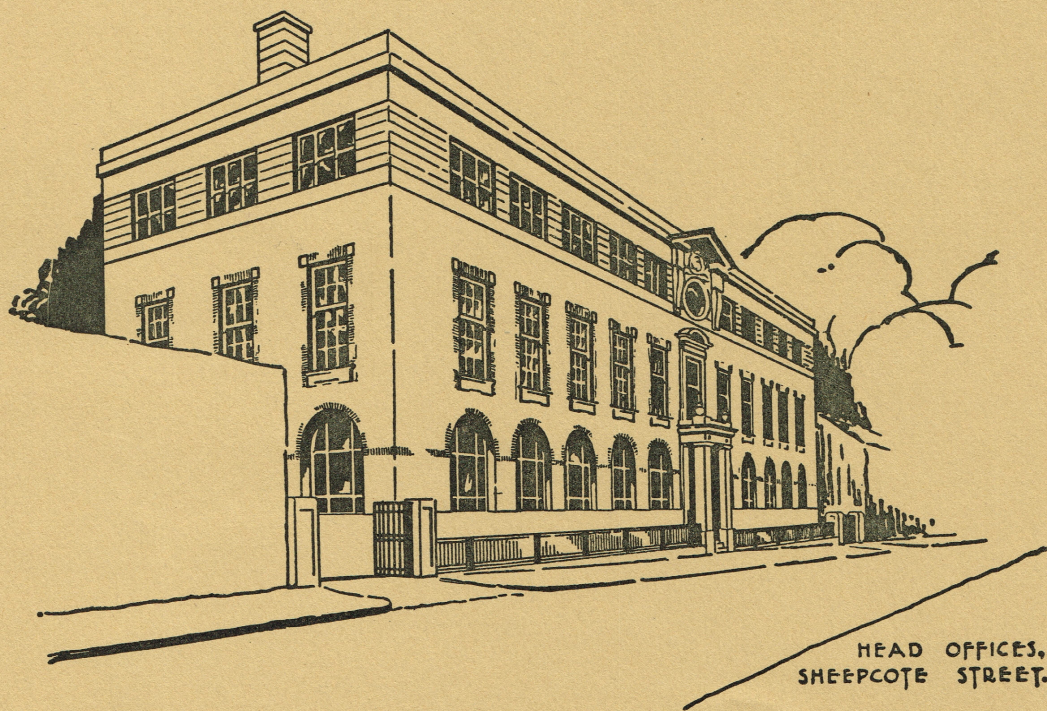


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THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
WATERWORKS COMPANY

NEWS REVIEW



SEPTEMBER 1962

Vol. 12

No. 3



EDITORIAL

It is fitting that my Editorial column in this Issue should take the form of a tribute to one of our former colleagues, for employees of the Company were greatly shocked to hear of the death of Mr. W.H.B.Fellows on the 19th October, following an operation.

"Wally", as he was affectionately known to his colleagues, entered the Company's service on the 24th August 1925 and was appointed Chief Electrical/Mechanical Engineer on the 1st February 1946. In this capacity he was concerned with the change-over of a number of our older pumping stations from steam to electricity, as well as the installation of electrical equipment into new stations throughout our greatly developing area.

Soon after his arrival, he associated himself very closely with all branches of the Company's life and was indefatigable in everything he undertook. Older members of the Staff were always ready to acknowledge his subtle humour and unfailing generosity.

His work on the Executive Committee of the Association was recognised in 1945 by his appointment as Chairman, an office he held up to 1950. In this connection he was one of several hard working committee members responsible for managing the canteen during the difficult days of rationing and very few are aware of the lengths to which he was ready to go in an endeavour to procure adequate supplies so that the daily luncheon service should not be interrupted. As an instance, we recall his negotiations with the Ministry of Food which enabled us on several occasions, with the help of the Foreman and Staff, to grow potatoes on land at Prestwood Pumping Station.

A member of the former committee responsible for the production of the "Review" he at one time held the office of sales manager.

A keen gardener, he took great pride in his greenhouse and undoubtedly his enthusiasm played an important part in the very successful fruit and vegetable show held in the canteen in September 1941.

For many years he had been one of the employees' representatives on the Superannuation Fund Committee and as a Vice President of the Benevolent Fund he was a regular attendant at the Annual General Meetings in support of the Chairman. He was also one of the founder members of the Company's Angling Club.

