

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
WATERWORKS COMPANY

NEWS REVIEW



HEAD OFFICES,
SHEEPCOTE STREET.

FEBRUARY 1968

Vol. 18

No. 1



EDITORIAL

In taking over the Uttoxeter and Seisdon Water Undertakings, the Company has increased its area of supply by 80 square miles. Within the new area, there resides an approximate population of 21,700, which, added to the present number, makes a total of 1,196,700.

The Seisdon Area will come under Tipton Depot, and the Uttoxeter Area will be attached to Cannock. Although there are no immediate plans for further regrouping, there are plans for expanding residential areas around the towns in the northern part of the area, which will ultimately add to the total consumption and population supplied.

In terms of consumption and population supplied, the Company are continually expanding. In spite of this, the number of employees is contracting. Without any enforced redundancy, there has been a reduction in the number of manual workers and uniformed Inspectorate. The automation of pumping stations will have the effect of reducing station attendants.

These are changes that modern management techniques and up-to-date equipment make inevitable. Nevertheless, they are planned changes calculated to create only the minimum inconvenience and disruption to those affected.

Norah Dayes
Bernard Hawkley Co-Editors.

Round and about

"CANNOCK QUIPS"

As can be seen from the title above, "The Voice of Cannock" is no longer with us. He, Mr. T.E.Kendrick, has gone into a well earned retirement. (More about that later on). It is hoped, however, that "Cannock Quips" will maintain the standard set by "The Voice of Cannock". We also hope that the new format will prove to be of interest to everyone who reads it.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:-

Mr.D. Penaluna, Draughtsman, who was engaged at Christmas to Miss C. Broadley, a nurse at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

Mr. F.T.Langston, Superintendent, who became a Grandfather for the second time on the 19th October 1967, when his daughter, Elva, gave birth to a girl, Rebecca Jane.

WELCOME BACK

A little late perhaps - but welcome back to Mr. Tom Potts who had to go into hospital for three weeks. In all, he was away from work for eight weeks. He's not sure what they did to him whilst he was in there but he now takes great delight in showing everyone his scar and his displaced navel. (It now lies three inches west of the mean norm!)

Bereavement

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of the wife of Mr. Arthur Thrupp, former Turncock of Norton Canes. We would take this opportunity to express our sympathy.

AMALGAMATION!!

Harry Walters, former Turncock of Church Hill, married the widow of the late George Darby, former Turncock of Chase Terrace. We hope that the couple, both in their 70's, will find much happiness in their marriage.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

This is the time of year when the Club appears to be at a standstill. Appearances, however, can be deceptive.

In October, the Sports and Social Committee were elected, Melvin Morgan being elected Chairman, Melvin Walklate, Secretary, and Brian (Basher) Briggs, Treasurer. The other members of the Committee are - G. Whewell, J. Mayer, G. Davies, J. Bryan (Tipton) and B. Brown (Wood Green).

One of the first events they had to organise was a trip to a pantomime, Cinderella. This takes place in February. Arrangements are also well under way for the Annual Dinner & Dance.

The football team is also doing well. At the time of writing it is very possible that they will go through into the semi-finals of the Cannock Chase League Cup Competition (2nd Division).

RETIREMENT OF MR. G.W.WALKLATE

George Walklate retired from the Company on the 10th November 1967 after nearly 40 years' service. At a simple ceremony, attended by many of his friends at the Depot, George was presented with a cheque by Mr. Langston.

His life with the Company had been very active indeed. He could often be seen cycling round the Cannock Area in his capacity as Waste Inspector.

George was also a very keen sportsman, one of the finest wicket keepers in Cannock and a 'vicious' fullback. At the now defunct Company Sports Day, George would be in the thick of it, often bringing honour to Cannock Depot in the 440 yards and the 880 yards.

George was a friend to everyone. He will be sorely missed at the Depot and we wish him every happiness in his retirement.



G. Walklate



Presentation to Mr. T.E. Kendrick. Photo: West Midlands Press Ltd.

