

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
WATERWORKS COMPANY

NEWS REVIEW



HEAD OFFICES,
SHEEPCOTE STREET.

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No. 1.



EDITORIAL

Water has recently been in the news not, as often, the lack of supplies due to drought, but the devastation caused by the sea breaking through the sea defences at many points on the East Coast, at a time when the spring tides were lashed by a gale.

Such a catastrophe brings home to the public the magnitude of the forces which are unleashed when large volumes of water get out of control.

It is, however, our job to collect, purify and distribute water and for this purpose it is necessary to build works to contain, on a smaller scale, such forces. When criticism is offered, as it often is, of the solidity of our structures we can point to this recent disaster, explain that we cannot afford to have even a small scale flood and that structures must therefore be built to withstand the worst foreseeable conditions that may be imposed by nature or misfortune.

The winter is now behind us and as our winter programme of social events is nearly over, our plans for the summer season should now be well advanced. The weather prophets have predicted a fine and warm summer and most especially do we wish for such weather at the commencement of June when the Coronation of our young Queen Elizabeth is to take place. The Coronation is a link with the past which serves to remind us of our priceless heritage and binds our Commonwealth of Nations closer together. This will be the first occasion when this magnificent pageantry may be seen on the television screen but even this is a poor substitute for a personal view of the colourful procession which some of us will remember at the time of King George VI's Coronation in 1937.

In August of this year our Company celebrates its Centenary and we should be glad to receive for publication short accounts of anecdotes and links with the past, of which we are sure some of our readers must have knowledge.

Round and about

SUTTON COLDFIELD

A most enjoyable evening.

On Wednesday the 18th February, our Social Club entertained a representative contingent from Head Office to what can truly be described as a pleasant informal evening. Games of Snooker, Billiards, Bagatelle and Darts, together with refreshments and beer, not competitive in the latter case, made up an evening when Esprit de Corps was evident amongst our members and everyone joined in the fun.

Some outstanding individual performances were made at darts and mention must be made of the iron nerve and poise displayed by Mr. R.H.Taylor and Mr. D.B.Anderson, the latter being narrowly beaten by our temporarily one-handed Ted Paris.

We have at last found in Mr. A.W.Tibbenham a worthy billiards opponent to the Great Edwards and we have discovered that Mr. D.H.Robertson cannot put anything across Mr. R.J.Wright when it is vital to work out an angle and use 'side' on a billiard table. Mr. W.Gordon, a stayer in combat, defeated in his partnership with Mr. Tibbenham, gave an example of fine generalship tempered with mercy. We rather think the ladies were the victors at Bagatelle; we were pleased to have them with us and hope their male opponents were not too humiliated.

Thanks in no small measure are due and extended to our Honorary Secretary, Inspector E.Hendley, for his untiring efforts to ensure the success of the evening and he was nobly supported by the Superintendent, his Deputy, and Messrs. Ricketts, Hendley, H.Paris, Prendergast, Wallington, George and Wilde.

A welcome was given to our new colleague C.Miles, and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. May we meet again soon.

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Ganger (Serg.) A.Paris, who at one time or another has told most people where to get off, came to cross purposes with himself last week and smashed the end of a finger; a painful stitching operation was necessary. The Super and himself were both sick at the sight of it, but both equally better after a strong tot of Rum. Good Luck Ted - we'll be seeing you soon.

THE VOICE OF CANNOCK

The Annual Meeting of the Sports and Social Club was held at the Black Horse Hotel in November. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Cherrett, Mr. T.E.Kendrick presided over a representative gathering - refreshments being provided by the Club.

In his review, the Chairman paid a warm tribute to the Club Officers for the manner in which they had surmounted their difficulties during the first full year. It was unanimously decided to place on record an appreciation of the services of the Honorary Secretary. The Auditors' Report, which showed a very healthy state of affairs, was accepted and they were thanked for their services.

The following Officials were elected:-

President - A.Cherrett	Vice-President - T.Kendrick
Chairman - S.Marshall	Vice-Chairman - E.Borley
Secretary - T.Potts	Treasurer - E.Bailey

It was good to know that we had been able to renew the lease of the Club rooms for another year.

