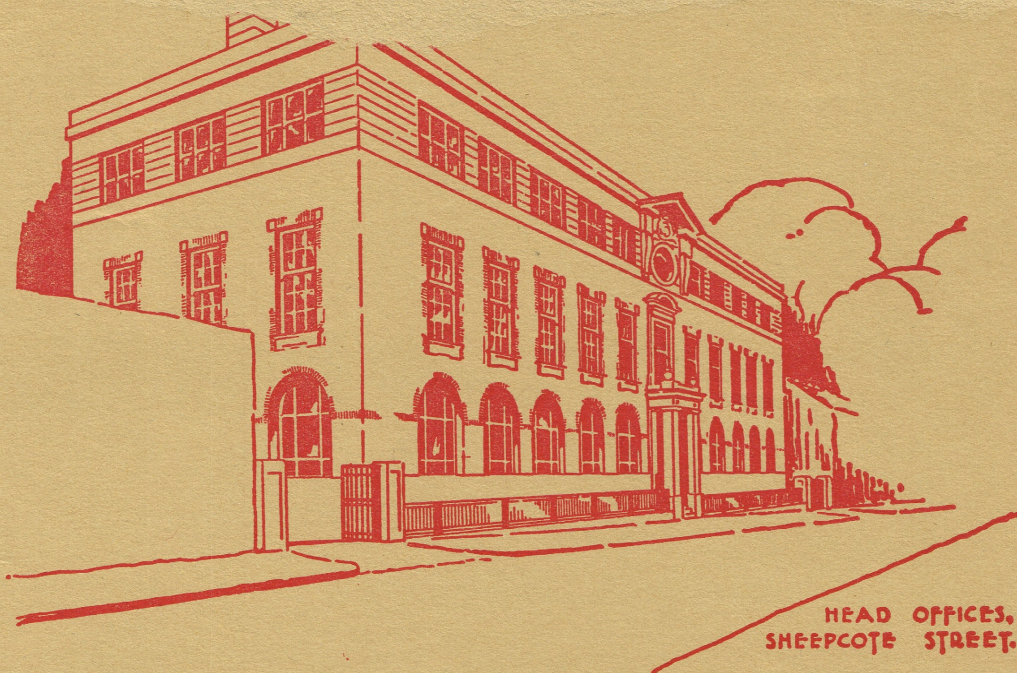


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THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
WATERWORKS COMPANY

NEWS REVIEW



HEAD OFFICES,
SHEEPCOTE STREET.

JULY 1966

Vol. 16

No. 1

Round and about

THE VOICE OF CANNOCK

A few days before Christmas 1965 Mr. Langston invited the Senior Staff to Dinner at The Old Farmhouse at Armitage Mr. W.A. Markham joined us and everyone enjoyed a splendid meal followed by a very pleasant evening This was a very happy and friendly occasion and Mr. Langston's generous action helped to forge still tighter the necessary link between Departments.

Our Annual Dinner took place on Friday, 13th May, at Taylor's Restaurant. This was well attended and from the remarks afterwards, well enjoyed also We had the honour of having as our guests Mr. & Mrs. J. Lamont, Mr. & Mrs. R.J. Wright and Miss C. Parry, who have since remarked on the outstanding success of the event.

A few social evenings have been held at the Railway Hotel for the older members and it is hoped that another trip can be arranged for our families, when, like last year, we may be able to visit one of the seaside resorts.

The Social Club continues to thrive Last season we played in the Senior Football League and our boys found the going much harder. Although the final league placing of the team was not too healthy I must add that the sportsmanship and pleasure derived from partaking, more than compensated for that. Our last game was against the staff on our ground at Rugeley Road; we won 4-3 but it was a grand clean game and the staff fought gamely to the final whistle.

It has been suggested at the Depot that it may be possible for a Cup to be donated to be played for by Inter-Depot teams at any indoor

or outdoor sports. We hope sincerely that competition can be awakened and that games will be arranged.

CRICKET FIXTURES - 1966

Sunday	
29th May	Head Office (Home)
5th June	Bowmaker Plant (Away)
12th June	Rugeley Power Station (Home)
19th June	G.P.O. Telephone Engrs. (Away)
26th June	Bridgtown Industries (Home)
10th July	Parklands Residents Assoc. (Home)
17th July	D.W.Clarke (Away)
24th July	Bowmaker Plant (Home)
31st July	Rugeley Power Station (Away)
7th August	Smethwick Gremlins (Home)
14th August	G.P.O. Telephone Engrs. (Home)
21st August	Bridgtown Industries (Away)
28th August	Joseph Lucas (Away)
11th September	Armitage Ware (Home)
18th September	Wolverhampton Chronicle (Home)

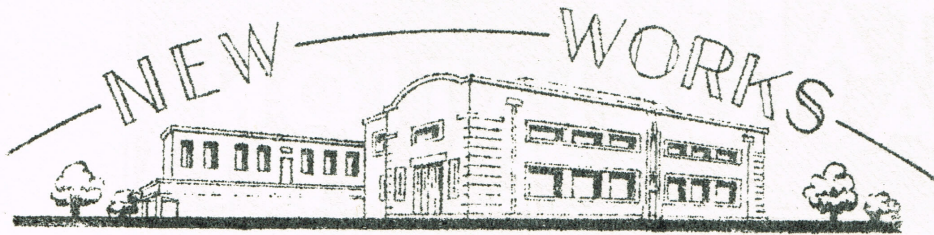
RETIREMENT OF MR. H.J. NORTON. WOOD GREEN

On Wednesday, 25th May, a ceremony was held in the messroom at Wood Green to mark the retirement of the Foreman of the Fitting Shop, Harold Norton. A collection had been made at the Depot and with several subscribers from other depots the amount donated was a very creditable £18.1.0d.