RETIREMENT OF MR. T.E.KENDRICK

The 15th November 1967 saw the completion of 43 years of service to the Company by 'Tom' Kendrick. He reminded those present that he originally came for three months!

Mr. F.T.Langston, Area Superintendent, said that Mr. Kendrick's retirement had brought to an end a family association with the Company, an association that had lasted for over eighty years. Mr. Kendrick's father (another Tom) began work with the Company in 1887 and retired in 1927, whilst his uncle, Sam Kendrick, started in 1899 and retired in 1937. Another of his 'family', Alice Kendrick, worked with the Company as a Waste Inspector from 1917 to 1921.

Mr.Langston went on to say that he had worked with Tom Kendrick for nearly thirty years and in that time Tom had been a conscientious and dedicated worker, and a man with a great sense of humour.

"He is a man with a great interest in social work", said Mr. Langston, "and has been very much concerned with the Community Centre in Cannock, having been Chairman of the Social Services Committee for 14 years. He is also a member of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, where his learning has increased so much that he now lectures in first aid".

Tom was thanked by Mr. Langston for his co-operation and for giving to him the benefit of his experience. He concluded by asking Tom to accept his very best wishes and hoped he would have a long and happy retirement.

Mr. W.A. Markham, Distribution Engineer, said that he was very much aware of the contribution Mr. Kendrick had made at Cannock Depot. "I know" he said, "that if Tom says something then Tom is correct".

In reply, Mr. Kendrick thanked everyone for the radio, saying that it would be a constant reminder of all his friends at South Staffs.

He told of several amusing incidents within his life at the Company. He said that life had changed a great deal since he first started and much of the back-breaking work had been removed for the men.

Striking a more serious note, Tom issued a challenge to everyone at the Depot.

"Pull together", he said, "work as a team. Only in this way will the happy family atmosphere return to the Depot".

His retirement ceremony was rounded off with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne".

Mr. Langston brought the year to an end by inviting the Senior Staff of the Depot to a Dinner at the Farm House Restaurant, Armitage, when they were honoured to have as guests, Mr. W.A. Markham and Mr. J.V.D. Banham.

As always, this evening was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. It is on such occasions as these that differences of opinion can be forgotten and a new spirit of determination created.

D.P.

TIPTON DEPOT

A brief and informal but memorable ceremony took place at Tipton Depot on the afternoon of Friday, 27th October.

It was held to mark the retirement of two esteemed employees from the Company's service; they were Motor Driver Joseph W. Tilley, and Fittings Inspector Leslie Hill, who had served for 42½ years and 38 years respectively.

The members of the staff and some of their colleagues assembled to make the occasion and to wish them well for a long and happy retirement. Mr. E. Jones, the Area Superintendent, voiced our feelings, to which both Joe and Leslie suitably replied.

Mr. Hill was presented with a handsome cut glass bowl and a collection among employees at the Depot was being made for Mr. Tilley, with which he could purchase a suitable memento.

Leslie Hill joined the Company as a Waste Inspector and later became Deputy Chief Waste Inspector before being appointed a Fittings Inspector. In recent years his special charge has been the Halesowen, Romsley, Blackheath and Rowley areas, where he is well known. He has ridden hundreds of miles by bicycle in the execution of his duties, whilst Joe Tilley has been a motor driver during the whole of his long service with the Company. Thus, in his time, he must have driven many thousands of miles and has handled with care the vehicles of which he has had charge.

Handsome bouquets of flowers were also given to each of the men to take to their wives, to denote the beginning of what we hope will be - a long period of well-earned, healthy leisure.