On his retirement from the Company in December 1960, members of the Staff Association honoured him by adding his name to their list of Vice Presidents.

The loss of his wife earlier this year had been a great shock to him and his close associates always felt that he had not overcome his sorrow.

A large number of his former colleagues attended the Perry Barr Crematorium on Wednesday, 24th October, to pay their last tribute to an old friend.

We should like to take this opportunity to extend our warmest sympathy to his son and daughter-in-law.

NORAH DAYES
Editor

Round and about

SUPERANNUATED MEMBERS' OUTING

Wednesday, 20th June, was the occasion of the Superannuated Members' Outing and the weather was not too good as about 110 members boarded their coaches at the pre-arranged picking up points.

Three coaches met at Cannock and then proceeded to Brindley Bank Pumping Station which was the first stopping place, where members were welcomed by Mr. R.H. Taylor and other officials, including Superintendents of the various districts. Here members exchanged greetings with one another and also looked round the Station, which was in splendid condition and a credit to all the men who look after it.

Icecream was served to all who wished to partake of it and it was soon time to board the coaches and proceed to our next stop which was lovely Trentham Gardens. Unfortunately there was an accident involving the first coach as it was leaving the drive of the Pumping Station which delayed our departure considerably, but we are pleased to say that no-one was hurt. Eventually the coaches moved off and the pleasant journey to Trentham was enjoyed by all.

Because of the late arrival at Trentham Gardens, members at once proceeded to the Tearooms where a well prepared meal awaited them. Here we met Sir Charles Burman, Mr. & Mrs. R.H. Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. A.W. Tibbenham and Mr. & Mrs. I.E. Wallis.

After tea, the Chairman, Sir Charles Burman, welcomed the members on behalf of the Board of Directors and hoped all were having a pleasant time. He also thanked all those who were responsible for the excellent arrangements made.

It was my privilege to reply on behalf of the Superannuated Members.

Our late arrival at Trentham Gardens made it impossible for us to see much of the lovely gardens, so after a quick look round it was time for us to board our coaches again. We left Trentham with some regrets as the weather was somewhat brighter by now and we should have enjoyed a much longer stay.

A pleasant but uneventful journey was made from Trentham Gardens to Abbots Bromley, via Rugeley and Blithfield Reservoir, the coaches pulling up at the Coach and Horses Inn, Abbots Bromley, where everyone rushed to have a last drink together before starting the journey home. The old Inn was soon filled to overflowing and some delay in getting served was inevitable but soon all were served and well satisfied.

Time for departure arrived and after many handshakes, "Goodbyes", "See you next Outing", etc., members boarded their coaches for the journey home.

Altogether a most enjoyable day, for which we are all grateful to the Board of Directors and also to all who helped to carry out the arrangements so efficiently.

W. ARMS.

THE VOICE OF CANNOCK

As the town of Tamworth has now come under the Company's control, the small market town of Rugeley may soon follow. At present it is supplied in bulk from the Company's 18" main at a point near their old Reservoir at Slitting Mill. The town was originally gravity fed from this Reservoir, the Reservoir itself being supplied from boreholes at Fair Oaks. Eventually this supply became poor and unsuitable and the Company connected up to the Reservoir outlet main bypassing the Reservoir, which has remained empty since 1930.

However, let us leave the Engineering side and delve into history.

As to the source from whence it derived its name, opinions differ, but owing to the colour of its reddish earth "Rouge", and "ley" pasture, this seems a reasonable answer.

In the year 1042 it is mentioned as a Saxon town of importance, while in 1547 its manor was the property of the Bishop of Lichfield. The visitor seeing Rugeley for the first time could not fail to be impressed by the contrast of the old and the new. Glancing northward he would see the wooded hills of Cannock Chase with the famous Etching Hill flagstaff; with the eyes turning left he would see the grassy slopes of Stile Cop, then on towards Longdon with the woods slowly closing the view. The eye would turn to the valley, sweeping pasture-land, and the winding River Trent flowing peacefully along, and finally, to Lea Hall, the most modern Colliery in England, with its giant cooling towers and massive Power Station adjoining. The Trent and

Mersey Canal skirts the east side of the town and is a feature worth mentioning. It enters Staffordshire at Lawton near the source of the Trent and it follows the course of the river. It was planned by James Brindley, the famous Engineer; 93 miles long, and had about 40 locks. The aqueduct, one mile from Rugeley, has five arches and is hewn out of the solid rock for a long distance and carries the Canal over the River Trent.

