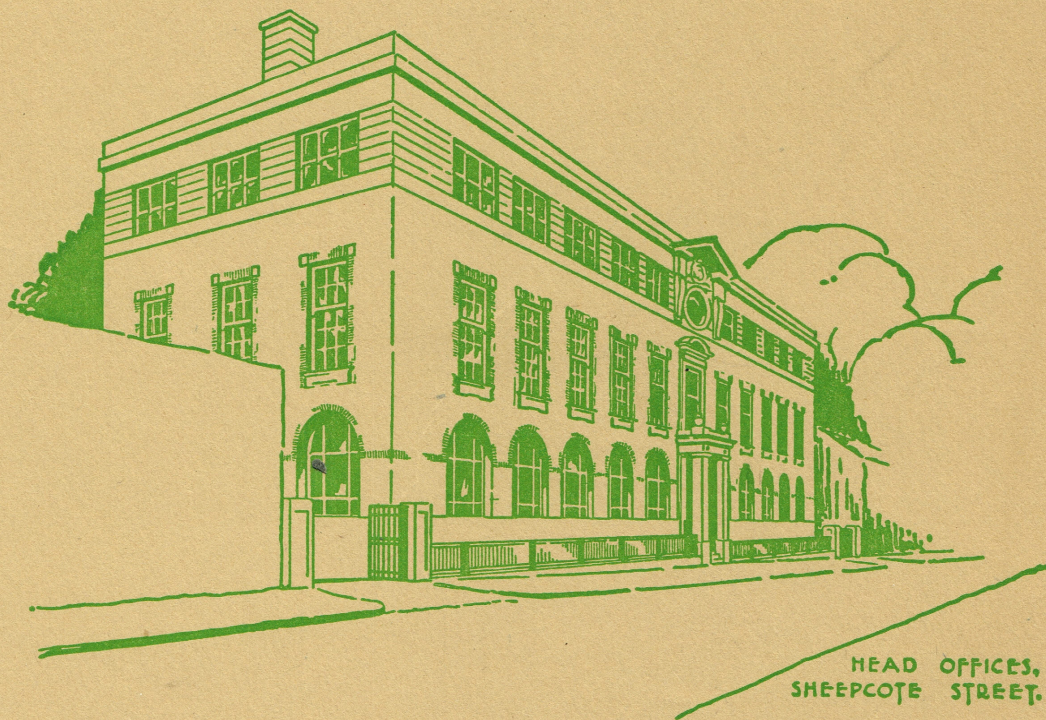


THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE  
WATERWORKS COMPANY

# NEWS REVIEW



HEAD OFFICES,  
SHEEPCOTE STREET.

AUGUST 1961

Vol. 11

No. 2





# EDITORIAL

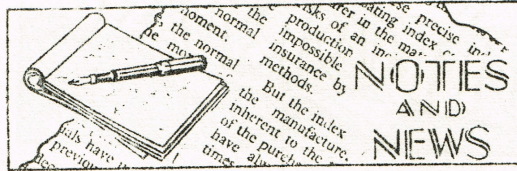
I am afraid the August Issue is rather late - not entirely my fault, however. One or two of my faithful "regulars" did help by sending their contributions promptly but at the end of August there was insufficient material to complete the issue. Due to holidays and pressure of work it was not possible to "get down to it" during September - but let us hope it is a case of better late than never.

Whilst chatting with the retired members of the Staff at the Annual Outing/Visit to Works, it was very encouraging to me personally to hear from them how much they appreciate the News Review and I am again asking for everyone to help me to produce an interesting magazine. Our retired colleagues like to keep in touch with us and are always interested in what is going on in the Company. The same applies in reverse, of course! We always like to hear from them. The next Issue will be published in January - please make a special effort.

We should like to add our congratulations to the many Tony Jowle must have received on his triple success in the Midland Amateur, Worcestershire Amateur and Worcestershire Open Golf Championships this season.

NORAH DAYES  
EDITOR





### SUPERANNUATED MEMBERS' ANNUAL OUTING

June 21st saw the fifth gathering of the Company's "Old Timers", when a party of Superannuated Members and their ladies, some 120 strong, visited Trentham Gardens. As usual, the weather was on its best behaviour and everyone was in good form.

