

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
WATERWORKS COMPANY

NEWS REVIEW



HEAD OFFICES,
SHEEPCOTE STREET.


AUGUST 1960

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No. 2







EDITORIAL

More photographs will be found in this Issue, including those of Mr. I.E.Wallis, Assistant Secretary, and Mr. J.Lamont, Deputy Engineer. We are indeed fortunate, as both men immediately took a keen interest in Staff Association affairs.

Mr. I.E.Wallis, who came to us from Luton in 1954, is at present engaged on the vast reorganisation job in connection with the Powers-Samas Department, and has been a valued member of the Executive Committee of the Staff Association since 1955.

Mr. J.Lamont, previously with the Colne Valley Water Company, joined the Company in November last, and will long be remembered for his witty speech at the Annual Dinner last March, when, as our newly elected Vice-Chairman, he proposed the Toast to the President, Vice-Presidents and Visitors. I think perhaps he knew he was the subject of much speculation, but he can rest assured that he came through that evening with flying colours.

Now that the holiday season is almost over, perhaps we can look forward with eagerness to the coming winter. We shall not be disappointed if we do have snow and fog - it won't be anything unusual, but it does seem rather unfortunate that the "weatherman" must have had prior knowledge of the S.S.W.Five-Day Week and so decided that most of our weekends should be rainy ones.

Whilst having my usual half-hour nightly read in bed recently, I came across a word which was completely strange to me - I often do for that matter, and there is no peace until the dictionary is brought out. This I did - before breakfast the following morning. "Ombrophile", meaning a plant enduring long-continued rain without injury. I also noted the word below in the dictionary - "Ombrophobe" - a plant that cannot endure long-continued rain. Who knows, perhaps 1961 may be the year for the Ombrophobe.

NORAH DAYES
EDITOR

Around and about

THE VOICE OF CANNOCK

Writing an article for the News Review while sitting on the causeway at Worms Head is quite a novel experience for me. The gentle murmur of the sea at one's feet with the rich green coastline of the Gower stretching out as far as one can see seems to breathe an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity. One could sense how Grey felt when he wrote his famous elegy, "In a Country Churchyard" 'far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife'.

However, to talk about oneself usually indicates a sign of increasing age and at the moment, so many of our friends on the Company are retiring it is wise to turn away from the "Old Man with the Scythe and Hour Glass" to more mundane things.

In a previous article I referred to the closing of a number of our collieries. We are now seeing a new and pleasant feature, following the closing of East Cannock Colliery; in view of the havoc it caused us, our former Engineer-in-Chief must have sighed for it to have closed years ago. However, a wonderful transformation is now taking place. The Stacks have been dropped and all the pit head gear and ugly buildings have been removed. The huge unsightly mounds of rubbish are being levelled and a new and modern factory with lawns and shrubs flanked by a small housing estate is taking its place. Perhaps visitors to our district in the distant future will wonder - Was this once a mining area - as the legacies left by the coalfield disappear for ever.

It was pleasing to note the interest that was aroused by the notes about Cannock Chase in the last issue of the Review. A member of Head Office Staff went along this route and found it a most pleasant journey; we hope to give you more in the future.

A recent London newspaper had a headline stating that a bearded Water Inspector had been ordered to shave it off or else!

In our old photographs of the Company's Employees we see them wearing hard hats and glorious beards. One Turncock at Cannock, many years ago, went by the appellation of "Bug Wiskers"! One wonders whether this fashion will ever return or will the beards be tinted like the modern ladies' hair.

Hanging in the Mains Office at Cannock is a handsome Oak Plaque engraved "First Aid Trophy" with two winners' names - Head Office 1940 - Cannock 1941. This brings the question as to how many qualified First Aiders are there on the outside staff of the Company? And will the younger members get down to it in the future and make this Trophy a real thing?

Finally, it is with great pleasure we congratulate our Engineer-in-Chief, Mr. R.H.Taylor, and assure him of our loyal and devoted service. We sincerely hope his term of office will be a long and happy one.

Mr. A.Cherrett, Superintendent.

The end of July brought to a close yet another chapter in the Chronicles of the Depot with the retirement of Mr. A.Cherrett.

On Friday afternoon, 29th July, a representative gathering of staff and workmen met at the Depot to make a presentation to Mr. Cherrett. This took the form of a 'Gift Cheque' in a suitably illuminated and inscribed folder.

Mr. Challinor in handing the cheque to Mr. Cherrett, expressed the thoughts of all present that both he and Mrs. Cherrett would have a happy and contented retirement.