There are still many ancient buildings to be seen in Rugeley. The street names - Horse Fair and Sheep Fair - link us with the past, while the imposing medieval facade of the Town Hall frowns down on the stallholders in the Market Square. Nearby stands the famous Shrewsbury Arms, where Dr. Palmer, the noted Rugeley poisoner resided. This case gave Rugeley perhaps unwelcome publicity.

Rugeley has two Railway Stations, an old and important Grammar School, many Public Houses and old Churches and must be a healthy place in which to live. The writer found this out when wandering in the old Churchyards. I quote - John ---- aged 90 years. William --- 82, "cut down like a flower in his prime", were but a few of the many inscriptions decipherable.

So for those shortly due to retire, why not come to the nicest little market town in the "Cuttlestone Hundred".

T.E.K.

PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE AWARDS

<u>June</u>	Mr. H.F.Crowe, Chemist's Assistant, Lichfield.
<u>July</u>	Mr. J.H.C.Tittensor, Engine Tenter, Maple Brook Mr. R.G.Clarke, Clerk, Accountancy Department.
<u>August</u>	Mr. H.B.Marshall, Carpenter, Wood Green Repair Shop Mr. H. Attwell, Waterman. Tipton.
<u>October</u>	Mr. R.H.Taylor, Engineer-in-Chief.

BURTON DEPOT

(When I heard that we have three Salvation Army Bandsmen at Burton Depot I thought there must surely be a story there and it is with particular pleasure that I include such an item, together with two other interesting articles. Thanks a lot, Burton - it is good to hear from you. Editor.

The Burton Salvation Army Band are now considering including in their repertoire the 'Main' theme from Handel's Water Music, as the subject of water often crops up during band-room discussions. One would not be surprised either were the band notice board to state the following - 'That all valves (B.S.S.1010) will be checked and instruments flushed out regularly according to S.S.W.W.regulations with necessary frost precautions to be carried out in winter.'

This is the result of having no less than three members of the band employed at Burton Depot. They are Bandsmen Terry Lyness who originates from the home of Brass Bands - Yorkshire - and plays the Bass Trombone. John McCombe, the Band's one and only Scotsman, plays the Baritone, and Band Secretary Eric Johnson, who plays Euphonium, and has also played in Italy and Austria when a Bandsman with the North Staffordshire Regiment.

The Burton Band has a complement of 33 players and has conducted campaigns in most parts of the country, the most recent being Easter weekend at Felixstowe. A visit to Leighton Buzzard is planned for the Autumn.

E.J.Burton

.....

(Re paragraph in May Edition of the News Review - Confirmation that Inspectors still ride bicycles)

The bicycle ridden by the undersigned on the Burton District is approximately 5 years old and has covered during that period, at a conservative estimate, 15,000 miles.

This work has been carried out at a total cost to the Company of three new saddles (rider heavily built), two complete outer covers with inner tubes, not to mention many repair patches and solution to fix same.

The rider of this cycle is antique - will reach the age of 65 years on the 16th October 1962 - but is extremely thankful that he still has the physical capabilities to carry out this work. Incidentally, it is amazing how one can become attached to a bicycle.

It is noted in a report of a speech made by Mr. P.V.W.Gell at the Annual Dinner that he is interested in antiquities and the undersigned antique would esteem it a privilege and pleasure to meet him.

J.E.Boden,Burton

.....

A Waterman's Soliloquy

When summer skies are warm and blue
My friends all envy me,
I see the little lambs at play,
The blossom on the tree.

Where else can I these joys behold
Than England's countryside,
Where wild birds sing and meters tick
And weeds our stop taps hide.

Will I recall, when in the fall,
I suffer from cold feet,
Those azure skies and languid days
Of Summer's holden heat.

Can memories and thoughts surmount
The hazards of the night,
As howling wind and driving snow
I battle with my might.

The numbing shock when bursting pipe
Its contents shower on me,
Is overcome when dwelling on
That babbling brook and bee.

