

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
WATERWORKS COMPANY

NEWS REVIEW

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HEAD OFFICES,
SHEEPCOTE STREET.

APRIL, 1951.

VOL. 1.

No. 2.



EDITORIAL

We published our first issue three months ago with a promise of a free copy of each issue to every member of the Staff and each Pensioner. The continuously rising cost of paper - it has been an approximately 100% increase in the past six months - has compelled us to seek additional financial assistance from the Board to keep the NEWS REVIEW alive. We wish to place on record our gratitude to the Board for the sympathetic consideration they have given to our various proposals. Whilst we could hardly expect them to agree to financing the continued circulation on the scale originally conceived, we are pleased that they should have agreed to maintain the original standard of production but with a reduced circulation.

The new scale of circulation is based on one copy to every three members of the staff where numbers working together permit easy circulation and one copy to every member whose normal duties would not make sharing easy. Pensioners will still get one copy each to themselves. Those who would like to have a copy to themselves but are not able to acquire one after distribution may purchase one from Head Office at a price of sixpence.

Your Editorial Committee are very pleased with the reception given to our first issue and also with the letters of appreciation received. Whilst we wish to thank those who have taken the trouble to send us contributions we are by no means satisfied that the venture is receiving the universal support which would assure it complete success. We do urge everyone who may hear of news of a suitable nature for publication to acquaint the Editor.

In conclusion we are sure that all our readers will wish to congratulate our Engineer-in-Chief, Mr. R.A. Robertson, on his election to the Chairmanship of the Midland Section of the Institution of Water Engineers for the coming year and also Mr. A.A. Chapman on his election as Junior Vice-President of the Section.

We should also like to welcome Miss D. Wakefield to the Editorial Committee of the NEWS REVIEW.

Round and bout

SUTTON COLDFIELD

Members of the Depot held their Annual Dinner on the 26th. February. Mr. R.A. Robertson presided over a gathering of sixty-five members and guests. Mr. Wilfred Jones, the Caterer, provided a near pre-war Menu which included Turkey as the main course. A "Few Words" spoken by Mr. Robertson assured the success of the occasion and in their replies, Messrs. A. Paris and E. Hendley thanked Mr. Robertson for his presence and continued support and interest in the social activities of the Depot.

A pleasing feature of the evening was the presence of members' wives, to whom jocular and appreciative reference was made in the toast to Our Friends and Visitors. In his witty style, Mr. G.V. Hall replied and was supported by Mr. D.B. Anderson.

In conclusion Mr. Robertson thanked the Artists for their contribution to a most successful evening.

Since the last issue of the NEWS REVIEW, members of the Sutton District have survived a normal working life. Meteorological experts have assured it being a dirty one, but from prudent observations our average "Waste Line" remains at 40". Ganger Robinson is a little below average but through good team work his deficiency in girth is suitably adjusted by his next in command - Jointer Paris. In this matter, a good reserve is held in stock by our Superintendent. A noticeable result of the cut in the meat ration is the empty scrap bin for the Super's poultry and the latter's rapid decrease in number. Our Waste Department, fully conscious of the Engineer-in-Chief's daily headache, is with resourcefulness combing the area. The recently installed "Sentinel" meter at Banners Gate has been a great help and we would welcome the installation of more "Sentinels".

Our recreation continues to consist only of darts matches. Pretty arrows by C. Savage, G. Crowley and S. Wimbush have enabled us to hold our own.

We regret the accident to G. Crowley - a member of the Sutton Gang. His fork slipped off a large pebble into his foot. We are glad to know that he has now recovered and is back at work again.

TIPTON

On Tuesday, February 22nd, at about 4.30 p.m. Mr. J.H.Mann, a Waste Inspector at Tipton Depot was returning from Netherton to the Depot when, as he was crossing Fisher's Bridge, Tipton, he saw a child in difficulties in the Canal. Mr. Mann managed to rescue the child from the water and rendered what assistance he could at the canal side. He then took the child home. Mr. Mann was in full uniform at the time and after being sure that the child was in safe hands, carried on with his duties without telling anyone of his action. We are pleased to report that the Board have suitably rewarded Mr. Mann for his courageous action.