Mr. Cherrett suitably responded and thanked everyone for the loyalty and co-operation shown towards him during the 14 years he was in office as Superintendent.

On the day prior to his retirement, Mr. Cherrett came in to Head Office and received a cheque from Mr. D.H.Robertson, Chairman of the Staff Association, on behalf of the members.

A letter has since been received from Mr. Cherrett expressing his deep appreciation of the gift and regretting that he was not able to see everyone at Head Office.

He says he is now looking forward to a quiet life free of mining subsidence!



RAIN STOPPED PLAY

Dear Summer, a fickle maid thou art,
For thou promised us things to gladden the heart,
The wonderful thrill of the sun's warm caress,
The wealth of beauty in summer's full dress,
The perfume of flowers borne on the breeze,
The song of birds, the hum of bees,
Plans for holidays and hours of leisure,
With sights of grandeur from nature's treasure,
The game of cricket on the village green,
And the soaring "Six" that cleared the screen,
The battle of wits with Chub and Bream
With feet immersed in the cooling stream,
A game of Bowls whether "Crown" or "Rink",
With the traditional end "Let's go for a drink",
But too often the sun is obscured by cloud,
Too often grandeur has a misty shroud,
Too often the country has water in the ridge,
Too often the angler shelters 'neath the bridge,
Too often bowls have to wait another day,
Too often at cricket has "Rain stopped play",
So please dear Summer don't spoil all our fun,
But allow us once more to bask in the sun.

S.J.M. Cannock

RETIREMENT OF MR. H.P.J. WRIGHT

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, TIPTON DEPOT.

We are very sorry to report that due to ill health, Pat Wright has found it necessary to retire from the Company after 38 years' service, at the age of 62 years.

He joined the Company in 1922 and after a period in the Waste Department, became Leading Waste Inspector. He was later transferred to the Staff as a Fittings Inspector and after a time became Chief Fittings Inspector. A few years ago he had to relinquish this position owing to his rheumatic complaint and since that time has been employed in the office. He has always been well known on the district as he lived in the bungalow down the drive at Tipton Depot before he moved to his present address about 2 years ago.

It is very gratifying to know that although not physically fit, Mr. Wright's mind and memory remain extremely good and we all hope that after a period of complete rest his health will improve and that he will enjoy many happy years of retirement.

SUPERANNUATED MEMBERS' ANNUAL OUTING

Total ages	4189
Average age	71
Total service	2026
Average service	34.3

Such was the proud record surrounding our former colleagues who took part in their Annual Outing on Friday, 17th June.

Earlier in the day we had had a brief Visit from the Minister of Housing and Local Government and Seedy Mill had been a hive of activity for weeks in preparation for the reception of our honoured guests of both morning and afternoon.

Midland Red coaches had conveyed our Superannuated members from selected points and glorious weather, and a delightful array of flowers greeted their arrival at Seedy Mill.

For most of the afternoon our "Old Timers" appeared to be very contented sitting around in reminiscent mood and prior to tea they were able to watch an underwater swimming display in Hanch given by Bill Webb (Laboratory) assisted by George Anderson (Water Treatment).

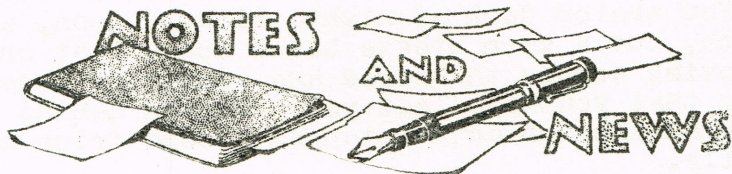
The Chairman of Directors presided over the tea, which was served in the marquee erected on the lawn in front of the Blithe Pump House. Mr. Burman was supported by Mr. & Mrs. Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Tibbenham, Mr. & Mrs. Lamont, together with Messrs. Wallis, Hall, and other senior members of the Staff. During the meal, Maurice Udloff gave us a selection of items on the piano.

Mr. Burman welcomed the guests on behalf of the Company and Walter Arms (formerly Chief Waste Inspector, Cannock Depot) replied thanking the Chairman and Board of Directors for such an enjoyable outing.

After tea and a last look round the Station, the party rejoined the coaches for a trip to Abbots Bromley, Kings Bromley and Yoxall, where final refreshments were served prior to the homeward journey.

Card received from a Holidaymaker in Devon, 14th July.

Will swop four pairs of sun glasses (as new) for plastic mac and spare umbrella; wellingtons or rubber shoes also considered. No reasonable offer refused. Half used bottle sun tan oil (vintage '59) thrown in. Also wanted sharp knife for dealing with webbed feet.