It was standing room only in the crowded messroom when the presentation was made by the Assistant Superintendent, Mr. A. Spink. In a short speech Mr. Spink recalled that Harold had completed 43 years' service with the Company, during which time he had been an excellent worker and had become much liked and respected by all his colleagues, who wished him and his wife a very happy retirement.

Mr. Spink then presented Harold with a very handsome wall clock, an envelope containing gift bonds and a bouquet of roses and carnations for Mrs. Norton. Harold then rose to make a speech of thanks but he was so overcome with emotion that he had difficulty in putting his thoughts into words. However, he did thank us most sincerely and then sat down amidst roars of applause from the packed assembly. We then had a spontaneous rendering of "For he's a jolly good fellow", and you could feel that everyone in the room really meant what he was singing.

It was only a very short, simple ceremony, but it showed Harold how we felt about him, and assured him of a warm welcome any time he decides to come and visit us.



RIVER SEVERN SCHEME

Since the last issue of the News Review considerable progress has been made on the Company's River Severn Scheme, and a supply of water up to 7 m.g.d. has been made available. At the present time the Company have been taking about 4 m.g.d. and our partners, Wolverhampton Corporation, have been taking 2 m.g.d. Apart from one or two minor stoppages due to teething troubles the works are operating satisfactorily.

Chelmarsh Reservoir has been completed to a stage where impounding to a level of 5 feet below top water level is considered safe and the reservoir is now almost up to this level and, as expected, has formed a very picturesque lake which has already attracted visitors to the area.

At Hampton Loade, the intake works are progressing well, the shell of the chemical building has been completed and the steelwork erected for the pump house. As expected, an excellent view of the surrounding countryside is obtainable from the top of the pump house and anyone visiting Hampton Loade is well advised to make the effort to ascend the staircase to the top floor. There is a lift installed but it is not yet, of course, operational.

Adjacent to the intake, the road and pipe bridge is taking shape and it is hoped that the pipe arch will be completed in the next month or so. When the bridge is completed volunteers will be required for testing - names should be submitted through the usual channels.

Despite the activities of the Welsh Nationalists, work on the Clywedog Reservoir, which was visited by the staff last year, is also proceeding satisfactorily but somewhat behind schedule. Fortunately at the time of going to press the Company's works at Hampton Loade have been free from the hazards experienced at Clywedog, but one of the Civil Engineering Department's tracers has promised that there is still plenty of time.

To date the works have generally been staffed temporarily by existing personnel from other stations, but in the last few weeks a Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent have been appointed. These details will be found elsewhere in the Review

STAFF ASSOCIATION EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Staff Association Club was held in the Canteen, Sheepcote Street, on the 25th February 1966, under the Chairmanship of Mr. J.W. Whitworth.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming so many members of the Staff and in particular thanked Messrs. Ward and Ruxton for their loyalty to the Staff Association Club during their service with the Company.

A few moments silence was observed in remembrance of a number of our former colleagues who had passed away.

Mr. Whitworth paid special tribute to the Entertainments Committee for their energetic work during the year when several very successful social events had been held. He also referred to the difficult period in the canteen due to staff shortages and reported that the "Meals on Wheels" service had swallowed a large proportion of the canteen funds.

The President and Vice-Presidents were re-elected en bloc, with the addition of Mr. A.E. Fewtrell.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Auditors were unanimously re-elected and the following members were elected as members of the Executive Committee for the year 1966:

Mrs. S. Johnson, Miss B. Greenhall, Messrs. R.J. Wright, C.E. Packwood, B. Hawkley, J.E. Stock, R. Swingler, G. Whitehouse, G.W. Anderson, S. Wimbush and R.R. Pearsall. As nominations had not been received in respect of Tipton Depot this matter was left in the hands of the Executive Committee.

A long discussion followed on the National Joint Committee for the Water Industry (Non-Manual Staffs) and the Chairman suggested that a referendum should be held in order to obtain the views of the staff. The principles and facts of NALGO were also discussed and it was proposed and seconded that a report of the meeting with NALGO should be made available for the staff to read should they so wish. It was also proposed and seconded that the staff should hold a meeting with NALGO in the not too distant future.

ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE

The Thirty-sixth Annual Dinner & Dance was held in The Pavilion Suite, The County Ground, on Friday, 18th March 1966, under the Chairmanship of S.V. Lancaster, Esq., in the unavoidable absence of Sir Charles Burman, President of the Staff Association.

Mr. & Mrs. Lancaster, accompanied by Mr. & Mrs. Whitworth received the Guests and Miss D. Wells presented a bouquet to Mrs. Lancaster.

This year we were pleased to be able to enjoy the evening's festivities in slightly different surroundings, although still at the County Ground. Since the Dinner last year the new ballroom and dining room have been opened with a particularly charming entrance hall where the Guests were able to assemble and meet their friends before the Dinner, and we were able to enjoy a delightful meal in the very tastefully decorated Dining Room.

In proposing the Toast to the Staff Association, Mr. Lancaster said that Sir Charles Burman was sorry he was not able to be with us but it was indeed a pleasure for him to propose the Toast as he had formed a very high admiration for the Staff and the Association since he first joined the Board in 1958.

Mr. Lancaster said he did not think it was the time to delve into matters of business, but dealing with finance, which was his particular subject, he thought there were one or two points which he would like to mention. Consumption had reached the 56 m.g.d. mark during the year and there had been an increase in Expenditure on Capital Account of £8,000,000 over the last 12 years, and the Company continued to grow. The Company had issued £3,000,000 Capital and Loan Stock during the year and we were fast spending it.

