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THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
WATERWORKS COMPANY

NEWS REVIEW




HEAD OFFICES,
SHEEPCOTE STREET.

AUGUST 1964

Vol. 14

No. 1



EDITORIAL

Perhaps some readers will have wondered what has happened to the News Review! And there is also the thought that some have not missed it! However, it was not possible to publish an issue late in 1963 due to the absence of material, but the delay this year has been due to pressure of work.

A number of our retired colleagues have expressed regret that there has been such a long gap since the last magazine was published, but in this issue I have tried to cover all items of news during this long period and I am sure that everyone will find the contents varied and interesting.

A number of retirements are recorded but I should very much like reports regarding all retirements and it is a matter of great concern to me that a paragraph or two cannot be included. Any item regarding presentations, personal hobbies etc. of men who retire would be of great value to me when compiling the magazine.

I am sure a "Holidays Abroad" feature would be most interesting and would perhaps create ideas for the 1965 Holiday Season.

Every effort will be made to publish another News Review before Christmas and this work will be made much easier if I can rely on contributions being received not later than November.

NORAH DAYES

Editor

Around and about

THE VOICE OF CANNOCK

After a period of silence, the voice - perhaps a trifle husky with cheering - is in full cry again! The young men at the Depot have once more raised the flag of sport, lowered and forgotten too long after the glorious cricketing pre-war days. We remember the inter-depot visits, the fight for the Cricket Cups and the Annual Depot Dinner at Cannock, but alas, all that has remained is the Ambulance Shield trying to hide its blushes as it hangs forlornly on the wall. However, the young men at the Depot have defied the pessimists and last winter organised a Football Club. They formed a small committee and raised funds themselves by various means. After a long discussion about the playing colours, it was decided to adopt the Company's colours - 'Green and Concrete'. However, some difficulty was experienced in obtaining the latter so the players are in green and white.

On Sunday, February 2nd, we had the pleasure of entertaining Head Office, and for this occasion we hired the Cannock Festival Stadium. After a splendid game, well controlled by Mr. R.J.Wright, we were successful by five goals to two. The players and their friends were afterwards entertained to tea at the Depot and so a delightful afternoon came to a close all too soon. Mr. T.E.Kendrick thanked the visitors for coming, and Mr. R.J.Wright suitably replied for Head Office.

Again on Sunday, March 15th, we entertained the Head Office staff. Unfortunately it was a most appalling day and a raging snow-storm blew all day, following the previous day of continuous rain. Officially the match was put off as the Stadium grounds were unplayable but in view of the food arrangements the Staff decided to come so that we could all eat. Our Secretary was persuaded to scout round and find a pitch that was playable and this he did, but we had to play under six inches of snow and under arctic conditions. Cannock were four players short but with one player loaned from the

Staff and one of the Depot lads willing to turn out we managed to make a nine-a-side match. Considering the conditions, both teams managed to play quite good football but I think the staff mastered the conditions much better than the Depot and in the closing stages they staged a riot and the game ended after one hour's play at six goals to one in favour of Head Office. Mr. R. Marshall, in wellington boots and suitably rigged out, gallantly braved the elements and refereed the game, whilst Tom Potts and Eric Brammer skidded along as linesmen. The "Gate" consisted of Mr. Simkins, Miss Parry and Mr. Kendrick, who saw the game peeping through wire netting and trying to dodge the snowflakes.

Miss Parry and friends entertained us to tea afterwards at the Depot. In a short speech, Mr. Simkins, representing the Staff Association, warmly thanked Cannock for their hospitality and congratulated both teams on their courage and sportsmanship. He said we ought to have another match sometime when the conditions were more favourable. Mr. T. Kendrick thanked all the visitors on behalf of the Cannock Team and assured them of a warm welcome, and hoped we might also meet at Cricket in the summer. Finally, may I say how nice it was to have Miss Parry's Mother with us. This charming old lady enriched our day with quiet dignity.

During the season the following matches were played:-

N.A.L.G.O.	(0)	S.S.W.W.Club	(8)	
N.C.B. (Allport St.)	(6)	S.S.W.W.Club	(3)	
Penkridge	(3)	S.S.W.W.Club	(1)	
Head Office	(2)	S.S.W.W.Club	(5)	
Bridgtown Methodists	(5)	S.S.W.W.Club	(2)	
Fire Brigade	(0)	S.S.W.W. Club	(1)	(Match abandoned at half time)
Cannock Police	(4)	S.S.W.W.Club	(9)	
Lea Hall Colliery	(0)	S.S.W.W.Club	(3)	
Penkridge	(3)	S.S.W.W.Club	(3)	
Head Office	(6)	S.S.W.W.Club	(1)	

The Football Team have entered the Cannock Chase Sunday League for next season and all-out efforts are being made to get a ground of our own.

On Friday, 28th February 1964 we held a Social Evening at the Railway Hotel, Cannock, which was very kindly put at our disposal by the Landlady, who also provided excellent refreshments. Darts, Dominoes and Cards were organised and winners received small prizes. This was the first attempt of our small committee to do anything of this nature and it turned out to be an unqualified success.

We are all pleased that a start has been made and hope that other Depots and Head Office will take up the challenge. Owing to the Company's scattered area, a Central Social and Sports Arena is an impossibility, but a depot or regional one could be possible with inter-visits and the renewal of friendships, exchange of thoughts and ideas, linked with loyalty and service in keeping with the traditions of our Company. All this would take money and voluntary work, but let us all try.

It is with great sorrow we record the sudden and tragic death of Ken Walton at the early age of 43. Ken was a most ardent supporter of the football team and never missed a match. His cheery, kindly manner often brought him mild leg-pulling but also brought him many friends. He leaves a widow and four young children. A collection at the Depot realised £17. and the football team sent £5. from their funds. At their last match the team wore black armbands and both teams observed a moment's silence before the kick-off. It was a sad but moving tribute to a colleague and a friend.

T.E.K. Cannock

An old Football Club Membership Card has recently been handed to us. The year 1899-1900, with the following Officers :-

Patrons.

Wm. Evans, Esq., J.P. F.H. Lloyd, Esq., J.P. J.H. Pearson, Esq. J.P.

President
Frank James, Esq., J.P., D.L.

Vice-Presidents
H. Haselden, Esq.
H. Ashton Hill, Esq., C.E.

Captain

H. Spears

Vice-Captain

H.C. Hitchcock

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer

W.J. Taylor

Hon. Auditors

Messrs. J.S. Bird and C.H. Turley

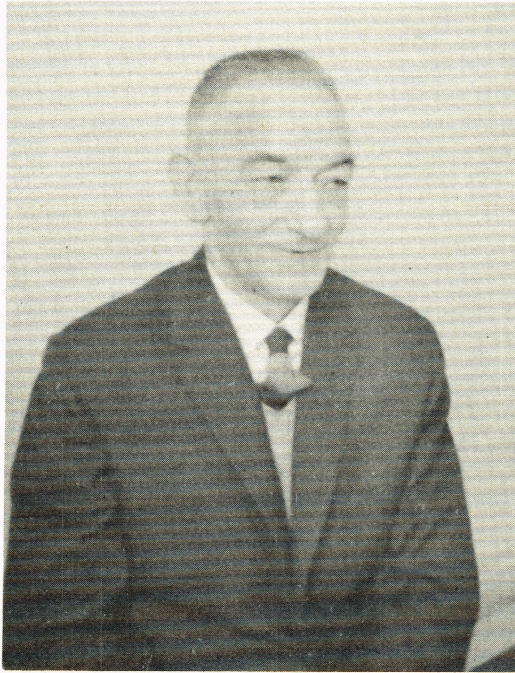
Committee of Management

Messrs. H. Spears, H.C. Hitchcock,
Wm. J. Taylor, J. Bourne, A. Bate and H. Shelton

Honorary Members

Mr. J.S. Bird	Mr. H. Gripe	Mr. G.J. Sparrow
Mr. J.S. Cornwell	Mr. T.W. Jeffery	Mr. C.H. Turley
Mr. F.W. Davies	Mr. A.E. Larkin	Mr. A. Vale
Mr. A.E. Douglass	Mr. J. Porter	Mr. S. Wheeley
Mr. J. Whitworth	Mr. T. Williams	

I wonder how many of our colleagues remember these names.