WALSALL

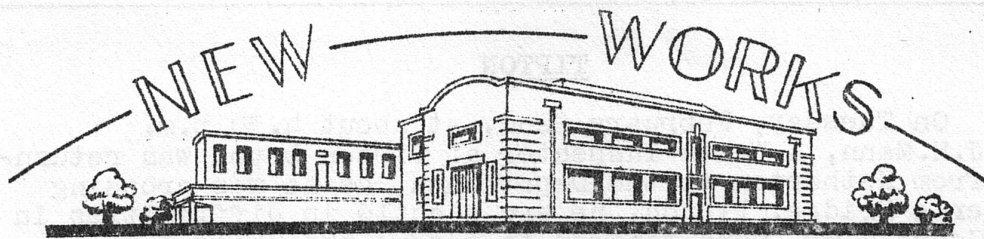
The following is a summarised extract from the Walsall Observer of the 24th February 1951.

"When he was a little boy, Mr. Arthur Bolton was sent to the market with a shilling to buy food. Instead he bought a fiddle. He was only ten when he tried to make his first violin. Today, still living in Walsall, Mr. Bolton, who is a Waste Inspector, makes two violins every year by hand in his spare time. Mr. Bolton is an entirely self-taught violin maker, having gained his knowledge by visiting famous makers all over the country and by reading books. It was years before he actually made a fiddle and even after becoming proficient, he destroyed three instruments because they did not come up to the high standard he set himself. He chose to follow the Cremona School of Violin making and bases his instruments on Stradivarius and Degani Models.

Mr. Bolton has made sixteen violins which fetch between £15. and £20 according to tone. The wood for one instrument alone costs £5. and Mr. Bolton only uses the best, which is hard to come by. In search of good quality wood he has often cycled to Devonshire to meet a friend who is interested in fiddle making.

To give his violins their final sheen, Mr. Bolton uses oil varnish. After much experimenting he is making one of his own composition."

We congratulate Mr. Bolton on his enterprising hobby and wish him every success in the future.



HAYLEY GREEN PURIFICATION WORKS.

Water for the Hayley Green Works is taken from the Birmingham Corporation's Elan Aqueduct at a point where it runs quite close to the South Western Boundary of the Company's area of supply on the Kidderminster side of Halesowen. A connection to the Elan Aqueduct was made in the Spring of 1949 and a small bulk supply has been obtained from this source in order to augment the existing supplies to Halesowen. A small temporary treatment works and pumping station, together with a pressed steel storage reservoir, which will be abandoned when the permanent works are completed, were constructed for dealing with this water.

The permanent purification works will consist of a gauging basin, contact tank and four rapid gravity filters, all constructed in reinforced concrete. The contractors for these works are Messrs. Thomas Lowe & Sons Limited, whose contract also includes the construction of a small chemical house and a pair of cottages. The cottages were completed early this year and are now occupied by Mr. Manyer, who is Station Foreman, and Mr. J.E. Hobson.

The reinforced concrete works has now been practically completed, but much has yet to be done in pipework and the installation of equipment. The works are founded on very heavy clay, which is an embarrassment in wet weather and most heartbreaking for the Contractor's foreman - Mr. S. Salt, and the Company's Clerk of Works - Mr. Runyard. These two have been battling most manfully with the combined onslaught of the weather and clay during the winter months and we are sure that they are most thankful for the advent of Spring and the anticipation of the clay drying out.

The covered service reservoir, which is now nearing completion has a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons, with a top water level of 743.00 A.O.D. which approximates to that of Shaver's End, Barr Beacon and Gentleshaw. The construction of the reservoir was started in the Spring of 1949 and will shortly be tested. It is rather a departure from the Company's usual practice. The maximum depth of water will

be 15 ft., the floor slopes from a central section up to the mass concrete walls where the depth will only be 10 ft. The columns and roof beams were pre-cast on the site, and after erection, arched Hy-rib sheeting was placed in between the beams and the roof cast on this. Shuttering for the reservoir roof was thus entirely eliminated. The reservoir has been constructed by Messrs. R.G.Horton (Engineers) Limited. Their Foreman, Mr. Witton, has made good progress, considering the very small labour force at his disposal. Mr. Runyard, the Company's Clerk of Works was, for a time, assisted by Mr. Pearce Junr. (Tipton).