We were all very sorry on the 31st December to say goodbye to Mr. B.Milward. Bert was one of the nicest and most respected men at our Depot. The sum of £6. was subscribed at the Depot to purchase a suitable gift and in handing it over to him, Mr. A.Horton expressed the wish of us all when he said, "May you enjoy many years of happy retirement".

One of our aims in the development of the social side was realised on Saturday the 31st January, when we visited the Theatre Royal, Hanley, to see "Goody Two Shoes". A full coach load of members with their wives and families had a wonderful evening. We all enjoyed our visit to our old friends at Head Office on the 24th February.

Our football team still struggles gaily along in spite of the last disaster - the gale blew our pavilion into the next parish, causing us to play all our games away. It is not too difficult to disrobe on the beach but for 22 males to attempt this feat on an elevated field adjoining a main road seemed full of complications and possibilities, hence the wisdom of playing away until our dressing room accommodation can be restored. Our membership remains steady, our finances sound and our faces are turned towards the Spring and Sunshine.

CHILCOTE TRUE STORY

It was nearly dusk, the evening was warm and peaceful and, as usual, I was in my garden. I was admiring the onion plot and enjoying a smoke of home grown "Havana", when my attention was attracted by noises in my neighbour's garden. It sounded as if wooden boxes were being moved but as the greenhouse was in the way I could not see what was going on. Then I heard a hurried padding of feet and said to myself "Tom seems in a hurry". He was quite the centre of attraction as he cried to his wife "Throw some water on me", to be followed shortly at a higher pitch "Throw some more on me". All the time he was hanging on grimly to his wooden box and as the injections became more forcibly applied he gave a desperate yell "Throw the bucketful over me."

Did I laugh? Well, yes, but not for long, as Tom had thoroughly upset the happy home. The whole colony of bees decided on a policy of total war and came over the border, so I beat a hasty retreat into the house and left Tom to extract his stings and honey.

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Mr. A.W. Boneham, late of Revenue Department, was recently presented with a badge and certificate to mark his 10 years' service as a committee member, now Treasurer, of the Smethwick Branch of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association.

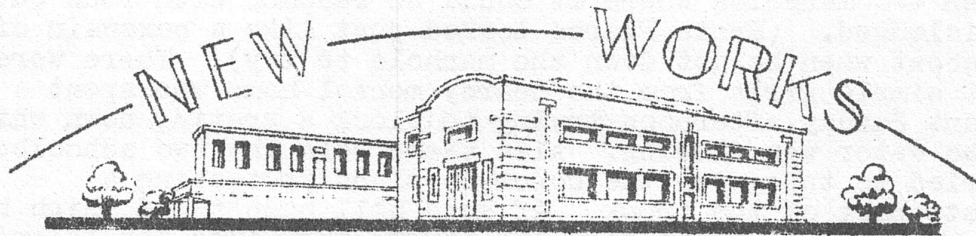
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WEST BROMWICH COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

Of the many consumers who attend at West Bromwich to pay their accounts, none is more interesting than an old gentleman of 86 years, who among other things lays claim to the title of Local Historian.

During his last visit to the Office, he recalled those far off days before the advent of a pumped water supply to each house in the town, when a certain lady known as "Miriam" plied her trade as a water carrier from the well at Houghton Street, at the bottom of Spon Lane, West Bromwich.

Her scale of charges was considered fair and reasonable by the people of the district. For a distance of approximately half a mile, between Houghton Street and Sams Lane, the charge was a halfpenny per bucket. This was increased to a penny per bucket anywhere past Sams Lane. It was rumoured after the opening of Dartmouth Park Pool that Miriam had received the contract to supply the water from the well at Houghton Street, but this was never confirmed! Some of the Works in the neighbourhood were said to employ one or two boys whose sole job was to fetch and carry drinking water from the well for the men working at the local furnaces.