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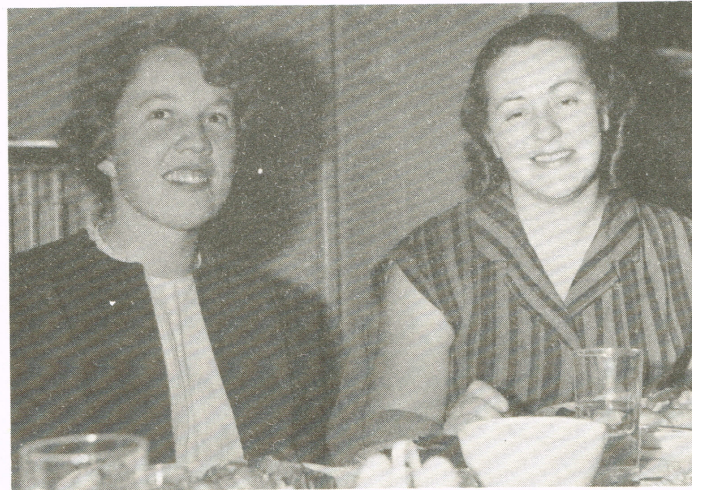
Mr. J.W. Tilley, Retired 27th October, 1967

Mr. J.D.L. Hill, Retired 31st October, 1967.

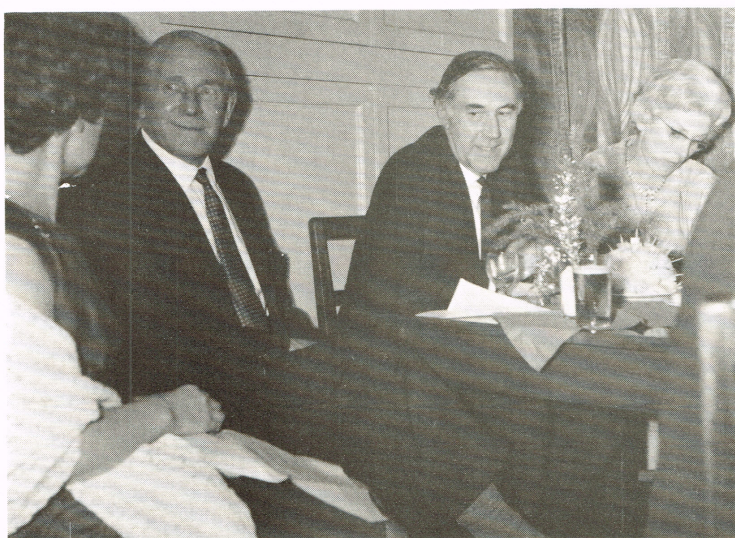


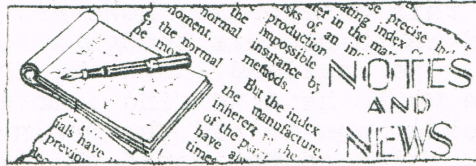
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON IN THE CANTEEN

Friday, 22nd December, 1967.



ENJOYING THE CHRISTMAS DANCE IN THE CANTEEN
FRIDAY, 15th DECEMBER, 1967.





A Saturday Afternoon Visit

Now that everybody knows the geographical location of Hampton Loade it is only a further 15 minutes car ride on the Wellington Road to the place acknowledged to be the cradle of the industrial revolution - Coalbrookdale.

Shropshire is one of the few remaining unspoiled counties in this country. But in the south east corner there is a small isolated industrial conurbation - Ironbridge, Broseley, Madeley, Coalbrookdale, etc.

In passing through these small towns it is difficult not to get an impression of a depressed derelict area, but 250 years ago this was the most thriving centre of industrial activity in the West Midlands. And the man who made this activity possible was Abraham Darby.

Darby was born at Wrens Nest near Dudley and lived there for the early part of his childhood. It was during these formative years that he no doubt came in contact with, or knew by reputation, Dud Dudley, who, in addition to being an illegitimate son of Lord Dudley, was something of an inventor. There would be little doubt that Darby had witnessed the abortive attempts of Dud Dudley to smelt iron by charcoal smelting, a process which used almost as many tons of wood as pounds of iron it produced. The effect of this extravagance was to so denude the forests of this country that it was necessary to pass a statute for their preservation in order that the Navy should have first call. Although Dud Dudley made a patent application for his process it was never actually published and for this reason it is believed that he was never successful.