The trip out was delightful, stopping only to pick up at several points. It was particularly pleasing to find at Cannock that Mr. Marshall, despite his tremendous handicap, was able to join us and was in good spirits.

On arrival at Trentham and after numerous reunions, the party split up into its own little groups who went their respective ways. Tea was taken at 4.30 p.m. so there was not a lot of time to explore the Gardens, but what we did see was most interesting and worthwhile.

In the party we were delighted to have Mr. & Mrs. Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Tibbenham, Mr. & Mrs. Lamont, Mr. Wallis, together with representatives of the Superannuation Fund Committee.

After tea, Mr. Taylor welcomed the party on behalf of the Directors and conveyed to us the Chairman's regret that he could not be with us on this occasion, also a message of good wishes from Sir Arnold and Lady Waters. Mr. Taylor remarked on the fitness of the 'Old Uns' and stated that the average service was 35 years.

Mr. W.Arms responded on behalf of the members and asked Mr. Taylor to convey our hearty thanks to the Chairman and Directors for their generosity.

In the short time remaining after tea, prior to the return journey, numerous members visited the Greenhouses and came away with various plants for their own gardens.

At 6.30 p.m. we said goodbye to Trentham and commenced the home-ward journey. Although this visit had been a nice change from the Blythe, it was felt we could not leave the Company's "Pride and Joy"



out of the picture altogether, so the return journey took us over the Admaston Road Bridge for another glimpse of the Reservoir. Then to a Hostelry in Abbots Bromley where welcome refreshment was served and farewells said as the Coaches left for their various ways home.

As usual, a good time was had by all, and our thanks once again to the Organisers and Coach Stewards for their tireless endeavours to make the Outing a success.

The Veterans of the gathering were, Mr. H. Shelton (Head Office) 81; Mr. G.E. Hick (Burton) 81; and there were numerous others well over the 70 mark.

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It was good to hear from our old colleague Mr. Rabbage recently. One remembers his keenness for photography and when reading his letter it is quite obvious that he still has an eye for colour and scenery. Here is an extract from his letter -

The Green Flash

Standing by the sea wall, looking at a wonderful sunset, something happened which had not been observed by me before, although I had been told about it. I had never bothered to look.

Out west over towards Lundy Island the sun was setting very rapidly and just as the last tip disappeared over the horizon there appeared this beautiful green flash. It was all over in a few moments but a most lovely sight to see. The sky was free from cloud right to the horizon, which made such an observation possible.

Perhaps some may have seen it, but to those who have not, it is worth looking for should the opportunity present itself. A small thing one might say, but beautiful nevertheless.

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PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE AWARDS

TWENTYFIVE YEARS' SERVICE

27th JULY, 1961

Mr. W.B.O'Neil,	Waterman	Tipton
Mr. L.W.Parsons,	Trenchman	Tipton
Mr. E.C.Kirkland	Deputy Superintendent	Blithfield
Mr. D.Price	Engine Tenter	Prestwood Pumping Station

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

Chairman            A. W. Tibbenham

Honorary Secretary

A.E.Fewtrell

Honorary Treasurer

E.Burgess

COMMITTEE

P.J.Burton, W.Chatfield, C.T.Langdon, W.Paterson, B.Pedley, W.J.Sale,  
L.Severn, A.Spink, L.B.Stokes, I.E.Wallis, F.C.S.Ward, J.W.Whitworth.

The thirtyfourth Annual General Meeting of the Employees' Mutual Thrift Fund was held at the "Belle Vue Hotel", Moat Road, Walsall, on Friday, 19th May 1961; Mr. A.W.Tibbenham was in the Chair.

The Report and Statement of Accounts in respect of the year ended 31st March 1961 were read and explained in detail to the meeting. In his remarks the Chairman said that the Fund had had yet another busy and excellent year and was in a sound position. There had been an increase in the number of Mortgage and Loan Accounts and the market depreciation on the undated stocks held was now matched by the Reserve Fund. The growth of the Fund was being maintained and the total membership at 31st March 1961 was 272. The Committee feels however that as this represents but a small proportion of the Employees of the Company there is room for much larger membership.

