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THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
WATERWORKS COMPANY

NEWS REVIEW



HEAD OFFICES,
SHEEPCOTE STREET.

SEPTEMBER 1967

Vol. 17

No. 2

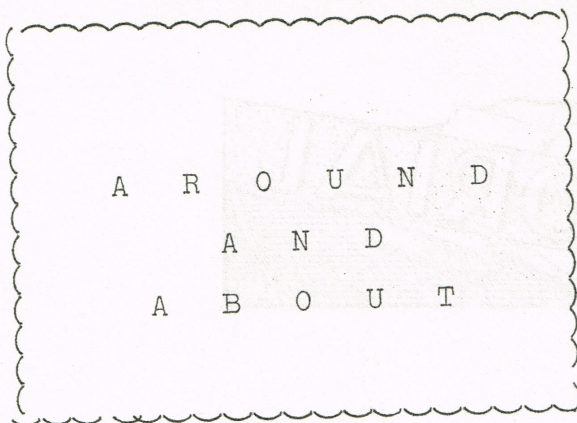


THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH

The last few years have seen many changes within the Company. Most of the Staff have been affected in one way or another by Work Study, Industrial Training, the Computer etc.

The introduction last year of the new salary structure and conditions of service on behalf of Non-Manual Staffs gave those affected a new contract of employment. It also brought into being a Five Aside Joint Consultative Committee which has now given the Staff direct access to Top Management. More and more the Company is identifying itself with the modern concept of management. Wherever changes have been introduced there has been initial apprehension but when the changes have been adopted and the necessary adaptations have been made, the result is invariably mutual betterment.

Norah Dayes
Bernard Hawkey Co-Editors



THE VOICE OF CANNOCK.

On Sunday, 23rd July, we organized a cricket match against Central Ordnance Depot, Donnington (Shropshire). Although the sun shone gloriously it did nothing to enhance our performance and we lost the match easily. We managed to restore some of our prestige in the bar and finished the evening off with some rousing tunes, (Army version included).

The Cricket Team has had another successful season, winning 6 matches (including the defeat of Head Office), lost 2, drawn or cancelled due to weather, 5. A single wicket tournament was organized and after six hours of continuous cricket and some foot-weary players, P. Derry (Draughtsman) emerged the eventual winner.

The Football Team has been "promoted" from the 1st Division to the 2nd Division of the Sunday League and I imagine that the opposition will be somewhat more within our capabilities.

The ground we have been using has not yet recovered from the very heavy rain we had last season and is still waterlogged so we have the extra burden of finding another place to play, which always provides difficulties.

In the very near future we are hoping to come to Birmingham to see the Black & White Minstrel Show.

T.E.K.



Mr. G.S. Taylor, Lead Pipe
Joiner, Tipton. Retired
31st March, 1967



Mr. J.B. Jukes, Foreman
Erector, Wood Green.
Retired 31st March, 1967



Mr. W.A. Chatfield, Foreman,
Pipe Hill Pumping Station.
Retired 8th April, 1967



(above) Mr. W. Shaylor,
Tinsmith/Meter Repairer,
Wood Green.
Retired 9th June, 1967.



(left) Mr. F.J. Meachem,
Meter Shop Foreman,
Wood Green,
Retired 6th September, 1967

could expect to borrow up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ times your annual income, on occasion this could be 3 times.

It would pay you to ask us for further information and to write for the booklet and information.

J.H.D.Nicholson,
Stenhouse Midlands Ltd.,
(Incorporated Insurance Brokers)
Midland House,
132, Hagley Road,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham,16.
TEL.No. EDG.5121

or alternatively to :-
Mr. R.G.Clarke,
The South Staffordshire
Waterworks Co.,
Head Office,
Sheepcote Street,
Birmingham,15.
Tel.No. MID.0651

DRIVING AS I SEE IT.

When I look back on the trials and, if I may use the word, "heartbreak" of learning how to drive, I can truly say every minute was worth it. I could not count the times I have burst into tears, jumped out of the car, slammed the door, then got back in again - the passenger side! Oh, those glaring looks, those embarrassing situations of stalling in traffic, grating of gears, then the satisfaction of reaching a steady 30 miles per hour, staying in fourth gear on a straight road, thinking "this is it - I'm the perfect driver", then dreading the thought of the oncoming traffic lights and having to change down to a lower gear.