At the age of 20, Abraham Darby moved to Bristol and with several Quaker friends founded a Brass Foundry. At this time, the last decade of the 17th century, the status symbol of the age was a brass three-legged cooking pot. These pots were handed down from generation to generation and were very much prized. The technique of manufacture in casting the pot was exclusively a Dutch process and Darby decided to import Dutch casters and moulders for the purpose of producing the pots in his Bristol factory. He was so

besieged by trouble in this enterprise, however, that ultimately it had to be abandoned and he turned his thoughts to casting the pipes in thin wall cast iron. He realised, however, that if it was to be a viable proposition he would have to find a more economical way of smelting iron. The problem was to rid the ordinary coal of the volatiles, sulphur etc. which contaminated the iron. Quite how he evolved the process has never been disclosed by the patent. But he did successfully find a way of producing a coke from coal. No patents were ever taken out for the process but he managed to maintain its secret and decided that his activities would be better performed in an area where the essential ingredients or materials were available in proximity. He needed, iron ore, coal and limestone for his process. All of these materials were available in the south east corner of Shropshire, known as Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale.

In addition, the River Cole is a tributary of the River Severn and only a few miles from this river, which meant that having produced the castings which he planned they could reasonably and cheaply be transported by river to Bristol, which was then one of the principal ports in the country.

Now there was one further contribution to this story which made possible Darby's tremendous break-through, and this was a process evolved by John Thomas of Newtown for casting thin wall cast iron hollow pots and kitchen ware. He purchased this idea from Thomas and took out a patent in 1707 for the purpose of manufacture. In 1709 the first iron ever to be made with coke was smelted in the form of cast iron cooking pots and in no time at all they had replaced the more expensive brassware imported from Holland.

For a time Darby concentrated on this type of manufactory but in 1715 the foundry was enlarged so that cast iron cylinders and pipes could be made for the Newcomen steam engines. There then followed contracts with Watt and Treverthick, the great inventors of the industrial revolution, for barrels and pipes necessary to the steam engines then being feverishly manufactured.

The old furnace in the photograph was in use. It was repaired and improved until 1777, when Abraham Darby the Third, Grandson of the Founder, rebuilt it to a new design in preparation for casting the iron bridge shown in the photograph. This re-design is also the furnace which is shown in the photograph as a massive square tower-like structure.

The first cast iron rails in the world were produced and used extensively by the Coalbrookdale Company from 1767 onwards. In 1825 the first railway locomotives in the world were built at the Coalbrookdale Works and then followed a period of gradual expansion in all forms of casting and cast iron manufactory. Today, the Coalbrookdale Works manufacture the wellknown Rayburn cooker of Allied Iron Foundries Ltd. and is now part of this group.

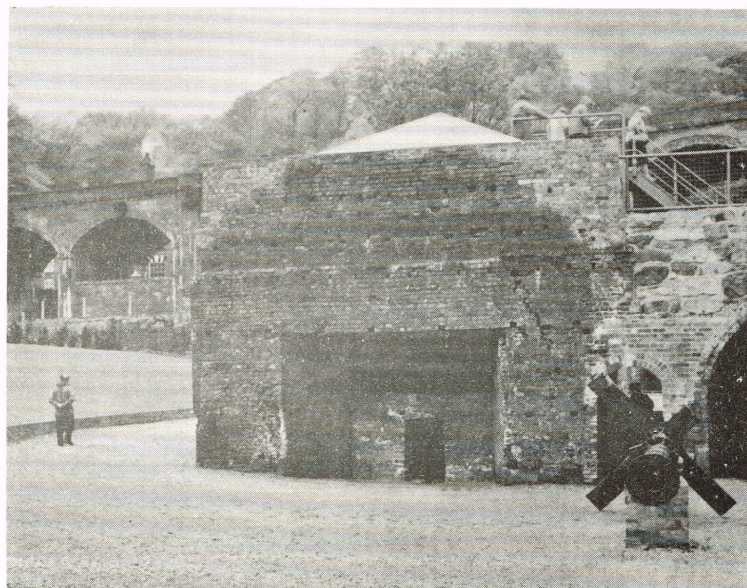
The spirit of the industrial revolution has been preserved by this Company in the form of a museum which is open on Saturdays from early April until September, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission free. A place well worth a visit.