I was very pleased to receive a long letter from Anne Oakes, who before emigrating to Australia with her parents, was a typist in the Service Department. Her letter, written 'diarywise', was 14 pages long, so I am afraid I shall have to cut it down a little. However, if any of her friends would like to read the letter I shall be pleased to pass it round. Her account of the journey made interesting reading and I'll try and give it as far as possible as she wrote the letter.

"After a day's journey by train to Southampton, we finally set sail at 9.30 p.m. and my thoughts were with all my friends. My feelings were a bit mixed at the idea of leaving England and I'm afraid I wanted to panic and dash off the ship. The Stewards - all Italian - were very helpful (or tried to be) but their English was not too good.

The first morning, with the ship rolling a bit, I woke up feeling cold and went for a walk before breakfast. Quite a number of passengers were feeling ill but I bravely ordered bacon and eggs - after one mouthful I decided to go to my cabin! After that, although not seasick, I skipped breakfast and had a mid-morning snack at 11.30 a.m.

There was always something doing. A film show, a dance, various card games, P.T., or a concert, and I managed to enter into most of the entertainment. The dances were the best, of course.

On the 14th February we docked at Port Said and at 5 a.m. I was called up to see the men in their little boats trying to sell their wares. I bought a pair of shoes for 7/6d - very soft leather but I don't expect they will last very long.

We started to go down the Suez Canal in convoy and luckily we were the first ship. There were about 14 or more ships and we were held up from early morning until after 6 p.m. waiting for a north bound convoy to come through.

The temperature by then varied from day to day - 80°-90° and our deck chairs were in the shade. It was very delightful to have a bathe at 7 a.m., when very few people were about.

Everyone was glad when we reached Aden because we could go ashore and this we did at 3.30 in the afternoon. There was not a proper dock and they had to bring a landing stage out to the ship and we went ashore by launch. We saw quite a few English boys and stopped for a chat, but as far as Aden went, we thought it was dirty and smelly and we were really glad to get

back on board the "Fairsea", by now, my home. It is strange how soon one settles down. You are on deck at night, with no moon, and everywhere seems as black as pitch, but a warm breeze blows and all at once you realise you are in a city moving across the world and something seems to happen. You lose the feeling that you have left your friends behind and you become part of that city. From then on acquaintances become friends and friends become your family.

I've heard a lot about the "crossing the line ceremony" and at 4.30p.m. on the 23rd February everyone joined in the fun. The victims (who had volunteered) had chocolate, flour, eggs, ink and lots of water over them, and then to top it all had to eat a cake with either cream or mustard and a drink of either sugar water or salt water. Everyone by this time was in good form for the Equatorial Dance in the evening, and wow! that was great fun.

We visited the Bridge but although two navigators managed to explain things, I'm afraid it was rather too complicated for me to understand and the same applies to the engine room. Perhaps the heat dulled our brains - by the 24th February the temperature had reached 90° and it was still winter. There were days when one felt definitely lazy and hadn't the energy to do anything but sleep in a deck chair, or try to stay awake and listen to the band.

There was a Fancy Dress Dance one evening and at the last minute I decided to go as an Indian Lady. I didn't get a prize - the lucky winner being "Miss Sputnik". There were a lot of children on board, all very excited, particularly when a masquerade party was arranged. The Captain said everyone deserved a prize and they all got one.

Early in March we docked at Freemantle and with the formality of the Customs over, we went ashore and had a wonderful time going round the shops. After leaving Freemantle the sea was rough and dancing at night was almost impossible. One suddenly found oneself at the opposite side of the lounge. We had cloudy days and rain - and seasickness.

On Tuesday, 8th March, we came to the end of our journey, and rather tearfully said goodbye to our friends. When the visitors came on board I met my sister for the first time for 10 years and strangely enough felt as if I had never been away from her. I couldn't bear to take my eyes away from the ship, although she was soon out of sight. But it was a wonderful feeling to be in Australia and I am sure I'm going to enjoy life here.

I've got a job in a Solicitor's office. We have income tax to pay but no insurance and the Hospital Benefit Association contribution of 2/- per week is a 'must' in case of illness".

Anne goes on to say how much she would like to hear from her friends and hopes to send some snaps later on. Her address is -

c/o 22, Hillside Street,
Springvale North,
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

News has been received from Bert Clarke, formerly Service Department/Meter Department, who emigrated to New Zealand six years ago. He was in the Air Force for 5 years and since October of last year has been working for the New Zealand National Airways Corporation as a Reservations Clerk. Bert was married on the 24th October last year and hopes to sail for England on the 27th October 1960. He has saved hard during the six years abroad he says, and now hopes to buy a business somewhere in the south of England.