The Chairman advised us that the Company had ordered a small computer which it was hoped would take away some of the routine work.

He also spoke of the River Severn Scheme and told us that Chelmarsh Reservoir was half full and that work was progressing on the Clywedog Scheme, in spite of a most unfortunate interruption.

Finally he warmly congratulated all members of the Committee for the admirable arrangements which had been made for the comfort and enjoyment of all the Guests that evening and hoped we all enjoyed ourselves.

The Chairman of the Staff Association said that this was probably the last occasion on which he would be afforded the privilege of responding to the Toast to the Staff Association which Mr. Lancaster had so ably proposed and said that his first duty was to

thank him for agreeing so readily to preside in the unavoidable absence of our President, Sir Charles Burman, and to extend a very warm welcome to all other Vice-Presidents and their Ladies.

Mr. Whitworth said that it was only on such occasions as these that we were able to make contact with a staff spread over a wide area of over 500 square miles but the Staff Association had been the means of bringing together members of the Staff at such functions as the Christmas Dance, the Christmas Luncheon, the Children's Christmas Party and the Barbecue on Bonfire Night. These were in addition to our major functions such as the Annual Outing/Visit to Works and the Annual Dinner & Dance.

Last year we were privileged to see another part of the great River Severn Scheme when we visited the Clywedog Dam, and in spite of the distances which were involved in travelling into Wales, the Chairman said he thought it was one of the most successful visits we had ever had. The type of visit was unique as we had a picnic lunch, with a late Dinner at Ludlow and thus kept together the whole time.

Mr. Whitworth reported that we had a record attendance at the evening's function and he felt that the support received was indicative of the appreciation and enjoyment that members felt as a result of the activities we endeavoured to arrange. "But we are deeply conscious" continued Mr. Whitworth, "that what we have achieved has only been possible by the generosity of the Board of Directors and I would ask you, Mr. Lancaster, to convey to your Co-Directors our very great thanks and appreciation for all the support you have given us".

Mr. Whitworth said it would be the last opportunity he had of personally expressing to so many the thanks he felt for all the loyal support that had been given to him during his term of office. He said he particularly wanted to thank his Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. Simkins, for all his help, and only hoped that the parental responsibility he had recently undertaken would not diminish the zeal and energy he had for Staff Association affairs. Mr. Whitworth then sent our best wishes to Mrs. Simkins. Thanks were also extended to Mr. R.G. Clarke who hoped to be present later in the evening. Mr. Clarke has also undertaken further parental responsibility and best wishes were extended to Mrs. Clarke.

Continuing, Mr. Whitworth said it would be invidious not to pay tribute to an Officer of the Association who had served us so well for so many years and had put in all the really hard work to see that everything worked out according to plan. He referred, of course, to Mr. C.H.F. Gilbert, and assured him that although so much of his work was never highlighted, it was nevertheless greatly appreciated by the staff.

Finally, Mr. Whitworth said that with great sincerity he wished to thank our Chief Officers for all the valuable help they had given us at all times. They had always shown great interest in the welfare of the staff and had shown great sympathy and understanding in our problems. He assured them that whatever they had done for us had not gone unnoticed.

The "Dancing" part of the evening followed to the music of Allan Ayres and his Band, when everyone was happy to try out new steps. In fact it was not only the younger members of the staff who were in the Victor Silvester Class when it came to dancing the Twist! The lucky ones received spot prizes and one couple celebrated their wedding anniversary by receiving a prize. The Old Time Dances were enjoyed equally by the young and "not-so-young" and those present who were not dancing were quite happy to watch the couples whirling by.

These evenings are always the best opportunity we have of seeing our colleagues in a relaxing mood and we always finish the evening with "See you next year". A wonderful evening, enjoyed by all.

Extract from the Birmingham Mail, 6th May 1966

A court at Albany, New York, has ruled that a widow is entitled to workman's compensation because her husband died of a heart attack after dancing the twist at a Company party. The court decided that attendance at the party was in the course of the man's employment.

TWENTYFIVE YEARS' SERVICE

GOLD WATCH AWARDS.

Mr. R.R.Onions	Chief Clerk	Walsall
Mr. A.E.Sanger	Waterman	Tipton
Mr. W.R.Emery	Trenchman	Cannock

ANNUAL OUTING/VISIT TO WORKS

Another successful Annual Outing/Visit to Works took place on Tuesday, 20th September, when we were able to see the progress made at Hampton Loade and Chelmarsh.

Two coaches left Head Office - almost on time - when the staff had no fear of the kind of weather we were likely to encounter. Firstly, there was a slight fog which we knew would lift to give a wonderful day, and secondly, Mr. Whitworth, Chairman of the Staff Association, seems to be able to choose his weather! For the three years since he has been Chairman we have enjoyed good weather for our Annual Outing, sometimes sandwiched between a few weeks of rain.

We arrived at Hampton Loade shortly after 10 o'clock, when the fog had lifted sufficiently for us to enjoy our conducted tour by Messrs. A. Simkins, D. Brown and D. Burgess. We appreciate that it is difficult for Engineers to explain their work to the non-technical members of the staff but they were most helpful and as we had previously been handed typewritten notes regarding Hampton Loade and Chelmarsh we were able to understand what was taking place. I hope the questions we asked were not too crazy!