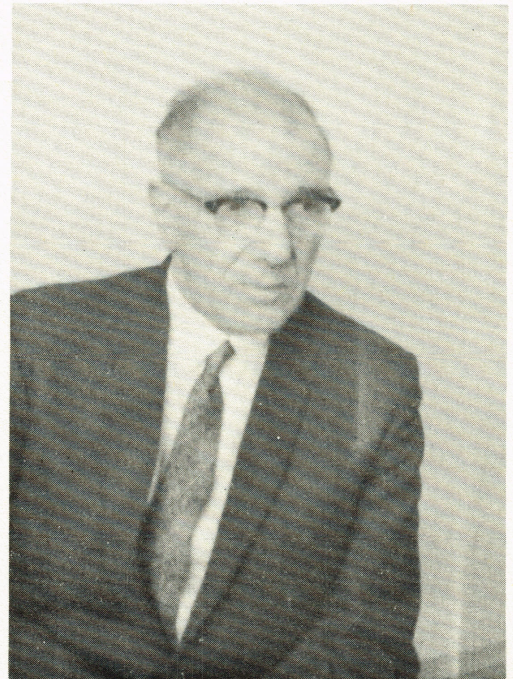


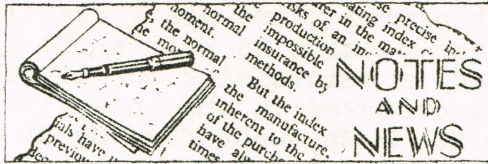
Three of our recently
retired colleagues.

Top Left - Mr. H. Hale,
Tipton Depot

Top Right - Mr. A.G. Hitchings,
Fradley Pumping
Station

Bottom Right - Mr. W. Tranter,
Prestwood Pumping
Station





THE GREAT FROST - 25th DECEMBER 1962 to 22nd MARCH, 1963.

At the end of 1962 a frost of unprecedented duration commenced and penetrated deep into the ground. Expert opinion referred to it as the worst frost for two hundred years in the West Midlands. It was certainly the worst frost in the experience of the Company. Some measures of the depth of the penetration of frost may be gained from the fact that in gravel, ice was found at depths exceeding 3 feet and that approximately 9,300 frozen pipes were reported to the Company and ninety-three water mains were frozen.

The well and borehole stations were not greatly affected but at Nethertown Pumping Station, ice formation on the coarse and fine screens seriously affected operations. It was particularly important to overcome this problem since with a continuing high consumption and next to no run-off into Blithfield Reservoir the use of this additional source was essential. Men from Cannock Depot kept the screens clear in particularly severe weather and site conditions, with the usual full measure of success we expect from this Depot.

At Seedy Mill Treatment Works ice formed on the exposed clarification tanks and also on the rapid gravity filters but did not seriously affect the operation of the plant. Some changes in mechanical dosage and the addition of activated carbon arose from the low temperature of the water which for long periods was no higher than 34°F.

Generally, there was little difficulty in maintaining pumping. Standby diesel operated generating plants were used where possible to reduce demands on the electric power supply.

At Seedy Mill Pumping Station, two outdoor air vessels were temporarily put out of action by the formation of 12 inches of ice on their inside surface and on the water line. The removal of this ice involved the temporary erection of a marquee above the air vessels but thoughts of garden parties were far from everybody's minds.

Throughout the frost period there was a high level of consumption which was partly due to tap running as well as to leakages, but no difficulty was experienced in maintaining the level of service reservoirs. When a leakage occurred in the underfloor drainage system of Barr Beacon Reservoir No. 2 Mr. Webb from Seedy Mill carried out an underwater inspection and located a diagonal crack in the floor panel which was probably attributable to the prolonged low water temperature.

Members of the Distribution Department increased their electrical knowledge when called upon to thaw service pipes and water mains. Nearly 2,000 service pipes were thawed by the use of heat provided by electric currents from either transformer or generators, with surprisingly little damage to property. So many service pipes were frozen, mostly on consumer premises, that it was necessary to establish a system of priorities based on hardship and public interest.

The thawing of service mains was another fresh experience gained by the Distribution Department and for this purpose steam generating plant, either paraffin fired or electrical, was used. For very short lengths of main, welding generators were satisfactory.

Sutton Depot will look back with some amusement and awe at their first efforts in thawing out mains by steam generation at Manor Hill, Sutton Coldfield. The plant used was purchased by Mr. Wright on behalf of the Company from a local farmer and to start with jointly worked by himself and Mr. Barlow. Needless to say this particular plant was in poor condition (farmers do not maintain mechanical equipment to Company standards) and the production of steam was accompanied by flames enveloping not only the whole plant but also, apparently, Messrs. Wright and Barlow! But it worked, and after being tuned up by Wood Green fitters, thawed out many other mains.

At all Depots there was a continuous call for help from the public in respect of frozen services, broken pipes, lack of water. Depot Staffs were kept continuously on the go week after week as the frost persisted. This prolonged battle against the weather and its ensuing difficulties imposed a severe physical strain on Depot Staff, but the abnormal conditions were accommodated and a high level of service and help for the public maintained.

Some 33,000 frost difficulties were notified to Depots, all of which had to be inspected and dealt with and about 640 fractured mains were repaired.

Additional transport was hired from time to time as required. At one time some twenty additional 5 cwt. vans were on hire to assist "knocking up" bursts. At another time, up to a dozen tankers and lorries were engaged for distributing water.

Finally he paid a warm tribute for the manner in which Mr. Lamont had conducted the Meetings and the personal interest he had shown towards the betterment of conditions generally for members of the Association, and asked him to accept from his guests that evening a fountain pen, together with a letter signed by all contributors towards the gift. In addition, Mr. Whitworth asked that Mr. Lamont should take home to Mrs. Lamont a bouquet with the best wishes of the members of the Executive Committee, as they had always been delighted when she had graced their social occasions.

In his reply, Mr. Lamont expressed his very great appreciation of the kindness and generosity of his guests and said he did not wish it to be thought that he was the prime mover in any improvements which had been made possible. Firstly the suggestions had been put to him and it had been his great pleasure to place these requests before the Senior Officers of the Company and he had always received courteous consideration and great help from Mr. Taylor and Mr. Tibbenham. Mr. Lamont said it had always been a great pleasure to him to work with the Committee and he would like to take the opportunity of thanking them for the gift but also for the very loyal service and enthusiastic support that members of the committee had given him during his term of office. He asked to be excused from saying more as his heart was full.

From an onlooker, it appeared that never has such sincerity been present as was displayed on that occasion.

QUARRY BANK GALA QUEEN 1964.

Congratulations to Miss Janice Tromans (Cash Office) on being chosen as this year's Gala Queen.

The crowning ceremony took place at an Old Time Dance on Monday, 24th August, and on the following Saturday she led the traditional procession to Stevens Park, where the Gala was opened by Pat Phoenix, better known perhaps as Coronation Street's Elsie Tanner.