But, I am a woman driver; men tend to be entirely different. Now I did not say better .. just different. On the whole it is more essential for a man to be able to drive. For a woman it is more of a challenge.

Once the dreaded day is over and you have passed your driving test, driving now begins. You go out on your own to face the other world. You have left the pedestrians behind and now you will be able to see what kind of pedestrian you were. Did you stand talking on the side of the crossing, perhaps one foot dangling in the gutter? Or were you one of the clever ones who thought it easy to cross without a pause?.

Cyclists now become your second worry. The majority take the liberty of using all the road, which is extremely annoying to the driver who has just paid his annual road tax. Then comes the cyclist who rides in the gutter, rocking from side to side. In this situation you can do one of two things, either you pass him, which means taking up practically all the road, or secondly (considering which sex) take him along with you.

Finally, you come to your driving opponents. It goes without saying that you are better than they are, for they have been driving longer than you - so have patience and allow for their mistakes, for one day, I assure you, you will become one of them. In which group you will be classed I would not like to say.

Maybe the "Road Hog". You can tell this character a mile away. He, without fail, leads the traffic hugging the centre of the road, chatting to his passenger and doing a steady 28 miles per hour.

Trailing him, directly behind, is the "Speed King", an impatient Stirling Moss expression all over his face. Spotting his opening he revs up most unnecessarily, forces the car into second gear, and with no indication passes right in front of him and turns first left.

The lover of the brake makes up rather a large group of drivers. The majority are in their middle fifties. When they see a car 100 yards down the road they brake, and the same applies when they see cats, dogs, lights, corners - they have never heard of gears, even though their hand never leaves the lever.

Quite often you can spot a combined effort. A rather large man in his sixties, cruising along in a Rover. Alongside comes a young lad showing his girl friend that his clapped out A.35 van could pass "Grandad" in his Rover. They are level pegging. Boy-Wonder in his A.35 has his foot to the boards - the Rover isn't even making an effort, but he thinks the road is some kind of track and he wants to play games. This goes on for a few seconds and you will find that next comes the delightful words of abuse, or perhaps a little sign, which I think we all will receive sooner or later.

These are just a few of the hundreds of situations you will meet, but to cover the maximum distance in the shortest possible time - with safety and the least effort - that, in my opinion, is the hallmark of a good driver - Male or Female.

J.S.L.

Older members of the staff will, I am sure, be interested in the following extract from a letter received by the Editor from Mrs. M. Lambert, who is living in Shoeburyness.

"..... It was most interesting to read about the new Computer. I am afraid I have but a very hazy idea of these modern machines, which are such a very far cry from the Company's first "mechanization". This was the Burroughs Machine which survived the removal from Paradise Street to the present Head Office, where it was replaced by the National Machine, both of which I operated.

Many of the names in the "Review" are strange to me now. I have to remember it is 21 years since I left the Company. But I was glad to recognise in the pictures some old colleagues, Mr. & Mrs. Bradbury, Mrs. Pyne, Mr. & Mrs. "Teddy" Dixon, Mr. & Mrs. Whitworth and Mr. & Mrs. Clarke.

Please remember me to any of my old friends at the office....."

M. Lambert.

Mr. W. Paterson, Foreman, Maple Brook.

On the 14th June Mr. Paterson's colleagues gathered to wish him every happiness on the occasion of his retirement after 44 years' service with the Company - 30 years as Foreman of the Station.

Mr. Barlow presented Mr. Paterson with a shooting stick - a gift from his colleagues - and in reply Mr. Paterson thanked everyone for



Photograph - Lichfield Mercury
the gift and for the help they had given him during his term of office. He said that Mr. Hood (extreme right of photograph) had been a very capable deputy foreman and he was certain he would make a good foreman to take over the station.

Mrs. Paterson, who has always provided support and encouragement to her husband, is shown in the photograph holding the bouquet and the box of chocolates which were presented to her.

BIRD WATCHING - BLITHFIELD

Readers will no doubt recall a recent press announcement regarding the arrangements made between the Midland Bird Club and the Company, whereby Club Members pay a small annual subscription in acknowledgment of facilities afforded for them at Blithfield.

Shortly after the press announcement the following letter was received.

" It is with a contrite heart and a deep foreboding that I write to you to reveal a sin of such magnitude that I cannot at this juncture disclose my identity.