The Report and Statement of Accounts were unanimously adopted and the Meeting accepted the Committee's recommendation authorising the payment of interest of 4% tax free in respect of the year ended 31st March 1961 to be credited to Members' Accounts, the balance to be put to Reserve.

The following Officers were unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year.

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

It is pointed out that 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 can be obtained from the Officers or a member of the Committee.

A.E.FEWTRELL  
Honorary Secretary

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## CRICKET

### S.S.W.CO. V BRISTOL WATERWORKS

The twelfth annual cricket match was played at West Bromwich on the 2nd July.

Rain fell steadily all morning and by the time the Bristol coach arrived pools of water were lying on the ground. Prospects of cricket seemed very remote and at lunch it was suggested that we should take our visitors for a coach trip to Blithfield Reservoir as an alternative.

Mr. A.W. Tibbenham presided at lunch and in welcoming our guests said that he noticed that there were several notable faces missing from the Bristol ranks and hoped that this did not mean any falling off of enthusiasm for the match. He, personally, would be very sorry if this were the case and he would do all he could to keep alive the interest in the annual contests.

Mr. Broadhead, replying for Bristol, assured us that all the absentees had good and unassailable reasons for not attending, and that there was no sign of interest waning at Bristol.

During lunch the rain ceased, the pools on the pitch started to diminish and there now remained the not inconsiderable task of persuading the reluctant groundsman to mark out another pitch. This was eventually done and play started, belatedly but in sunshine.

Bristol batted first and scored 156 for 9; we made a splendid start, thanks to very good batting by H. Irish and J. Horton, but then 7 wickets fell cheaply and when stumps were drawn our score was 103 for 7. Result match drawn.

The position in the series is now :-

Played 12. S.S.W.Co. won 6, Bristol won 3,  
drawn games 3

Everyone who braved the morning rain will agree that it was a most enjoyable day for which, once again, chief thanks must go to Mr. Thomas and his tireless band of helpers.

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#### Quotes from our Calendar

"There are two kinds of people who never amount to much - those who cannot do what they are told and those who can do nothing else".

"When Opportunity knocks do not spend too much time putting the house tidy before opening the front door".

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### COOKLEY SCHEME

Two of the three boreholes have been completed to a depth of 600 ft. and work is proceeding with the pumping station and suction tank.

It is expected that this Station will be brought into commission early next year.

The mainlaying Contractors, Messrs. Whittaker Ellis, have almost completed laying three miles of 21" main from Kinver to Lawnswood. They have also started laying the 18" section of this main between Cookley and Kinver. This will be nearly 2 miles long when completed.

### WEST BROMWICH BOOSTER STATION

The new building being constructed by Messrs. O'Dair Bros. is almost complete and the pumping plant is being installed.

The cottages are nearing completion.

### WEDNESBURY BOOSTER STATION

Work on this new station will commence shortly. The Contractors for the work are A.F.R. Godfrey & Co. Limited of Wolverhampton.

### OUTWOODS RESERVOIR NO.2

Progress on this Reservoir, which will have a capacity of 4 million gallons, has been speeded up during the summer months. The walls and columns are rapidly gaining height and it should be possible to start on the roof in a few weeks' time.

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### PIPE HILL

During the industrial holiday an opportunity was taken to inspect the main flue behind the boilers. The fires had never been out since they were first lighted fiftyone years and three months ago, (according to "Dick") and it was anyone's guess as to what lay there. When access was gained to the flue there wasn't any doubt, and pre-arranged plans were immediately put into action for the necessary extensive repairs to be commenced. Round-the-clock working by the Company's bricklayers eventually saw the job completed and the boilers made ready for another spell of duty.

If anyone ever wonders what conditions are like in the nether regions of the hereafter, I recommend them to try a spell in one of these flues. It really is as hot as -- well, it is hot!

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### ANGLING NOTES

June 17th saw the Angling Club out in force to open the 1961-1962 Season with a Members' Contest in Stowe Pool. This was a very enjoyable event and was followed by an Evening Contest on Wednesday, 5th July. This latter event was not too well supported but good sport was enjoyed by those present. After Charlie had persuaded us to pack up in order that he could lock up, we adjourned to the "Local" where Dick Rowlands proceeded to show us that he is just as keen on Dominoes as he is on Fishing.