The proceeds from the various Social Events are for the Quarry Bank Brighter Old Age Funds.

We hope Janice enjoys her reign as Queen.

During the 4 month period and subsequently until waste was dealt with, about 270 additional million gallons of water were pumped. The greatest quantity in one particular day was 63.09 m.g.

Once the thaw came there was a great amount of waste which had to be located, but by the beginning of May 1963 the waste attributable to the severe frost had been eliminated, following sustained effort by all Depots.

Finally, it should be noted that since there have been frosts over the last three Christmases, Distribution Department hope that the timing of Christmas Bank Holiday will be altered, as well as, perhaps, August Bank Holiday.

A. HAPPY OCCASION.

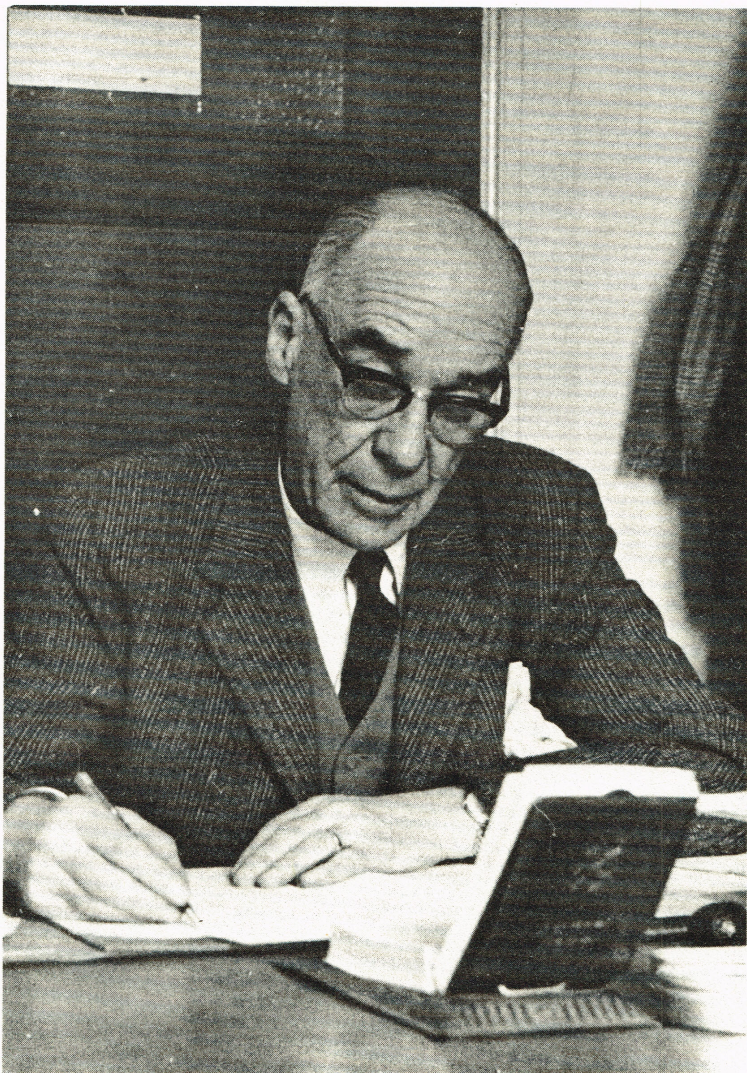
To mark the completion of his office as Chairman of the Staff Association, Mr. Lamont entertained the members of the Executive Committee to a Dinner in the Canteen on Tuesday, 18th February 1964.

Mr. Lamont's guests assembled in the canteen and were served with a delightful meal which had been prepared by Miss Brummit, Canteen Manageress.

The Dinner was followed by a meeting of the Executive Committee and prior to the commencement of the business, Mr. Whitworth made a presentation to Mr. Lamont on behalf of the Committee. Mr. Whitworth said that he felt sure it would be the wish of all those present that they should express their warm appreciation to their genial host for the generous hospitality which had been accorded to them that evening and at the same time to express their gratitude to him for all his work as Chairman of the Staff Association Club.

The Vice-Chairman said that he well remembered when we were searching for a successor to Mr. Douglas Robertson three years ago and Mr. Lamont's name was put forward, that doubts were expressed among the members of the Association who wondered what Mr. Lamont could do, with such a short experience of the Association's work. Mr. Whitworth said that Mr. Lamont set about his task with fearlessness and in a spirit of adventure and his first job was to improve the conditions of the canteen staff, as he said he was unwilling to have people working for him at "slave wages".

Continuing, Mr. Whitworth said that members present that evening would not wish him to go into any great detail as to Mr. Lamont's good works for they surrounded him within those four walls, and he was sure it would be very difficult for anyone to follow Mr. Lamont and maintain the high standard which he had set.



RETIREMENT - MR. J. BRADBURY

At a farewell dinner-party held at Lichfield on the 21st October 1963, attended by members of Head Office Staff, District Superintendents and a few other close friends, many sincere tributes were paid to Mr. Bradbury, who joined the Company in 1930.

Mr. Lamont said what a tremendous help he had personally received from Mr. Bradbury when he first joined the Company. It was Mr. Bradbury who had taken him round the various pumping stations, reservoirs and other properties and he could not have wished for a better guide. He had been given very comprehensive information and with a lucidity which was, as much as anything, due to Mr. Bradbury's unique knowledge of the Company's works.

Mr. Jones, the Tipton Superintendent, spoke of Mr. Bradbury's warm and benign character and of his many kindnesses. Mr. Jones said that he had personally experienced Mr. Bradbury's kindness on many occasions, often during times of stress when it was most appreciated. He said that Mr. Bradbury's wide and detailed knowledge was always quite readily at the disposal of anyone who cared to take advantage of it and it was as freely given to the newest junior as it was to a senior colleague.

Mr. Markham wished Mr. Bradbury improved health during his retirement, and in presenting a bouquet for Mrs. Bradbury, expressed the hope that he and Mrs. Bradbury had many happy years ahead.

Although the general atmosphere at the party was a happy one, there was also regret that it meant the end of Mr. Bradbury's active service with the Company.

Another ceremony took place in the Distribution Drawing Office in Birmingham on the 22nd October 1963, when Mr. Markham presented Mr. Bradbury with a substantial cheque subscribed by his many friends throughout the Company. Mr. Markham referred to the many fine personal qualities of Mr. Bradbury and to the high standard of the work he had done. In particular he pointed out that younger men in the Distribution Department could well attempt to emulate him in the design and execution of work and draftsmanship of drawings.

On behalf of those who worked on the districts, Mr. Wimbush expressed the high respect and affection in which Mr. Bradbury was held by Depot Staffs and wished him and Mrs. Bradbury a long and happy retirement.

He will find plenty to occupy his leisure time during retirement as he is keenly interested in photography and radio engineering. I am quite sure that he will be spending many happy hours in these pursuits and, if he has any time left, knowing his interest in car mechanics, it will be spent under the bonnet of his newly-acquired motor car.