Whilst passing your offices in Sheepcote Street I was impelled to raise my eyes upwards towards that edifice and bastion of monopolistic sanctity, namely your offices, and I saw perched on your roof, two birds - one an aqua-dogma reed warbler and the other a hydraulic profligate sand piper. Once my eyes had seen these birds I could not wrench my gaze away. I knew, of course, the error of my judgment in continuing to feast my eyes on these objects of delight and then came over me a certain ornithic sense of detachment which transfixed my whole being for several seconds.

For the behaviour described above I can but apologise in this instance, as the horrific punishment which you would no doubt mete out to a person convicted of such an appalling crime makes my blood run cold.

To try to put the matter right perhaps you would be kind enough to put the following calculation on your computer and send the resultant sum to me and I will pay per return.

If 525,600 minutes of bird watching costs 21/- watched in its natural environment, how much does a ephemeral glance at two birds cost when perched on a 5 x 4 deep cast iron gutter on a Tuesday morning?.

I can assure you that when your statement is received it will be treated with reverence in keeping with its autocracy.

Thank you for reading this plaintive appeal and I hope you will not release the forces of law and the hounds of retribution until I have had the opportunity of repaying my debt. "

Yours truly,

A cringing homo sapien.

SUPERANNATED MEMBERS' OUTING - 1967

On Wednesday, 12th July, 175 Superannuated Members and their Ladies gathered together for their Annual Outing. The first stop was at Blithfield Reservoir and for many of those present this was the first time they had seen what must be one of the loveliest stretches of water in the Midlands. One of the latest features of the Reservoir is the fish-rearing tanks pictured opposite. In these tanks trout are reared for the purpose of adequately stocking the Reservoir. Many of the visitors watched with interest the feeding of the fish and the reason for their interest will be apparent by looking at the photographs, Figs. 2 & 3. Fig. 3 shows the agitation which takes place when the food is thrown into the tank. At the stage shown the fish are of a size which will enable them to survive when released into the Reservoir.

After leaving Blithfield the four coaches proceeded to Shugborough Hall, where they were greeted on arrival by the Chairman, Sir Charles Burman; the Engineer-in-Chief, Mr. R.H. Taylor, and the Secretary, Mr. A.W. Tibbenham. The Hall is also a County Museum which meant an interesting browse round for those with enough energy.

By this time the party were beginning to renew old acquaintances and re-live the Company's problems of 35 years ago. To the eavesdropper it was apparent that we are today lucky to have had so many of the more difficult problems solved for us.

After leaving Shugborough the party were entertained to tea at the Eaton Lodge Hotel, Rugeley; this was a very welcome break as the day was hot and everyone was ready for a cup of tea.

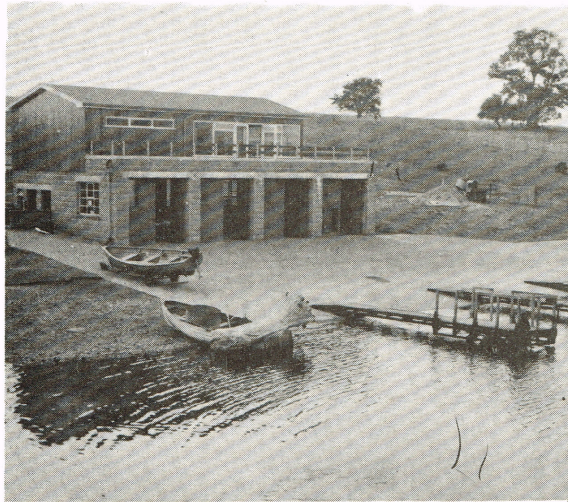
The return journey began at 6.30 p.m. with a stop at the local hostelrys in Abbots Bromley.

The last two or three Superannuated Members' Outings, although always enjoyed by our old colleagues, have been marred by indifferent weather. This year the sun shone all day, which helped to make a wonderful day even more enjoyable.

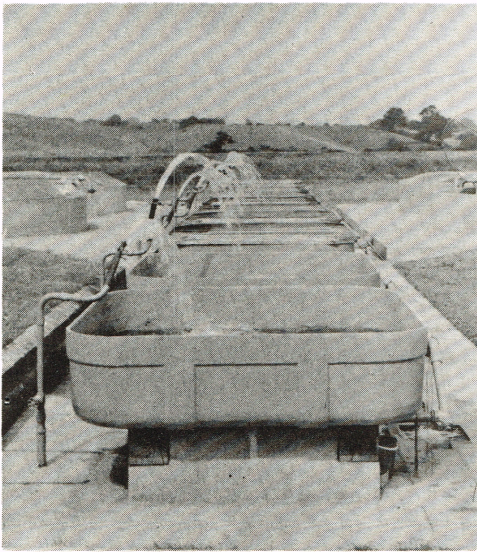
TWENTYFIVE YEARS' SERVICE.