He is looking forward to seeing his old friends at the office later in the year but in the meantime, wishes to be remembered to everyone - "especially Eric 'I'll-never-get-married' Clainey!" (Something - or someone - seems to have changed his mind for him, as Eric now has a wife and a daughter aged 2 years!)

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS COMPANY'S
EMPLOYEES' MUTUAL THRIFT FUND

COMMITTEE

A.W.Tibbenham (Chairman) P.J.Burton, W.Chatfield, W.Paterson, B.Pedley,
D.H.Robertson, W.J.Sale, L.Severn, A.Spink, L.B.Stokes, I.E.Wallis,
F.C.S.Ward, J.W.Whitworth.

Honorary Secretary
A.E.Fewtrell

Honorary Treasurer
E.Burgess

The thirty-third Annual General Meeting of the Employees' Mutual Thrift Fund was held at the "Belle Vue Hotel", Moat Road, Walsall, on Friday, 27th May 1960 at 7 p.m. Mr. A.W.Tibbenham was in the Chair.

The Report and Statement of Accounts in respect of the year ended 31st March 1960 were read and explained in detail to the meeting. These were unanimously adopted and the Meeting accepted the Committee's recommendation authorising the payment of interest of 4% tax free to be credited to members' accounts, the balance to be put to reserve.

The following Officers were re-elected for the ensuing year :-

Chairman. Mr. A.W.Tibbenham
Honorary Secretary. Mr. A.E.Fewtrell
Honorary Treasurer. Mr. E.Burgess

It is pleasing to report the further growth of the Fund and the steady increase in interest payment over the last 6 years is shown below:-

Year ended 31st March	1955	=	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ %	Free of Tax
" "	" "	1956	=	3% Free of Tax
" "	" "	1957	=	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ % Free of Tax
" "	" "	1958	=	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Free of Tax
" "	" "	1959	=	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ % Free of Tax
" "	" "	1960	=	4% Free of Tax

The total membership of the Fund at 31st March 1960 was 258 and all employees of the Company are eligible to become members either by means of regular savings by deductions from salaries or wages or by lump sums which are acceptable without limit. Further particulars are obtainable from the Officers or a member of the Committee.

MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE

4th October 1960. Annual Outing/Visit to Works.

Further details later.

ASHWOOD PUMPING STATION

ELECTRIFICATION

It is interesting to note that the first section of the electrification of Ashwood Pumping Station commenced pumping water into supply at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, 4th August.

A vertical spindle borehole pump has been installed, driven by a 230/60 b.h.p. variable speed motor and a booster pump driven by a 450/210 b.h.p. variable speed motor, having an output of 2 million gallons per day and capable of pumping into the Springsmire area and direct to Shavers End Reservoir when the main between Ashwood and the Navigation Inn has been installed.

Before the second units can be permanently installed the old steam engine has to be removed and a considerable amount of work must be undertaken, but it is anticipated this will be in service early next year.

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A small Booster Pump was brought into supply at Blithe Bridge on the 22nd August to improve the pressure in the Kingston area.

MAJOR WORKS IN PROGRESS

BURTON-UPON-TRENT

Construction has started on the new 4 million gallon service reservoir on a site adjacent to the existing reservoir which was built in 1882 and which also has a capacity of 4 million gallons. The new reservoir is of reinforced concrete construction and the work is being carried out by Messrs. Thomas Lowe & Sons of Burton. When complete, the new reservoir will have the same top water level as the existing one and will operate in conjunction with it, thus doubling the service reservoir capacity for Burton-upon-Trent and district.

At the same time a new 18" diameter inlet/outlet main is being laid by Messrs. Whittaker Ellis Limited, which will, apart from dealing with the increased quantities of water required, afford a duplicate main between the reservoir and the town.

The tender of Messrs. Whittaker Ellis Limited has been accepted for a new 18" main to be laid alongside the A38 road for a length of about 3 miles between Alrewas and Branston, to enable more water to be pumped into Burton from Seedy Mill.

COOKLEY PUMPING STATION

The outlet of this station will be 3 m.g.d. When built it will have 3 dispersed boreholes with submersible pumps, pumping to a central suction tank of 60,000 gallons capacity, and two variable speed booster pumps for pumping into the supply through the new 18" diameter and 21" diameter mains to be laid from Cookley to Lawnswood, via Kinver and Stewponey.

Work is due to commence shortly on the boreholes which will be 36" diameter, reducing to 18" diameter, approximately 600 ft. deep, and the contractors for this work are Le Grand Adscro, Southall, Middlesex.