He will be much missed at Head Office and also out on the districts where he has so many friends.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS' SERVICE

GOLD WATCH AWARDS

J. Handley	Foreman	Kinver Pumping Station
E.Paskin	Engine Tenter	Ashwood Pumping Station
F.T.Langston	Deputy Superintendent,	Cannock
W.E.Baylis	Engine Tenter	Kinver Pumping Station
T.Dodson	Filter Operator	Chilcote Pumping Station
Eyley, H.	Engine Tenter	Chilcote Pumping Station
R.T.L.Wigley	Clerk	Order Dept. Head Office
F.Smith	Inspector	Tipton
G.R.Orton	Filter Operator	Chilcote Pumping Station
C.G.Evans	Waterman	Tipton
S.Tapper	Waterman	Walsall
V.F.G.Hubble	Engine Tenter	Kinver Pumping Station

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS ANGLING CLUB

It seems that quite a number of people are not aware that the Angling Club is still alive and going strong, so perhaps a few details of its activities during the 1963/4 Season will be of interest.

There has been a vigorous and enthusiastic membership of fortyone, and although the figure may appear small in comparison with the total number of employees, nevertheless there has been great interest in the sport and contests.

Among the contests enjoyed by Club Members were those against the Angling Clubs of Horseley Bridge & Thos. Piggott, The Coventry Water Department, and Dunlop's Chemical Products Division. There were also contests for members only, of which a noteworthy success was one held at 8 o'clock in the morning! This was a new venture and well attended.

For the enlightenment of non-fishing readers, all these contests were held in the delightful settings of the Company's reservoir at Stowe Pool, Lichfield, where a truly peaceful and enjoyable afternoon or evening can be spent, even if the fish are not biting.

As a Club, we are greatly indebted to the Engineer-in-Chief, our President, for the facilities granted, both at Stowe and also at the Blithfield Reservoir Intake, where again there are pleasant country surroundings in which to laze, meditate, enjoy a quiet smoke and, of course, fish.

We have recently held our Annual General Meeting at the Queens Head, Lichfield, and after the more formal and official business on the Agenda, the presentation of awards took place. The Thomas Hunt Memorial Cup was won by Mr. A. Hollowood of Sutton Depot, who had caught the highest total weight of fish in the contests. Mr. T. Mansfield of Walsall Depot gained the other trophy, which is for catching the largest specimen fish in the Contests. Both successful members also received suitable replicas as a permanent memento of their achievements.

At the Meeting was also recorded with satisfaction, the very fine effort by Mr. J.W. Whitworth, Head Office, in landing a 22 lb. salmon, using tackle not intended for such a heavy and lively opponent. I need hardly add that the Company's waters were not involved in any way.

The Club is always keen to gain new members and anyone interested should contact the new Honorary Secretary, Mr. R. Stackhouse, at Sutton Depot. Wives, fiancées and girl friends need not be alarmed if their menfolk do join, as there are many occasions when they can come along too. In fact, the Club Members very much appreciate the support and help given by several ladies in looking after the refreshments.

D.R. Fletcher,
Hon. Sec. 1963/64

MR. W.J. YOUNG

A pleasant ceremony took place on October 8th in the Secretary's Office to mark the official retirement of Mr. W.J. Young.

Mr. Tibbenham, in presenting a cheque on behalf of his colleagues, touched upon the loyalty given to the Company over the years and the esteem in which Mr. Young was held by all his friends and everyone with whom he had come in contact. He expressed the wish that Mr. Young would have, as he so rightly deserved, a long and happy retirement and that he would not lose touch with his friends still serving with the Company.

Mr. Young, in reply, expressed his thanks and his appreciation of Mr. Tibbenham's remarks and said how much he would miss the daily companionship of his colleagues after so many years. He had always done his utmost to serve the Company to the full extent of his capabilities and was pleased to think that, on the whole, he had succeeded.

The ceremony ended with several toasts to Mr. Young's continued good health and handshakes all round.

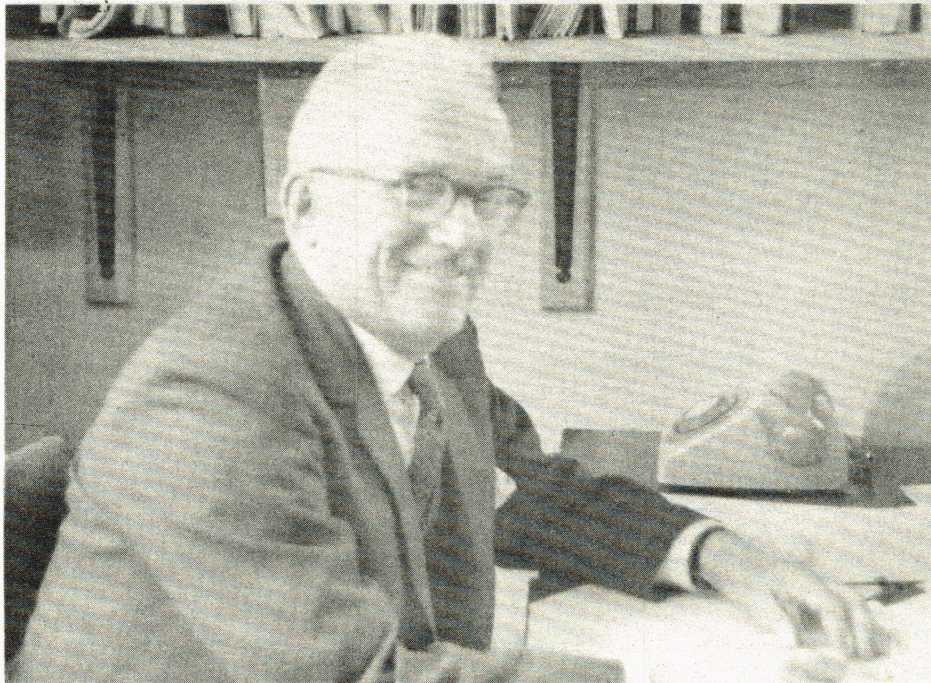
"Bill", as he was affectionately known to everyone except perhaps the youngest members of the staff, after distinguished service in the first world war (he gained the M.M.) joined the Company in September 1925, and on retirement held the position as Collector at West Bromwich.

His main hobbies are bowling and, of course, gardening, and we all wish him many prolific harvests in the years to come.

As sergeant-major he was an active member of the L.D.V. and afterwards the Company's Home Guard throughout the war years. One of Bill's colleagues in the Home Guard particularly remembers a couple of amusing incidents which occurred in those hectic days.

There was the occasion when one man turned up without anklets and was duly reprimanded. The drilling proceeded but during the marching his bootlaces came undone, causing the man to fall, sending his rifle flying in the opposite direction. C.S.M. Young's remarks - "Serve you --- right for coming on parade improperly dressed".

Another time, on a visit to Maple Brook, during the course of an exercise it was necessary to go on to the roof, jumping across to a nearby building. Captain and C.S.M. were pretty scared, but knowing they had to set an example, they did it - with deep sighs of relief when safely on the other side.



MR. O. ROUND

Mr. Oliver Round retired in January 1964, after a period of 48 years' service. He joined the Company as a Junior Clerk in the General Office at Paradise Street and the Secretary at that time was Mr.C.J.Sparrow.

Called to the Colours in January 1917, he was posted to the 2nd Sherwood Foresters. January 1918 saw him in France and in March of the same year he was taken prisoner of war. As a result of the privations which followed, his health was somewhat impaired. Rejoining the Company in 1919 he returned to the General Office, although for a short period in the late 1920's he was assisting in Outside Collection.

Mr. Round was a loyal and conscientious employee and a valued colleague and companion. He spared no effort in an endeavour to be of service to all with whom he came in contact and his kindly attitude to young and old alike will always be remembered by those who counted it a privilege to be regarded as his friends.

His long and faithful service to the Company was acknowledged by the Board of Directors with a Presentation on his retirement. Mr. Tibbenham also handed him a cheque which had been subscribed by his colleagues at Head Office as a token of their high regard.