GOLD WATCH AWARDS.

E.M. Gavan	Waterman/Driver,	Walsall Depot.
R. Selvey	Deputy Chief Waste Inspector,	Walsall Depot.
E. Clainey	Clerk	Head Office



The Boat House
Blithfield.



Breeding Tanks

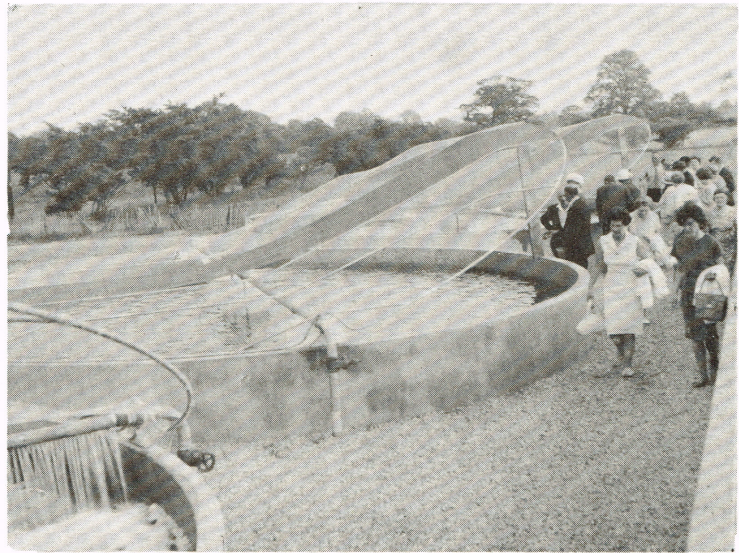


Fig. 2.

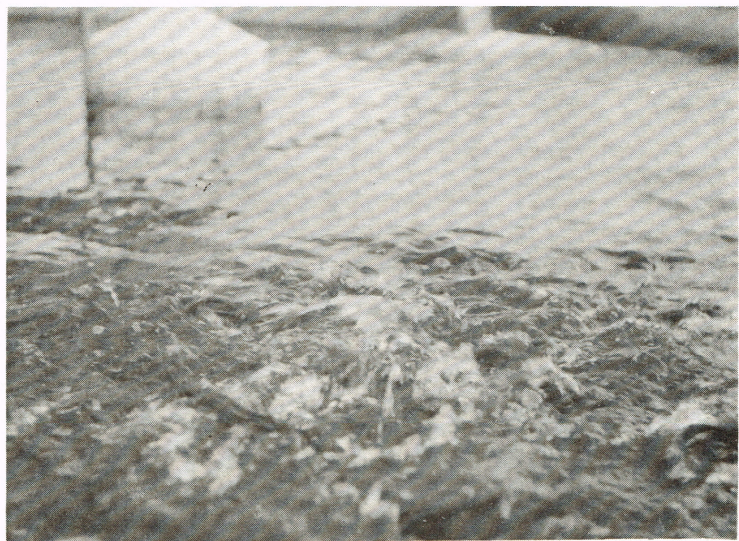


Fig. 3.



A SHAKESPEARIAN THOUGHT ON FLUORIDATION

To add or not to add, that is the question.
Whether it is nobler to add this drug into the crystal stream,
Or let the rotting fangs predominate.

Some say yea, and others nay,
But who canst tell which is the best.
For sad it be this mortal race
Is not with foresight blessed.

Yet you who feed the younger flock,
With sugar sweet must know,
That this the strength of nature's teeth,
Doth defeat.

But what if all the doubters are correct,
And this that poisoned rats
Before it respectable became,
Should all our bones disintegrate
and accumulate within the gut,
Till we are dead.

Who then will leap to say,
"I was for it from the start"
Or will the experts who now predominate to say,
"It must be done"
Turn and run.

And yet they could be right
And future generations will have tusks,
A gleaming white.

Not for me to arbitrate on such a score,
For I would like my lead filled fangs to be
Strong and whole for all my life.
And if the adding of this dust
Can produce, without harm,
A smile of healthy stumps,
So full of charm,
For all the children small.
Then let it be.