CHURCHILL PUMPING STATION

When the first borehole at Churchill was tested last summer at a depth of 800 feet, the yield of $1\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons a day from a water level 300 feet below ground was disappointing, both in quantity and level. Various suggestions for improvements were made, including explosive charges, which it was suggested might be used to join the two boreholes together below ground. To prove this idea the contractors were allowed to let off explosives in a nearby quarry to show what they could do; the result was a very damp squib. Finally it was decided to bore No. 2 hole to a greater depth and carry out a second test to see if the yield were improved.

Carrying out a pumping test may sound simple, but it involves co-operation between a great number of people. Firstly, temporary pumps must be lowered down the hole, which require electricity. Since the mains have not yet arrived on the site, power was provided by mobile generators; one was supplied by the Company and another by the contractor. These generators had to be kept running night and day throughout the test, for a complete breakdown would ruin the results. Secondly, the water pumped must be disposed of; at Churchill the nearest stream is the River Stour two miles away. A course was provided for this distance, which was patrolled throughout the test to see that the water was getting away without causing a miniature Lynmouth. Throughout a test, water levels must be measured at the boreholes and at adjacent private wells in the district to see the effect, if any, upon ground water levels. Thirdly, emergency supplies of water must be available in case any of these wells are dried out. From this it will be seen that during the test there were four sets of people on duty night and day; two teams of generator operators, a party of brook walkers, and an observer on the site to record the flow and water levels, while in addition to these Bob Plant was driving round the district measuring the wells.

In spite of all these preparations there were some unrehearsed incidents. There was the generator which stopped in the middle of the night for lack of fuel; was this really due to a blocked filter or had the tank run dry? There was

the sample bottle which fell down a drain and stuck midway between two manholes where it could be reached with rods but not dislodged. (Ernie Pierce looked just like a coxswain of a lifeboat when he got down the manhole to try). There were the 30 simple girls from the nearby mental home who spent a pleasant Sunday afternoon trying to block a grating down which all the water was flowing. Also there were the two schoolboys who tried to take away the concrete slabs protecting a delicate part of the brook. If Fred Holl hadn't had thigh boots on he would have caught them and thrown them into the Islandpool! Lastly, there was the fog which didn't help the change over of shift men; indeed, one night the driver who left Churchill at 11 p.m. didn't get back to Walsall until 4 a.m. What an ordeal!

On the thirteenth day of the test instructions were given to stop pumping. Sighs of relief echoed round the site, to be followed by a deathly hush as the generators slowed to a stop after their fortnight of incessant noise.


Now you may ask was it worth it? Yes, indeed it was. $2\frac{1}{4}$ million gallons a day was obtained with a water level of 260 feet below ground, all done by boring a further 150 feet, making the borehole a total depth of 992 feet.

Where does the water come from? From the Bunter Sandstone we know, but does this work like a sponge, storing up the rain which seeps into the ground, or does the water flow through cracks in the rock? The experts can't agree, but there is a local farmer who knows better, for he heard his Dad say that there is an underground lake at Churchill and he reckons we must have bored into it!

SEEDY MILL PURIFICATION WORKS

In February a further four rapid gravity filters were completed and put into commission, bringing the total number now in use up to twelve. A further four filters, the chemical house and two accelators, are now well advanced and it is hoped that they will be ready for commissioning this summer. The Contractors have taken advantage of the recent dry spell and good progress has been made with the foundations for the two additional accelators and eight rapid gravity filter units, contracts for which were recently awarded.

LADIES' PAGE



We are told that visitors from overseas usually remark that an Englishman's main topic of conversation is the weather. Perhaps they're right, but I think they must admit that we've had something to talk about this winter, which seems to have been continuous since last September. We've had fog, snow, sleet, floods, bronchitis and 'flu and never was the sight of a little snowdrop or a crocus more welcome than it has been this year. But at last Spring seems to be round the corner and instead of huddling over the fire there are holidays to be planned and the first gardening jobs to be tackled.

Whilst most of us have simply endured the Winter, one member of the staff seems to have enjoyed it and has written a very interesting description of her favourite hobby. Here is her account of what happened.