We hope that both Mr. & Mrs. Round will enjoy to the full a long period of well-earned leisure.

SHRUBS IN MY GARDEN

Having agreed to write an article on shrubs, I was faced with the difficulty of deciding whether to give seasonable advice or to sub-divide into evergreens, deciduous, or flowering varieties. Each of the above headings would require a very long article, so I settled for some of the shrubs which I have selected for my own garden and can recommend to other lazy gardeners who wish to reduce the amount of labouring and seek to increase leisure time in the garden.

First we must select shrubs which will clothe the garden during those long winter months when most gardens present a dismal black face to the world, therefore evergreens must be included, not the dreary privets and laurels of our forefathers but bright, cheerful coloured shrubs such as *Thuya Rheingold*, which presents bright yellow/ginger foliage throughout the year and is a slow grower which retains its conical shape.

Cupressus Obtusa Crippsii - a beautiful golden tree which turns almost buttercup yellow under the summer sunshine. Junipers, column formed (*Communis Compressa*) and prostrate (*Procumbens*) add shape and cover, while *J. Squamata Meizeri* produces some fantastic shapes of blue-green colour and has the advantage of slow growth and moderately dwarfed habit.

The more common *Cupressus allumii* is also useful and provides more of this blue-green shade which is usually not too plentiful in a garden.

Blue Spruce is one of my favourites, but leave plenty of room for this as it achieves quite large proportions.

The Hollies, Golden King and Silver Queen, and *Aucuba*, the golden variegated laurel, remain bright throughout the year.

Arbutus Unido, the beautiful strawberry tree which flourishes on Exmoor, has not, so far, produced the curious flowers and fruits which can be seen at the same time in the South, on one specimen.

A specimen tree, *Cedar Diodora*, provides great beauty, but beware, it will look down on you from a great height in no time and you must have a reasonably large garden, otherwise it may become overpowering.

Of the deciduous shrubs I find *Eleagnus (Pungens Aurea-variegata)* a very easily grown shrub which keeps the majority of its variegated leaves of yellow and deep green throughout the winter months, and the silver leaved counterpart, *E. Argentea* is indispensable, but unfortunately does not hold its leaves after October.

At the far end of my lawn, set in a bed of its own which is underplanted with bulbs and anemones, is a Golden Weeping Willow (*Salix vitellina pendula ramulas aureis*), which is attractive all the year round. When the leaves are shed, the branches and trunk retain a beautiful golden hue which brightens up the garden during brief spells of winter and spring sunshine, and is a worthy rival for *Cornus Alba* which, of course, is grown for the brilliant red bark.

Syringa (Lilac) *Charles Jolie*, a deep purple red, *Katherine Havemeyer*, which has very large blooms of soft mauve colour, and *Madame Lemoine*, with very large white blooms, are in my garden, and I think are the best of the double flowered varieties, but I am very fond of the old fashioned single lilac which forms a considerable part of my boundary hedge. *Souvenir de Louis Spath* is also very attractive with single dark purple blooms.

Forsythia, while very commonly grown, is still in my opinion one of our finest flowering shrubs. The varieties *Spectabilis*, *Vitellina* and *Lynwood* are well worth a place in even the smallest garden. If you have only room for one, choose *Lynwood*, which to my mind is the finest grown. It may not be generally known that a few branches clipped from the bush in February and taken into the warmth of the house will soon come into flower and provide useful decoration at a period when flowers are most expensive. It is also surprising to find how the flowering period can be extended by growing bushes in different aspects.

My numerous varieties of *Berberis*, *Cotoneaster horizontalis*, *pendula* and *Simonsii* provide berries and colour. *Pendula* is best grown as a weeping standard, when it will form a most attractive specimen plant. *Skimmia Japonica* provides olive coloured leaves throughout the year with flowers and berries in season, provided you have both the male and female varieties.

Kolkwitzia anabilis is a small shrub bearing pink flowers which are cowslip scented. This appears to thrive in the Midlands and gives a beautiful display of flowers from the first year of planting, which unfortunately cannot be said of *Viburnum Fragrens*, the shrub which all Nurseries praise to the skies in their catalogues, without warning the prospective purchasers that several years may elapse before the rather meagre flowers appear. My own specimen took seven years to bloom and evidently overheard its sentence of death last autumn as it has bravely produced a few flowers this spring. This shrub is, of course, grown for the fragrance of its flowers in early spring, like the *Witch Hazel*, *Hamaemelis Mollis*, which I find extremely slow growing, and which appreciates a rather damp position.

Viburnum Carlcephalum is a beautiful and highly scented variety which blooms freely, as also does *V. Tomentosum*.

The peat loving shrubs such as azaleas and rhododendrons need little recommendation as I am sure most people are now aware of the wonderful colours available.

On reading these notes I am conscious of the many shrubs which I have not had room to mention and perhaps at some later date I may be given an opportunity of listing for you.

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

COMMITTEE

A.W.Tibbenham (Chairman), P.J.Burton, W.Chatfield, E.Jones,
J.Keeling, C.T.Langdon, W.Paterson, 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 thirtyseventh Annual General Meeting of the Fund was held at the "Belle Vue" Hotel, Walsall, on the 19th June, 1964. Mr. A.W.Tibbenham was in the chair.

The Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 1964 was adopted and the Committee's recommendation that an interest payment of 4½% tax free be credited to members' accounts was carried unanimously. The Chairman, in his remarks, said that the Balance Sheet revealed a satisfactory state of affairs. The Reserve Fund now fully covered the depreciation in market value of both the dated and undated securities held, and the Fund could be said to be progressing very favourably.

Mr.J. Keeling of Seedy Mill was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy on the Committee caused by the impending retirement from the Company of Mr. W. Sale (Chilcote). In welcoming Mr. Keeling to the Committee, the Chairman paid tribute to the work and interest shown by Mr. Sale who had been a member of the Committee for 14 years.

It is interesting to note that the Fund, which was started in January 1927 with the idea of encouraging thrift among the employees to enable them to purchase Stock in the Company has, during its 37 years, grown to a membership of 343 with a total of nearly £86,000 standing to the credit of its members, approximately half of which is invested in securities, the remainder in loans and advances to employees of the Company on Mortgages of Freehold and Leasehold Properties.

All employees of the Company are eligible to join and the advantages as a medium for saving are:-

Regular saving effected by deductions from salaries or wages.

Amounts up to £30 may be withdrawn on demand in any period of one month. (For amounts over £30 three months' notice to be given in writing).

Lump sums without limit may be deposited.

Mortgages and Loans granted to employees in approved cases subject to the Funds being available.

Members, upon retirement, cease to be contributors, but may leave their balances on deposit with the Fund.

The following rates of interest credited to Members' accounts during the last 6 years indicate the steady progress of the Fund.

Year ended 31st March 1958	3½%	Free of Tax
" " " " 1959	3¾%	" " "
" " " " 1960	4%	" " "
" " " " 1961	4%	" " "
" " " " 1962	4¼%	" " "
" " " " 1963	4¼%	" " "
" " " " <u>1964</u>	<u>4½%</u>	" " "

Employees of the Company wishing to join should apply to a member of the Committee or the undersigned. There is no entrance fee and no limit to the amount that may be deposited.

A.E.FEW TRELL
HONORARY SECRETARY

SUPERANNUATED MEMBERS' OUTING.

Tuesday, 2nd June, was the occasion of the Superannuated Members' Outing, and the weather was rather depressing when about 140 members and their ladies boarded the coaches at the pre-arranged picking up points. It takes more than a dull day to dampen the spirits of our old colleagues, however, and everyone came prepared with warm clothing and mackintoshes.