If we of greater years no benefit obtain,
This matters not
If too no harm we gain.
But if our body cells should multiply exceeding fast,
And bones distort,
As some predict they may,
Then will there be a wailing and a weeping in the land,
And those afflicted ghosts may seek the souls,
Who with their hand destroyed them with this additive
That all must consume perchance if they would drink
And drink we must,
Till we are silent dust.

I hope the men who must decide are right,
And wrong are those who with a tiny voice
Now fight for abolition of the plan
To fluoridate.

A man am I and not averse
To share responsibility,
Or worse.
But glad am I that in my time
I am not called upon
To so approve, or otherwise,
That dust of aluminium be dumped
Into the cool clear pool,
Before the water in the pool
To all the mortals in the land
Is pumped.

D.J.P.

ANNUAL CRICKET MATCH
S.S.W.COMPANY V BRISTOL WATERWORKS COMPANY

The annual cricket match between the Company and the Bristol Waterworks Company was held at the Kenrick & Jefferson's Sports Ground, West Bromwich, on Sunday, 2nd July.

South Staffs won the toss and put Bristol in to bat. Sad to say the early promise of one wicket for seven runs was not fulfilled. In fact the second wicket did not fall until the score had reached 138. Bristol declared at 197 for 5. South Staffs were all out for 86.

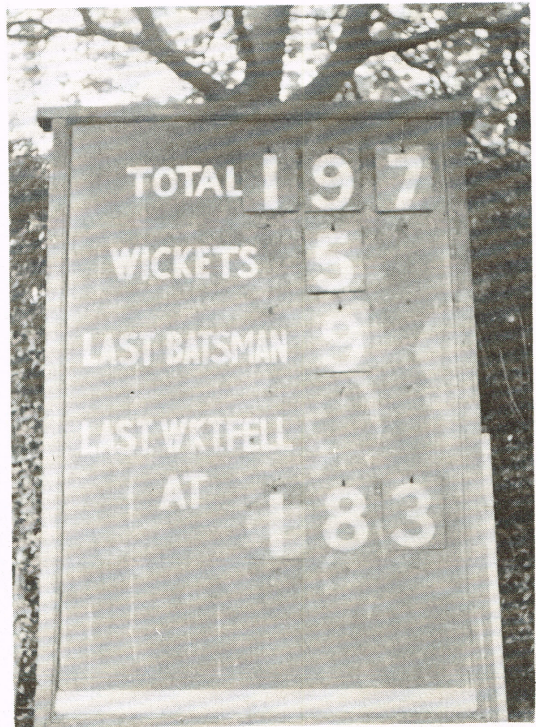
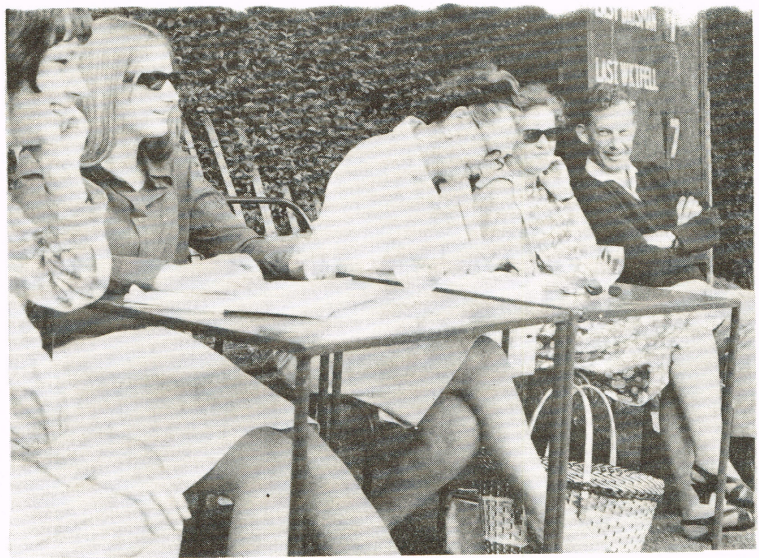
Throughout the cricket match employees of both Companies were engaged in a tennis tournament. The outcome was equally ignominious as far as the South Staffs were concerned and had it not been for an overheard comment that our visitors felt they had been well entertained the results might have been disquieting.

ANNUAL CRICKET MATCH -
BRISTOL WATERWORKS
COMPANY

V

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
WATERWORKS COMPANY

SUNDAY 2nd July 1967



Roy Dando, Bristol

Score - 89

THIS ISSUE'S "PEEVES" - FROM THE TYPISTS.