"Fly By Night"

"I have just finished a 'one act' - it's about aeroplanes and witches. I should like to put it in for the Festival and there is a part for you". So said our local Playwright when I called to see her one Saturday afternoon. Then followed a reading of the play, with the anxious author listening with trepidation to the words she had written coming through the minds and mouths of others. At the conclusion - "Well, what do you think?" One said, "Well, it certainly has a good climax", and another, "I think it is most interesting"; another, "How shall we manage the props, those wings, the pulley and all the instruments of an apothecary?" The proposed stage manager replied, "Oh, I shall manage those all right". So it was decided that we should go ahead.

Rehearsals progressed, as they always do, through an interesting first few rehearsals with books, the finding of lots more in the words than was first thought, the hidden meanings which the author considered should be brought out by a break here and an innuendo there. Then the movements were finalised and the poor witch was encumbered by a broom, which always seemed to be at one end of the stage when it was wanted somewhere else and - how was she going to be lifted and an attempt made

to throw her over the battlements?! By degrees these difficulties were overcome, the wings were produced and although the apothecary was supposed to follow Leonardo Da Vinci I am afraid Leonardo would have considered them a bit amateurish. However, they produced the desired effect, with wind gauges, measuring instruments and so on, pulleys and sails. Then came the question of lighting. The climax was produced by the final flight of the apothecary, whose flight by man made means had failed, and the witch, both on the witch's broom, from a burning inferno below. 'Darkness and a sudden flash' was required, during which the apothecary and the witch vanished from sight. Biscuit tins, bulbs, wiring and so on were found and after many experiments the timing was brought to a fine art and we were ready for the dress rehearsal.

Well - here was a company of people who liked their play and had every confidence in it, the dresses had been designed by the local Art Mistress and clothes used in a previous play adjusted to suit, and we started.

As you probably know, an author has definite ideas about how her play should be produced and when the author is also the producer, the best is not always made of the play. Anyway, the small audience of Secretary of the Group, Chairman and Committee, said at the conclusion of the dress rehearsal - "It is slow - it falls flat in the middle". Oh dear, what were we to do? Someone suggested that such and such a part should be speeded up, and another character made a little stronger and so on. This seemed a little late when the Festival was the following week. However, we were appearing on the final Saturday so with a rehearsal every night after the performances of other competitors we thought we would see what could be done.

The night of the performance, everybody dithering, the only person who knew what he was doing and was quite confident that everything would be fine was, amazingly enough, the Stage Manager. He had to produce boxes of instruments, wings, pulleys, sheets, bangs, blackouts, flashes to the second, but he was happy. The bell rang, the 'Sorcerer's Apprentice' started on the gramophone and the curtain was drawn. On went the apothecary, then his apprentice and they started. A titter from the audience - and from that moment the hearts of those still to go on, the author, the producer and the stage manager just leapt. We looked at one another with a light in our eyes; another titter and another laugh - 'Oh good, they like it!' Then it was over and the only thing to dread was the Adjudication. There was one play after ours and then it came. The adjudicator slated this play, admired one character in another, gave a helpful suggestion to another group and so on. Then ours - she didn't seem to have any criticism to make, our witch she admired, the grouping of characters seemed to be right and - she enjoyed the play, the

costumes and setting. Now the award of the cups - there was only one point between the two groups with the highest marks, the play with the best piece of acting of the Festival in it and "Fly by Night". Cheers in our corner! Wonderful! Then -- the Cup to "Fly by Night"! Oh! Most amazing! We had made it after all!

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NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Sick Heart River	John Buchan
The Betrothed	Alessandro Manzoni
Colonel Julian	H.E. Bates
Festival at Farbridge	J.B. Priestley
This dear Encounter	Catherine Hutter
Blue Peter Breaks the Rule	Allen Luke
The Border Wolf	R.A. Bennet
The Breeze of Morning	Charles Morgan
The Saviour of the Navy (S. Pepys)	Arthur Bryant
I am Jonathan Scrivener	Claude Houghton
Love in Chains	Errol Fitzgerald
Love comes unasked.	Cicily Colpitts

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BOOK THESE DATES

April 10th	Whist Drive
April 24th	Film Show

The Royal Opening of the Claerwen Dam in Technicolour. The Birmingham Water Department's own record of this great occasion.