After hurried greetings from the Head Office staff, the coaches were soon on their way to Charlecote Park, where we were joined by Mr. & Mrs. R.H. Taylor and Mr. & Mrs. A.W. Tibbenham. The rain had stopped by this time, although it was rather muddy underfoot, which meant we could not walk around the gardens and could only see the deer at a distance. We did admire the clematis covered walls, however, also the peacock; we understand the hen was sitting on her eggs and perhaps another time we shall see the family.

Here the party split into groups and accompanied by very informative guides we were shown round the beautiful house, once the home of the Lucy Family, but now owned by the National Trust.

Perhaps the first thing admired by everyone in the Great Hall was the long table, composed of a huge central onyx, semi-precious stones and marbles, resting on an equally impressive oak stand. And we liked the marquetry tables and chests, looked with envy at the tapestry and petit point work and stood amazed at the massive oak sideboard which was skilfully carved by a local man in 1858. The ladies did, perhaps, feel thankful that they didn't have to dust it every day!

We were conducted round the Brew-House, where the hoppers must have been full at one time, but the guide said she was sorry that the last sample had been given away earlier in the day. We also visited the Coach House and admired the craftsmanship which was evident in the travelling coach, the barouche, the two-wheeled dog cart for ladies, and the travelling coach.

I think most of the party felt that this was a really interesting house, and one which merited a further visit, but time was short and soon we were on our way to Stratford, where Sir Charles and Lady Burman, Mr. & Mrs. R.H. Taylor and Mr. & Mrs. A.W. Tibbenham were waiting to greet their guests.

We have had some excellent meals on our various Outings over the years but I am sure most of us would agree that the meal at The Royal Hotel and Restaurant was one of the best. As the party was such a large one, some members had the meal upstairs but afterwards everyone joined the main party in the dining room downstairs to hear Sir Charles Burman extend a warm welcome to

everyone. He said how sorry he was that the weather was so disappointing but thought perhaps that as we were a Waterworks we should have "waterworks" weather, and with a smile, said Mr. Taylor looked happy as he hated fine weather. I don't think this is quite true but I am sure that a long stretch of fine weather does give our Engineer a headache occasionally.

Sir Charles said how pleased he was to see everyone on the occasion of our annual gathering, when we meet friends we may not otherwise see and hoped we should all meet again next year. He said he was sorry we were not able to sample the brew at Charlecote and hoped we had better luck at our next port of call.

Mr. W. Arms thanked the Chairman and Board of Directors on behalf of the Superannuated members, with sly references to Shakespeare and his Plays.

The Royal Oak, Hockley Heath, where we stopped en route for home, presented an excellent opportunity to have a chat with colleagues who had travelled on separate coaches and it was quite obvious from the conversation that there are no friends quite like old friends.

It was a very pleasing gesture to invite the Widows of the retired members and when speaking to one or two of those who were able to be with us, it was very obvious that they had enjoyed the day and appreciated the fact that they were still remembered.

I know everyone will look forward to next year's Outing, when we hope we shall be more fortunate as far as the weather is concerned.



MR. W.H.FRANCIS

Foreman - Bourne Vale Pumping Station

Mr. W.H.Francis retired from the Company's service on the 4th March 1964 at the age of 65 years and in recognition of his long service he received a Presentation at the hands of the Chairman of Directors at the March Meeting of the Board.

We understand Mr. Francis is particularly interested in the Aldridge Old People's Home and he will now be able to devote more time to this worthwhile hobby, and the old people themselves will appreciate the car outings which Mr. Francis organises.

We all wish him a long and happy retirement.

STAFF ASSOCIATION EVENTS

ANNUAL OUTING/ VISIT TO WORKS.

It was a rather chilly morning on Tuesday, 1st October, when members of the staff and their wives and fiancées boarded the Midland Red Coaches outside the Head Offices to start on their Annual Visit to Works and Outing. Cheered on by the 'skeleton staff' at the windows, we made our way to Hagley Pumping Station where Mr. Turnbull was waiting to show us round and answer questions. This Station is in a delightful setting and everything looked spick and span in spite of the dull day.

The next port of call was at the Stewponey Hotel for coffee which was very welcome on this breezy morning, and soon we were boarding the buses once again en route for Ludlow, where lunch at The Feathers Hotel had been arranged.

The Chairman of the Staff Association extended a welcome to everyone and said how pleased he was that Mr. A.W. Tibbenham was able to join us. He apologised for the absence of Mr. R.H. Taylor who was on holiday but said he had sent his best wishes for a very happy occasion. The Chairman advised us that he did not think south cones had been hoisted and the trip on the river should be very pleasant.

Mr. Lamont told us that perhaps next year we may be able to visit Chelmarsh which should then be very interesting, and apologised for not being available at times but hoped we understood that this was due to work being done on the Hampton Loade Treatment Works and Chelmarsh Reservoir.

We can always rely on a touch of humour in any speech made by Mr. Lamont and he told us of an absentminded Professor who was moving house. His wife reminded him in the morning to go to their new home in the evening but the Professor forgot and returned to his old address. Here he found the key would not fit the door and then remembered he should have gone to their new home. He asked a little boy nearby if he knew him and if he knew his new address, whereupon the little boy replied - "Oh daddy, mummy said this would happen".

Soon it was time to drive to Holt Fleet where many members boarded the steamer for a trip to Stourport. The weather was disappointing and rather spoilt what might have been a very interesting and different way of spending an afternoon. However, the bar was open and as the rain stopped before the trip ended, most of us were able to get out 'on deck' to view the scenery - but winter clothing was really necessary.

The weather is a most important factor on these visits, especially so late in the year, and we did hope that we should be favoured with a repetition of the brief indian summer weather we experienced during September. Nevertheless, we enjoyed the day and were glad to see old colleagues from the district offices etc.

I know we are all looking forward to a possible visit to Chelmarsh next year so that we can see why everyone has been so busy.

There has been a suggestion from one member of the Staff that we should insert an "Exchange & Mart" in the News Review. The idea is that someone may have something he doesn't need and someone else does, particularly in the case of children who have a habit of outgrowing football and cricket boots etc. before they are worn out.

If any reader has any likely articles for exchange and will let the Editor have details, the information will be passed on.

Heard at the Annual Dinner -

We like the story of the man who was speeding along the Motorway. Eventually, he was overtaken and stopped by a Police Patrol car and the police driver addressed the man thus, "Excuse me Sir, but do you realise that your nearside door is open and that your wife fell out about 5 miles back?".

"Thank goodness for that" said the man, "I thought I had gone deaf!"

ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE.

The Thirty-Fourth Annual Dinner and Dance of the Staff Association Club was held in the Pavilion Suite, The County Ground, on Friday, 20th March 1964, our President, Sir Charles Burman, J.P. again presiding, and we were pleased that some of our Vice-Presidents and their Ladies were able to be with us on that occasion.

Sir Charles and Lady Burman, accompanied by Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Whitworth, received the Guests, and Miss Dianne Wells presented a bouquet to Lady Burman.

Greetings were exchanged between old friends, drinks were enjoyed in the Bar, and everyone was pleased to have the opportunity of having a chat with colleagues seen only too rarely. Dinner was then announced, and with the promise of a further opportunity to talk over old times later in the evening, we all found our places at the table (not a difficult matter, as we had already studied the very concise plan) and enjoyed a very appetizing meal.

