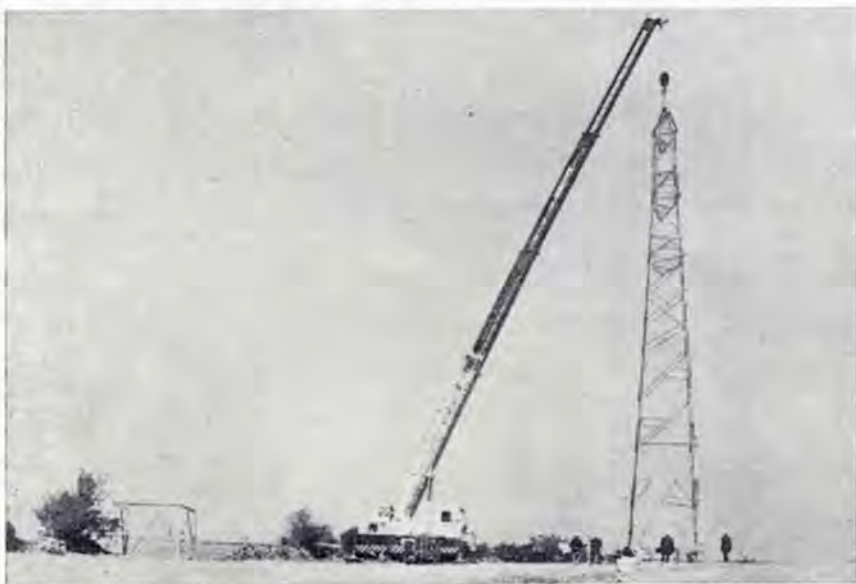
Then the dramatic and spectacular lift started. It went perfectly as the gigantic tower was swung gently across the 95 feet.

In a remarkably short period of time, the tower was seated squarely and bolted in position on its new ten-foot extension. The whole job of positioning, lifting, re-locating and bolting down took less than an hour.

The conductors were then put back in place, the temporary line supports and scaffolding removed and the line re-energised.

Congratulations go to all concerned on an excellent operation, well planned and carried out with precision.

Our Man from MANWEB carrying the responsibility for this job was **Mr. Geoff Price** (senior engineer—Construction). And he never crossed his fingers once!



The crane takes the weight as it lifts the tower from its original site to swing it across 95 feet to fit on to a new ten-foot base.

OUR COVER PICTURE

shows a critical point in the operation as the tower heads towards its new base.



CONTACT

Vol. 28 No. 11

November 1976

Editorial

A Timely Step

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THE "Get the Facts Straight" campaign, introduced in this number of *Contact* by Mr. Bill Shires, our Deputy Chief Commercial Officer, is a timely development.

Fuel costs have soared in recent years. For different reasons the costs of the coal and oil which fuel our power stations have increased very sharply, adding millions to our industry's costs and our own retail tariffs.

The public, unfortunately, do not receive bills from the Arabs or the coalminers. They get their bills from MANWEB and it is on the electricity industry that our more unreasonable and short-sighted customers are tempted to vent their wrath.

For MANWEB employees confidence in our industry and our product is today more important than ever. If each of us is convinced of the real value of electricity, to the individual customer and in the public interest alike, we are in a strong position to combat the activities of misguided, prejudiced or mischievous people who haven't got their facts straight!

The new campaign, directed in the first instance to our own staff, will be expanded next year into the wider public arena. Sooner or later the man-in-the-street will really understand the true facts behind events of recent years, and our industry will emerge as strong as ever from a difficult period.

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

OUR NEW POSTER CAMPAIGN

By

Mr. W. N. Shires

Deputy

Chief

Commercial

Officer

GET THE FACTS STRAIGHT!



**GET THE FACTS
STRAIGHT.
THE FUTURE OF
ELECTRICITY IS
YOUR BUSINESS**

WHAT FACTS? . . . the facts about the *real* value of electricity! In recent years nothing has been subject to more misrepresentation and distortion than the cost of electricity.

True, the price has gone up—largely due to steep increases in the cost of power station fuel. But although people grumble about their bigger bills we haven't had a single case of a customer asking for his supply to be cut off because it was too expensive!

Every MANWEB employee—at work and away from it—comes across situations when people question the price and value of the electricity they use. *You* will be better-placed to deal with those situations if you know the real facts.

The electricity industry is **OUR** business—our bread-and-butter. The bills our customers pay give us our living. It is the duty of every one of us to

get the facts straight so that we can set the record straight in the minds of others.

Most people just don't realise how much electricity means to them—until one of those rare occasions when the supply fails. When that happens they don't say 'Never mind—it's too dear anyway!' They jam the telephones lines trying to get back on supply again!

To help our staff to help our industry—and indirectly themselves—by getting the real facts about the value of electricity across, we shall be publishing, during the next few months, a series of posters which will drive those facts home. The first of these posters—which will be displayed in all our workplaces—is reproduced on this page.

Make sure you understand the simple points that the posters make, and do your best to make sure that your friends and relatives understand them as well!

"THINK ELECTRIC" THEME FOR HOME ECONOMIST

WHEN OVER 450 teachers of Home Economics from schools throughout the Board's area give up a full Saturday and travel many miles to attend a "Think Electric" Conference at our Head Office in Chester, they must have known that they would have an enjoyable and fruitful day.

And, thanks to four excellent speakers, to members of our Commercial staff and to the helpful co-operation of many other people, this is exactly what they got.

After welcoming everyone, Mr. Matt Cowan (*Chief Commercial Officer*) introduced the programme.

The first speaker, Mrs. Gwen Conacher (*Home Economist, Electricity Council*), referred to the excellent liaison which has always existed between the electricity supply industry and the teaching profession, particularly in the field of home economics.

Then, Miss Kay Pennett (*Senior Home Economist, Tube Investments Domestic Appliance Division*) described how manufacturers initially recognised market demand for a product then set about its production. She spoke of the considerable amount of market

research which went on followed by the design and development of the appliance or equipment long before it was presented to the public.

A short period for questions followed before lunch was taken.

Opening the afternoon session Mrs. Ann McMullen (*Director of The Electrical Association for Women*) reminded the audience how electricity had contributed to our improved standard of living over the past half century.

"This progress has created more opportunities to women in particular," she went on, "because it has released them from the drudgery of household chores and allowed them to become involved in everyday affairs, industry, politics and the professions."

The final speaker was our own Mr. Doug Gregg (*senior Com-*

mercial engineer, Head Office). He dealt with the multiplicity of uses to which electricity is put in our everyday lives and how much poorer we would be without its many benefits.

He said it was important that everyone got the facts right to be able to evaluate the total and true value of electricity.

In quoting some examples of capital and running costs of appliances for home heating and hot water, he showed the cost of electricity as a percentage relative to housekeeping costs.

An accomplished amateur magician, Doug neatly finished off his very entertaining and informative talk by a sleight-of-hand trick to produce a bottle of champagne—and a full glass—to drink to 'Electricity.'

A brief 'Open Forum' session ended yet another successful Conference.

There could have been double the attendance, but numbers were limited because of space restrictions in the restaurant.

We are now wondering how our Commercial colleagues will cope with the certain increased demand for tickets for the next get-together!

Guest speakers at the Conference, from left to right: Mrs. Ann McMullen, Mr. Doug Gregg, Mrs. Gwen Conacher and Miss Kay Pennett.



Lucky winners of the 'Think Electric' teddy bears, from left to right: Nerys Haf Williams, Prestatyn, Karin Owen, Wem and Isabel Hunt, Newtown.