"Journey to the Snows". A colour film of the 1952 Monte Carlo Rally. A really beautiful film.

There will be additional supporting films.

May 8th	Whist Drive (Last one of the season)
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TABLE TENNIS

How time flies! The 1952-3 Season is almost gone, and our 20th year of competitive table tennis has not been without excitement. Div.4, Birmingham League, has proved to be comprised of 10 Teams of exceptionally equal strength, resulting in more drawn matches than in any other of the 37 Divisions within the Birmingham Association. With one match to be played our record is P.17, W.7, D.6, L.4, and we are runners up at the moment. I say at the moment, as all depends on our performance at Fort Dunlop next week and if we slip --- bingo -- there go our medals!! Competition is that keen.

Roger Waddington is still providing sparkling Table Tennis and leads the averages. John Stock, Harry Irish and Reg. Stanton follow close behind. Mention must also be made of burly Bob Stamps with his famous "straight left" and who continues to get them back, frequently to the astonishment of his opponents!

In spite of severely handicapping the recognised players, one of the 'A' Team - John Stock - has battled through to the Final of the Fred J. Dixon Competition. His opponent will be young Bob Swingler of Rating Department, who defeated much fancied veteran H.J. Stampe in the Semi Final. Can John Stock give his young opponent 30 points start in a game of 45 points and still win? That is the problem -- and will be solved in the Final to be played next week.

The Season's grand finale is, as usual, the fight for the H. Kirk Cup - to be commenced next week. Can John Stock win it for the third consecutive year? I wonder.

JOINT SPORTS COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting of the Joint Sports Committee was held at The Belle Vue Hotel, Walsall, on Friday the 27th March, under the Chairmanship of Mr. R.H.Taylor.

In his annual report, the Chairman said that the Committee had met on several occasions and had applied itself to the task of collaborating the sporting activities of the employees. The job had been an up-hill one but it could be claimed that we had had some measure of success. Whilst the Committee's task was chiefly administrative, it was absolutely vital that enthusiasm and support should be spontaneous.

The Chairman then paid tribute to the work of members of the Committee and also spoke of the valuable services rendered by Mr. E.S.Field, who was the Committee's first Vice-Chairman until his retirement from the Company in August 1952. The report showed that three additional sports clubs, at Walsall, Tipton and Wood Green, had been formed during the year, making a total of six in all, with approximately 266 subscribing members.

Cricket and football matches had been played and we had also had a small Angling Competition.

Mr. Tibbenham then presented the Statement of Accounts and explained that the small balance in hand would be required during the coming twelve months in view of more ambitious programmes, and the possible Sports Day which it was hoped would be held during the summer.

The following officers were unanimously re-elected :-

Chairman	Mr. R.H.Taylor.	Vice-Chairman	Mr. L.Morrall
Honorary Treasurer	Mr.A.W.Tibbenham.	Honorary Secretary	Mr. C.H.F.Gilbert

The following representatives were nominated for the Committee :-

(Benevolent Fund) Mr. J.H.Mann. (Staff Association) Messrs. J.Fisher, D.B.Anderson, P.J.Burton

(Cannock) Messrs. D.Winfield and T.Potts. (Sutton Coldfield) Messrs.E.Hendley and W.Wallington. (Tipton) Messrs. J.Rogers and E.Elliott. (Walsall) Messrs. R.Pearsall and R.Onions. Wood Green. To be nominated.

STAFF ASSOCIATION EVENTS

The Annual General Meeting of the Staff Association Club was held in the Canteen, Sheepcote Street, on Friday the 27th February last, under the Chairmanship of Mr. R.H.Taylor.

We often wonder why so little attention is paid to this annual opportunity for members of the staff to come along and really tell the Committee what they think of the administration. On this occasion there were only twenty-nine members present, and this out of a total of more than two hundred. Records show that during the last six or seven years the largest attendance has been forty and the smallest eighteen. Is this a compliment to the management on their conduct of affairs, or just plain apathy?