Water from the Purification Works will be pumped to the storage reservoir, (through an 18" dia. spun iron main) from whence it will gravitate into Halesowen through a 24" dia. spun iron main. All the pipes have been lined internally with concrete as a protection against the more corrosive soft waters derived from the Elan Valley. The mainlaying contractors are Messrs. R.M.Douglas (Contractors) Limited, who have quite recently finished mainlaying operations and are now engaged upon the permanent reinstatement. The results of the hydraulic tests on the new main have been very encouraging, the average loss per mile of main amounting to 74 gallons per day at a test pressure in the order of 175 lbs. per square inch.

The Company's Inspectors on the mainlaying have been Messrs. B.Street, J.Artes, (until his retirement) D.Morris and S.V.Pearce. The contractors had as many as three mainlaying gangs working at once, which accounts for the relatively large inspecting staff whose efforts have been co-ordinated by Mr. R.C.Plant (Head Office).

24" DIA. MAIN WALLHEATH - SHAVER'S END.

Until recently, the water from both Kinver and Prestwood Pumping Stations was conveyed through a single 24" main from Wallheath to Shaver's End. This main has been threatened for a long time by extensive mining subsidence, and as no less than six m.g.d. passed through it, the position was precarious.

A duplicate main from Wallheath - Shaver's End has just recently been completed. The first instalment of this main was laid during the period 1947-1949 and the second instalment was commenced in August 1949 and completed early this year. Messrs. Whittaker Ellis were the contractors for this instalment. The second instalment of this main is entirely of steel pipes protected with bitumen lining and sheathing. The joints throughout are Johnson Couplings. Remarkably good results were obtained from the hydraulic

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test on this main, the average loss per mile of main being 18 gallons per day at an average test pressure of 260 lbs. per square inch. This is a great credit to the Contractor's foreman, Mr. Jarvis, and the Company's Inspectors, Messrs. J. Artess (during the early part of the contract) and Pearce Senr., both from Tipton Depot. The commissioning of the main has resulted in a noticeable reduction in pumping head at both Kinver and Prestwood. Mr. R.C. Plant (Head Office) supervised the construction of this main.

BARR BEACON RESERVOIR NO. 2.

For many years, the limited storage provided by the old reservoir at Barr Beacon has been acutely felt. Immediately after the war, designs for a 10,000,000 gallon covered service reservoir to the north of the existing reservoir were prepared, and a contract for the work was awarded to Messrs. Shellabear, Price (Contractors) Limited, early in 1947.

Work on the site started in the Autumn of 1947 and has proceeded steadily since. The reservoir has been constructed in two halves and the northern half was completed first. This half of the reservoir has a capacity of 5 m.g. and was brought into commission during last summer. The southern half has now been completed and is ready for testing.

The design of these works is similar to many others built for the Company before World War II. It consists of a combination of normal reinforced concrete design with the addition of a structural steel rigid frame cast into concrete. The whole reservoir measures 318 ft. x 202 ft. and the depth of water is 25 ft.

An automatic self closing valve will be included in the outlet main so that the outlet to the reservoir will be automatically closed in the event of a large burst main in the District. Mr. Mills has been Clerk of the Works throughout the contract.

Personalia

STAFF CHANGES.

The following have recently entered the Company's service. We welcome them and hope we may long enjoy their association.

Mr. G. Robinson - Electrical & Mechanical Dept.
Miss B. Wallace - Distribution Department.
Miss M. Wynne - Civil Engineering Dept.
Miss J. O. Davies - Revenue Department.
Mr. R. Walford - Coneygre.
Mr. Z. Hopwood Junr. Seedy Mill.

RETIREMENTS.

Mr. E. Round, on 31st March 1951 after 50 years' service. He commenced in the office of the Smethwick Collector and was transferred to Head Office in 1904. He became Registrar of the Company in 1914.

Mr. A. E. Davis, Engine Tenter at Slade Heath, on 18th March 1951, after 27½ years' service.