The 18" dia. and 21" dia. mains will be steel jointed with 'Johnson' Couplings and the pipes are being supplied by Messrs. Horseley Bridge & Thomas Piggott Limited. A contract for the mainlaying will be let shortly.

WEST BROMWICH BOOSTER STATION

This booster or repumping station is being provided to afford increased quantities of water for distribution in West Bromwich and parts of Smethwick and Oldbury and to increase pressures in these areas. The capacity of the station will be between 8-15 million gallons per day.

The building of the pump house and 2 cottages is in progress, the contractors being Messrs. O'Dair Bros. Messrs. Whittaker Ellis Limited have been awarded the contract for the 27" diameter suction and delivery mains from the pump house to the existing mains.

The 3 principal trunk mains into West Bromwich converge at All Saints and the connections to the existing mains are being carried out by direct labour. A connection to the 24" cast iron main was made just before the August holiday, advantage being taken of the low consumption at the time due to the works holidays. A second connection to an 18" diameter steel main was made two weeks afterwards and the final connection to an 18" diameter cast iron main will be made next month.

TRENT VALLEY ELECTRIFICATION

The new electrical plant in the new pump house with adjacent 60,000 gallon underground suction tank is complete and in operation, and the old steam engines have had their day.

This pumping station, before the reconstruction, was one of the few exceptions to the Company's rule regarding standby plant. The two engines, pumping from 4 boreholes, were in continuous use, one pumping to Walsall Reservoir and one to Burton.

Now a new submersible pump has been fixed in each of the boreholes, delivering water to the suction tank. Two of these pumps are capable of delivering as much as the old steam engines.

CONSUMPTION

It is now general knowledge that during fine weather earlier in the year the statistics for water supplied were broken again and again. The maximum day occurred on the 22nd June when 56.21 million gallons were supplied. The maximum week, i.e. the highest seven consecutive days, occurred between the 17th and 23rd of June, when the average daily consumption was 52.637 and the maximum fortnight was from 23rd May to 5th June, when the daily average was 50.98 million gallons.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The following visits to works of the Company have taken place and letters continue to come to hand expressing thanks to the Company for the privilege granted, and to the Guides, for making these tours so interesting and instructive.

AUGUST

Visit of Student Nurses from St. George's Hospital, Stafford, to Blithfield Reservoir and Seedy Mill Purification Works.

Visit of 20 children from the Lichfield & Tamworth Division Conservative & Unionist Association to Seedy Mill Purification Works.

Visit of Schoolboys taking a Course at the Laboratories of the English Electric Company Limited, Stafford, to Blithfield Reservoir.

JULY

Visit of 20 Sixth Form Pupils from the High School for Girls, Sutton Coldfield to Sandfields Filtration Plant.

Visit of Students from The Friary School, Lichfield, to Sandfields Filtration Plant.

Visit of 4 members of the Building Staff of the Walsall and Staffordshire Technical College to Sandfields Filtration Plant.

Visit of two parties of "School Leavers" in connection with the Christian Fellowship Weeks, Spode House, Hawkesyard Priory, Rugeley, to Seedy Mill Purification Works.

Visit of Members of the Lichfield City Young Conservatives to Blithfield Reservoir.

Visit of Children from Yew Tree Junior Mixed School, Walsall, to Blithfield Reservoir.

Visit of Boys from The Mercian School, Tamworth, to Blithfield Reservoir and Seedy Mill Purification Works.

JUNE

Visit of Students from the Anstey College of Physical Education to Sandfields Pumping Station.

APRIL

Visit of Girls from the Chase Terrace County Secondary School to Maple Brook Pumping Station.

Visit of Students from the Burton-upon-Trent Technical College to Blithfield Reservoir.

Visit of a party in connection with the Staffordshire County Council Education Committee, Area Youth Office, to Chilcote Pumping Station.



RETIREMENT OF MR. H.R.BATEMAN

Mr. H.R.Bateman, the Company's Architect, retired from the Company's service on the 30th June 1960, after 41 years' service, during the last 15½ years of which he had been in charge of the Architectural Department.

Throughout his service with the Company Mr. Bateman always showed keen interest in the wellbeing of the staff and served for many years as a member of the Staff Association Executive Committee. He was Honorary Secretary from 1933-1936 and Chairman for 1937 and 1938. He also served as a representative of the Contributing Members on the Superannuation Committee from 1938 to 1940.

Mr. Bateman was Commander of the S.S.W.Company's L.D.V. Company formed in May 1940, which was attached for Administrative purposes to the 34th Battalion of the Warwickshire Regiment.