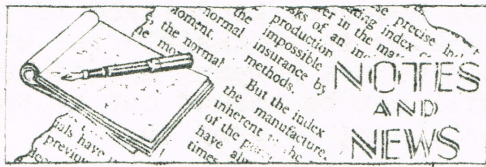
Coffee at the Severn Valley Cafe was very welcome as by this time the weather was hot and we were ready for a rest. But not for long and we were soon on our way to Chelmarsh Reservoir where a very peaceful scene greeted us.

Once again arrangements had been made for a packed lunch which we enjoyed at the "Bandon Arms" and were able to meet old colleagues who had been able to join us.

One coach party then proceeded to Lake Vyrnwy, where I understand everyone enjoyed the scenery and the other party proceeded to Shrewsbury to spend the afternoon. The weather was perfect and whilst some of us took the opportunity to do a little window-shopping and having a refreshing cup of tea, others found their way to the river side to admire the colourful gardens.

An excellent Dinner was taken at the Angel Hotel, Ludlow, and although some of us were pleasantly tired, perhaps with the unaccustomed walking and the day in the sun, it was the unanimous opinion that it had been a lovely day, and, in fact, one of the best Outings we have had.

We always appreciate being given the opportunity of seeing our new works in progress and are looking forward to another visit in the not too distant future.



THE MANCHESTER HINDU KUSH EXPEDITION 1966.

For four months, from early June onwards, I am lucky enough to have obtained leave of absence to take part in the Manchester Hindu Kush Expedition.

Together with the other five expedition members, I shall be travelling over land to Afghanistan where our objectives are climbing and surveying in a remote and only partially explored region of the Hindu Kush mountains. These mountains form the Western arm of the great Himalayan arc.

We shall travel in an ex-army, fourwheel-drive, truck for the 12,000 mile round trip carrying with us about 2 tons of food, supplies and equipment.

The outward and return journeys, taking different routes, should each take about one month, leaving two months for the approach march, exploring and climbing in the mountains.

On the outward journey we shall travel through Belgium, Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey, Persia and Afghanistan, whilst on the return trip we shall go through Persia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Germany and Belgium.

For all the documents necessary for this round trip a total of 30 passport photographs each were required!

From the last village accessible by road transport we intend to employ horses and drivers to carry supplies as far into the mountains as possible but we anticipate some heavy work "humping" the loads on our backs for the last stage before we can set up base camp at about 14,000 feet.

If all goes well we hope to climb a number of 20,000 feet peaks and also map the region.

All our plans could, however, be delayed if the seamen's strike continues, thus making it impossible for us to cross the Channel. For this reason we are keeping our fingers crossed and hoping that our plans will not be thrown out by this the first, but no doubt not the last, snag to crop up.

***** J.S.Crowther,C.E.D.

We were all very delighted to read in the Birmingham Mail earlier in the year that one of our former colleagues, Miss D. Brummitt, was the lucky winner in the "Name The Flowers" Contest. Perhaps quite a few of us could name the flowers but I am sure we all agree with the Judges' decision that "Ring o' Bells", the new nickname chosen for the Crown Imperial, was most imaginative and appropriate.

The prize was a four-day holiday for two in Holland but as I understand Miss Brummitt had already taken her spring holiday she proposes to make the trip next Spring. We extend warm congratulations on her success and hope she enjoys a very pleasant holiday.

Miss Brummitt recently won a Crossword Competition in the Birmingham Mail, and always believing that "Wins" come in "Threes", I am wondering what the next one will be.



Mr. F.C.S. Ward.

A very pleasant ceremony took place on Friday, 6th May, 1966, when a number of Mr. Ward's colleagues met to wish him every happiness in his retirement after almost 50 years' service with the Company, and to present him with a cheque.

In making the presentation, Mr. Simkins - in the absence of Mr. J.W. Whitworth, the Staff Association Chairman - said he felt rather like a new boy by comparison with Mr. Ward's length of service and asked to be excused for reading a few notes.

Mr. Simkins summed up Mr. Ward's 50 years in a very few words - service, loyalty and devotion both to his colleagues and to his employers, and told us that he had been an enthusiastic member of the Home Guard during the last war, was Secretary of the Canteen during the very difficult years of rationing, had also been a member of the Committee of the Thrift Fund for the last six years, and that apart from possibly one year when he was prevented from doing so by illness, he had attended every Annual General Meeting of the Staff Association.

In humorous vein, Mr. Simkins said that he had had a few calculations made regarding Mr. Ward's work. It had been estimated that throughout his period of service approximately 2 million tons of coal had passed through his books and the rainfall measured at all the Company's rain gauges amounted to something like 1500 ft. of rain. Much could be said for Mr. Ward's ability as a conjuror that it has all vanished without trace. 700,000 million gallons was the figure quoted as the consumption in Mr. Ward's ledgers and the number of engine sheets checked was in the region of 300,000.

Mr. Simkins said that earlier in the day he had been rather depressed and discovered that he had been with the Company ten years, but when he looked at Mr. Ward he could only assume that as the years go by, one's anniversaries do not weigh so heavily. He would always remember how courteously and efficiently Mr. Ward had given him any information he required and thanked him for all his help over those ten years.

He concluded by voicing the thoughts of all those present - We shall be the poorer for your retirement. God Bless you, Ted - we shall miss you.

In expressing his thanks, Mr. Ward said he would certainly purchase something as a reminder of his colleagues and greatly appreciated all our good wishes. He had in mind a grandfather chair! With a smile he said that he felt as one got older one needed a comfortable chair to prop up one's head, but I am sure it will be a long time before he reaches the 'old man' stage.

He reminisced about the time Mr. F.J. Dixon was Engineer-in-Chief and concluded by thanking everyone once again for the cheque and their comradeship during his very many years' service.