In proposing the Toast to the Staff Association, coupled with our new Chairman, Mr. J.W. Whitworth, the President said how pleased he was to see such a record number present. He also said, with a smile, that although he did sometimes propose the Toast himself, he did occasionally request one of his colleagues to do so and that perhaps it would not be long before our new Director, Mr. J. Thompson, was up on his feet.

Sir Charles reminded us that a certain event will take place this year and said that it all depended upon what happened whether we should have a Board of Directors in the future. He said he would personally be sorry to see any change, as he thought we functioned efficiently and worked to the benefit of our consumers, and after all, they are the people who matter. He sincerely hoped we should be left alone to do the job for which we had been trained.

He thanked everyone for their loyal support to the Company, which was very much appreciated by the Board of Directors.

He then went on to talk about Mr. Whitworth and informed us that there had been 90 years unbroken Whitworth service to the Company and that Mr. Whitworth himself had given 40 years. The Staff Association had received invaluable service from Mr. Whitworth who had been a member of the Executive Committee since 1930 and was the first Treasurer of the Canteen when it opened in 1932.

The President also spoke of Mr. Whitworth's hobby, that of a Fireman, not at Sheepcote Street, but in Worcester, where he is Assistant Divisional Officer, and has earned merit awards and been awarded the M.B.E.

In asking us to rise and drink a Toast to the Staff Association, coupled with the name of Mr. Whitworth, Sir Charles said how delighted we were to welcome him as our new Chairman, and said he was sure the Association would flourish under his control.

Mr. Whitworth rose to respond to the Toast to the Staff Association and thanked Sir Charles most warmly for the charming manner in which he had proposed the Toast and for the generous sentiments expressed. He said how delighted we were that Sir Charles and Lady Burman were able to be with us as their presence constituted both an honour and a privilege when we bear in mind their many business commitments, as well as the Political, Civic and Charitable work to which he and Lady Burman dedicated so much of their lives.

He said that the occasion of the Annual Dinner provided the Chairman of the Staff Association with an opportunity of publically expressing thanks to the Board of Directors for the many privileges granted to the Staff, which were greatly appreciated, and asked Sir Charles to accept our grateful acknowledgment.

The Chairman said how glad we were to greet a number of our Vice-Presidents and their Ladies and particularly welcomed our newest Vice-President, Mr. Jack Thompson, who was appointed to the Board in June 1963, and also to Mrs. Thompson.

Mr. Whitworth then said how very fortunate we were in the way that the Chief Officers displayed such a lively interest in the affairs of the Association and thought it a fitting time that evening to record our appreciation of the assistance they have so willingly given. He was quite sure that it was largely due to their interest in our affairs that such a happy relationship existed between the Chief Officers and the Staff.

"In direct contrast of this undoubted spirit of good will", continued Mr. Whitworth, "there is a story of two boys who started at a well known Public School. Almost from the first day they fostered a dislike for each other and this enmity between them continued throughout their school life. Eventually they both left, the one going to Oxford and the other to the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth.

It was many years before they met again, on a railway station in London, the one, a rather obese figure clad in the clerical attire of a Bishop and the other resplendent in the uniform of an Admiral. They recognised each other and instantly the old hatred flared up. Immediately, the Bishop said to the Admiral, "Tell me, Porter, will this train take me to Cheltenham?". "Yes, Madam", replied the Admiral, "but in your condition do you consider it wise to be travelling so far?".

Mr. Whitworth then thanked everyone for their record support that evening and told us that he was a bit apprehensive in having to follow our previous Chairman, Mr. Lamont. When we were searching for a Chairman in 1961 and Mr. Lamont's name was suggested, grave doubts were expressed as to what hopes we had with such a "new boy" as Chairman. How wrong we were; Mr. Lamont never failed to seize an opportunity to improve conditions for the Association members and said he may be assured that in his three years in Office, Mr. Lamont had secured for himself a host of warmhearted and grateful colleagues.

Mr. Whitworth spoke of all the help he had personally received from the Honorary Secretary of the Staff Association and said he was sure Mr. Gilbert often wished he could be elected Chairman, in the knowledge that his term of office would be but 3 years.

The evening then proceeded in the time honoured way, with dancing, drinking and talking. This has always been one of the highlights of the Staff Association and an evening long looked forward to by the Staff. Everyone responsible for the arrangements must be congratulated, and in spite of the wretched weather outside, the Ballroom was gay with enjoyment and friendship.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Staff Association Club was held in the Canteen, Sheepcote Street, on Friday, 21st February, under the Chairmanship of J.Lamont, Esq. There were 24 members present.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, members observed a moment of silence in memory of Mr. C.E.Hickman, former Vice-President, and Messrs. Beardsmore and Lambert, former members of the Association, who had passed away since the last Annual General Meeting.

In presenting his annual report, Mr. Lamont extended a warm welcome to all present at the 44th Annual General Meeting of the Staff Association and said how delighted he was to see there were a number of Ladies present, which added a charm to the occasion.

He spoke of the three chief social events, namely, the Dinner & Dance, the Annual Outing and Visit to Works and the Christmas Dance, which were all a great success, with record attendances on each occasion.

Dealing with the Canteen, Mr. Lamont said he was very glad to be able to report a year of excellent progress. We were very fortunate about 12 months ago when Miss Brummit joined the staff as Canteen Manageress. The results had been very satisfactory and not only had Miss Brummit improved the standard of the meals considerably but she had been a driving force behind him and the committee in bringing about many other improvements, her object being to give the Canteen a new look. The Chairman said he was sure that members would wish him to thank Miss Brummit on their behalf for all the hard work she had put into the canteen during her first year. He also thanked all other members of the staff for their very willing voluntary help, without which it would be impossible to run the canteen.

Continuing, Mr. Lamont said this was the last occasion on which he would have the pleasure of taking the Chair at the Annual Meeting and although there was no doubt that a great deal had been achieved he did not want it to be thought that he had been solely responsible. He had had a considerable amount of support from Mr. Taylor and Mr. Tibbenham and also the enthusiastic support of the members of the Executive Committee. Also the Board had been most generous whenever they had been approached.

In conclusion, Mr. Lamont said the great support he had received from everyone had made his term of Office most enjoyable. It had been a great experience and he wished to express his thanks very sincerely for the great help and encouragement which had been given to him as Chairman.

Mr. Lamont then proposed that Mr. Whitworth, who had been Vice-Chairman for the past 3 years, and had had such a wide knowledge of the working of the Association extending over many years, should be elected Chairman.

In accepting Office, Mr. Whitworth thanked the members for the confidence they had placed in him and said he would endeavour to do his best. It was almost frightening to him to have to follow in the footsteps of a Chairman such as Mr. Lamont had been, and the members of the Association owed a very great debt to him for all he had done.