(These comments from Typists - in general - could not possibly apply to any of the men at South Staffs! Well -- perhaps one or two!) Editor.

1. People who mutter or "talk to the wall" when dictating.
2. Drafts which have been "approved" and are then altered.
3. Letters which "must go tonight" and come back two weeks later to be re-typed.
4. Men who bring down letters at 4.30 p.m. and expect them to go the same night.
5. People who expect us to drop the work we are doing to do theirs.
6. People who write comments on the bottom of letters (in ink) and then decide the letter is O.K. and can be sent. This means the letter has to be re-typed.
7. Men who will not accept the fact that there are some people whose work takes precedence over theirs.
8. The person who makes you rush upstairs just to hand you a p.c.acknowledgment.
9. The person who has a major rush job which he wants to go that day - but then disappears to one of the Depots for the remainder of the day.
10. The man who makes a mistake and then writes to a firm apologising for a typist's error.
11. The man who brings down a "rush job" and expects it to be done even before the post is entered.
12. The man who is in the "dog-house" at home and takes it out on his poor typist all day long.
13. Bad writing - bad spelling we hope we are capable of correcting.
14. The man who rings and asks for a Typist urgently and on her arrival in his office immediately picks up the telephone to have a long conversation with one of the Depots.

Have you ever wondered what has stopped you from making money?. If so, read on -

The ability to "forge ahead" is latent in all of us but why stick to half crowns when by using my infallible method, which is the result of many years hard labour, easy money is within the reach of all.

It was after one of my many withdrawals from public life that it suddenly struck me that perhaps there was more truth in the phrase "money makes money" than people realise. So I immediately obtained two five pound notes, put them carefully together in a secluded corner and waited. Unfortunately, things caught up with me and it wasn't until after another 28 days that I was able to recover them. Much to my disappointment there were still only two. Recovering from the shock my scientifically trained mind soon supplied the answer. They were the same sex! Changing one of them did no good so now the problem was to find some method of determining which was which.

After months of patient research I had almost given up when I suddenly realised that the French refer to all money as being the same gender. So that was it! The Government, in its usual underhand way, was issuing money of one sex only. Which sex though, that was the next question. No wonder I was feeling gender deprived, or as it is more commonly known, sex starved!

A casual reference to "half a nicker" by a friend gave me the lead. No doubt any longer who the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street was!

I can see it all - a secret room in the mint where a man sits wearing his green eye shade, examining all the new notes as they come of age and with the practised skill of a malefactor vetting all the he s. If only I could find a stray male my fortune would be made.

Anyone know of a mint with a hole in it?.

C.E.P.

A card from a colleague on holiday - a change from the "Having a good time wish you were here" variety.

1. Car damaged.
2. Fishing rods broken.
3. Weather dull
4. Good holiday.
5. Back soon.

P.S. 3 lb. salmon caught.

A MATTER OF VITAL ESSENTIALS

(With the dockers, railway guards, building site workers, engineers, etc. in mind perhaps -)

Discontent everywhere. Less work more pay.
They'll soon be on strike for a shorter week's day.

I sometimes wonder what these people would do
If we went on strike for a week or two.
When they had no water in the tap o'er the sink.
None to wash with, none to drink.
None in the toilet to flush away soil,
Dirty laundry, an increasing pile.
None to cook food or brew their char.
None to brew beer to drink in the bar.

When the places they worked at had to close down.
When they had no transport to get them to town.
None to bath baby or clean the floors.
When the Hospitals had to close their doors.
Utter confusion, they would be contrite
If we didn't pump water by day and by night.
They would be upset, imagine the glares;
But if we didn't do our job they couldn't do theirs.

We're getting so tired of this endless recital
From people who think that their work is most vital.
So at the risk of getting abuse most torrential,
We say - your work's not so vital, but ours is essential.
You can live without motors, electric and gas;
I doubt if we'd die if the trains didn't pass.
But, Engineer, Guard, Docker, Porter,
You can live without most things but not without

WATER.

L.C.B.

IT'S A COLD, HARD WORLD --
ATISHOO!

In almost every aspect of commercial life today the computer plays a significant part.

Before the days of the computer it was possible to ring up the Bank and ask to have statements ready in, say, half an hour. Now, with the computer at work they have to be ordered before mid-day on the day previous to that on which they are required. Such is progress.