Type of cast iron
cooking pot made
at Coalbrookdale
Foundry



The first cast
iron bridge in
the world built
to span the
River Severn at
Ironbridge, Salop

The original
furnace used by
Abraham Darby
in 1707



CHILDREN ENJOYING THE CHRISTMAS PARTY
IN THE CANTEEN

Saturday, 30th December, 1967



Guess Who? I wonder how
this Photograph came to
be included in the News
Review?



I do not think we give enough praise to the engineer and the people involved in the development of ideas as opposed to the inventors. Inventors have a flash of illumination perhaps but once in a lifetime, and then they retire to await the next flash of inspiration. In the development field, however, it is a constant hard slog to find the optimum use of resources available and when a happy conclusion is reached, e.g. the finding of a use for a natural element, it can be as awe-inspiring as any cry of "Eureka" from a scientist's laboratory.

This finding of uses brings me to the important use of water. Have you ever stopped to think what would have happened had not some person way out, sorry way back, not foreseen that water would become so important that it would be almost impossible to live without it and developed pipes, pumps, meters and all the ancillary equipment needed to distribute to the consumers. Why, people would be drinking and using water ad-lib, willy-nilly etc. without filtration, meters, and without any of the globules of coagulated administration that we find so necessary in the distribution of any god-given natural resource.

An energy that has escaped almost unnoticed is air, and what a sorry state this is in. Humans inhale, befoul and expel air amongst the community; some is used in pneumatics and some even to blow up motor car tyres, and there are hundreds of other examples of its misuse. This would not be so terrible in itself but for the fact that this waste is not metered or charged for. Surely, if the same person who had instigated the present-day Boards of distributors of our natural resources had carried on into the field of air and brought forth the same results to the use of air, we all would be much more amiable to government discipline than we are at present.

Just thinking of the above malpractices makes the mind boggle with the thought of what a good old fashioned autocratic administration could have done. I personally think that we might even have made Parkinson's Law a living reality instead of a boardroom snigger. The axiom of two men to do one man's work could have been enlarged to become five or even ten men to do one man's work. Alas, it will never be, as once a human being has tasted this obnoxious drink, he will actively fight against what is good for him without ever realising that Governments know best. After all, the divine right of Kings was not handed over to parliament accidentally, but God, in his wisdom, foresaw that unless man was allowed to decide his own future, there would be no Armageddon and he would continue to desecrate this earth ad infinitum.

So I think we must raise our glasses to the development engineer who evolves a use for an article, as opposed to the inventor who invents an article for which a use has to be found.

A chaque saint sa chandelle.

JACQUERIF

Mr. A. Simkins, Staff Association Club Chairman

On the 30th November 1967 Mr. Alan Simkins left us to take up a new appointment as Deputy Engineer to the Mid.Northampton Water Board, and to mark this occasion Alan invited a number of his friends to join him in a drink in the Canteen.

In making the presentation of flash equipment for Alan's cine camera, Mr. Lamont spoke of Mr. Simkins' work for the Company as Head of Civil Engineering Department and said that during the 11½ years he had been with us he had crowded in a considerable amount of work, both for the Company and in the social sphere, and for the Midlands Section of the Institution of Water Engineers. He had been very much concerned with the first phase of the River Severn Scheme and Mr. Lamont said he knew Alan would be leaving with a feeling of a good job well done.

Mr. Simkins' activities have not been confined to work, however, and Mr. Lamont spoke of his enthusiastic support of the Company's social activities, when after serving as Vice-Chairman of the Staff Association Club for 3 years, he was elected Chairman in February 1967.