"The Future is Nuclear"

— *Deputy Chairman tells Mid-Mersey staff*

"THE challenge facing us in the 1980s and 90s is that of developing nuclear power and the electricity system to such an extent as to meet the problems created by the continual depletion of fossil fuel reserves," said Mr. Ben Hastings, our Deputy Chairman, speaking at Mid-Mersey District's staff conference.

The conference, held at the Wilderspool Leisure Centre, Warrington, attracted about 100 members of the District staff, including quite a few pensioners, notably 90-years-young Mr. Billy McCabe, who was given a specially warm welcome by Group Manager Mr. J. A. Winchester.

Mr. Hastings, who was guest speaker, began his analysis of our future by declaring: "The days of cheap energy are over!"

The whole world, he said, was facing a shortage of limited reserves of fossil fuels—coal, oil and gas. The current world consumption of energy was the equivalent of $7\frac{1}{2}$ billion tons of coal a year, and this would increase four-fold by the end of the Century. World gas and oil reserves were expected to reach their peak by then, although coal would last longer—if men were still prepared to go down the mines to get it.

Long before then, however, the price of those fuels would rise sharply in anticipation of their

increasing shortage, continued Mr. Hastings.

"We already have a practical answer in the shape of nuclear power—particularly the 'fast-breeder' reactor—and nuclear energy means electricity. Our industry will have a larger and larger share of a bigger 'cake' " he declared.

Mr. Hastings went on to say that the EEC calculated that by the end of the Century electricity would meet 50% of the total energy needs within the Community. Seventy per cent of our own needs would come from nuclear stations, and although the disposal of radioactive waste had given cause for concern more and more effective ways of dealing with the problem were constantly being found. It was realistic to expect that by 2,000 AD all new houses would be all-electric.

"These days it is almost indecent to suggest that houses should be heated by electricity. By the end of the Century it will be almost indecent to suggest otherwise," he said.

Dealing with domestic matters, Mr. Hastings said that during recent months sales of electricity to industry had begun to rise again, but it would be unrealistic to expect a return to our historic rate of growth for some years. Some of our workloads had fallen but so far it had been possible to meet this

(continued opposite)

Deputy Chairman Mr. Ben Hastings speaking at the Mid-Mersey District Conference shown here with a section of his audience.



NEW SAFETY REGULATIONS

Electricity Board Shops Sell Approved Appliances

THE ELECTRICAL Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1975 for all electrical wholesalers and retailers came into effect on 1st October 1976. The new Regulations applies to almost all sections of the electrical and electronic trade and will be enforced by the local trading and standards authorities.

Electricity Board shops as a general practice, only stock and sell electrical appliances on the list of the British Electrotechnical Approvals Board (BEAB) and these appliances should now meet the requirements of the new safety regulations.

The Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations cover all mains operated domestic electrical and electronic equipment, all electrical appliances home produced and imported, for use indoors or outside. The Regulations also cover the hiring of equipment, the sale of secondhand goods and the sale of electrical accessories and components over the counter. If equipment does

not meet the new regulations it will constitute an offence under the 1961 Consumer Protection Act for it to be sold or hired and the manufacturer, importer, wholesaler and retailer will be liable for prosecution.

The Electricity Council and the Electricity Boards welcome the introduction of the new Regulations which owe much to the work of BEAB. The right to display the yellow and blue BEAB label is given only to appliances which meet the requirements of British Standard 3456 or BS 415. These British Standards are designed to protect the user and are continually being updated and extended to cover

new appliances. Principal sponsors of BEAB are the electricity supply industry, the British Standards Institution, the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection and trade associations of manufacturers of electrical appliances, radios and TV.

Testing of most domestic electrical appliances, except sound and vision equipment, is carried out in the Appliance Testing Laboratories of the Electricity Council at Leatherhead. After an appliance is approved for safety, BEAB arrange for constant surveillance which includes periodic visits to the factory to check that production models maintain the same safety standards.

In addition, at our own Test Laboratory at Queensferry, our boffins led by Mr. Jim Lornie (*senior engineer*) and Tom Owen (*2nd engineer*), undertake quite a lot of preliminary work on behalf of the National laboratories at Leatherhead. We also carry out routine surveillance checks on random samples of appliances from the adjoining main stores.

"THE FUTURE IS NUCLEAR"

—Continued

situation by natural wastage and redeployment, with full trade union support. It was hoped that this state of affairs would continue.

District officers Messrs. Albert Cooper (*District Engineer*), Glyn Norbury (*District Commercial Engineer*) and Dennis Hodgetts (*District Administrative Officer*) presented their reports on the years working, while Mr. John Sherwen, (*LAC Secretary*), also reported on the work of the Committee.

The evening began with an enjoyable buffet meal and ended with an interesting 'Open Forum' session, followed by a friendly social gathering.



More Mid-Mersey staff at their annual meeting.



Talking Notes

PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP

THE THOUSANDS of visitors to this year's Motor Show will no doubt have admired and desired many of the beautiful and shapely models on show—car models that is. Whether they could afford any of these—car models—or if they could get immediate delivery are entirely different matters.

However, one man who is not in the least interested—in a new car—is **Mr. Cliff Evans**, the sales supervisor for our Dee Valley District. If he ever does succumb to the high pressure sales or to the attraction of the models with the models, it

Proud Rover owner, Mr. Cliff Evans, with his trophies.



would be a Rover car for him.

In the meantime, he is more than content with his 15-year-old Rover 100—the P4 model—a car which, a few weeks ago, staggered the judges in a National competition.

This was organised by the Rover Sports Register Owners Club and held at Leamington Spa. A few weeks earlier, Cliff's car took the top prize in the Club's Northern section competition.

In the national finals for the best kept car, points were awarded for mileage—total and that covered during the last twelve months. So, you don't score many for keeping a car in mothballs. A rigorous inspection is made of all working parts and the state of preservation of the bodywork and the originality of the accessories and parts are taken into account in the points table. The car is then driven over some very rough ground to test the suspension.

Cliff's Rover finished ten points clear of its nearest rival and took the championship Cup.

"I bought the car just over twelve months ago," Cliff said. "Since then I have driven about 12,000 miles in it. It really is a working car."

"I am not fanatical," he went on, "but I feel I must keep the car clean. There really is something about these old Rovers that can't be matched today... the leather upholstery, wooden dashboard... I could go on and on."

"People keep saying to me—'Why don't you buy a new car?' But I don't want to. I can jump in my car and know that I'll have no trouble no matter where I am going."

Good luck to you Cliff. We wish you and your prizewinning Rover many more miles of carefree motoring. Maybe you will drive down to Birmingham next year—for the Motor Show!

Engaged

A beautiful diamond cluster ring circles the finger of **Miss Pat Turner** to announce her recent engagement.

The ring was put there by her fiance **Mr. Tony Shaw**, who works in a shipping office.

Pat works in the Hire Purchase section at North Mersey District.

Play for Two Nights

The very popular and talented New Electron Players begin their third season at the Neptune Theatre, Liverpool with **Mr. Sidney Costin's** production of the comedy thriller *'The Paper Chain.'* Performances will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 26th and 27th, commencing at 7.30 p.m. each night.

The cast includes MANWEB staff **Mr. Tom Saladine** (District Sales Supervisor) and **Mrs. Eva Kirkwood**, a clerk in Pre-Payments.

If you haven't yet seen the 'Players' in action, you may be interested to know that a member of the Neptune Theatre management, who of course sees productions by many of the top Societies and Companies, said that the 'Electron Players' are among the best on Merseyside.

Tickets, at 50 pence each, may be obtained from **Mrs. Vicki Roberts**, Lister Drive, or any member of the cast.