On one occasion recently the computer of one famous Bank refused to work. The staff pleaded and cajoled, threatened and bribed, but nothing happened.

By mid-day, Mr. Computer showed signs of life - by mid-afternoon things began to hum. Then the truth of the machine's return to normal working began to dawn. It was warming up, in every sense of the word. The trouble was, it seems, that the night before someone had left a window open, and the Master Mind had caught a cold!

I know there has been a freeze, but this is ridiculous.
G.E.

PERSONALIA (contin)

RETIREMENTS

J.W.Tilley Motor Driver, Tipton Depot, retired 27th October, aged 65 years, after 42 years' service.

E.Arblaster Bricklayer's Labourer, retired 27th October, aged 67 years, after 22 years' service.

R.D.Waller Clerk of Works, retired 24th October aged 65 years, after 32 years' service.

S.Beasley Motor Driver, Tipton. Retired 14th September, aged 64 years, after 34 years' service.

C.W.Reed Pumping Station Attendant, Hayley Green, retired 30th June.

E.M.Weaver Assistant Electrical/Mechanical Engineer, retired 30th September, after 21 years' service.

J.D.L.Hill Fittings Inspector, Tipton Depot, retired 31st October, aged 64 years, after 38 years' service.

DEATHS

C.L.Robertson Formerly Station Attendant, Maple Brook Pumping Station, died on 23rd August. Mr. Robertson retired in August 1953.

J.H.Mann Trenchman, Tipton Depot, died suddenly on the 19th October aged 61 years.

Personalia

RETIREMENTS

- W. Shayler. Tinsmith/Fitter, Wood Green, retired 9th June, aged 66 years, after 21 years' service.
- W.S.Paterson. Foreman, Maple Brook, retired 14th June, aged 65 years, after 44 years' service.
- G. Wiggin. Bricklayer, retired 1st July, aged 64 years, after 37 years' service.
- J. Brown. Waterman, Walsall, retired 30th June, aged 64 years, after 40 years' service. (Died 27th October in Hospital)
- T.H.Forks. Ganger, Walsall, retired 1st July due to ill health, after 34 years' service.

(16)



J.W. Hancock, Waterman.
Cannock. Retired 26.4.1967
aged 63 years. 41 years'
service.



D. Bates, Waterman, Rugeley.
Retired 8.5.1967. aged 61
41 years' service.

RETIREMENTS (contin)

- W. Caswell. Lead Pipe Joiner, Tipton, retired 1st August due to ill health, aged 61 years, after 38 years' service.
- F.J.Meachem. Chargehand, Meter Shop, Wood Green, retired 6th September, aged 65 years, after 35 years' service.
- L.Wilson. Trenchman, Walsall, retired 22nd September, aged 66 years.
- A.J.McDougall. Storekeeper, Walsall, retired 12th October, aged 65 years, after 38 years' service.
- P.R.Povey. Engine Tenter, Slade Heath, retired 7th October, aged 65 years, after 43 years' service.
- G. Walklate. Waste Inspector, Cannock, retired 10th October, aged 65 years, after 40 years' service.

DEATHS

We regret to report the following deaths -

- E.T.Gardiner. Formerly Laboratory Steward, Lichfield, died on the 19th July, aged 72 years. Mr. Gardiner retired in October 1963.
- E.C.Kirkland. Blithfield Reservoir, died suddenly on 17th August, aged 62 years.
- F.A.Hill. District Inspector, Tipton, died suddenly on the 13th September, aged 53 years.
- J.B.Gentle Formerly Engine Tenter, Hinksford, died on 4th October, aged 70 years. Mr. Gentle retired in October 1961.
- A.W.Ward. Formerly Mechanical Tool Operator, Walsall, died on 7th October, aged 66 years. Mr. Ward retired in 1965.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to -

- Mr. & Mrs. D.J.Harrison (Walsall) on the birth of a Daughter, (Sharon) on the 19th May.
- Mr. & Mrs. A.Simkins, on the birth of a Son (Ian David) on the 14th June.
- Mr. & Mrs. M.J.Price, on the birth of a Son (Adrian Dominic) on the 21st July.
- Mr. & Mrs. J. Sharp, on the birth of a Son (Robert John) on the 30th September.
- Mr. & Mrs. E. Morris, on the birth of a Daughter (Lorraine) on the 12th October.
- Mr. & Mrs. A. Marsh, on the birth of a Son (Stephen Paul) on the 21st October.