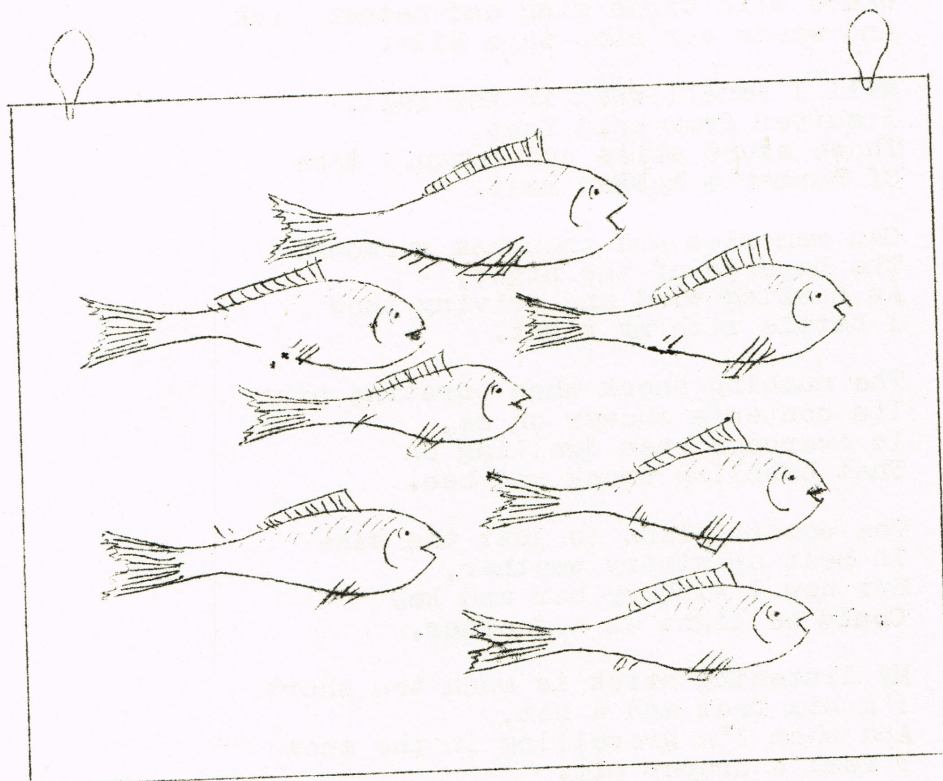
The country lane is just the same
In heat or wintry weather,
But how I wish my bar and key
Could be light as a feather.

My listening stick is much too short
I'm six feet and a bit,
And when I'm grovelling in the snow
I feel a proper nit.

But when the spring comes round once more
And flowers bloom again,
I read my medical report which states,
'Water On The Brain'.

(Anon. - Burton Depot)

The principle of duck decoys, long known to sportsmen, has been extended to fishing. American anglers can now buy fish decoys.



The decoy consists of a sheet of clear plastic printed with full colour photographs of yellow perch. The sheet, 17 inches by 22 inches, is lowered into the water, weighted at the bottom. Other perch see it and try to join the plastic school. They are then followed by bigger fish.

(With apologies to the original composer of
"Ten Little Nigger Boys".

Ten Little water users,
All doing fine,
One had an "Overflow"
And then there were nine.

Nine little water users,
Staying up late
One had an extra Bath
And then there were eight.

Eight little water users,
On holiday in Devon,
One hadn't shut the stop-cock off
And then there were seven.

Seven little water users,
One was in a fix,
He couldn't washer a dripping tap,
And then there were six.

Six little water users,
Washing cars in the drive,
One left the hosepipe on,
And then there were five.

Five little water users,
One's garden was poor,
He had used too much water,
And then there were four.

Four little water users,
One was a she,
Who washed the yard twice a day,
And then there were three.

Three little water users,
Some tea went to brew,
One filled the kettle twice,
And then there were two.

Two little water users,
To the bathroom have gone,
One didn't use the plug,
And then there was one.

Now each one little water user,
Should know the reason why,
All this waste and consumption,
Makes the Reservoir run dry.

S. Marshall.

STAFF ASSOCIATION EVENTS

ANNUAL OUTING/VISIT TO WORKS

On Tuesday, 18th September, the day of our Annual Outing and Visit to Works, members of the Staff with their wives and fiancées, making a total of 114, boarded the Midland Red Coaches which were waiting outside the Head Offices in Sheepcote Street.