Earlier in the week Mr. Ward's immediate colleagues in the Electrical/Mechanical Department held a small dinner party when Mr. Langdon presented him with a barometer and the following is a personal tribute from one of those present.

When thinking of Mr. Ward's presentation ceremony, the emphasis seemed to be on the past - the past certainly provides plenty of scope.

During his long service of almost fifty years, Mr. Ward was affected by the momentous events happening in the world outside. Two World Wars, a General Strike, even an Earthquake obviously brought changes and made lasting impressions on those, like Mr. Ward, who lived through them. At the Waterworks also, he saw many changes a revolution in office methods, a tremendous growth in the size and activity of the Company and the move from Paradise Street. Through all this, and in addition, four Chief Engineers, long service in the Electrical/Mechanical Department and eventual transfer to the Administration Department, Mr. Ward remained calm, unruffled and unfailingly humorous at all times. He retained his philosophy of life, or 'Operation Ted' as he called it. On so many occasions I have heard him say, 'I'm not bothered' and he never was.

Personally, I consider that Mr. Ward's greatest virtue is his attitude towards other people. In my experience he was always "All things to all men" and during my twenty years association with Mr. Ward I have never heard anyone express dislike for him. Everyone has had great respect for him and in those, like myself, who were his immediate colleagues, he inspired a very real affection. Someone said to me the other day, "He's a nice old stick". How true!

All that I have said refers to the past. But on reflection I think it is equally applicable to the future. The patience, kindness, tolerance and equanimity which we have all admired in Mr. Ward over the years will now be exercised in his work for the Church.

One of Mr. Ward's regular observations was to the effect that in this world "Some live, some learn, and some do neither". Mr. Ward has both lived and learned with obvious success. Long may he continue to do so.

PERSONALIA (contin)

MARRIAGE

Congratulations to Mr. R.G.Sheldon on the occasion of his marriage to Miss V. Jenkins on 26th March.

BIRTH

Congratulations to Mrs. J. Morris on the birth of a Son (Andrew) on the 13th June.

DEATHS

We very much regret to record the following deaths :

Kathleen, wife of Mr. D. Rowan (Buyer), on the 13th September.

Mr. G.T.Littler, formerly Engine Tenter at Shenstone Pumping Station, died on 9th October. Mr. Littler retired in March 1954.

Mr. B. Hartill, formerly Boiler Cleaner, Ashwood Pumping Station, died on 6th September. Mr. Hartill retired in May 1951.

SUPERANNUATED MEMBERS' ANNUAL OUTING.

At approximately 3.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 22nd June, four Midland Red coaches coming from the four cardinal points of the Company's area of supply converged upon Weston Park near Shifnal. It was the occasion of the Superannuated Members' Annual Outing. A total of one hundred and fifty three attended and included wives and widows of former employees. This was a record number and proof indeed, if any were needed, of the popularity of this function.

The journey was unfortunately marred by a continuous downpour of rain (good waterworks weather) but this did nothing to dampen our spirits. On arrival at the Earl of Bradford's stately home we were welcomed by the Chairman of the Company, Sir Charles Burman, supported by Mr. & Mrs. G. Alan Thompson, Mr. & Mrs. R.H. Taylor and Mr. & Mrs. A.W. Tibbenham, who were soon circulating around and renewing acquaintances with our former colleagues and workmates. No doubt many nostalgic memories were revived and the proof of the success of this annual event was evident in the number of smiling faces around. After all, this is the link with our past working lives and an opportunity of discovering how our contemporaries are faring.

The first part of the programme was a tour of this stately home and its treasures, a glimpse of an age and a way of life, I fear, quite beyond the ken of waterworks employees but, nevertheless, it was of great interest in a variety of ways. Immediately this was over the weather relented and we were able to wander around the grounds in the type of weather one should be able to associate with mid-summer, viewing the gardens, church, ornamental lake, the small pottery works etc. The sunshine lasted until teatime when we were directed to the "Stable" tea room which had been freshly decorated, and sat down to an excellent tea. Even this large room could not accommodate the whole party and the overflow was attended to in the "Orangery". It is quite clear that in arranging an outing of this size the question of accommodation must influence the venue and the organisers are to be congratulated on their happy choice.

As ever, the indefatigable Mr. Gilbert was hovering in the background, making sure his arrangements were being carried out and our thanks are due to him for his usual immaculate show.

After tea there was still time, and the weather permitted us, to resume our perambulations in the grounds until approximately 6.15 p.m. when the Stewards had their charges tucked away in the coaches and were soon homeward bound.

Due to the informality of the occasion no opportunity was forthcoming to express our thanks, so, through the medium of the News Review, and on behalf of all who were present, we offer to the Chairman

and the Board of Directors sincere thanks and grateful appreciation for yet another memorable outing. There exists no doubt whatsoever that the Superannuation Members' Annual Outing is looked forward to eagerly, and long may they continue.

To sum up - another successful and memorable event, admirably arranged (except for the weather) with everyone looking forward to meeting again. But before concluding, let us not forget those who, through illness or some other unforeseen circumstances, were unable to be present - may they be with us next year.

THE HAMPTON LOADE DUG-OUT CANOE.

Chelmarsh Reservoir, situated half a mile west of the Severn, is being connected with the Hampton Loade Intake and Treatment Works on the east bank of the river by a road and pipe bridge. The east abutment of the bridge is being built as part of the intake works, but before the west abutment could be built, a steel cofferdam had to be constructed to enable excavation of the river bank below water level to be carried out "in the dry". Work on this cofferdam could not start until last winter's flood season was over, and the construction of the whole bridge has to be completed before next winter's flood season arrives. This means that the whole operation, which involves two different contractors, has to be carried out to a very tight schedule and a few days' unexpected hold-up at any stage in the planned sequence of operations could prevent the completion of the bridge until next year.