RESIGNATIONS.

Mr. J. A. Caddick - Order Department.
Mr. P. J. Cuneen - Civil Engineering Dept., who has gone to Canada.
Mr. A. F. A. Newton - Distribution Dept.
Mr. A. Higgs - Architectural Dept.
Mr. E. J. Clarke - Electrical/Mechanical Dept.
Miss E. Allen - Civil Engineering Dept.
Mr. R. P. Goodall - Burton Depot.
Mr. T. W. Cooper - Sandfields.
Mr. S. Tomkinson - Sandfields
Mr. D. Lord - Chilcote.
Mr. L. Salt - Chilcote.
Mr. S. H. Macklin - Tipton Depot.
Mr. N. Oakley - Tipton Depot.
Mr. T. Price - Prestwood (formerly Shenstone) Who has gone to Australia.

We wish the above every success in their new work.

N E W S R E V I E W

TRANSFERS

Mr. R.Ashley - Trent Valley to Sandfields.
Mr. A.Higgs - Maple Brook to Cannock Depot.
Mr. T.Wall - Kinver to Prestwood.

NEW APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. J.W.Whitworth has been appointed Company's Registrar to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Round's retirement.

Mr. R.G.Clarke is to succeed Mr. Whitworth as Chief Wages Clerk.

Mr. J.McInally to Turncock West Bromwich District.

SICK.

The following have been absent from work due to prolonged sickness. We wish them a speedy recovery:

Mr. D.E.Sanders	Meter Dept.
Mr. V.Layland	Walsall Depot.
Mr. T.W.Luke	Tipton Depot.
Mr. P.Hollis	Burton Depot.
Mr. G.Webster	Burton Depot.
Mr. W.Shaylor	Wood Green.

IN HOSPITAL

Mr. S.Chapman Walsall Depot.

We are pleased to report that Mr. J.E.Billingham is now recovered and back at work, as is also Mr.E.Pegg (Burton Depot) and Mr. R.E.Lambert (Smethwick Collector).

ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

In addition to those reported in our last issue, the following have been called up for service in 'H.M.Forces:-

Mr. L.W.Bailey	Smethwick Collectors Office.
Mr. C.Clarke	Service Dept.

BIRTH.

We wish to congratulate Mrs. Hunter, wife of W.Hunter, Service Department, on the birth of a son (Ian Nicholas).

MARRIAGE.

Congratulations to Miss R.V.G.Williams (Accountancy Dept.) on her marriage to Mr. Maurice Bowser, on 10th March, at St. Germain's Edgbaston.

DEATHS

We deeply regret to record the deaths of the following:-

Mr. E.W.Dixon)	Their obituaries appear on page 40.
Mr. G.Warren		

Mr. Robert W. Earp, on the 12th March 1951, at the age of 49. Mr. Earp was a leading Jointer at Burton Depot.

Mr. Bert Hale, on the 28th March 1951, at the age of 50. Mr. Hale was a Motor Driver at Cannock Depot.

Mr. A.Booth, on 29th January 1951, at the age of 81 years. Mr. Booth was employed at Trent Valley as a Stoker until his retirement in October 1934.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Mr. E.Rabbage (formerly Head Office) now lives at 5, Stevenstone Court, St.Giles-in-the-Wood, Torrington, Devon.

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Mr. C.J.Hunt, formerly Sutton Collector, called in Head Office recently, looking very fit and well. We are always pleased to see old friends.


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We congratulate Mr. A.J.W.Evans, (Walsall Depot) on his award of a General Instructor's Certificate in Civil Defence.

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As going to press we deeply regret to learn of the sudden death of Mr. J.T.Bott on the 4th May 1951, at the age of 62. Mr. Bott was a trenchman at Cannock Depot.

LADIES' PAGE



On behalf of the Ladies I would like to say how much we appreciated the article on the River Blithe Scheme. It was very interesting even to our non-technical minds and gave us some idea of the huge amount of work and planning involved in such a project. We shall look forward to descriptions of other new works in forthcoming issues of the NEWS REVIEW.