Captain's Day

The committee of the MANWEB Golfing Society were successful in choosing yet another fine and sunny day for their Captain's Day competitions held this year at the Oswestry course.

In the nine-hole Greensome, a number of fine scores were made with the eventual winners **Messrs. Frank Parkinson** and **Harold Mayhew** of Head Office beating **Messrs. Sid Pugh** and **Keith Tomlinson** of Oswestry.

After a light lunch, the competitors set off to tackle the tough Oswestry course. Five hours later, with all rounds completed, everyone sat down

GOLFER: "What a lousy round. I've never played so badly before."

CADDIE: "You mean you have played before?"

to an enjoyable dinner.

Then the Society Captain **Mr. Arthur Jones** presented the prizes. The winner, MANWEB's most consistent golfer, was **Mr. Martin Lloyd** of Lister Drive who returned a marvellous score of 68 nett off a handicap of five. Running him close in second place was **Mr. Les Baron** from Head Office, with a nett 69 playing off a handicap of 21.

The best gross score of the day, 75, came from **Mr. Les Butterworth** from Warrington. A fine score on this really hard course.

Other prizewinners in the various handicap sections were **Messrs. Dave Garnett**, an Associate member, nett 69, **Andrew Critchley**, Head Office, nett 70, **Ian Evans**, Dee Valley, nett 72 and **John P. Hammond**, Head Office, nett 70.

The 'Gravett Cup' also presented during the evening, was won by **Messrs. Don Wright**

of Head Office and **Brian Davies**, CEBG, who beat **Messrs. Andrew Critchley** and **Keith Roberts** of Head Office by one up in the final.

Helping the Opposition

While driving through Church Street, Oswestry on his way home recently, **Mr. Cliff Robinson** (2nd engineer, Energy Sales), came upon a fire at Curry's, the electrical dealers.

He parked his car and dashed back to the scene of the fire to make sure that the main fuses were drawn.

By the following morning he had arranged for temporary lighting to be installed to help the shop staff in their mopping-up operations.

Flower Pot Men

Two members of our Mid-Cheshire District staff recently enjoyed considerable success in local horticultural shows.

A jointer working out of our Northwich depot, **Mr. Brian Tench**, was awarded the 'Endeavour Trophy' for gaining the highest number of points in the Novice Class at the Northwich and District Chrysanthemum Society's Show.

He followed this ten days later by picking up two first prizes, two seconds and one third at the Vale Royal Show held in the Winsford Civic Hall.

Also exhibiting at this show was **Mr. Peter J. Edwardson**, a foreman in the Commercial section at Macon Way.

Peter was awarded the first prize in the Flowering Pot Plant section and gained a couple of thirds in the Roses section.

Wedding

Congratulations to the two members of our Dee Valley District staff who, in addition to working together have now decided to live together—

officially—in holy matrimony.

They are **Mr. Alan Griffiths** an engineering clerk and **Miss Anne Dodd**, a clerk in consumers accounts section, who were married recently at Capel Mawr, Rhos. They honeymooned in Tenby.

Friends at Rhosyllen offices subscribed to present them



The ceremony over and off on honeymoon go Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths.

with a toaster and a coffee percolator as wedding gifts.

Alan worked for a Johnstown firm and the Civil Service in Wrexham before joining MANWEB a couple of years ago.

Anne, on leaving school, joined our staff at Legacy, but on re-organisation in 1970 she left us for a short time to work in the X-ray department at Wrexham War Memorial Hospital. Three years ago she returned to the Board to take up a job at Rhosyllen.

Among the guests at the wedding were Anne's brother **Alan**, a clerk in Registry at Head Office, her cousin, **Vi Heppinstall**, who also works at Rhosyllen, and husband **Ken Heppinstall** who works at our Oswestry District office.

Radiation Ink-Drying

Ink drying, especially on non-absorbent materials, is a fami-

lar production problem for screen printers. Bottlenecks can often occur so reducing output. Radiation drying is the answer to increasing production while maintaining a high standard of drying quality and uniformity. The latest ultra-violet and infra-red accelerated ink drying techniques on vinyl sheets and textile transfer paper respectively were featured on the **Electricity stand at the Screenprint '76 Exhibition** at Leicester last month.

The system is based on the commercial success of radiation drying of offset litho inks, of which worldwide experience has been gained during the last five years. Radiation drying of screen inks and varnishes is a more recent development, but a number of ink suppliers and equipment manufacturers have already become very active and successful in this field. The basic advantages of radiation drying of screen inks include high speed (only one second per sheet), coverage is at least trebled, there is no drying in fine mesh, the need for solvents is eliminated, and there are savings in both space and energy.

Sponsored Swim

A handful of staff from Head Office with members of their families and friends, have raised over £300 in the last two years by participating in the Sponsored Swim organised by the Liverpool Committee of the British Heart Foundation.

Groups from Head Office have taken part in this event for the past three years. On one occasion they were joined by colleagues from our North Mersey District.

This year's swimmers were **Peter Baron, Geoffrey Green, Alison Pugh, Cora Roberts, Harry Shone, Caroline Swinton, Jane Wills, Geoffrey and Pamela**

Holland (son and daughter of Doris Holland), Penny Roddan (daughter of Eric Roddan) and her friend Jane Barnett.

Team trainer was **Mr. Tom Jones** and their coach was **Mr. Tom Dutton.**

ABERYSTWYTH EMPLOYEES' MEETING

at the Marine Hotel,
on 25th February 1977

Guest speaker: **Dr. K. W. James, CEBG Reserch Laboratory, Leatherhead, who will speak on "Alternative Energy Sources."**

Great Expectations

During the next month or so, staff at Bridle Road Bootle, will be saying their farewells to four of their colleagues about to become 'Mums.'

They are **Mrs. Lesley Hurst** of Liaison section, **Mrs. Janet Love**, of Bonus section, **Mrs. Kim English** from Amendments section and **Mrs. Maureen Winters** of H.P. section.

In joining their names, one could say that Mrs. Hurst is in Love with English Winters!

We congratulate them all and wish them every happiness in the future.

Belated Good Wishes

One of our entrants in the "Girl from MANWEB" competition a couple of years ago, **Miss Norma Edwina Crick** from the Mid-Cheshire District was married a few weeks ago to Mr. Robert John Peel of Crewe.

Norma, who works in the General Services section, and husband Robert, are both in the local cycling club, Crewe Clarion Wheelers. Members of the Club formed a guard of honour at the wedding.

Even though they are now



Happiness is . . .
Mr. and Mrs. Peel.

over the honeymoon period—spent in Tenby—we take this opportunity to wish them both many happy years together.

In turn, they have asked us to thank everyone at Mid-Cheshire for their wedding presents.

Flying Squad Ambulance

Chester emergency services will be the proud owners of a brand new, specially equipped ambulance, thanks to an appeal launched by the 'Chester Chronicle' newspaper and the generosity of its readers.

The Ford Granada Estate with emergency equipment costs over £4,600, and the paper has now passed their target and could be well on the way to a second vehicle. MANWEB Head Office staff played their part in raising the funds, and a letter has been received by **Mr. Harry Shone** of the Head Office Drawing Office, from **Mr. Herbert Hughes**, the 'Chronicle's' managing editor thanking the Head Office staff for their donation.

A Chester man, **Mr. Terry Dodd**, walked to London to raise money for the appeal, and it was by sponsoring him that MANWEB staff contributed to the scheme. **Harry Shone** passed around the sponsorship forms and collected the cash which totalled £234.70.