At noon on 25th April I was informed that an old wooden boat had been struck by the mechanical dragline which was excavating the river bank within the west bank cofferdam. In the knowledge that it was out of the question to interfere with the excavation operation, I photographed the eight-foot length of the boat that had then been exposed, before the dragline proceeded to dig through it. By the end of the afternoon, it was apparent that the boat was at least 25 feet long, and I was able to prevent the machine from breaking up a piece seven feet long which formed either the bow or the stern. This piece was lifted out of the ground and set aside for subsequent examination by anyone interested.

So much for the circumstances in which the boat was found. What can be said about the boat itself? This much is certain it was a "dug-out canoe" having the shape of a flat bottomed punt 2 feet wide, 1 foot deep and at least 25 feet long. In each side of the piece which has been preserved a rectangular hole about two inches deep had been cut by a precision tool, and in the floor two iron nails were found. The boat was found in the river bank at a level two feet above

the flat part of the river bed, and was covered with five feet of silt which had been deposited by the river. The boat lay parallel with the flow of the river. The precision with which the rectangular holes were cut suggested that the boat was not in fact very old, and the nails are similar to the type of hand-made nail used in the 18th century. As a guide to the age of the boat, a sample was sent off to be subjected to a "carbon 14" test, which scientists nowadays carry out to assist archeologists in dating their finds.

Several dug-out canoes have been found in north Shropshire during the last 100 years, all of them smaller than the Hampton Loade find, and all of uncertain antiquity. Apart from the clue which the Hampton Loade canoe may give to the age of the others, the fact that it is the only one to be found south of the Ironbridge gorge has aroused considerable interest. It is a matter of conjecture whether it was a precursor of the present Hampton Loade ferry, or whether it was carried down the Severn during a flood until it sank at Hampton Loade.

The recovered piece has been handed over to Shrewsbury Museum.

D.N.Earp.

Cigarettes 2/6d for Twenty. Petrol 3/6d a gallon!! No, not a mistake, but the prices given in a letter received by a colleague from David Parsons, who emigrated to New Zealand.

He says they had quite an adventurous journey, leaving London Airport in a VC 10, 3 hours late, which meant they missed the connection at New York and had to stay in the States overnight. Slight complications here as they had no visas - which are not required of course when passengers are in transit. After interrogation, passports and tickets were taken away but they were settled at a very nice hotel near the airport. Next day a flight was fixed up for Los Angeles instead of San Francisco, and after a 7 hour flight they again stayed in an Hotel with what sounds like a film-set setting - rooms overlooking a swimming pool surrounded by palm trees, a bedroom with telephone, television, shower, bathroom etc. and, of course, air conditioning. All free of charge.

Next day they flew over the Pacific and called at Hawaii for refuelling and then to Fiji, crossing over the Date Line. Passengers were issued with postcards to send to Auckland in order to claim Certificates to prove crossing the Line.

David says it was a wonderful experience and they have settled down very nicely in New Zealand where everybody is very friendly and helpful. It is now supposed to be midwinter and the temperature is in the high 60's, but the residents complain how chilly it is.

He has just started work and we look forward to hearing from him again.

TABLE TENNIS SECTION

On Friday evening, the 22nd April 1966, a team from Head Office was invited to play a friendly match with a representative team from Birmingham Corporation Public Works Department at their venue at Baskerville House.

This turned out to be a most enjoyable occasion for all concerned and we take this opportunity of thanking J. Jones (Revenue Department) and F. Short (Public Works Department) for making the necessary arrangements.

B. Hopkins and A. Robinson (Head Office) made the journey to Birmingham from Burton-upon-Trent and Hampton Loade respectively and this kind of enthusiasm is surely worth recording.

The games were conducted in a most friendly atmosphere and during the intervals between singles games our players played snooker with the home team players in the room adjoining the table tennis room.

This is the first time for several years that a Head Office team has visited another club and as this was such a happy occasion we invited the Public Works Department to a return match to take place in the Head Office Canteen on a date to be arranged later.

Result of the match played on the 22nd April 1966 is as follows :-

<u>S.S.W.Co.</u>		<u>Public Works Dept.</u>	
R. Sewell	beat	R. Bradley	16-21, 21-10, 21-9
" "	beat	F. Short	21-17, 21-17
J. Jones	lost to	M. Amperdho	10-21, 21-15, 14-21
" "	beat	D. Wade	21-15, 21-16
A. Robinson	beat	D. Wade	21-16, 22-20
" "	beat	P. Jackson	21-16, 21-13
B. Hopkins	lost to	M. Amperdho	20-22, 17-21
" "	beat	P. Morton	21-7, 21-8
J. Stock	beat	F. Short	21-17, 21-12
" "	beat	R. Bradley	21-16, 21-18
J. Anderson	beat	P. Jackson	17-21, 21-16, 21-18
" "	beat	P. Morton	21-15, 21-13

RETIREMENT OF MR. T.E.DIXON

A number of Mr. T.E.Dixon's colleagues gathered in the Civil Engineering Department office on Friday, 23rd September, to say au revoir to him on the occasion of his retirement.

Mr. J.W.Whitworth, Chairman of the Staff Association, said it was his privilege to be the spokesman on that occasion and that he had known Mr. Dixon as long as anyone present. He came on an unusual day - 1st April 1924, but we did not see a lot of him because he was described as an Apprentice at Wood Green Meter Shop. However, twelve months later he came into the Drawing Office, when we got to know him better and always regarded him as "a very good sort".