The weather was fine and bright and we hoped that we should be lucky as usual in our choice of a date. We were soon on our way (only one member of the staff being late!) and on the journey to Blithfield Reservoir the coaches stopped at various 'picking up' points. Everyone was in a happy mood and prepared to relax for the day, particularly as the sun was shining, and Blithfield, as always, looking most inviting. Coffee and Biscuits were provided at Blithfield Reservoir and our thanks are due to the gallant band of helpers who were waiting to serve our refreshments. Afterwards we walked along the embankment, had a chat with the men busily engaged on repairs, down those steps with great caution (how many are there I wonder) and along through the tunnel. The sun was still shining and the stay was all too short.

Into the coaches again and on the journey to Dovedale. Lunch at the Peveril of the Peak Hotel was most enjoyable and the service excellent.

We were sorry that the Senior Officers were unable to be with us and in the absence of our Chairman, Mr. J. Lamont, Mr. J. W. Whitworth welcomed everyone and hoped all were having a good time.

Next on to Buxton, quite a thriving little place, and as usual the shops were visited and odd Christmas presents bought. By now the weather had changed, a fine rain was falling and tea was called for, some finding a cafe in the main street and others visiting the Gardens.

6 o'clock came all too soon but the journey home was pleasant, the rain having stopped and the countryside looking beautiful - not with the usual autumn colours this time but with the fresh green of spring, after the rain and the lack of sunshine during our so-called summer.

Old friendships are always valued and we were very happy that some of our old colleagues were able to be present in their capacity as Life Members. We should like them to know that we haven't forgotten them and often find their names coming up when discussing old times. It is a pity we see so little of them and perhaps they may find it possible to join us in the canteen for lunch some times. They would be very welcome.

Subscription lists have been circulated amongst members of the staff during recent months and cheques have been presented.

Mr. A.P. Morris received a cheque on the occasion of his marriage and we wish him every happiness.

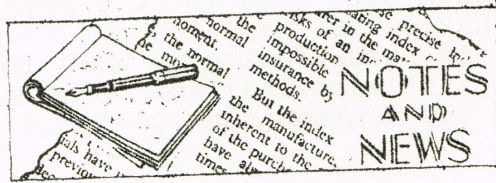
Cheques were also handed to Mrs. M. Woakes and Mrs. N. Parkinson on leaving the Company and we extend to them our best wishes.

Mr. & Mrs. L. Woodcock were also the recipients of a cheque from their colleagues and we have since heard that they intend buying something for their home to remind them of their ten years with the S.S.W.

A TYPIST'S 'HOWLER'

Chelmarsh Sewerage Reservoir
Quatt in dock and treatment works

The above heading on a letter recently received at the office will seem unintelligible to most readers, but the Pitman shorthand writer will appreciate - and forgive - the errors made in transcribing the outlines.



A holiday lasting eight months! Certainly a very special kind of holiday saved up for retirement, and I am sure everyone will be interested to read of such a holiday spent by Mr. W.H.Wilcox, formerly Foreman at Wood Green.

"My wife and I sailed from Southampton on September 14th 1961 on the Southern Cross and enjoyed the voyage very much. We arrived in Durban where our daughter, husband and two children (whom we were seeing for the first time) met us on the quayside. We stayed in Durban for one week and thought that was very English. Then on a 500 mile journey in the car to the Transvaal where our daughter lives. We did that journey in 9 hours as all the roads were very good and much wider than ours. Their bungalow stands in over an acre of ground and the lawns and gardens are landscaped, with one part set aside as a vegetable patch and I just enjoyed myself cultivating it. I have never seen vegetables grow so quickly and I was able to collect 14-20 lbs. of tomatoes every day for weeks; all big ones too and some 14 ozs. in weight, and, of course, all grown in the open.

All houses have several taps in the gardens for watering purposes and most of that is done by natives. It is a lovely country for sunshine and at Christmas we had all our meals on the lawn.

We spent a week in Rhodesia in January, visiting Bulawayo and then on to the Victoria Falls. The Falls are a marvellous sight to see and from the Hotel, which is quite two miles away, we could feel the spray as we sat on the balcony. When we left the Falls Hotel on the return journey we travelled through the Wankie Game Reserve and our son-in-law took a cine film of the elephants. I spent a lot of time travelling to different coal and gold mines with my son-in-law who is a mining engineer, and went down several coal mines, as one is able to walk down most of the shafts. There are very few with head gear the same as we have in England, and I went to Coalbrook, the mine where over 200 men lost their lives about two years ago.