In business, as in the home, much of our work entails ministering to the multitudinous needs of the menfolk, but in between whiles, other activities are allowed to engage our attention. Below, one of our colleagues gives us a lively account of how the recently instituted needlework class came into being. The idea was first mooted some weeks ago and was enthusiastically received by younger members of the staff, who, doubtless tiring of the dreary utility products, visualized ways of improving their appearance.

"I would love to do some embroidery like that", and indeed that is how it all started, many, many years ago. A girl was working on a very beautiful cloth while she was waiting for a game of tennis and I was fascinated, and thought, Oh! if only Well, I joined the class and was surprised and delighted to find that I could embroider like that.

Someone else said the same thing to me recently and so I thought I would like to play the role of teacher. I am certainly not as successful as the late and much lamented Mrs. Brown, but at least I am trying to be so.

We have a fairly regular session on Tuesday evenings at Head Office. So far, we have progressed rapidly from the first bits of old material and tray cloths, and now two ladies have started tablecloths and will, in a week or two, start miniature pictures.

From the teacher's point of view, everything is highly satisfactory." Doubtless the pupils will proudly demonstrate the results of their efforts to all who are interested.

A feminine devotee of the art of gardening writes:-

A little ray of sunshine and our thoughts immediately turn to the open air. Gardens, I think, are uppermost in our minds and a general tidy up has begun. Were our tools in readiness? Did we remember to clean and grease them before putting them away for the winter? Do we always keep an old knife or scraper handy to scrape off all soil - not only at the end of the season but after each time of using, and do we rub them over with a rag smeared with common vaseline. This can be bought cheaply at any drysalter's and your tools will last very much longer with that little extra attention. Unfortunately, this season, through no fault of our own, is extremely late and planting has had to be delayed. However, with a little more sunshine and gentle breezes, the ground should dry up sufficiently to get good digging and planting by Whitsuntide. And now for a tip - if you have an old rubber hot water bottle, fill it with sawdust and use it as a kneeling mat. It will prove most useful and keep the damp from your knees whilst planting and weeding.

A Thought For The Month.

A good way to relieve the monotony of a job is to think of ways of improving it.

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FOR YOUR READING.

- "Jennie" by Paul Gallico (for cat lovers)
 "The Show Must Go On" by Elmer Rice (theatrical story of America)
 "A Few Flowers for Shiner" by Richard Llewellyn (an episode in Italy during the War)
 "A Journey to Venice" by Mrs. Robert Henery (a travel story)
 "Matilda and the Chickens" by Mrs. Robert Henery (a story of a Normandy farm)
 "Across the River and into the Trees" by Ernest Hemingway.
 "A Town like Alice" by Nevil Shute (An Australian story)
 "The Consul at Sunset" by Gerald Hanley
 "I Leapt over the Wall" by Monica Baldwin
 "The Trap" by Dan Bellamy
 "The Cage" by Dan Bellamy
 "The Magnate" by John Harriman (An American novel)



CRICKET

At last the cricket season is upon us and by the time these notes appear will be in full swing.

The match with Bristol Waterworks has been arranged for August 19th on the Lichfield Cricket Club's ground. Final details will be announced later but perhaps it is not too early to say that it is hoped that all who can will be present and that everyone will help to make the occasion a great success.

An evening match has been arranged with Thomas Lowe & Sons at Burton-upon-Trent on July 2nd, and it is intended to field, as far as possible, a representative S.S.W.W. side for this match. We have also been invited to play a match against Coventry Water Department which we hope will take place at Coventry on Sunday 22nd July 1951.

We are at present waiting for dates to be offered for two evening matches in June for a Head Office XI and, in addition, it is hoped to stage an Engineer's versus Secretary's game and a Head Office versus Outside Staff, but as we have no ground of our own, we are once again confronted with the age old problem of having to hire suitable grounds.

Will all members of the Company who would like to take part in any of these games please forward their names to Mr. P.J. Burton, (Head Office.)

CRICKET MATCHES.

Monday July 2nd.	v.	Thos. Lowe & Sons on Burton Cricket Ground.
Sunday July 22nd.	v	Coventry Water Department at Coventry.
Sunday August 19th.	v	Bristol Waterworks at Lichfield.