Through his walk **Terry Dodd** has raised £1,700 with still more to come in. His daughter,

13 years old **Nicola** fell through the roof of a shed and impaled herself on a spike on a chicken feeder. The emergency services were soon on the scene and saved **Nicola** from permanent injury. When he heard of the appeal to help the people who had helped his daughter **Terry** decided he would like to do something hence the sponsored walk.

The custom built Flying Squad ambulance will have a doctor and nurses travelling in it, thus giving on the spot treatment to emergency accident victims, leading to the saving of life.

Stork Visit

Congratulations to **Mrs. Lynne Worrall**, a former financial clerk at our Queensferry Stores who gave birth to a baby girl, **Heidie**, a short time ago.

Big Night Out

The very successful EEIBA supper dance held at Head Office last month was the swan song for the popular **Mr. Tom Dutton** (principal asst.—Welfare) who was the Master of Ceremonies for the occasion.

Close on 550 people packed the restaurant and dance floor to enjoy a happy night dancing to the music and fun of the Carl Blackwell Sound. During a break in the proceedings a fund-raising Bingo session was held with 'lucky' **Mr. John Powell** (principal engineer—Operation) winning both prizes.

The 'Tombola' draw produced a large number of varied prizes as seen by people walking around with bottles of whisky, electrical appliances and MANWEB ladders!

The big draw of the evening was for the '200 Club' annual prize—this year amounting to £396.76! This was won by **Mr. Oscar Lloyd**, an administrative assistant in our Education

and Training section.

EEIBA Branch Secretary, **Mr. Jack Pilkington** (executive officer—Welfare) told us that the big night out resulted in proceeds to the fund amounting to £700.

Best 'Scratch' Score

A golfer of considerable talent—and a four handicap—**Mr. Kevin Gee**, has just won the 'J. Fletcher Cup' for the best scratch score of 73 in the recent Electrical Industries Golf Championship held at Bramley golf club in Surrey.

Kevin, who is the assistant secretary for the MANWEB (Chester) Golfing Society also received the 'J. L. Wilson' runner-up trophy for the second best nett score of 69.



(Cheshire Observer picture)

Mr. Kevin Gee with his magnificent golfing trophies.

Golfers from all over the country employed in the electricity industry competed in qualifying rounds before lining up for these finals.

Our winner, who is a higher clerical assistant in Revenue at Head Office, has been playing golf for ten years. He is a past winner of the West Cheshire Boys Championship and is now a member of the Upton Golf Club.

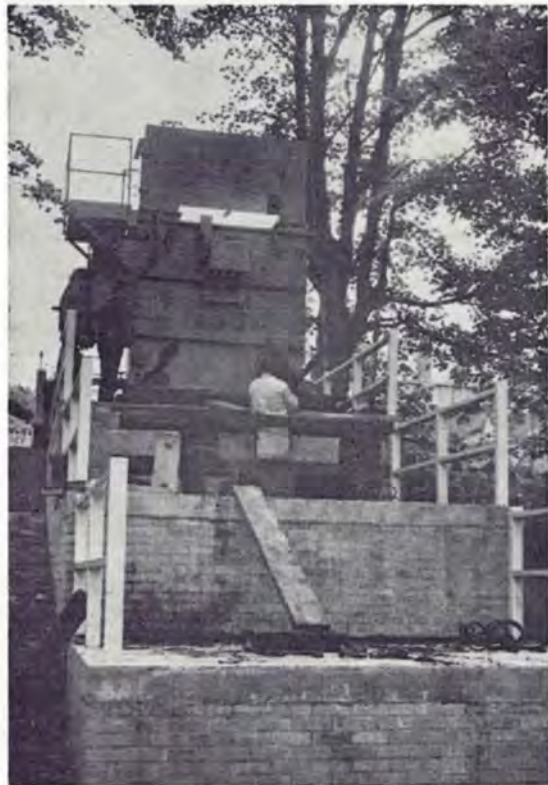
A TRICKY ACCESS FOR 28-TONNE TRANSFORMER

FROM time to time we find that electricity supply in certain areas is heavily loaded and requires strengthening. Invariably this means a new or larger substation. Such an occasion arose some time ago on the 11-kV network in the vicinity of Penmaen Head, Colwyn Bay, where a 33/11-kV substation had to be established.

Our search for suitable land on which to build proved most frustrating but finally, after some hard bargaining with the local Council, who were concerned about aesthetic values, we managed to get hold of a site.

Then came the really big problem. The site was situated on the side of a fairly steep hillside in a built-up area between two roads—one being the main A55. It was comparatively easy to get bricks,

The very tricky job of packing the lower step with timbers to spirit-level accuracy to take the weight of the transformer as it is drawn forward.



mortar and concrete down for the building of the station but when it came to the heavy and bulky equipment—this was another matter.

Working from the lower main road was out, so the upper road had to be used with the substation level some 13 feet below! Normal methods of lowering the equipment by crane was considered but the inconvenience of blocking a very busy roadway and the need to cut down some lovely trees which would be required later to screen the station ruled out this proposition.

Our design engineers got together with Drawing Office staff to design a 'step-down' access.

Builders moved in to construct three steps, each with a four-foot drop. The final foot was taken up by a long gradual slope into the substation.

Then came the equipment with the 7.5-MVA transformer weighing in at 28 tonnes being the number one problem. Just imagine—lowering 28 tonnes down a four-foot drop, not once, but three times!

This was achieved by raising the level of the lower step with baulks of timber until it was in line with the higher step. This had to be done to spirit-level accuracy. The transformer was then pulled along

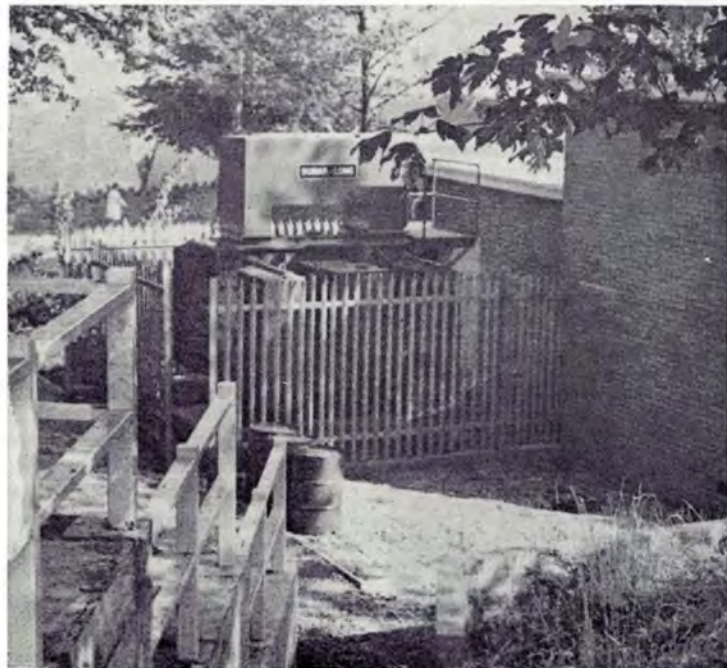
The moment of truth as the 28-tonne dead weight of the transformer is inched along the skids on to the prepared wooden platform.





A view from the top road showing the transformer taking the very steep drop on its way to the compound.

Snugly in position in its 'final resting place,' the huge transformer looks down on to the A55 main road.



skids on to the timber platform. By using large hydraulic jacks, the transformer was held as the platform was removed piece by piece, a few inches at a time, until the mass of metal rested safely on the lower step.

The procedure was repeated again and yet again. One false move at any stage of the whole operation, one slight miscalculation and the £25,000 transformer

Working on the equipment in the new substation at Colwyn we see Messrs. Ron Evans (*fitter's mate*), left, and Ray Stobbart (*fitter*).



could have toppled over or gathered momentum on the skids to crash down on the busy A55 road.