The following Officers and Executive Committee were appointed :-

Chairman	Mr. J.W. Whitworth
Vice-Chairman	Mr. A. Simkins
Honorary Secretary	Mr. C.H.F. Gilbert
Honorary Treasurer	Mr. R.G. Clarke
Honorary Auditors	Mr. K. Hand and Mr. P. Burton
Tobacco Club Secretary	Miss C.S. Parry

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<u>Engineer's Dept. Inside Staff.</u>	<u>Secretary's Dept.</u>
Mr. J. Lamont (Preceding Chairman)	Miss B.R. Greenhall
Miss A. Cartwright	Mrs. E.M. Jackson
Mr. C.E. Packwood	Mr. J.H. Dixon
Mr. B. Webster	Mr. J.E.S. Stock
Mr. R.J. Wright	

Outside Staff

Burton, Cannock and Sutton Depots.	Mr. S.A.G. Wimbush
Walsall Depot and Wood Green	Mr. R.R. Pearsall
Tipton Depot	Mr. C.B. Brennan
Lichfield Area and Outside Staff on Construction Work	Mr. G.W. Anderson

Personalia

NEW EMPLOYEES

Mr. L.J.Leason	Chelmarsh	Mr. E.T.Burns	Accountancy Dept.
Mr. F.E.W.Price	Do.	Mr. M.J.Andrews	Do.
Mrs. F. Stewart	Do.	Miss J.A.Forster-Brass	Distribution Dept.
Mr. R.T.Syvret	Do.	Mrs. S.D.Johnson	Do.
Mr. E.F.Mills	Do.	Mr. B.J.Stokes	Do.
Miss D.C.Wells	Civil Eng. Dept.	Mr. B.J.Edwards	Architectural Dept.
Mr. E.G.Buck	Do.	Mr. P.A.Craggs	Electrical Dept.
Mr. D.E.Burgess	Do.	Mrs. E.M.Osland	Powers Samas Dept.
Mr. D.J.Dixon	Do.	Miss S.V.Harvey	Do.
Mr. J.S.Crowther	Do.	Miss J.M.Tromans	Cash Office
Miss J.C.Taylor	Do.	Mr. L.E.Sirrell	Head Office
Mr. M.P.Upstone	Do.	Mrs. J.Morris	Telephonist
Miss C.L Dutton	Do.	Mr. J.E.Manns	Wood Green
Mr. K. Wilson	Walsall	Mr. M.F.J.Shelley	Cannock
Miss A.Cartwright	Engineers Typists Office	Miss M.K.Greening	Postal Dept.
Mrs. M.V.Farren	Do.		
Miss J.D.Willetts	Revenue Dept.		
Mr. M.F.Crowe	Do.		
Mr. M. Raybould	Service Dept.		
Miss C.E.Osmond	Secretary's Typists Dept.		

TRANSFERRED TO STAFF

Mr. R.B.Malbon, Walsall

RETIREMENTS (See also overleaf)

Mr. A.H.Prince, Foreman, Springsmire, Retired 31st July due to ill health, aged 62 years.

Mr. H.W.Denning, Waterman, Tipton, Retired 31st July due to ill health, aged 58 years.

Mr. D.R.Warre, Bricklayer, Cannock, Retired 2nd September due to ill health, aged 64 years.

Mr. A.E.Marsh, Pumping Stn.Attendant, Ashwood, retired 15th August 1964, aged 65 years.

RESIGNATIONS

Mr. H. Morris	Head Office	Mr. R. Pugh	Cannock
Mr. S. Johnson	Revenue Dept.	Mr. W.D. Carlow	Revenue Dept.
Mr. C.H. Kingsbury	Civil Eng. Dept.	Mr. G.S. Downing	Tipton
Miss P.F. Jones	Typists	Miss S. McNaughton	Power Samas
Miss A. Finney	Do.	Miss J. Hyland	Do. Dept.
Mrs. P.M. Bebbington	Distribution Dept.	Mr. L. Clifford	Sandfields
Mr. W.H. Adams	Revenue Dept.	Mrs. A. Crump	Calculating Dept.
Mr. R. Barnes	Do.	Mr. R.C. Kittlety	Architectur- al Dept.
Miss P. German	Civil Eng. Dept.	Miss J.M. Davies	Secretary's Typists Dept.
		Mrs. H. Taylor	Order Dept.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. A. Bradshaw	Waterman, Cawney Hill, on the 2nd October, 1963, aged 66 years.
Mr. W. Young	Collector, West Bromwich, Retired 31st August, 1963, aged 65 years.
Mr. J. Bradbury	Distribution Dept. Retired 22nd October, 1963, aged 65 years.
Mr. E.T. Gardiner	Laboratory Steward, Retired 19th October 1963, aged 69 years.
Mr. A. Shaw	Waterman, Walsall Depot, Retired 20th November 1963, aged 65 years.
Mr. A.G. Hitchings	Pumping Station Attendant, Fradley, Retired 27th November 1963, aged 60 years.
Mr. W. Tranter	Foreman, Prestwood Pumping Station. Retired 31st December 1963, aged 65 years.
Mr. H.E. Hale	Clerk, Tipton Depot. Retired 30th December, 1963, aged 60 years. (Mr. Hale has since resumed work at Tipton on a part-time basis).
Mr. W.H. Francis	Foreman, Bourne Vale Pumping Station. Retired 4th March 1964, aged 65 years.
Mr. B. Clarke	Ganger, Tipton Depot. Retired 5th February 1964, Aged 66 years.
Mr. C. Bedworth	Waterman, Walsall Depot, Retired 10th February 1964. Aged 65 years.
Mr. H.V. Fencott,	Driver, Walsall, Retired 20th February 1964, aged 65 years.
Mr. S.E.W. Buller	Painter, Walsall. Retired 14th June 1964, Aged 65 years.
Mr. O. Round	Revenue Dept. Head Office, Retired 31st January 1964, Aged 65 years.
Mr. W. Gordon	Accountancy Dept. Head Office. Retired on the 4th January 1964.

DEATHS

We regret to record the following deaths.

- Mr. H. Beardsmore, Formerly Foreman at Trent Valley Pumping Station, who retired 30th Sept. 1949, died on the 4th October, aged 83 years.
- Mr. E. Whittaker Engine Tenter, Maple Brook Pumping Station, died on the 28th August 1963, aged 60 years.
- Mr. H. Duffield Main Jointer, Tipton, Killed in accident on his way home from work on the 8th November 1963, aged 67 years.
- Mr. L.H.Eades Lead Pipe Jointer, Tipton, Died suddenly on the 13th December, aged 60 years.
- Mr. G.H.Green Foreman, Trent Valley Pumping Station, died on the 22nd January 1964, aged 40 years.
- Mr. D.Morris Main Jointer, Tipton, Died on the 26th February, 1964, aged 61 years.
- Mr. R.Warwood Pumping Station Attendant, Bourne Vale Pumping Station, Died on the 1st March 1964, aged 54 years.
- Mr. J. Moseley Meter Repairer, Wood Green, who retired in November 1960, died on the 9th March 1964, aged 63 years.
- Mr. K. Walton Waste Inspector, Cannock, died suddenly on the 5th March 1964, aged 43 years.
- Mr. A. Hall Formerly Blacksmith, Cannock, who retired in May 1959, died on the 10th April, aged 69 years.
- Mr. R.Lambert Formerly Collector, who retired in December 1959, died on the 28th January aged 70 years.
- Mrs. S.R.Nixon Wife of Mr. S.R.Nixon, formerly Head of Service Dept. died on the 31st October, 1963.

MARRIAGES

We wish the following happy couples every good fortune in the future.

- Mr. & Mrs. J.Webb (Miss A.Jones) who were married on 23rd Nov. 1963
- Mr. & Mrs. J.F.Sharp (Miss M.Jones) who were married on 21st Mar. 1964
- Mr. & Mrs. F.Houghton (Miss A.Wall) who were married on 30th May, 1964
- Mr. & Mrs. P.Allen (Miss R. Roberts) who were married on 27th June, 1964
- Mr. & Mrs. R.Ellard (Miss M.Thomas) who were married on 31st Aug. 1963
- Mr. & Mrs. W.H.Cooper (Miss S.M.Thacker) who were married on the 5th Oct. 1963.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Banner on the birth of a Son,
(Neil Stewart) on the 23rd September 1963.

Also to Mr. & Mrs. B.A.Morrall on the birth of a Son,
(Richard Anthony) on the 25th September 1963.