The Agenda was on much the same lines as in previous years and after we had appointed our three scrutineers (who performed their duties very adequately) the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read and confirmed.

Then followed our Chairman's Annual Report. Prefacing this with a welcome to all present, Mr. Taylor went on to say that here was an occasion on which the Chairman and his committee gave the annual account of their stewardship. He paid tribute to several who had by one means and another endeavoured to "keep the flag flying" under sometimes difficult circumstances. Particular reference was made to the excellent work which had been carried out by the social sub-committee under the wise guidance of Mr. R.McC.Stanton. These loyal workers had been responsible for the organisation of many more social functions than hitherto and equally gratifying with their numerical success was the fact that the functions had been practically self-supporting. Mr. Taylor also made mention of the work of Mr. J.P.Hewlett and his colleagues in producing the News Review.

Unfortunately, our Honorary Treasurer was prevented from attending owing to illness and his annual statement of accounts was presented by Mr. J.W.Whitworth, who spoke of our finances as having been well controlled and in a reasonably sound position.

Our President and Vice-Presidents, our Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Auditors were all re-elected for a further term of office. Some interesting changes resulted from the ballot for membership of the Executive Committee. This was the first year of the new constitution and certainly the first occasion for several years upon which it has been necessary for voting papers to be completed by the Secretary's staff. Such competition is all to the good, however, and we shall look to our new committee to exert themselves to the full in an effort to bring about a re-awaking of enthusiasm amongst those who have fallen from active membership.

It was good to hear from the Honorary Treasurer of the Canteen that this institution was now just about "keeping its head above water", although Mr. A.W.Tibbenham sounded a warning note that we had the forthcoming summer holidays with which to contend which always meant a loss of revenue despite constant expenses and we could not therefore afford to be too complacent. Mr. Tibbenham also reminded us of the willing help which is given in the administration of the Canteen by Mrs. Bowser and Messrs. Rowan and Wigley.

The Honorary Secretary of the Tobacco Club - Mr. R.F.Chamberlain, was re-elected, as was the Librarian - Miss D.F.Lees. Both these branches of the Association render good service. Mr. Stanton also gave us news of the Table Tennis Club - a valiant body of people who have "held the fort" for many years now. How many of us remember when we first started knocking a ball about on a discarded office table more than twenty years ago.

"Any other business" found us discussing items as far removed as the resuscitation of the Chocolate Club to the allocation of the profits on the sales of drinks; from the appointment of Honorary Members to the possibility of holding a Dinner/Dance.

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

Secretary's Department. Messrs. Britt, Burton, Waddington and Clarke.

Engineer's Department (Inside Staff) Miss Lees, Messrs. Wright, D.H. Robertson and Rowan.

Tipton Depot. E. Jones

Walsall Depot & Wood Green R.R. Pearsall

Lichfield Area and Outside Staff on Construction Work J. Fisher

Burton, Cannock and Sutton Depots T. Hunt (Co-opted)

CANNOCK AT BIRMINGHAM

On Tuesday evening, the 24th February, Head Office Canteen was a hive of industry. Above the buzz of conversation and the clinking of glasses could be heard the blip of darts flying to their target, the crack of table tennis bat to ball, and the click clack of dominoes, for there, Cannock Depot Sports Club were 'waging an extremely friendly war' against their hosts at Birmingham.

Their arrival in goodly numbers soon after 7.30 p.m. was heralded by the removal of a completely innocent and somewhat surprised lamp post, which then leaned drunkenly against the wall outside the Office until rescued by police and Gas Board workmen.

After initial greetings and partaking of the essential liquid refreshment, Darts, Table Tennis, Crib and Dominoes were soon going in fine style. It was good to see Cyril Gilbert the "Hon Sec" doing battle on the Table Tennis Table, successfully too, against Fred Harris of cricket fame; and Tom Potts, the Cannock "Hon Sec" fighting it out with our Mr. Tibbenham at crib.