I just could not believe my own eyesight when I saw a mainlaying gang putting a 6 ft. steel main along the Vaal river - it was stretching for about 35 miles.

All good things come to an end and we returned home on May 6th by air - another experience for us. We left Johannesburg in a Comet at 5.15 p.m. on May 5th and arrived in London at 11.30 a.m. on May 6th, calling at Salisbury, Nairobi, Khartoom and Rome.

We had planned this holiday several years before my retirement and were certainly looking forward to it. I saw a number of places well known during the Boer War - Ladysmith, Pretoria, Majuba Hill and several other places. I must also add that I miss that lovely sunshine, also all the fresh fruit, such as apricots, grapes, oranges and bananas".

TAMWORTH

On the 1st July a further addition to the Company's area was made by the incorporation of the Undertaking previously administered by the Tamworth Waterworks Joint Committee.

The area taken over is approximately 21 square miles with a population of 35,000 and an average daily consumption of 1.2 million gallons. The area is supplied by a pumping station and reservoir situated at Hopwas, together with a further storage reservoir at Glascote. The source at Hopwas is augmented by a 9" diameter feeder from the Lichfield-Walsall system.

Hopwas Reservoir is of concrete construction with a capacity of 1½ million gallons and a top water level of 419.5 A.O.D. It is interesting to note that the wooded area in the vicinity of Hopwas Reservoir is a refuge during the winter months of a large murmuration of starlings and these inhabitants have been a constant source of worry to the Joint Committee as presence of the birds was considered to form a pollution hazard to the well.

As a result of the take-over and subsequent re-organisation we welcome to the Company's employ the Tamworth contingent, including Mr. H.E. Tabberer who is Deputy Superintendent at Walsall and Mr. W.C. Elliott who has joined the Secretary's Staff at Head Office.

The Tamworth area is now under the control of Mr. Wimbush, the Sutton District Superintendent, and the district is administered locally from 18 Victoria Road under the control of District Inspector Mr. W. Young.

Once the seat of Saxon Kings, Tamworth has been subjected to many sieges and was razed to the ground on no less than two occasions by the Danes. Today it is a modern thriving town, with natural and historic features of interest.

Surrounded by manufacturing towns of Staffordshire, the green fields and leafy lanes of Warwickshire and the lovely Cannock Chase, it would appear to be an ideal centre for exploring the Midlands. If we have only one day to spare, Tamworth is the subject of an interesting tour.

First of all, of course, would be the famous landmark - the Castle - surrounded by gentle slopes which are ablaze with colour in the summer. We can see the herringbone masonry in the Curtain Wall which is perhaps the finest specimen of its kind, and across the courtyard, the Dungeon is well worth an inspection. The walls are ten feet thick and beneath there is believed to exist an oubliette where prisoners were deposited to be "forgotten".

The Banqueting Hall dates from the reign of Henry VII, and the Museum would be worth a visit to study the history of the Castle, the pottery, old coins, and early printed books.

It would be quite easy to spend a day in the Castle itself but before leaving it, let us stand on the terrace and look at the lovely view, across the lawns with the bandstand, the swimming pool, and the wandering river.

The Tower of the Parish Church of St. Editha can be seen when one approaches Tamworth. Readers may remember seeing this famous tower in a television programme a year or so back when we saw a picture of the spiral staircase which is built into the south west angle, so arranged that users of the left-hand spiral are not visible to those mounting the right-hand spiral until they reach the top.

The Town Hall was built by Thomas Guy (M.P. for the Borough 1695-1707) who founded the famous Hospital bearing his name. This structure, with its red-brick open arcading, is scheduled as an Ancient Monument, was extended in 1771 and again in 1845.

Tamworth is renowned for its variety of light industries, including textile weaving and a paper mill and is rapidly developing industrially and residentially as a dormitory town.

These are only a few suggestions for a tour. To most of us, perhaps the earliest date which comes readily to mind is 1066, the Norman Conquest, but if you are interested in medieval history and architecture, I am sure Tamworth calls for an early visit.



HOWARD BEARDSMORE, ESQ.

REVENUE OFFICER

Retired 31st July, 1962

after 49½ years' service

.....

Mr. Beardsmore served in the 1914-1918 War with the Royal Artillery and rose to the rank of Quarter Master Sergeant.