Mr. Lamont remembered how we had shared Alan's delight at the birth of his first son, Paul, and how our delight was renewed with the birth of his second son some 15 months later. Here Mr. Lamont said how sorry we were that Mrs. Simkins would be leaving us also for she had taken a tremendous interest, often in very difficult circumstances, in all social events of the Company and had given Alan every support.

Mr. David Brown, who succeeds Alan as Head of Civil Engineering Department, then spoke on behalf of his colleagues in that Department, saying with a smile that after listening to the eloquence of remarks made to Alan by Mr. Taylor and Mr. Lamont he felt rather like the dustman who followed the Lord Mayor's Show!

He spoke of Alan's friendliness to all and said he knew those ties of friendship would not be severed by his leaving the Company.

Mr. Simkins then received gifts from his friends in Civil Engineering Department - a Sparklet Soda Syphon, cut glass Scotch glasses and a miniature bottle of Scotch, with the advice that if diluted by the total contents of the syphon it would give a dilution factor of about 40 to one. Then a second parcel was handed to Alan - quite an innocuous-looking parcel - but it was in fact a breathalizer test unit wrapped up in copies of Lind's Claim Drawings.

Mr. Brown concluded by asking Miss D. King to hand Alan a bouquet for Mrs. Simkins (who had been left at home surrounded by packing cases etc.) with the hope that she would be very happy in her new home.

In acknowledging the gifts and good wishes, Mr. Simkins, speaking with obvious emotion, said he was quite overwhelmed by the

kindness shown by everyone. He thanked Mr. Lamont particularly for all his help and for giving him that little push at the right moment, although he sometimes wondered if he had done the right thing to leave the Company.

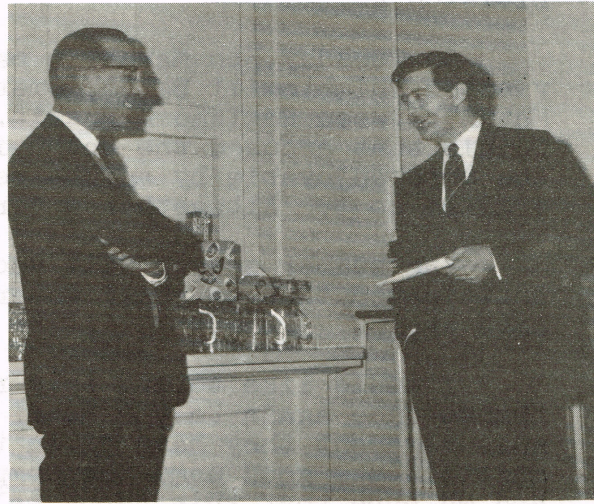
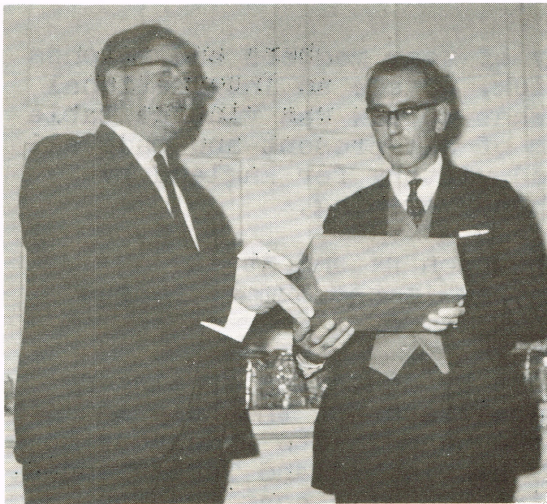
He said how much he had enjoyed his work for the Company and particularly had he enjoyed his work as Chairman of the Staff Association. Here he reminded us that a successful Staff Association always depended upon its members.