The Head Office Ladies were holding their own too; Dora Lees was Birmingham's solitary winner at dominoes, narrowly beating Joe Illsley, though Muriel Pritchard fought a losing battle at Table Tennis against Basil Pitt.

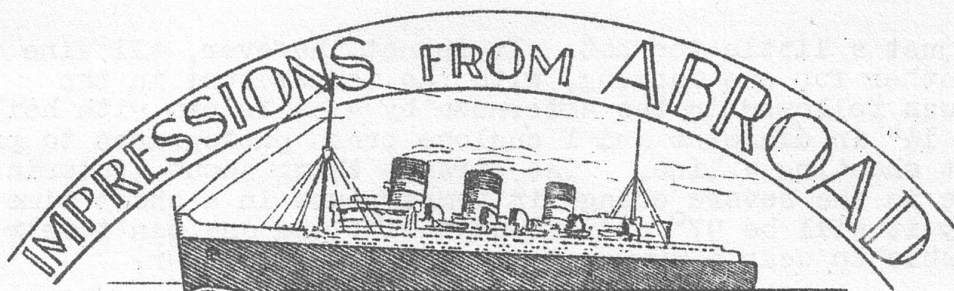
And so it went on until Supper, and in a very short time the banqueting table gave ample proof of the popularity of the fare provided.

By this time it was generally agreed to call a halt to the more energetic pastimes and the evening drew to a close with the stentorian voice of Cyril Gilbert calling Kelly's eye, Top of the house, and Clickety click, and all enjoyed a few rounds of House.

We should like to know if Don Winfield is still doing early morning exercises with his skipping rope, and if Sam Marshall has caught any outsize fish yet with his ground bait!

And so it all ended, on a very happy note with Birmingham just about having the better of things in the competitions, but as Reg Stanton said, what do the scores matter so long as everyone enjoyed themselves, and it was generally agreed that everyone had.

Cannock might like to know that there is a nice brand new lamp post just outside Head Office!!



News has recently been received from Mr. P. Apperley, (Secretary's Department) who is now doing his National Service in the Canal Zone of Egypt.

Mr. Apperley writes:-

At the expiration of my embarkation leave in November, I reported to Aldershot and was issued with tropical kit. Whilst waiting for movement orders, officially confined to barracks, I managed a hectic Saturday in London and a Sunday trip to Kensington. I then moved to the assembly centre, a grim wartime deep shelter, and thence to Blackbushe Airport. I took off at 9 a.m. in a Hermes with first stop scheduled for Marseilles; this was a great experience and we all behaved like school children having a ride in a baker's van. The 'plane was directed from Marseilles to Nice but unfortunately I was not allowed off the aerodrome, so contented myself with sampling some excellent wine. The next stop was Malta, then to El Aden, 18 miles from Tobruk, and the final hop, giving me a magnificent view of the Nile Delta, brought me to my camp here, where the quality of food, feeding etc. is back to army standard. There is, however, a good Naafi where cigarettes are cheaper and chocolate etc. dearer than in the U.K.

The day starts at 5.15 a.m. and finishes at 1 p.m. with, in winter months, an afternoon spell from 2.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m. two days a week; there is, however, one snag, a guard every fifth night. I have already had many grand times and I'm now in full agreement with the saying "the army is what you make it."

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We have also heard from Mrs. A. Banner (nee Nona Overton) late of Engineer's Typists, who emigrated to Australia just over a year ago.

Mrs. Banner writes :-

The summer is here and all my spare time is spent on the beach, the temperature being between 85° - 100° , the latter

being just a little too hot. It is not, however, all fine hot weather for one morning, with the temperature in the 80's, was followed in the afternoon by a hailstorm with hailstones $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter and I enclose press photographs to prove I'm not shooting a line. The strange thing about Victoria's climate is the severe change in temperature in a short time. One day it will be 97° and the next 61° , and one can't rely on being able to wear a summer dress two days together.

It may interest you to know how we spent Christmas Day with temperatures in the 80's; we gallantly ploughed through chicken and plum pudding and then to rid ourselves of the excess heat we retired to the beach to cool off with a bathe and console ourselves with a copious supply of icecream.