TABLE TENNIS

The 1950/51 Table Tennis Season has now closed. It has been another season full of excitement and fights for promotion, and each year the struggles seem to become more stern.

Our Club has a varied fortune to report - the "A" Team finishing 4th in the Birmingham League Division 4, after a great effort to catch the Leaders. They have lost only five matches throughout the season, and drawn six, several of which might have been won had Lady Luck been just that fraction on our side. Roger Waddington, our Captain, has had a fine season, being top of the averages, and only five players in the whole of the Division (of over sixty players) have won more matches. Well done and congratulations Roger.

The "B" Team has a different and sadder tale to relate. They closed the season by supporting the rest of Division 7 in the Birmingham League. They were unfortunate in that the two teams then at the foot of the table withdrew from the League just after Christmas, and after a player had been transferred to the "A" team following an injury to Bob Stringer, the team showed little fight. Fred Richards and Michael Lawrence - one of our most improved young players, shared what honours there were, winning between them half of the sets gained by the whole team during the season. We are looking forward to better things from the "B" team after the summer rest.

The Fight for the Fred. J. Dixon Trophy is now in full swing and with thirty-eight entries, it is difficult to say who is in the running for the Trophy. It may be that the "A" team members have been handicapped out of it and it is now just a matter of "wait and see".

The draw for the H. Kirk Cup is about to be made and as all players start level in this Competition, Roger Waddington is a hot favourite. The results of these competitions will be reported in our next issue.

Apparently there is very little interest in Table Tennis outside Head Office. We really did expect to have some news from players on the Districts - but no, not a sound. Never mind we press on hopefully.

STAFF ASSOCIATION EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Staff Association was held in the Canteen, Head Office, on the 23rd February.

The retiring Chairman, Mr. W.H.B.Fellows, in his report, outlined the activities of the Association during the past year and paid particular reference to the Canteen, in which great difficulty had been experienced due for the most part to shortages of food and staff. In conclusion, Mr. Fellows thanked all those who had assisted him in the conduct of the Association's affairs.

Mr. A.E.Bullivant, the Honorary Treasurer, presented his report and drew the member's attention to the surplus on the revenue account of £59.2.2d. against a deficit in 1949 of £40.15.1d. This was principally due to the surplus in the Canteen Account of £85.18.4d. against a loss of £87.1.8d. in 1949.

The meeting re-elected the President and Vice-Presidents en bloc.

When the time came to elect the Chairman, for the ensuing year, Mr. Fellows said he had held this Office for the past six years and felt it was time for him to stand down, and he had great pleasure in proposing that Mr. R.H.Taylor should succeed him. Mr. Beardsmore seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor then took the Chair and in a short speech of acknowledgment, thanked the members for the honour they had conferred on him and assured them that it would be his constant endeavour to further the interests of the Staff Association. He went on to say that everyone realised that difficult times were ahead and if the Staff Association is to prosper then he must have the fullest co-operation and good will from all. Mr. Taylor concluded with a vote of thanks to Mr. Fellows for his services to the Association in his capacity as Chairman during the past six years.

Mr. Chapman supported the vote of thanks to Mr. Fellows who, in his reply, said he was sure that under Mr. Taylor's guidance the Association would continue to prosper.

Mr. Chapman, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Gilbert, Honorary Secretary, Mr. Bullivant, Honorary Treasurer and Messrs. Whitworth and Burgess, Honorary Auditors, were all unanimously re-elected.

The result of the Ballot for the Executive Committee was as follows :-

Engineer's Department - Miss C.S. Parry, Messrs. J. Bradbury, J. Fisher, R. Pearsall and A.A. Smith.

Secretary's Department - Messrs. P.J. Burton, H.P. Darby, C.G. Sansom, A.W. Tibbenham and A.R. Waddington.

Mr. Tibbenham, in his Canteen Report, explained that the profit of £86.0.0d as compared with a loss of £87.0.0d on the previous year, was partly due to being without a third assistant for a good part of the time. The loss on food was partially counteracted by a profit on wines and spirits. He warned the members that it may be necessary to raise the cost of meals if the cost of food continued to rise.