Mr. Whitworth said it was 41 years since Mr. Dixon first came to the Company. He left for a brief spell of five years and when he came back in 1935 he again always seemed to be elusive as he was away from Head Office most of the time. In fact, there were many members of the staff who had never seen him. Nevertheless, Ted - as he was always called by his colleagues - always attended the Staff Association functions, together with Mrs. Dixon, and has supported the staff in every way.

It was Mr. Dixon's birthday the following day and Mr. Whitworth extended our best wishes for a very happy day and good health in his retirement.

We were told that Mr. Dixon's hobby is gardening and that he intended to use the money subscribed by his colleagues towards the purchase of a greenhouse. Mr. Whitworth said he could not think of a better useful hobby and hoped Mr. Dixon would be able to potter about in all sorts of weather and still remember his friends at South Staffs.

Mr. Whitworth apologised for the absence of Mr. R.H.Taylor and Mr. A.Simkins who were unable to be present and asked Mr. Dixon to accept a cheque as a token of our esteem and good wishes.

In thanking everyone for their good wishes and for the cheque, Mr. Dixon said there was a far larger gathering than he had ever anticipated and that it was nice to have an opportunity of seeing all his old friends. He said he had been privileged to have reasonably good health and thanked everyone for their wish that it may continue. He paid tribute to his wife who had always helped him and said that Mrs. Dixon had already threatened to get a ship's bell as she would know where he was when she wanted him - in the greenhouse.



Miss Margaret Brawn.

On the 7th April 1966 we were present at a happy little ceremony when Mr. A.W. Tibbenham presented Miss Brawn with a radio from her colleagues on the occasion of her retirement.

This marked the end of 49 years of devoted service to the Company. The unique feature of Miss Brawn's service with the Company, which commenced on the 24th September 1917, involved a period of two world wars and serving under four Secretaries to the Company.

Members of the staff who joined the Company in their youth have cause to remember with gratitude the great influence she had on their training. In fact, Miss Brawn was indeed an institution in herself.

In making the presentation, Mr. A.W. Tibbenham thanked Miss Brawn for her loyalty and devotion to duty, referring particularly to her length of service.

Miss Brawn said she did not mind in the least anybody knowing her age as it was not a secret. She said she was quite overwhelmed at the sincerity and kindness which had been shown to her and greatly appreciated all the help and support she had been given over the years.

She concluded by thanking everyone for the handsome radio which would enable her to continue her interest and love of good music.

Miss Brawn's departure represents the severance of a very special link and we all wish her every happiness in her retirement and a continuance of good health for many years to come.

Miss Elizabeth Warren and Mr. David Burgess

On Thursday, 29th September, friends of Elizabeth and David met in the Central Services Office to drink their health and extend best wishes on their marriage on the 1st October, 1966.

Mr. Simkins was our spokesman and said that this was a unique occasion as we had cause for a double celebration. We often gather together to give a 'send-off' either to the Bride or Bridegroom without seeing the better half - Mr. Simkins did not say which was the better half in this case!

We were told of a story which David had related to Mr. Simkins in the strictest confidence. He said he was having difficulty in persuading Elizabeth to make up her mind. David, as you know, is a keen climber and one day he and Elizabeth went climbing and decided to tackle the Eiger. David set off, complete with jack-knife, followed by Elizabeth, and when he reached the top, with Elizabeth dangling at the end of the rope, he reached for his knife and shouted "Elizabeth, will you marry me? If you say 'No' I shall cut the rope." Elizabeth's reply was "Yes, I will darling, but if you cut the rope I shall never speak to you again." This was known as a 'Jack-knife Wedding'.

Mr. Simkins said that he knew Elizabeth had chosen well as she could be assured of a "Resident" Engineer, but asked her to make certain he didn't change to a travelling agent - and above all, she should make certain David remained a "Civil Engineer".

And to David, Mr. Simkins said that the Contract he was about to enter would, without doubt, be the most important of his life and he was sure he would give to this Contract the same loyal attention he had given to the Contracts at Hampton Loade.

Mr. Simkins expressed the hope that in the fullness of time the happy couple would be able to Engineer a smaller Type but warned Elizabeth not to adopt her usual practice of doing everything in triplicate, otherwise she would be left holding the original and David would have the two carbon copies.

Mr. Simkins concluded by handing David a cheque which had been subscribed by members of the staff and expressed the hope that their married life would be a long and happy one.

David and Elizabeth were also the recipients of several other attractive and useful presents from their close friends and colleagues in the Typing Pool and the Civil Engineer's Department.

David thanked everyone for their good wishes and gifts and said he was sorry he could not invite everyone to the Wedding. He said that both he and his future wife came from small "unmusical" families and he would be pleased to see us at the Quinton Parish Church, where our voices would be welcome in the singing.



Mr. J.W.Ruxton.

Retired -

31st August, 1966

Mr. J.W.Ruxton and Mr. F.C.Jauncey interrupted their retirement and returned to the office on Wednesday, 27th August, so that their colleagues could say au revoir and wish them a happy future.

In making the presentation of cheques which had been subscribed by members of the Staff Association, Mr. A.W.Tibbenham said that between them they had 87 years' of service to the Company. It has been said that the age of 50 is the old age of youth but perhaps it is the youth of old age, and it was suggested that in the case of Mr. Ruxton and Mr. Jauncey, the age of youth is 65.