Despite the careful planning, our engineers, Messrs. Jack Critchley (*Project Leader*) and Keith Honeysett (*2nd engineer—Construction*), and the skilled team of contractors had some nerve-tingling moments during the four days it took to get the transformer down and into the substation.

The tricky job is now successfully completed and all the equipment safely installed ready to take the Winter load and cope with future development in the area.

With the careful preservation of the huge trees and some additional landscaping, the substation is hardly noticeable from the roadways.



Champion Alan Evans, left, with his challengers, from left to right: Brian Shepherd, Brian Dodd, Jeff Baker, Chris Simm, Nigel Crossley, Stuart Clark, Bill Griffiths, Tom Dutton, Bill Rogers, Peter Jones, Albert Cooper and Dave Griffin.

(Cheshire Observer picture)

WORLD CHAMPION v MANWEB All-Stars

Alan Evans is the world's No. 1 darts player. He is the 1975 World Masters Champion and he won the 1974 Watney British Open Championship. Alan is a former Doubles Champion of England and Wales and has won countless National Championships overseas.

The Winners, "The Flightless Five," from left to right: Pat Hughes, Martin Bazeley, captain, Roy Casey, Linda Gillibrand and Peter Darcy



With thousands of arrows flying through the air but not an Indian in sight, the scene was set for the MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club's Darts Tournament, held a few weeks ago at Head Office.

Twelve 'cowboys' who challenged World Champion, Alan Evans to games of 1001-up all bit the dust in their turn—some faster than others.

Top scorer against him was Jeff Baker (772) with Stewart Clark (714) and Tom Dutton (712) close behind.

Earlier in the evening some 160 players—32 teams of five—played through a well-planned programme on seven dart boards.

The winning team was 'The Flightless Five' who beat 'The Phantom Flyers' in an exciting three game final.

The individual highest score winners were Cora Roberts, Gwyneth Worrall, Caroline Wright, Jan Lees, Peter Jones and Brian Dodd.

Referees for the evening, who were kept very busy were Hugh Farrow, Eifion Jenkins and Gren Roberts.



Martin Bazeley, captain of the winning team, 'The Flightless Five' enjoying a well-earned pint.



Runners-up, "The Phantom Flyers," from left to right: Paul Morrison, Michael Hughes, Elaine Morris, Steve Buswell and Paul Kearney, captain.



Left: A happy memory for Paul Kearney right, as he receives his award as captain of 'The Phantom Flyers' from top darts man Alan Evans Right: Jeff Baker, centre, who was MANWEB's top scorer in the challenge matches, receives his trophy from the 'Champ,' Alan Evans. In the background is Gren Roberts, who was M.C. for the evening.



CROSSWORD SOLUTION AND PRIZEWINNERS

We had to draw seven entries from the many submitted for this competition before we were able to come up with three all-correct solutions.

These came from:

Mr. V. Whittingham, Meter Repair Dept., Lister Drive.

Mr. T. I. Bawden, Drawing Office, Oswestry District.

Miss A. Rawley, Liaison Dept., Liverpool District.

They will each receive £2.

SOLUTION

Across: 1 Battle. 5 Accent. 10 Boggart. 12 Gracile. 14 Cartoon. 15 Layette. 17 Overeat.

19 Amide. 20 Terrene. 22 Asunder. 24 Offense. 27 Heather. 30 Tamil. 31 In trays. 34 Soothes. 37 Blue Wig. 38 Thinner. 39 Ear. 40 Adores. 41 Dreads.

Down: 2 Angry. 3 Tract. 4 Extreme measures. 5 As good as his word. 6 Crane. 7 Naive. 8 Abolitionists. 9 Letter presses. 11 Ratan. 13 Roves. 16 Err. 18 Run. 21 Ref. 23 Doh. 25 Ear. 26 Style. 28 Eloit. 29 Tot. 32 Triad. 33 Abner. 35 Ogive. 36 Hosed.

Liverpool Pensioners

Our ever-active retired colleagues from Liverpool are keeping up a busy programme of trips and events. September 29th saw a 53-strong party spending the day at Rhyl, with a "return visit" by 47 people from the Clwyd retired employees' group to Thingwall Road, Liverpool, in October.

A Liverpool party will be visiting Birmingham on November 16th, and the group's Christmas dinner will be held at Thingwall Road Clubhouse on December 15th.

FOR SALE—Sea fishing rod and reel. Milbro Super Commander six-foot rod with roller rings. Mitchell 624 multiplier reel. Almost new. £25 for both. 'Phone Stan Hughes, Buckley 2527.

DEE VALLEY DISTRICT EMPLOYEES' MEETING

"An uphill struggle"

— Mr. Jim Barraclough
(Group Manager)

OVER 200 members of our Dee Valley District staff went along to the Memorial Hall, Wrexham a few weeks ago for their annual conference. They were joined by guests from Head Office, Messrs. W. N. Shires (*Deputy Chief Commercial Officer*), L. J. Scudamore (*Management Services Officer*), D. Farquhar (*Asst. Chief Engineer—System Management*), J. Peaker (*Asst. Chief Accountant—Computer Services*) and guest speaker Mr. I. T. Ellis (*Project Manager, Dinorwic Pumped Storage Scheme*).

Following a buffet meal, Mr. Jim Barraclough (*Group Manager*) opened the business part of the meeting by saying how pleased he was to see so many people showing interest by attending the conference. He then called on LAC Secretary Mr. Keith Griffiths to present his Report.

In a brief and concise speech, Keith gave information on many of the items actively pursued by members of No. 4 LAC at their bi-monthly meetings. He brought his remarks to a close by appealing to all members of the staff to read the copies of the Minutes of the LAC meetings as soon as they are posted on the various notice boards throughout the District.

After complimenting Keith on his work, Mr. Barraclough spoke on some of the important aspects of the workings of our industry. He said that in the past we had been very successful in showing annual surpluses until 1969 when we were restrained by the Government to hold our prices—despite rising costs. Then we began to make tremendous losses which were subsidised by the Government—via the taxpayer.

Another change of plans ended the subsidies and the industry had to return to economic pricing. The result of this was the substantial tariff increase some 18 months ago which, in effect, was making up for the gradual increases which should have been taking place since 1969.

He explained that during this period of cheap—subsidised—electricity, many people took advantage and began using it freely and to instal all kinds of new appliances. To cater for this increasing demand, more power stations had to be planned and built.

Then came the price increase and the 'Save It' campaign and the demand on our system went down very rapidly. Less units were being sold and we now had far more power station capacity than the demand required. It was costing more to produce less units. The plain and simple outcome was that when the demand stops, the need for all kinds of MANWEB's work would also stop.

"It has been an uphill struggle," he said, "and there is still the struggle with inflation. We can save many thousands of pounds in our own costs, but the general inflationary trends in our country tend to outstrip these."

He exemplified our contributions to the local Rates saying that three years ago we paid £2.25 million. Two years ago it was £3.33 million and last year it rose to £3.8 million.

Mr. Barraclough then spoke for a few minutes on the contracting and sale of fittings side of the Board's business. He said that in all fields we faced great competition and as our own turnover went down our overheads go up because of inflation. "We can't go on making losses," he commented, "This can't continue. We have to cut our costs or put our prices up. The latter course is fatal because it will cut the demand on our services. So, if we are to stay in contracting and sale of fittings, we must cut our costs."

Following these remarks from the Group Manager, time was given over to the District Officers to present their Departmental reports. Although only programmed for five minutes each, these developed into rather lengthy sessions with seats getting harder and harder. After an enforced break, Mr. Ron Williams (*District Commercial Engineer*), went to the 'pulpit' to bring a shaft of humour into the proceedings in presenting his brief report.