Satisfactory reports were given by Mr. R. Chamberlain for the Tobacco Club, Miss D.F. Lees for the Library and Mr. R. Mc.C. Stanton for the Table Tennis Club. Mr. Chamberlain and Miss Lees were unanimously re-elected Honorary Secretaries of the Tobacco Club and Library respectively.

At the conclusion of Mr. Stanton's report he asked the Chairman to present Michael Lawrence with Club Colours which, he said, had been awarded for conspicuous success throughout the season.

After numerous discussions under "Any other business" the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

THE WHIST DRIVES

Alas, all good things come to an end. So have our Whist Drives. Since the last issue of the NEWS REVIEW, we have held two Drives which have been most enjoyable and well attended. Everyone has expressed a wish for them to continue and we hope that they will be resumed at an early date after the holiday season, say in October.

Our thanks are due to all who gave so much forethought in preparing the excellent refreshments, and also

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the prizes so tastefully selected and displayed. Need we say how much they have been appreciated by the winners. So watch for the announcement of our opening date for next season and come along and enjoy yourself.

We also wish to extend our thanks to Mr. J.W. Whitworth for the manner in which he has carried out his duties as M.C. throughout the winter.

THE LIBRARY.

For the benefit of new comers to the Company, we would like to remind readers that there is a Staff Library. Books are obtainable between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the sum of 2d. per volume. Miss D.F. Lees (Filing Department) Room 17, 1st Floor, Head Office, is the Honorary Librarian.

There is an assorted collection of Thrillers, Westerns, Travel, Political, Biographies, Romance and Light Novels.

New books are purchased frequently and since last Christmas, twelve have been added to our list.

Suggestions will be gratefully received and new readers welcomed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday 22nd May Annual Outing to Blenheim
Palace and Oxford.

Saturday 29th Sept. Annual Visit to Works.

Friday, 23rd Nov. Annual Dinner.

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PRESENTATIONS.

Mr. Ernest Round, who retired from the Company's employ on the 31st March 1951 after fifty years' service, was the recipient of a chiming clock from his colleagues, and friends who had served with him in the Home Guard.

Mr. Kirk, who made the presentation, referred to Mr. Round's long service and remarkable time-keeping, and wished him health and happiness in his retirement. Mr. Round suitably replied.

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HOSEPIPES.

The season of garden watering will soon be upon us and the continued ban on the use of hosepipes will be keenly felt by gardening enthusiasts. Members of the Technical Staff will no doubt continue to be subject to a certain amount of friendly criticism from non-technical colleagues and members of the public, who fail to see why a very wet Winter and Spring should not have solved all our supply troubles. Whereas a wet Winter does undoubtedly assist in replenishing our well and borehole supplies, the fundamental difficulty is the shortage of new works of supply viz. Pumping Stations, Treatment Plants, Mains, and in the case of the Blithe Scheme, storage capacity to store the winter floods. Until all these works are completed, full advantage cannot be taken of the abundant rainfall which we have experienced.

In the meantime, the restriction on the use of hosepipes must continue, not only in our own area, but in numerous other Water Authorities' areas throughout the country.

Many moving and ingenious appeals are received from time to time from keen gardeners, organisers of sports events and others for permission to use a hosepipe, all of which have to be refused unless questions of public health, food production or other essential considerations are involved, and every attempt is made to make the ban as absolute and as equitable as possible.

Before the imposition of restrictions, approximately 3,800 hosepipes were in charge throughout the Company's area. In dry weather the combined effect of most of these hoses being used concurrently, as invariably happens, imposes a severe strain on the supply system, which is already overloaded. The use of automatic sprinklers is particularly heavy on water consumption as these appliances are frequently left on throughout the night.

Although Water Authorities are naturally reluctant to impose restrictions on the use of hosepipes, such restrictions are nevertheless a quick method of dealing with excessive consumption during droughts, and help to ensure the maintenance of essential supplies for domestic and industrial purposes. The authority for imposing such restrictions has frequently been included in many Water Undertaker's private enactments, but it has received universal application in the Water Act 1945. There are very few Undertakings in this country that can say with certainty that such restrictions may not be necessary this summer.