In 1919 he returned to the Company and was working in the General Office until he was transferred to the Accounts Department. He was appointed Collector of Wednesbury and Darlaston in 1930, and later went to Dudley.

He was appointed Revenue Officer on the 1st January 1937, which office he held until his retirement.

In recognition of his long service, the Board of Directors presented Mr. Beardsmore with a radiogram, and his colleagues in the Private Dining Room, together with other members of the Staff, presented him with a handsome garden seat and a cheque. His hobby is gardening, and we wish him good health and many years' of retirement to enjoy his seat.

He has been a loyal and faithful servant of the Company.



WALTER W. HARDIMAN, ESQ.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Retired 30th June, 1962

after almost 48

years' service.

.....

Mr. Hardiman served in the first world war and on his return to the Company he resumed his duties as Clerk in the Service Dept., where he remained until his retirement, apart from a brief period in the Order Department.

He was a Lieutenant in the S.S.W. Company's L.D.V. Company which was formed in May 1940 and was promoted to the rank of Captain as Second in Command in March 1942, after the Unit had been transferred to the 30th South Staffordshire Regiment (Home Guard).

Mr. Hardiman will always be remembered for his work as Honorary Secretary of the Staff Association during the war years, when his efforts in sending gifts to the members serving in the Forces brought such pleasure to the recipients.

Those of us who were associated with the Water Nymphs Revue will remember his hard work in organising the various concerts, and his willingness to give a solo whenever requested. His baritone voice was always welcome. Remembering the Revue, I wonder how many will recall one particularly foggy night when a number of us felt like "crying off" but Mr. Hardiman impressed upon us that a true trouper never considered the weather, only the disappointment that the absence of entertainment might bring. We went along that night, and found to our delight that the fog had cleared by the time we were ready for home.

In recognition of his long service, the Board of Directors presented Mr. Hardiman with a cheque and he also received a cheque from his colleagues at Head Office and on the Districts. He and his wife are now living at Laverton in the Cotswolds and no doubt will find much to occupy their time in a new bungalow and garden. On a recent visit to the office, Mr. Hardiman told us he had bought a battery motor mower.

OYSTERS

On two occasions I have become "oyster conscious". The first was during military service at Colchester during the 1914-1918 war. Here one could hardly avoid noticing that there is such a thing as an oyster, as all the "pubs", snack bars etc. displayed notices inviting customers to try the local oysters and Old King Cole Ales.

The second occasion was during my first winter at Falmouth when I found that a considerable amount of oyster dredging is carried out during the winter months. As I could see the fishing boats daily in fair weather and foul, more interest was aroused than at Colchester and it occurs to me that a brief description of this Falmouth industry might be of interest to "Consumers" in the Midlands.

The waters of the Fal estuary and its tributaries, and Helford River not far from Falmouth, provide natural good breeding grounds for oysters. That is to say the oysters keep on replacing themselves, thereby keeping up a continuous supply provided the grounds are not over fished. In the Fal the Harbour Authorities regulate the fishing and in the Helford River, the Duchy of Cornwall.

The Fal is Britain's only "open" oyster ground, that is to say that anyone can "have a go" provided they obtain a licence and observe the regulations which have been framed to restrict dredging to reasonable proportions. I believe the licence fee varies according to the type of boat used, with a minimum of £5.

Boats must not use engine power when dredging and dredging can only be carried out between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays and between 9 a.m. and noon on Saturdays.

Guy Fawke's Day is a dredging holiday in celebration of a High Court Action in 1902 which gave fishermen the right to store oysters underwater at suitable places from which they may be collected for sale according to demand.

Oysters less than $2\frac{5}{8}$ " diameter must be put back in the river and fishing is confined to defined limits.

The season runs from the beginning of October to the end of March and the fishing is supervised by an Oyster Bailiff.

Fishermen who only own a small rowing boat have it equipped with a handle operated drum near the bow. A rope is wound on the drum and on the end of the rope is an anchor. They also have a small dredge net about 2'6" wide. The boat is rowed to the commencing point for the day's dredging and the anchor is thrown out. The fisherman then rows the boat backwards running the rope off the drum in the process.

When the rope is all run off, say about 50 yards, the dredge net is put out at the stern and the fisherman then winds himself back to his starting point by winding the rope back on the drum. Back at the starting point he pulls in the net and takes out the catch of oysters. He then moves on to another line, systematically covering an area.