Just one hour later than the published time, guest speaker Mr. Ellis began his most interesting talk on the plan and progress of the huge pumped storage scheme at Dinorwic. He explained that when the station is completed—in 1982—the output will be 1800 megawatts . . . six times larger than Ffestiniog station.

"It is a superlative station in many respects," he said. "The present estimated capital cost is just over the £200 million mark."

Mr. Ellis informed his audience that the station would be able to go from no load up to 1320 megawatts in ten seconds—an output equal to Wylfa and Trawsfynydd combined. In that same ten seconds the water to power the turbines would start at a trickle from the reservoir high up the mountain to rush down at 400 tons a second.

He illustrated his, sometimes technical, talk with a number of excellent slides to show how the station was planned and developed and how the work is progressing.



At the Conference, from left to right: Mrs. M. Lea (Area Vice Chairman, EAW), Mrs. Iris Evans, Councillor John Evans, Mrs. Ann McMullen, Mr. Denis Dodds, Mrs. S. Shires (Area Chairman, EAW) and Mrs. Ann Jones.

"WE WILL HELP THE NEEDY BUT NOT THE GREEDY"—

Mr. Denis Dodds (Chairman)

SPEAKING of the proposals to prevent Electricity Boards from disconnecting supplies to consumers, Mr. Dodds said that this was an all too easy solution. One of the problems presented was that it was most important to distinguish between the 'scrounger' and the 'virtuous.'

"We are always ready to help the really needy," he commented. "We know that the shoe pinches the poor most of all and our sympathies go out to them, but practical help is available in conjunction with the Social Security offices and local councils."

Another solution put forward was the use of more slot meters. Mr. Dodds revealed that 20 per cent of our customers already had these but in Liverpool alone, some 5,000 had been smashed open and the money taken out.

"We will support the needy" he said, "but not the greedy."

Our Chairman was speaking at the annual general meeting of the Merseyside and North Wales Area of the Electrical Association for Women held at Heswall a few weeks ago.

Mr. Dodds gave his listeners an insight into the increasing costs to the electricity industry. He referred especially to coal prices which last year added another £25 million to our bill.

"Half the cost of every unit of electricity is the cost of fuel burned at the power stations," he stated.

"We are also, as an industry,

trying to evolve a code of practice with the Government as far as cut-offs are concerned," he went on. "But, for the protection of the majority of our customers, the financing of welfare is a Government responsibility, not that of the Electricity Boards. If we stop all cut-offs, electricity accounts in this area will increase by about eight per cent."

He pointed out that electricity had maintained its value as our prices had kept in line with—even slightly below—the retail price index.

Mr. Dodds then spent a little time explaining what a unit of electricity would buy and said, "If we keep prices in proportion, electricity still gives as good value for money as it has in the past."

He reminded his audience that there had been no increase in the basic price of off-peak electricity emphasising that it was still a penny less than normal price.

"We haven't got a fuel crisis," he stated, "we have a financial crisis."

He suggested that it could be the role of the E.A.W. to correct misconceptions about electricity, its uses and its costs.

Earlier Mr. Dodds congratulated members of the Association on their activities and initiative. He commented on the extremely distinguished first year of Mrs. Ann McMullen in her office as Director of the E.A.W. and of Mrs. Ann Jones (former 'Girl from MANWEB'—Miss Ann Semple) who had done well as the new Organiser for the Merseyside and North Wales Area.

An official welcome to the 236 delegates to the Conference was offered by the Rt. Worshipful Mayor of Wirral, Councillor John E. Evans, J.P.—a former member of our North Wirral District staff. The Mayoress, Mrs. Iris Evans, was for many years Chairman of the Birkenhead Branch of the E.A.W.

Chairing the Conference was Mrs. Ann McMullen.

Mrs. Pauline Evans giving a special demonstration of the Belling fan-assisted oven to the delegates.



Over a Thousand Years of Service Honoured



Our Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, left, congratulates our 40-year men, from left to right: Messrs. Geoff G. Martin, Frank Newell, Jim Boswell and Charles S. Smith.

Awards for Dee Valley Staff

Speaking at a recent presentation ceremony when members of our Dee Valley District staff received their Long Service Awards, our Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds commented on the danger of euphoria which threatened our society where many people expected lots of rights with no obligations.

He said that much importance was attached to these ceremonies for he was able to meet the most experienced people in our industry.

Mr. Dodds went on to tell his audience that in addition to the token value represented by the gifts and the certificates, the recipients also had the respect of their employers.

"You represent an example of continuity, integrity, honesty and a sense of obligation," he said, "and I am grateful for occasions such as this when I can meet a generation of members of the staff who hold the correct balance of rights and obligations."

Earlier Mr. Jim Barraclough (*Group Manager*), in opening the proceedings, said it was the tradition of our industry to keep essential services going. "Long service staff have this right attitude of mind," he commented.

"Despite outside criticisms," he went on, "We

know we are doing a good job."

In voicing a vote of thanks from the recipients, Mr. John Morris (*Bryn Dethol*) said, "Many people are envious when we say we work for MANWEB and that we have a job. We should never forget this for our industry has a very bright future."

The award recipients were introduced to Mr. Dodds by their respective District Officers, Messrs. E. T. Peters (*District Engineer*), Ron Williams (*District Commercial Engineer*) and Tony Shell (*District Administrative Officer*).

The full list of Dee Valley District staff who qualified for their Long Service Awards is as follows:

40 Years: Messrs. J. T. Boswell (*electrician*), G. G. Martin (*joiner*), F. Newell (*foreman—Eng.*), C. G. Smith (*installation inspector*) and J. A. Winchester (*former District Commercial Engineer now Group Manager*).

30 Years: Messrs. J. Ashbrook (*foreman—Comm.*), E. Charles (*administrative assistant*), K. Edwards (*2nd engineer*), R. H. Hughes (*mechanic*), E. James (*records draughtsman*), J. A. G. Harris, I. A. John and E. B. M. Jones (*installation inspectors*).

Some of our Dee Valley District long service award recipients are joined by their wives as they listen to the Chairman's address.



Some of the 'Commercials' who received long service awards, seen here with Messrs. Jim Barraclough, seated left, and Ron Williams, seated right.

20 Years: Miss W. Price and Mr. J. B. Jones (*clerical assistants*), Messrs. W. T. Allman, A. O. Simpson, J. Blything and J. J. Morris (*electricians*), D. Bedford, A. H. Brockley, A. R. Joinson and G. D. Price (*jointer's mates*), A. Owens, T. A. Pierce, H. Valentine and D. R. Williams (*labourers*), D. F. Cross, L. Davies W. F. Lewis and F. R. Prile (*linesmen*), F. H. Evans and P. Keddie (*Work Study assistants*), R. Crabtree (*chargehand—Eng.*), C. Davies Barrett (*records draughtsman*), E. E. Davies (*foreman—Eng.*), G. E. Davies (*switchboard attendant*), A. C. Edwards (*debt recovery collector*), N. R. Evans (*street lighting attendant*), A. R. Jonas (*chargehand electrician*), J. Jones (*meter reader/collector*), E. Lloyd (*driver*), T. S. Parry (*storekeeper*), E. Phillips (*meter fixer*) and D. Webster (*substation attendant*).

Administrative staff award recipients with Messrs. Jim Barraclough, seated left, Tony Shell, seated right, and Keith Griffiths, standing right.

Some of our Dee Valley District staff working in the Engineering department who received awards for their long service in the industry. In this picture they are joined by Messrs. Jim Barraclough, seated third from left, and E. T. Peters, standing left.