In June 1941 the unit was transferred to the 30th South Staffordshire Regiment (Home Guard) when the Company Commander was appointed Captain. On March 23rd 1942 Captain Bateman was promoted Major, and remained in command until the unit was disbanded in September 1944, at which time two hundred of the original four hundred and sixty members were still serving.

Our Company (which was really an independent command) had to maintain a friendly liaison with many local units in South Staffordshire and also carry out training in about a dozen widely separate districts. These special difficulties were overcome mainly by the tact and patience of Major Bateman.

To mark his retirement, Mr. H.R.Bateman was invited to join the Chairman and Board of Directors to lunch in the Board Room, when he was presented with a cheque to purchase a refrigerator.

At an informal ceremony on the 29th June, Mr. Bateman's colleagues in the Private Dining Room presented him with a wrought iron electric clock, and in making the presentation, Mr. R.H.Taylor thanked him for the many years' service with the Company and hoped he would look forward to a long and happy retirement.

Mr. A.W.Tibbenham added a personal gift to his Bridge Playing Partner of several years, which was a book on "How Not to Call". This was accepted in the happy and friendly spirit in which it was offered.

Members of the Staff and Employees at the Pumping Stations and Depots also subscribed towards a gift to Mr. Bateman, who was handed a cheque by Mr. D.H.Robertson, Chairman of the Staff Association. Mr. Robertson thanked him for the considerable assistance he had rendered to the Staff Association in the past and said we were all sorry to see him leave, since we were not only losing a friend but also someone who could be regarded as one of the 'characters' of the S.S.W.Company.



RETIREMENT OF MISS D.WAKEFIELD

Miss D.Wakefield retired from active service with the Company on the 30th June 1960.

She joined the Company when the offices were in Paradise Street and commenced work in what was then known as the Enquiry Office, afterwards moving to the Mechanical Department where she has been Costing Clerk until her retirement.

During her 40 years with the Company she has made many friends and whilst undoubtedly looking forward to her retirement, must feel a certain amount of regret at leaving her colleagues of many years' standing.

A Presentation of an electric iron was made by Mr. C.T.Langdon on behalf of her colleagues in the Electrical/Mechanical Department, when he expressed the wishes of all that she would have many years of health and happiness in her retirement.

A Presentation was also made to Miss Wakefield by the Chairman of the Company on behalf of the Board of Directors, thus showing their appreciation of her long and conscientious service.

Members of the Staff at Head Office, together with Employees at the District Offices and Pumping Stations, also wished to show their appreciation of Miss Wakefield's loyal service and Mr. D.H.Robertson, Chairman of the Staff Association, handed her a cheque, again with expressions of health and happiness.

Miss Wakefield thanked everyone for their gifts and we understand the cheque has been used towards some furniture which she has particularly wanted for some time.

We look forward to seeing her from time to time at our various Staff Association Functions and hope she enjoys a long and happy retirement.

LADIES' PAGE



It is a long time since we had a contribution for the Ladies Page and instructions are given below for a jumper in the new Courtelle, in readiness for our Autumn knitting.

Materials Required: 7 oz. Wakefield & Greenwoods Courtelle. A pair each of Nos. 14 and 12 needles. A set of four No. 14 needles or a short circular needle No. 14.

A reel of Sylko to match Courtelle.

Measurements: To fit a 35"-37" bust. $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves.

Tension: 8 sts. to 1" and 12 rows to 1" over stocking st. on No. 12 needles.

Stitches: Main work is in stocking st. which is knit first row - which is the right side, and purl on wrong side.

Pattern: Consists of 3 rows :-

- 1st Row. Wrong side - Knit.
- 2nd Row. Slip first stitch. *make 1, K. 2 tog.* repeat * to *, knit 1.
- 3rd Row. Wrong side - Knit.

Abbreviations: Alt.= alternate. beg.= beginning. k.= knit, k.2 tog.= knit 2 stitches together. inc.= increase or incs.=increases. dec.= decrease, or decs.= decreases. p.= purl. sl.1 k.1 pssso= slip one stitch, knit one stitch and pass slipped stitch over knitted stitch. st.= stitch or sts.= stitches. m.1 = make a stitch by putting the wool over the needle. st.st.= stocking stitch.

NOTE: All increasings (other than the actual 2nd pattern row) are made by lifting the wool between two stitches on the previous row and placing it on the left hand needle - then knit into the back of it with the right hand needle.

Always slip the first stitch knitwise at the beginning of every row. Always knit the last stitch of every row.