BENEVOLENT FUND

The Adage "Well begun is half done" has much to commend it. There is a great advantage in getting off to a good start - it inspires confidence for the rest of the race. It is good, therefore, to be able to report that there are good signs that the excellent first issue of the NEWS REVIEW was a great success and we hope this success will be continued in future issues.

Members of the Benevolent Fund wish to place on record their appreciation and thanks to the Chairman and Directors of the Company for their financial help and our gratitude for the unstinted labour and toil of the NEWS REVIEW Committee, which contributed so much to the satisfaction and pleasure of all who received this journal.

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A joint informal meeting was held at Walsall Depot on Friday, 20th April, to discuss the possibility of organising an Annual Sports Day and also an Inter-District Games Competition for next Winter. The Benevolent Fund was represented by Mr. A.E.Reed, (Honorary Secretary) Mr. S.Marshall, (Cannock) and Mr. J.Henney, (Sutton Coldfield) and the Staff Association by Messrs. A.W.Tibbenham and A.A.Smith. (Both of Head Office).

Many readers may not know that before the War it was customary to hold an Annual Sports Day where young and old could meet and show their athletic prowess. From many quarters now comes the expressed view that the holding of this Annual Event should be re-instituted. After much discussion, the meeting reluctantly came to the conclusion that because of the expense that would be involved and also of the extreme short notice, the idea of holding a meeting this year should be abandoned, but that every endeavour should be made to organise one for 1952.

A more satisfactory conclusion was reached in the discussion of holding an Inter-District Games Competition during next Winter. It was agreed that Darts, Crib, Draughts and Dominoes should be the compulsory games in the competition and that a Committee should be appointed with one representative from each District. (Wood Green and Head Office will be considered as Districts for the purpose) to draw up rules for the competition and prepare a preliminary fixture list for the season. The Competition will involve the playing of two matches a month, one at home and one away. District Representatives will be receiving a formal notice of these proposals and all members interested in taking part in these games are asked to contact their representatives, stating in which game they wish to participate.

We hope to give readers more information on these proposals in our next issue.

THE FISHING CLUB.

It is hoped to revive the Fishing Club which was abandoned during the War and all those interested in the revival are asked to get in touch with their District Representative.

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PRESENTATIONS.

On Saturday, 21st April 1951, members of the Civil Engineering and Distribution Departments gathered to witness the presentation of a Parker 51 Pen to Mr. Paddy J. Cuneen. Mr. Cuneen has now left the Company and is in Canada. Mr. A.A. Chapman, in making the presentation, wished Mr. Cuneen bon voyage and good fortune in his new venture. In reply, Mr. Cuneen thanked those who had contributed to his gift and said that he had been very happy during his service with the Company.

Another pleasant occasion was the presentation to Miss Ruby Williams on the 8th March 1951 prior to her marriage. Mr. Kirk presented her with a coffee table and clock from her friends and colleagues and wished her every happiness. Miss Williams thanked everyone for the useful gifts.

Obituary

Mr. E.W.DIXON.

We regret to record the death on the 31st ultimo of Mr. Edward Wilson Dixon, who was associated with his brother Mr. Fred. J. Dixon, our late Engineer-in-Chief, as Joint Engineer for the River Blithe Scheme in connection with the preliminary investigations prior to the passing of the Company's 1939 Act.

Mr. E.W. Dixon, who was in his eighty-fourth year had retired from his practice as a Consulting Engineer in Leeds and had been living in recent years at Shenstone with his son, Mr. T.E. Dixon, to whom we extend our sympathy.

MR. GEORGE R. WARREN.

We also regret to report the death on January 20th last, at the age of 65, of Mr. George R. Warren.

Mr. Warren joined the Company's service in 1899 as a clerk at Tipton Depot and in 1921 he was transferred to Wood Green as Chief Clerk. He served at Wood Green, where he was responsible for all records in connection with wages, meters, transport, and the testing of fittings, until his retirement in 1950.

Mr. Warren was a keen supporter of the Staff Association and also the Benevolent Fund, of which he was a Vice-President.

Mr. Warren was cremated at Perry Barr on January 25th 1951.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Warren and her Family in their sad loss.