Messrs. Horseley Piggott Angling Club visited Stowe Pool on Saturday, 15th July, and members of the Angling Club were again invited to join them. Refreshments on this occasion were served from the "Waterman's Rest" - an appropriately named portable structure loaned by Sutton Depot Social Club.

Our old friends the Coventry Water Undertaking Angling Club visited Lichfield on Saturday, 26th August, and for the first time the Company's men managed to beat them, both in the individual and overall weights. However, the relationship between our two Clubs is such that the result is secondary to the friendship which exists. We also had a very welcome invasion of the Ladies on this occasion, who, together with an able Committee man acting as "Q.M.", provided a most excellent tea at the conclusion. We are most grateful to these Ladies, and I am sure we can count on their help again in the future as they seemed to enjoy the event.

At the time of going to press we have permission to invite Messrs. Gaskell & Chambers Angling Club, who will be accepting the challenge on September 23rd.

The Thomas Hunt Memorial Cup has been inscribed, and the Holders' Names to date have been duly recorded on the plinth. The present Holder of the cup is Mr. W. Bickley of Walsall Depot.

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## THE A.B.C. OF WATER

These days one frequently hears of Booster Stations and whilst we accept the fact that with the continued demand for our product these are in some cases a necessity, we also accept water without so much as a thought of the important part it plays in our lives from Baptism to the Grave. Our forbears did pay tribute with their Well Dressing Celebrations, but nothing is done now to glamorize our product. One could suggest an A.B.C. of Water, for to make it fit for our use it is Aluminated, Bicarbonated, Chlorinated, Dehydrated, Evaporated, Fluorinated, Gravitated, etc.etc. (Copies of the complete Alphabet are obtainable on request). One could further elaborate such as - Admired, Aqueducted, Absorbed and Abused. Bought, Brewed, Bottled and Beautified - there is no end to it.

When reading this issue of the Review it is safe to assume that for most of us, Summer Holidays will be a memory of happy days spent in most cases near water; in bulk around our coasts, in smaller quantities in lakes, untamed in mountain streams, or just the quiet ripple of the brook. Although it has existed since the world began and remained unchanged through the test of time, it never fails to attract. In the most beautiful garden there should be a fountain; this will be the focal point and not the flowers. Should the District Waterman open a hydrant, by some mystic power, old and young alike gather from nowhere to gaze at the water running away.

Without water, all life would cease. Industry would be paralysed. We of the human species also use it to wash in, swim in, or under it, sail on it, paddle in it, fish in it, or just enjoy looking at it, and of course we drink it (some rather reluctantly in its pure state).

Man uses water to his advantage, from the huge hydro electric schemes to the humble water wheel, to obtain motive power. Others make a living from it, by means of ensuring its conveyance in pure and wholesome quantities, by the carriage of goods, or by the hiring of boats for trips on rivers and inland waterways.

Mostly our contact with water is therefore pleasurable, but it can be fatal too- treat it with respect and caution.

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# STAFF ASSOCIATION EVENTS

## ANNUAL OUTING/VISIT TO WORKS

On the 12th September about 124 members of the Staff together with their wives and fiancées, boarded the Midland Red Coaches outside the offices in Sheepcote Street, wondering whether the leaden skies would brighten and if the weather would be kind to them.

After a rather late start (the party from Sandfields obviously haven't the slightest idea what a job we Birmingham Office folk have in coping with the traffic problem in a morning) we were soon on our way to Prestwood Pumping Station. This Station always pleases us, and although it was reported that there were no apples to fill our pockets and the gardens weren't quite up to the usual high standard, we still found this beauty spot quite delightful. The autumn flower borders obviously appealed to the ladies, and after a spell in the Pumping Station, many groups could be seen making mental notes of plants which looked particularly gay.

The rain still held off and our next stop was at The Stewponney Hotel nearby for a welcome cup of coffee.

We always look forward to seeing new works in progress and this year we were taken to see Cookley Pumping Station. The party soon split up into groups and grabbed an engineer who explained the various details to the laymen present. We look forward to seeing this Station when it is complete.