Countdown for Christmas

Some tips from

Anne Reney-Smith

(demonstrator, Head Office)

This year with Christmas Day and Boxing Day falling on Saturday and Sunday, then the Public Holidays—Monday and Tuesday, the housewife will be planning and catering for four days holiday at least.

So to help yourself, plan your own countdown to Christmas now—saving money, effort, time and worry.

Write your plan on a large sheet of paper and hang in kitchen, then tick off jobs done and add further notes if necessary. Plan for a minimum of last minute jobs.

Planning Tips for November

1. Decide in advance what you are going to cook and make

accurate shopping lists. Avoid changing plans.

2. Make full use of your Deep-Freeze:

- i) Buy the turkey now whilst prices are cheap.
- ii) Buy other joints of meat or fish needed for the holiday period, remembering people like a change from turkey.
- iii) Prepare pastry for mincepies, or actually prepare mincepies to the point of baking. Freeze loose and then pack in containers. Bake from frozen state.
- iv) Prepare any pâté or terrines, soups or sweets that are planned for the Christmas menus; ready to reheat or serve.
- v) Prepare pancakes or vol-au-vent cases and freeze ready for using left-over turkey.
- vi) Green vegetables can be weighed, prepared and blanched ready for cooking.
- vii) Make white breadcrumbs and freeze ready for sauce and stuffings.

3. Order, if possible, any items that can be collected before the final rush, e.g. wines (if not making your own) and spirits.

4. Check you have all the baking equipment you need—tins, freezer containers, foil, etc.

5. Start preparing dried decorations, etc., buy candles, table napkins, whilst there is a good selection.

6. Make the Christmas Puddings now, unless they are to be bought. Mix with ale or stout for a rich, fruity flavour.

* * *

Catering over Christmas will only be half the work, once such preparation and planning has been arranged, the final countdown for Christmas week will be the December issue with some last minute recipes.

ROYAL ICING

If you followed Mrs. Anne Reney-Smith's recipe for the Christmas Cake in last month's 'Contact' you should now be thinking of putting the finishing touches to it. So, here is her promised *Royal Icing* recipe.

2lb sieved icing sugar
2 - 3 egg whites
juice of $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon

Place the egg whites in a mixing bowl and gradually add the sieved icing sugar, beating thoroughly until icing is smooth, white and the consistency of thick cream. (A minute drop of blue colouring can be added to make the icing pure white).

Keep the bowl covered with a damp cloth to keep the icing soft, if it is not being used all at once.

Decorate the cake. A very simple and effective decoration is after rough icing the cake, place an artificial sprig of holly in the centre with a single red candle or a couple of artificial Christmas roses. A lavish red-satin ribbon round the cake and tied in a bow finishes the job.

Letter of Thanks

A Crewe lady, writing to the Mid-Cheshire District Committee of the Manual Workers' Benevolent Society, thanks the committee for a convalescent stay arranged for her father at the Mary Bamber and John Braddock Home at Colwyn Bay.

"May I say how lucky your members are in having such a beautiful and peaceful place to go to in their need of recovery in sickness," she writes. "Matron and staff are kindness itself, the food is excellent and beautiful trips around North Wales are arranged. I must say Dad looks and feels a lot younger than his 81 years!"

Dee Valley Retired

The Dee Valley District local sub-committee of the Manual Workers' Benevolent Society would like to hear from all MANWEB industrial staff who are now retired and from widows of MANWEB industrial staff living within the boundaries of the Dee Valley District.

Please send details of (a) your full name (b) address (c) job you did (e) where you were employed.

In case of widows, please send these details of your late husband.

Post them to The Secretary,
No. 4 Local Sub-Committee,
Manual Workers' Benevolent
Society, District Office,
Rhostyllen, Wrexham.



A very happy Miss Katie Woods, surrounded by just a few of her many friends at Bridle Road, receives one of their parting gifts from Mr. George Shoesmith (*District Administrative Officer*).

RETIREMENTS

Miss K. WOODS

A very popular member of our North Mersey District staff, Miss Kathleen Woods, retired recently after nearly 30 years' service in our industry.

Katie, who comes from a well-known Bootle family, joined Liverpool Corporation in 1947 and a couple of years later she moved into Derby House with MANWEB. She told us that she can still recall the days B.C.—*Before Computerisation*—when manual cash posting was done by Kalamazoo strips!

While at Derby House she worked at various times in the enquiry office and as a relief cashier. Later she became a travelling cashier working in most of the Board's shops in and around Liverpool.

After a long spell working for the Commercial Department at Bootle shop, first at Bedford Road and later at the New Strand Precinct, Katie went to work for Admin. at Marsh Lane in 1971. A couple of years later, following the move to Bridle Road, she became the "E.S.M.A. Queen."

Katie was also active before joining MANWEB and no doubt will be remembered by many former servicemen as one of the hostesses at the Angel Services Club in Dale Street.

Now, in retirement, she will be able to devote

more of her time to her hobbies of cookery and embroidery. She is an avid reader and is keenly interested in "old" Bootle and "old" Liverpool.

At a retirement party in honour of Katie as a friend and colleague, she was presented with farewell gifts and best wishes from all North Mersey District staff for a happy and healthy future.

Mr. J. HUGHES

In handing over a cheque for quite a substantial amount to Mr. James Hughes on the occasion of his recent retirement from his job in Dee Valley District consumers accounts, Mr. Tony Shell (*District Administrative Officer*) said "We are losing a very useful member of our staff in Jim, particularly for his great knowledge of the Chester area."

He voiced the hope of all who had subscribed to the farewell cheque that Jim and his wife Gwen would enjoy a long and healthy retirement. Mr. Shell then reminded them that they were now eligible to join the Retired Members Association!

Before joining MANWEB just over twenty years ago, at New Crane Street, Jim worked for Bradleys Ltd., the outfitters in most of their shops throughout North Wales.

During the last war, he spent some of his six years in Burma and India with various army units, ending up in the 'Gloucesters.'

Staff at Rhosyllen offices gather round to say their farewells to Mr. Jim Hughes, seen here centre, with his wife, Gwen. Next to Jim is his son Ian.



In retirement Jim will devote some of his time to his main hobbies of marquetry and philately and when pushed—will do a spot of gardening.

He has a son, Ian who works for the Board as an electrician at Legacy, and two daughters, Ann, now married, who once worked at Head Office in Sealand Road, and Gillian who is still at school.

Mr. ARTHUR BISSELL

Energy sales representative Mr. Arthur Bissell retired from the Board after 47 years' service in the industry.

Arthur started as an apprentice electrician at the Birkenhead Corporation Depot in Craven Street, and was a service electrician in Birkenhead until 1954.

In that year he laid down the tools and took up the brief case and worked as a sales representative in Liverpool. For many years he worked as part of a team on the MANWEB show van taking the electrical appliances to areas where the Board had no shops. One such example was the new housing estates then being built, such as Kirkby, Netherton and Huyton, where competition was fierce with the Gas Board to gain a sale of a cooker, the salesman knowing if the cooker went in other appliances followed. It was in this highly competitive atmosphere that Arthur excelled.

With the development of electric heating in the late 50s and 60s, Arthur, who had a flare for dealing with people was selected to operate in the South of Liverpool advising customers on floor warming. On re-organisation in 1970 he joined the energy sales team in Liverpool District.

Arthur and his wife have two married daughters and four grandchildren. We understand from a former colleague he intends to take up gardening

more seriously, he has been developing this interest over the last twelve months or so and has purchased a greenhouse.