BACK * With No. 12 needles cast on 50 sts. Work 4 rows in st.st., starting with a knit row. 5th row (rt. side) inc. 1 st. at beg. of row at this edge every following 6th row. This edge is the top sleeve edge. On the 12th row (wrong side) Work the pattern and on every following 20th row. No further reference will be made to this pattern of 3 rows.

When there are 64 sts. on the needle, inc. at under sleeve edge as follows: 1 st. every alt. row 9 times - still increasing every 6th row at top sleeve edge.

At undersleeve edge cast on at beg. of next and alt. rows:- 3 sts. twice, 4 sts. 3 times and 6 sts. 4 times = 120 sts. Keeping undersleeve edge straight continue incrg. at top sleeve edge every 6th row until there are 131 sts. 180 rows * Work 2 rows.

At beg. of next 2 knit rows k.2 tog. and on the 3rd knit row cast off 4 sts. Now work on 125 sts. for 54 rows. Work 2 rows.

** At beg. of next k. row cast on 4 sts. then at this same edge inc. 1 on next 2 alt. rows. 131 sts.

At beg. of next row at top sleeve edge dec. 1 st. and on every following 6th row at this edge.

120 sts. now on needle: still decg. every 6th row at top sleeve edge, at underseam edge cast off 6 sts. 4 times, 4 sts. 3 times, 3 sts. twice and k. 2 tog. at this edge of beg. of next 9 rows. 64 sts. Continue to decrease at top sleeve edge until there are 50 sts. Work 5 rows. Cast off. **

FRONT Work as for back from * to *.
Work 3 rows. At beg. of next and every alt. row at front edge. Cast off 20 sts. once, 12 sts. once, 8 sts. once, 4 sts. once, 2 sts. once and 1 st. 5 times = 85 sts.
Work 12 rows. (centre rows are pattern - this is a check).

At beg. of next row at neck edge and every following alt. row at this edge inc. 1 st. 5 times. cast on 2 sts. once, 4 sts. once, 8 sts. once, 12 sts. once and 20 sts. once. 131 sts.

Work 2 rows and continue as for back from ** to **.

TO MAKE UP

With double Sylko, sew up with back stitch on the wrong side the top sleeve edges only, taking care to match patterns.

With No. 14 needles - either the short circular pin or the set of four - and right side facing, pick up and k. from right back shoulder 12 sts. across back 54 sts. and up left back shoulder 12 sts. (first pin of set of four) Pick up down left side front 66 sts. across front 23 sts. (2nd pin of set of 4 picks up 66 + 12 of centre sts. = 78 sts.) and 66 sts. up right side of front edge (3rd pin of set of 4 picks up 11 from centre, 66 sts. up side front = 77 sts.) Total 223 sts.

1st Round: Knit
2nd Round: k.12, sl.1 k.1. pssso. k.50, k.2 tog. k.31, k.2 tog. k.19, k.2 tog. k.19
k.2 tog. k.29, sl.1 k.1, pssso. k.19, sl.1 k.1, pssso. k.19, sl.1 k.1 pssso. k.19.

3rd Round and every alt. round - Knit.

4th Round: K.12, sl.1,k.1,psso., k.48, k. 2 tog. k.30, k.2 tog. k.18, k.2 tog. k.18, k.2 tog. k.29,sl.1 k.1,psso., k.18, sl.1,k.1 psso., k.18, sl.1 k.1,psso., k.18,

6th Round: k.12, sl.1, k.1, psso., k.46, k. 2 tog. k.29, k. 2 tog., k.17, k.2 tog.,k.17, k.2 tog., k.29, sl.1,k.1,psso., k.17, sl.1,k.1,psso.,k.17, sl.1,k.1,psso., k.17.

8th Round: k.12, sl.1,k.1,psso.,k.44, k.2 tog.,k.28,k.2 tog.,k.16, k.2 tog.k.16,k.2 tog,k.29,sl.1,k.1,psso.,k.16,sl.1,k.1,psso.k.16, sl.1,k.1,psso.,k.16.

10th Round: k.12, sl.1,k.1,psso.,k.42,k.2 tog.,k.131.

12th Round: k.12, sl.1,k.1,psso.,k.40,k.2 tog.,k.131.

13th Round: Knit.

14th Round: Purl into back of stitches to make the hem line.

15th Round: Knit

16th Round: K.12, inc. 1, k.42, incl.1, k.131.

17th Round: and every alt. round: Knit.

18th Round: K.12, inc.1, k.44, inc. 1, k.131.