A sharp shower here made us hurriedly take cover in the coaches and we were on our way to Worcester. Lunch at the Deansway Restaurant was very enjoyable and admirably served. Mr. Lamont, Chairman of the Staff Association, extended a welcome to everyone and apologised for the absence of Sir Charles Burman and Mr. & Mrs. Taylor, due to pressure of work, also Mr. & Mrs. Tibbenham, who were on holiday.

Mr. Lamont said how pleased he was that we had a record attendance - 124 - and that he was particularly happy to welcome our Life Members who, under our new Rules, were able to be with us. He told us that our Life Members number 14 and nine had been able to join us - he was looking forward to seeing the full 14 next year.



Mr. Lamont said that such an Outing would not be possible without the very generous attitude of the Board and said he was sure we would wish him to convey to the Chairman and Board of Directors, through the Engineer-in-Chief, our warmest thanks for their very practical support.

After lunch the party boarded the coaches once more and after a pleasant, though short, drive through the countryside, we arrived at Ragley Hall, Alcester, the 17th Century Home of the Marquess and Marchioness of Hertford, where we viewed the famous Ragley Collection of Pictures and Works of Art. Has anyone read all the books we saw? I suppose not - we were told there were 10,000 of them. Some of us were perhaps glad we didn't have to include in our daily chores the cleaning of the magnificent silver in the dining room!

The Marquess had chosen a charming room for his study and it must be very pleasant to sit at one's desk gazing at the view over the lake of the Cotswold Hills. But perhaps the time would be spent daydreaming with very little work done.

Everyone found plenty to admire in this delightful Stately Home, but the weather was now fine and the gardens looked particularly inviting as we wandered through the grounds, inspecting the flower beds, noting particularly the roses and two orange blossom shrubs which, the gardener told us, were from cuttings of the wedding bouquets of the Marchioness and her Grandmother. The lake nearby also made a pleasant walk and what with the walking - and the talking - we were quite ready for the tea which awaited us. Some of us were intrigued by the various plants for sale, wondering if it were possible to get them home safely and one or two of the party did risk it. Hope they're thriving nicely.

The cameras were busy, with the peacock and peahens in great demand and one could see little groups of people on steps and by rose beds, with the photographers at the ready.

After tea, at the request of various members of the party, one coach left for Birmingham, leaving the more energetic ones to take the other three coaches to Evesham, where everyone enjoyed themselves in their own way.

Another Annual Outing over, another opportunity to see old colleagues, and another opportunity to see stations etc. and progress of work being carried out.

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### THEATRE VISITS

Over the past few months several visits to the theatre have been arranged and these have been very well attended.

A party of 51 went to the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, on May 31st, to see "Witness for the Prosecution", by Agatha Christie. This was a "Whodunit" with a surprising twist in the tail but very well done by the Belgrade Repertory Company. The architecture of this theatre is very contemporary but quite delightful and requests have been made for a further visit.

Several Bookings were made for members to see performances by the Doyley Carte Opera Company when they visited the Birmingham Hippodrome in July, the choice being "The Mikado" and "The Gondoliers"

On the 30th August another visit to Coventry was arranged when a party of 59 went to see "West Side Story" at the Coventry Theatre. Although this is a Musical, it is very different from the usual run of Musicals and not what one might expect, but on leaving the Theatre several people were heard to say that it was the best show they had seen.

The attendance at these Theatre visits is very gratifying to the organisers and it is hoped that further visits will be arranged in the future and that the same excellent support will be forthcoming.

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### WINTER PROGRAMME

October 14th (Saturday)	It is hoped to arrange a visit to Blackpool Illuminations - further details later.
October 27th (Friday)	Halloween Dance - Fancy Dress
November 24th (Friday)	Social Evening
Commencing October.	Second Friday in every month until March - Rock & Roll
December 21st (Thursday)	Christmas Dance
December 30th (Saturday)	Children's Party

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### RAMBLING IN SUTTON PARK

On Saturday, 8th July 1961, some 20 members took part in a new venture for the Staff Association. An attempt to interest members during the Summer months by arranging short rambles terminating or passing near places of interest or natural beauty.