Mr. J. WILSHAW

After serving the electricity supply industry for the past 27 years, Mr. John Wilshaw recently retired from his job as storekeeper at our Narrow Lane depot, Llandudno Junction in the Board's Clwyd District.

For his first eight years John worked as a linesman based at Dolgarrog, before transferring to become storekeeper at the same depot in 1957. When the depot closed he went to work at Llanwrst stores.

After handing over the retirement gift from friends at Cefndy Road, Mr. Denis Atkinson, left, has a farewell handshake for Mr. John Wilshaw.



In his early days, John attended the Board's first overhead line school—at that time located at Queensferry.

At a farewell presentation ceremony held at Glan-y-Mor Road, many of his friends and colleagues got together to wish him a long and happy retirement as Mr. Denis Atkinson (*Material Controller, Clwyd*) handed over their farewell gift of an electric lawnmower.

It's hard to believe that the 'young' man in the centre of this picture, Mr. Arthur Bissell, has reached retirement age. But it's true and to prove it friends subscribed for a farewell gift which was handed over by Mr. Bob Jowett (*District Commercial Engineer*).



QUARTETTE FROM MID-CHESHIRE

Four men from our Mid-Cheshire District whose total service in the electricity supply industry amounted to 136 years, recently retired from their respective jobs.

Colleagues subscribed to various farewell gifts and at special ceremonies **Mr. W. F. (Bill) Butler** (chargehand meter reader) 27 years, was presented with an infra-red grill, **Mr. W. E. (Bill) Dodd** (meter reader/collector), 40 years, was presented with an oil painting set and **Mr. A. L. (Les) Merrill** (labourer), 27 years, was presented with an anniversary clock by **Mr. John E. Roberts** (District Administrative Officer).

Mr. Jack Pilbury (fitter's mate), 42 years, was presented with an electric hedge cutter by **Mr. Graham Zeiher** (District Engineer).

Our good wishes for a long and happy retirement go to them all.

Mrs. J. SPRIGGS

Many friends and colleagues gathered at Clwyd District office some time ago to wish **Mrs. Jean Spriggs** a happy retirement.

Jean, a former typist but latterly a clerk in the Material Control Department, was presented with a Wedgwood coffee

service by **Mr. George Cooksley** (District Administrative Officer).

Mrs. M. LATHEY

Retirement has brought nearer the dream of a world cruise for **Mrs. May Lathey** who has spent over 18 years dusting, mopping and cleaning at our Buttermarket Street shop in Warrington.

In addition to her interest in travel she also likes gardening. Although living in a 'rugby' town May is a football supporter and cheers for Leeds United.

Friends and colleagues subscribed to present her with a Teasmade as a parting gift.

Mr. W. WEAVER

Ill health brought about the early retirement a few weeks ago for **Mr. William Weaver**, a chargehand labourer in our Mid-Mersey District at Warrington.

Bill, who had been with us for nearly 30 years, received a cheque from his colleagues and their sincere wishes for an improvement in his health so that he may enjoy his years in retirement.

Mr. A. RILEY

A most popular member of the team of meter readers working from our New Crane Street depot in Chester, **Mr. Arthur Riley**,

recently retired after just over 20 years with MANWEB.

He joined us as a street lighting attendant after many years 'on the buses' with Chester Corporation. During the last war he served in Burma and Madagascar with the East Lancashire Regiment.

Shortly after joining the Board Arthur became a meter reader and later added 'collector' to his title.

He had an excellent record of work attendance—"If he had to crawl to get to work he would get there."—it was said. Then, four years ago, a serious illness struck him.

Since then he has found it increasingly difficult to carry heavy weights and so retirement has come at the right time.

In making the presentation of a sum of money from colleagues, **Mr. Tony Shell** (District Administrative Officer) commented that retirement was a big wrench from places of work and people one got attached to.

In reply, Arthur said that it was all the happy times he would always remember and cherish.

Among the things to hold Arthur's interests in retirement are coarse fishing and the progress of the Everton Football Club.

Meter readers and collectors based at New Crane Street had a farewell get-together for colleague **Mr. Arthur Riley**, centre, and his wife **Doris**. Their parting gifts were presented by **Mr. Tony Shell**, front left.



Two-Stage Commercial Campaign

Colleagues in our Commercial section have been concentrating their sales efforts during the past few weeks on our customers occupying commercial premises.

These cover all offices, shops and showrooms, warehouses, public buildings, hotels and restaurants.

The first stage of the promotion which ends on November 26th has been aimed at getting the space and water heating message over to these customers.

Due to the continuing shortage of investment capital and rising building costs, many businesses today can only think in terms of conversion or modernisation programmes to their existing properties.

Our 'Commercials' will be on hand to make sure that electricity features in these plans—to the

mutual benefit of the Board and our customers.

During the first period of the campaign, emphasis has been given to storage heater systems with the advantage of cheap off-peak electricity. Excellent preparation for the Winter months ahead!

Among our special offer package-deals is a complete installation—up to 20 metres per heater—of two Belling storage radiators for only £126.50.

The second phase of the campaign begins on January 10th next

year. This will be directed at office premises.

The objectives of the two-pronged promotion are to gain load from new and replacement space and water heater installations in smaller commercial premises; to obtain additional load through environmental improvements in lighting, air-conditioning and catering; to defend existing load threatened with non-use because of ill-informed opinions or biased comparisons in operating costs; to gain additional revenue through direct sales and the subsequent installation and contracting work.

WE DID IT FIRST

EARLIER this year, MANWEB went into Clubland to present the Stage Safety Unit to pub and club owners and management. Our Mid-Mersey District started the ball rolling with a great presentation at the Wilderspool Leisure Centre.

Recently, the Electricity Council followed our lead when they took stand space at the National Club Show in Manchester.

Here they advocated safety checks on electric guitars and amplifying equipment used by performers. The dangers of faulty or badly-wired equipment was demonstrated in a spectacular fashion.

A small electronic safety analyser on the stand was used to demonstrate how checks for electronic safety can be made, simply and quickly, on every piece of portable electric equipment brought into a club. The analyser provides a visual indication of whether a chassis is alive, whether there are live to earth short circuits (without blowing the fuses), whether there are earth to neutral short circuits and whether the equipment is safe to use.

There was also a safety cut-out that could be permanently wired into an existing electrical circuit to provide automatic protection from electric shocks.

For the technically minded, the safety cut-out is a current operated earth leakage circuit breaker with a sensitivity of 13 milliamps.

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we record the following deaths.

Mrs. Eileen Bennion, aged 54, whose recent tragic death came as a great shock to her many friends in the Liverpool District.

Eileen had not been in the best of health over the past few months.

She had been a popular figure working in the canteen at Lister Drive for the past 18 years.

Miss Dorothy Black, aged 52, who suffered a very long illness, was a very popular lady, well-known throughout the Board as a former Secretary to the Consultative Council.

Dorothy joined MANWEB in 1948 taking up an appointment with the Consultative Council. Later, on the retirement of the late Mr. R. H. Gregory in November 1965, she was appointed as Secretary, a job she did most

efficiently and courteously.

Her many friends and former colleagues will mourn her death at such a comparatively young age.

Mr. Eric Miller, aged 64, who retired due to ill health in 1973. Eric was a joiner at Runcorn depot and had served the industry for 34 years.

Mr. Edward Read, aged 76, a former builder's labourer with the Board at St. Helens prior to his retirement in 1965.

Mr. Norman Roberts, aged 65, passed away after a short illness. Norman was a shift porter at Head Office and he leaves a wife and daughter.

Mr. Albert Watkinson, aged 65, a former chargehand labourer in our Mid-Mersey District until his retirement in January last year on the grounds of ill health.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved families.