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SPORT CONTINUED

FOOTBALL

Somewhat late in the Season our Football Club has come to life and on Wednesday the 25th March a Staff Association Team visited Dudley Road Hospital and after a good game were victorious by 5 goals to nil.

The game started quietly and after 15 minutes play Dick Burchill scored a lovely goal with an accurate shot from a difficult angle. Encouraged by this goal we began to have the bigger share of the play and just before half time Clive Foster headed home a lovely centre by Dick Burchill. In the second half we rather overran the home team and further goals were added by Clifford Bateman, Harry Irish and one of the Dudley Road Hospital backs, who put through his own goal.

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On Sunday the 29th March at Bloxwich, in appalling conditions, a Staff Association Team defeated Walsall Depot by 2 goals to 1. Walsall, who played with ten men (including two reserves) put up a gallant fight and it was not until just before the interval that Clifford Bateman netted for the Association, after a hard shot from Harry Irish had been pushed out by Dick Keay, who played a good game as emergency goalkeeper.

Immediately after the interval in exactly similar circumstances, Clive Foster made it 2-0 for the Association and it looked as though they might romp home. But Walsall fought back and reduced the arrears with a goal by Bill Yates.

Leslie Bailey and Colin Packwood were the Association stars and Walsall were well served by right back Brian Arblaster and centre half George Greenfield. The match was most ably refereed by J.H.G.Hensman.

Personalia

RESIGNATIONS

P. Darby
Miss Ann Haynes

Revenue Department
Engineer's Dept. (Postal Room)

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to the following on the occasion of their marriages.

R. Wigley, Order Department, on the 21st March
W.D.C. Carlow, Cash Office, on the 21st March
Reg. Parker, Dudley Collector's Office, on the 28th March
Miss Barbara Evans to B. Gastinger, formerly Revenue Dept.,
on the 28th March.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. S. Wimbush upon the birth of a Son and Heir on the 13th February.

Also to Mr. & Mrs. G.W. Anderson, Lichfield, on the birth of a daughter, Carol, on the 20th January 1953.

RETIREMENT

E. Howl, Assistant Turncock, Walsall Depot, retired on the 11th March, aged 65 years, after 38 years' service with the Company.

CONDOLENCE

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Mr. S. Davenport on the death of his wife on the 2nd March.

RETURNED FROM ACTIVE SERVICE

Bert Clarke

Formerly Service Dept. now transferred to duties in Meter Department.

L.W. Bailey

Formerly at Smethwick Collector's Office, resumed duties in Revenue Department

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

J.M.Poxon

Architect's Department

SICKNESS

We hope that all those who have suffered during the recent influenza epidemic have now fully recovered and we send our best wishes to all who are still indisposed.

DEATHS

W.Clarke, Walsall Depot. Died on the 28th February after 28 years' service with the Company.

George Stockley. Formerly Boiler Cleaner at Lichfield Pumping Station, on the 8th March 1953, within a few days of his 84th birthday. Mr. Stockley, who was the father of G.Stockley, Sandfields, retired in March 1933.

MISCELLANEOUS

Readers who remember Mr. H.A.Prangnell, formerly Engine Tenter at Lichfield, who retired on the 5th January 1944, will be interested to learn that he has now left Teignmouth where he has resided during his retirement, and is now living with his married daughter at 7, Second Avenue, Lichfield.

News has also been received of Miss Greatholder in Vancouver. Miss Greatholder still corresponds with one member of the staff and wishes to be remembered to all her old friends.

We extend our congratulations to Mr. K.J.Smith of Sandfields Laboratory on his appointment with the East Surrey Water Company. Mr. Smith will take over his duties very shortly and will be working with Mr. A.S.Davison, also formerly engaged at Sandfields.

Many of our readers who knew Miss E.Stockham (formerly Engineer's Typists, and at one time our Honorary Librarian and member of the war period "Revue") will have heard with regret of the death of her Father - Prebendary A.J.Stockham - on February 9th in his 90th year.