The lucky owner of a larger boat uses sail. The boat is sailed to the starting point, the dredge is put out and the boat is then sailed forward for a distance before taking in the dredge with the catch of oysters. The art in using a sailing boat for dredging is to adjust the amount of sail required according to wind and weather, so as to give the best speed for dredging, which is very slow. The sailing boats go out in very severe weather as in the sheltered waters of the estuary the waves do not get up to such heights as they do in the open sea. They are quite bad enough at times, however, and in half a gale the boats can be seen with a few square feet of jib set and the mainsail reefed down to less than half its full size. It can be quite a cold wet job for a large part of the season.

Oysters dredged by the licensed fishermen are collected at the shore after 3 p.m. by lorries owned by an agent who carries on with the further requirements for marketing. He pays for the oysters by the 1000 and it is said that about 2,500,000 are brought in during the season.

Oysters must lie in purifying tanks for not less than 48 hours before they can be sent off to the market.

When brought in to the depot they are examined. Some are put back in the river at marked spots to mature for a further period. The remainder are sorted out into four sizes, No. 1 being the largest. Trays full of the various sizes are then placed in the sterilizing tanks. At present, in the Falmouth area, water sterilized by violet rays is used in place of ozone treatment which was formerly used. I am told that the oysters flush themselves out with the sterilized water during their sojourn in the tanks, then on to Billingsgate and the Birmingham Fish Market.

D.B.ANDERSON

Personalia

NEW EMPLOYEES

Mrs. P.A.Moulton
Mr. A.A.Hill
Miss D.I.Collett
Miss J.A.Dyson
Miss D.King
Miss P.I.Lavell
Mr. M.J.Price
Mr. D.N.W.Earp
Mr. L. Jackson
Mr. K.A.Tagg
Mrs. P.M.Bebbington
Miss P.H.Borneman
Miss M. Tomkins
Miss S.J.Clews
Mr. W.C.Elliott
Mr. H.E.Tabberer
Mr. S. Johnson
Mr. K.B.Rhodes
Mr. D.J.Parsons
Mr. B.A.Morrall

Canteen Manageress
Revenue Department
Do.
Secretary's Typists' Department
Civil Engineering Department
Do.
Electrical Department
Civil Engineering Department
Distribution Department
Electrical Department
Distribution Department
Do.
Civil Engineering Department
Postal Department
Revenue Department (Ex Tamworth
Walsall Waterworks)
Revenue Department
Burton (Transfer to Staff)
Distribution Department
Distribution Dept. (Ex Walsall)

RESIGNATIONS

Mr. L. Woodcock
Mrs. L. Woodcock
Mr. F. Archer
Miss C. Hawkins
Mrs. M. Woakes
Mrs. N. Parkinson
Mr. J. Hocken

Electrical/Mechanical Department
Distribution Department
Do.
Postal Department
Civil Engineering Department
Do.
Revenue Department

RETIREMENTS

Mr. H. Beardsmore, Revenue Officer, retired on the 31st July after 49½ years' service.
Mr. W.W.Hardiman, Senior Clerk, Service Department, retired on the 30th June, after 48 years' service.

DEATHS

We regret to report the following deaths.

Mrs. J. Hale, Formerly Cleaner at Tipton Depot, on the
5th September.

Mr. A.E.Smith, Formerly Engine Tenter, Shenstone Pumping Station,
on the 13th October, aged 82 years. Mr. Smith
retired in June 1945.

Mr.W.H.B.Fellows, Formerly Electrical/Mechanical Engineer, on
the 19th October, aged 67 years.

Mr. J.E.Cranage, Formerly West Bromwich Collector, on the
11th July, aged 78 years.

Miss Hazel Dixon, Elder Daughter of Mr. Fred J. Dixon, former
Engineer-in-Chief, died in September following an
eye operation.

MARRIAGE

Congratulations are extended to Mr. A.P.Morris on his marriage
to Miss K. Hudson on the 15th September.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mr. R.Rowlands (formerly Foreman at Shenstone Pumping
Station) on the arrival of a further Grandchild.

Mr. Rowlands wishes to be remembered to all his old friends
on the Company.

Congratulations also to Mr. & Mrs. G.Deer, Shenstone Pumping
Station, on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary on the
31st July.

CONDOLENCE

We extend deepest sympathy to Mr. G.W.Anderson, Sandfields,
on the recent death of his Father.