Mr. Tibbenham expressed his thanks for their loyalty to the Company and their colleagues and particularly to him personally. He told us that Mr. Jauncey had been a member of the Table Tennis Team some time ago when they won the Championship and that Mr. Ruxton had been a keen member of the Staff Association Club. Perhaps not many members of the Staff realised that Mr. Ruxton was Secretary of the Staff Association in 1931 and was also a founder member of the present canteen, taking part in drawing up the rules and regulations.



Mr. F.C. Jauncey,
Retired -
6th September, 1966

Mr. Tibbenham continued by saying that it gave him very great pleasure to present cheques to both Mr. Ruxton and Mr. Jauncey, which had been subscribed as a token of esteem and appreciation by their colleagues, with the very best wishes for a long, healthy and happy retirement.

In reply, Mr. Ruxton said it was rather difficult to express one's feelings on such an occasion but he would like to thank Mr. Tibbenham for his many kindnesses over the years and also thanked Mr. Wallis for his help. He also paid tribute to all those with whom he had worked and said that without their co-operation during the years the work could not have been carried out. Mr. Ruxton said he had seen many changes during the last ten years or so as the Company's work had been revolutionised but - "Life itself changes and the old gives way to new".

Mr. Jauncey said there was little he could say but endorsed Mr. Ruxton's remarks and thanked all members of the staff who had helped him during the years.

Personalia

NEW EMPLOYEES

Mr. J.R.Park	Computer	Mr. M.E.Thomas	C.E.D.
Mrs. B.A.Lloyd	Revenue	Miss H.E.Cathcart	Canteen
Miss J.E.Lloyd	Do.	Mr. E.F.Golden	Arch.Dept.
Mrs. M.A.Cheshire	Do.	Mr. A.F.Charles	Do.
Mrs. F.E.Thomas	Do.	Mr. E.E.Lee	Work Study
Miss D. Bartlett	Do.	Mr. J.G.Coles	Admin.
Mr.G. Cheshire	Do.	Miss J.E.Price	Do.
Miss J.L.Tranter	Powers Samas.	Miss A. Mackay	Do.
Miss M.E.Williams	Typists	Miss P.E.Knowles	Do.
	(Secretary's)		
Mr. R.S.A.Pangborne	Hampton	Mrs. J.M.Gibbs	Do.
(Superintendent)	Loade	Mrs. A. White	Do.
Mr.W.H.Shaughnessy	Do.	Mr. L. Smith	Tipton
(Deputy Superintendent)		Mr. K.Webb	Walsall
Mr. P.C.Deebank	D.D.	Mr.G. Wooley	Burton
Mr. K.R.Hodson	Elec/Mech	Mr. T.L.Pressland	Do.

TRANSFERS

Miss M.A.Marston	From Secretary's Dept. to Engineer's (D.D.)
Mr. R.P.Felthouse	Burton. To Staff.
Mr. P.H.James	Sutton Do.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. A.T.Windsor,	Engine Tenter, Lichfield, retired 21st March, aged 65 years.
Mr. H.J.Norton	Fitter, Wood Green Repair Shops, retired 25th May, aged 60 years.
Mr. A. Duffield	Ganger, Tipton, retired 6th April, aged 67 years.
Mr. R.W.Keay	Ganger, Walsall, retired due to ill health on 1st February, aged 54 years.
Mr. E.J.S.Palmer, Snr.	Waterman, Tipton, retired 3rd March, aged 65 years.
Mr.E.Bannister	Labourer, Walsall, retired 31st May, aged 64 years.
Miss M. Brawn	Private Secretary, Head Office, retired 7th April,
Mr. R. Bishop	Driver, Cannock, retired 8th September aged 65 years.

RETIREMENTS (contin)

Mr. A.B.Challinor, Former Superintendent, Cannock Depot. retired due to ill health on 30th April 1966, aged 51 years.

Mr. W.A.Stokes, Fittings Inspector, Tipton, retired 6th May 1966, aged 65 years.

Mr. F.C.S.Ward Formerly Chief Clerk, Elec/Mech.Dept. retired 29th May 1966, aged 65 years.

Mr. C.E.Scudamore Motor Mechanic, Wood Green, retired 8th July, 1966, aged 65 years.

Mr. J.W.Ruxton Head of Collection Dept. retired 31st August 1966, after 46 years' service.

Mr. F.C.Jauncey Head of Rating Dept. retired 6th September 1966, after 41 years' service.

Mr. T.E.Dixon Asst. Civil Engineer, retired 24th September, 1966, aged 65 years.

DEATHS

We regret to record the following deaths :-

Mr. D. Duffield, Formerly Trenchman, Tipton, died 23rd March 1966, aged 85 years. Mr. Duffield retired in 1948.

Mr. E. Allen, Formerly Leading Mains Joiner, Tipton, died 14th June, 1966, aged 78 years. Mr. Allen retired in November 1953.

Mr. F. Harris Waterman, Cannock Depot, Died 27th July, aged 53 years.

Mr. A.H.Parker Formerly the Dudley Collector, died on the 14th August, aged 60 years.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mr. & Mrs. R.G.Clarke on the birth of a Daughter, Lucinda Anne on the 16th March, 1966.

To Mr. & Mrs. A.Simkins on the birth of a Son, Paul, on the 9th March, 1966.

MARRIAGES

We extend every good wish to the following -

Mr. & Mrs. C. Sadler (Miss G. Baxter) on the occasion of their marriage on 26th March 1966.

Mr. & Mrs. D. Willetts (Miss S.V.Harvey) who were married on the 3rd September, 1966.

Mr. & Mrs. A.P.Copson (Miss J.A.Forster Brass) on the occasion of their marriage on the 27th August, 1966.

Mr. & Mrs. D.E.Burgess (Miss E. Warren) on the occasion of their marriage on 1st October, 1966.