20th Round: K.12, inc.1, k.46, inc.1,k.29, inc.1,k.17, inc.1, k.17, inc.1, k.29, inc.1,k.17, inc.1,k.17.

22nd Round: k.12,inc.1,k.48, inc.1,k.30, inc.1,k.18, inc.1,k.18, inc.1, k.29, inc.1, k.18, inc.1,k.18,inc.1,k.18.

24th Round: K.12,inc.1,k.50,inc.1,k.31, inc.1,k.19,inc.1,k.19,inc.1, k.29,inc.1,k.19,inc.1,k.19,inc.1,k.19.

26th Round: K.12,inc.1,k.52,inc.1,k.32,inc.1,k.20,inc.1,k.20,inc.1, k.29,inc.1,k.20,inc.1,k.20. inc.1,k.20.

27th Round: Knit.

28th Round: Cast off.

Turn this edging to the wrong side and hem stitch neatly with wool, taking care not to stretch or pull the neck.

CUFFS

With right side facing you and the pair of No. 14 needles, pick up and knit 88 sts.

Rib in k.2,p.2,for 20 rows. Cast off.

WELTS Back. With No. 14 needles and right side facing, pick up and knit 156 sts. (about 5 sts. to 6 rows). Rib k.2,p.2,for 4 inches.Cast off.

Front welt: With right side facing and No. 14 needles, pick up and knit 140 sts. (about 3 sts. to 4 rows). Rib k.2,p.2, to match back welt.

Sew up side seams with double Sylko and back stitch. On the wrong side oversew the cuff welt and main welts with wool.

Personalia

NEW EMPLOYEES

Miss J. Hyland
Miss S.M.Thacker
Mr. P.Symons
Mr. G.N.Henshaw
Mr. K.A.Twigg

Powers-Samas Department
Sandfields Laboratory
Distribution Department
Architectural Department
Elec/Mechanical Department

RESIGNATIONS

Mr.F. Bowland
Miss T.Manning

Walsall
Accountancy Department.
(Miss Manning has left to join the
Police Force and we wish her every
success in her new career.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. H.R.Bateman, Architect, Retired on the 30th June aged 68 years,
after 41 years' service.

Miss D.Wakefield, Clerk, Electrical/Mechanical Department, retired 30th
June after 41½ years' service.

Mr. W.H.Wilcox, Foreman, Wood Green Pumping Station, Retired 18th July,
aged 65 years, after 41 years' service.

Mr.A.Cherrett, Superintendent, Cannock Depot, Retired 31st July,
aged 67 years, after 36 years' service.

Mr.D.Morton, Foreman, Huntington Pumping Station, retired 22nd
June, aged 65 years, after 38 years' service.

Mr. H.P.J.Wright, Assistant Superintendent, Tipton Depot, retired due to
ill health on 31st July, aged 62 years, after 38
years' service.

DEATHS

We regret to report the following deaths.

- Mr. W.J.Wallington, Formerly Turncock, Sutton District, who retired in September 1957, died on the 7th July, aged 68 years.
- Mr. E.T.W.Hill, Formerly Assistant Turncock, Walsall Depot, who retired in December 1949, died on the 7th July, aged 75 years.
- Mr. R.Chetter, Formerly Waterman, Cannock Depot, who retired in July 1947, died on the 17th May, aged 71 years.
- Mr. J.Hutchinson, Formerly Mainlaying Foreman, Tipton Depot, who retired in 1939, died on the 25th May, aged 85 years.
- Mr.S.E.Matthews, Formerly Engine Tenter, Fradley, who retired in July 1949, died on the 30th August, aged 83 years.
- CORRECTION

We regret that when recording Mr. Britt's retirement in the April Issue, Mr. Britt's age was given as 65 years. This should have been 62 years.

CONGRATULATIONS

We extend our best wishes to Mr. A.Challinor on his appointment as Superintendent of Cannock Depot, following the retirement of Mr. A.Cherrett.

We should also like to congratulate Mr. R.A.Jowle on attaining his B.Sc. Degree at Birmingham University.

And I am sure readers will be pleased to learn that Michael, son of Mr. J.H.Mann of Tipton Depot, has been successful in passing the Intermediate LL.B. examination at Kings College, London.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. A.Worthington (Meter Dept.) on his marriage to Miss Judith Stone on the 9th July.

Also to Mr. F.Shelton, Walsall Depot, who was married on the 9th July.

BIRTHS

To Mr. & Mrs. F.J.Richards, (Secretary's Department) a Son, on the 9th August.

To Mr. & Mrs. Grundon, a Son, on the 30th July. First Grandchild to Mr. & Mrs. J.Bradbury.