This suggestion, I understand, was made by our energetic Chairman, Mr. J. Lamont, who very kindly undertook to provide tea for the participants at his home.

Ramblers gathered at the Wyndley entrance and proceeded through the Park, skirting Wyndley Pool, Keepers Pool and Blackroot Pool, pausing from time to time to admire the beauty of this natural park (and for the more elderly to regain their breath).

The Chairman was exceedingly busy during the walk taking candid snaps of unsuspecting members and the results when passed around the office during the following week caused many of the members who did not take part to realise what a treat they had missed.

Upon arriving at Mr. Lamont's residence in Blackroot Road, the ramblers discovered that about a dozen colleagues who had dodged the exercise were very comfortably ensconced in the garden and tea was served in a very efficient manner by Mr. Lamont's daughters and Mrs. D. Moore, very ably supervised by Mrs. Lamont, who had provided a repast which will long be remembered.

After tea, thanks to our Host and Hostess were expressed by Mr. Fewtrell and in response Mr. Lamont said how pleased he was that the first ramble was so well attended and implied that the occasion might be repeated next year.

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### ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

We shall be sorry to lose the invaluable services of Mrs. Bowser when she leaves us in the near future but we are glad to report that we have been able to persuade Miss P. German (Civil Engineering Department) to take her place on the Entertainment Committee.

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# Personalia

## NEW EMPLOYEES

Miss H. Avenell  
Miss C. Benham  
Miss M. Wolfe  
Miss A. C. Waters  
Mr. A. R. Duff  
Mr. B. G. Willetts  
Miss P. M. Thaxter  
Mr. C. Bennett  
Mrs. S. M. Swain  
Mr. R. C. Kittlety  
Miss A. E. Chittendon  
Miss A. W. Hucknall  
Mr. C. H. Kingsbury

## TRANSFER TO STAFF

Mr. C. E. J. Robinson

## RESIGNATIONS

Miss H. Wells  
Miss E. Heath  
Miss P. Bate  
Miss M. P. Cabey

## RETIREMENTS

Mr. H. Mason, Foreman, Trent Valley Pumping Station, retired 30th June aged 66 years, after 40 years' service.

Mr. R. Evans, Waste Inspector, Tipton, retired 14th August, aged 65 years, after 28 years' service.

Mr. L. Cox, Maintenance Fitter, Wood Green, retired 15th September, aged 65 years, after 9 years' service.

Mr. J. Bowers, Storekeeper, Cannock, retired 29th September, aged 63 years, after 41 years' service.

Service Department  
Sandfields Laboratory  
Typists Department  
Comptometer Department  
Civil Engineering Department  
Revenue Department  
Distribution Department  
Service Department  
Civil Engineering Department  
Architectural Department  
Tipton Depot  
Typists Department  
Distribution Department

Burton Depot

Service Department  
Typists Department  
Tipton Depot  
Comptometer Department



## DEATHS

Re regret to report the following deaths -

- Mr. A. Cherrett, formerly Superintendent, Cannock Depot, died on the 25th May aged 68 years.
- Mr. W. Shires, Formerly Superintendent, Sandfields, died on the 29th May 1961 aged 79 years.
- Mr. E. Pearce, Yard Foreman, Tipton, died on the 25th May aged 61 years, after nearly 25 years' service.
- Mr. A. Millington, Engine Tenter, Springsmire, died on the 10th June aged 48 years, after 10 months' service.
- Mr. B. Davis, Formerly Engine Tenter, Hinksford, died on the 25th June aged 76 years.
- Mr. H. Bills, Engine Tenter, Hinksford, died on the 28th May aged 53 years, after 29 years' service.
- Mr. E. J. Robinson, Temporary Mains Inspector, Burton, died on the 27th August, aged 66 years, after 42 years' service.

## BIRTHS

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Wright on the birth of a son (Adam) on the 18th August.

Also to Mr. & Mrs. P. Smith (Engine Tenter, Seedy Mill) on the birth of a Daughter (Pamela, Margaret, May) on the 15th September.

## ENGAGEMENT

Congratulations to Miss Sheila Thacker, Laboratory Assistant, Sandfields, on her engagement to Mr. W. Cooper of Brownhills.