Mr. Simkins said he remembered an occasion when his wife was ill some 7 years ago when he had to attend the Annual Dinner without her. At that time Mr. Wright had called him aside and given him a bouquet of flowers for his wife - an action which they will both long remember.

Alan concluded by once again thanking everyone for their good wishes and said he hoped he and June would be invited to our social functions sometimes and that they would not be regarded as outsiders.

A gift from Members of the Staff Association being presented to Mr. A. Simkins by Mr. J. Lamont

Mr. D. Brown presenting Gifts to Mr. A. Simkins from his colleagues in Civil Engineering Department.



A Bouquet for June and a Kiss for Alan

TABLE TENNIS SECTION

I am very happy to report at the conclusion of the 1967/1968 winter season that the Company's Team have won the West Birmingham League Handicap Cup in their first season in the West Birmingham League. I would like to convey to all concerned my warmest congratulations on this very fine achievement. After the success in winning the Business Houses & Works League Div. 4 last season, it was decided to enter the West Birmingham League. We were elected to the 3rd Division and at the end of the season finished in 3rd position, narrowly missing promotion to Division 2 by a 2 points margin.

The final match analysis was as follows :-

Pl.18. W.12. D. 2. L.4. F.112 A.68 Pts.26.

I feel that the Team has done well in its first season in this standard of Table Tennis and look forward with confidence to next season when we shall make our objective promotion to Division 2.

On Tuesday, 5th March, a party of team members and friends visited Thimblemill Baths, Smethwick, to see an International Match between England & Russia. What we saw was vintage Table Tennis that aroused the enthusiasm of all present and made all the more enjoyable by an unexpected victory for England by 4 games to 3. Altogether a very happy evening.

The summer season will soon be upon us and it is anticipated that we shall enter a team in the Summer League once again.

I would like to end this report by conveying my sincere thanks once again to the Staff Association for the help and encouragement they have given to the team in its endeavour to maintain the good name the Company has in Midland Table Tennis, and we hope that this happy relationship will continue for many years to come.

J.E.S.

ANNUAL OUTING/VISIT TO WORKS
3rd October, 1967.



Outside Chilcote Pumping Station



Waiting for a "Winner" at Nottingham Races

WHAT'S IN A PIPE?

The Editors have invited me to write something about my experiences inside concrete pipelines, so as to give them an excuse to publish the accompanying photograph.

Because of the high pressures at which most of the Company's trunk mains operate, the use of concrete pipes has not hitherto been adopted. At Chelmarsh, however, a number of unusual situations arose where the most suitable choice of material proved to be concrete, and the following lengths of pipeline were laid in this material :-

Drainage culvert under the dam:	90 yards of 48" dia.
Stream diversion culvert:	700 yards of 30" dia.
Inlet mains within reservoir basin:	300 yards of 60" dia.
	250 yards of 30" dia.
	1200 yards of 24" dia.

Because it is not usually practicable to subject concrete mains to the type of hydraulic test which is applied to conventional steel and cast iron mains, it is necessary for the engineer in charge of mainlaying operations to make an internal inspection of part at least of each main. At Chelmarsh, the drainage culvert has to be inspected at regular intervals, and the diameter of 48" was selected as being the smallest size that will permit a man to move along without getting down on his knees. In a 30" pipe, one can get along on hands and knees, like an animal, and it is just possible to turn round for the return journey.

But in a 24" pipe, the average man has no option but to move like a snake, on his belly, and a safety rope is a "must". I go in feet first, so that I can always see daylight at the open end of the pipe, but I am told that the correct method is to go in head end first. Two engineers whom I know have crawled up 18" dia. mains, but I have no desire to emulate them.

N.D.E.

Photo Eric. M.K. Kirk, Bridgnorth



STAFF ASSOCIATION EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 23rd February, 1968

The Annual General Meeting of the Staff Association Club was held in the Canteen on Friday, 23rd February 1968, under the Chairmanship of Mr. R.J.Wright.

Before opening the business of the meeting the Chairman invited those present to stand for a moment's silence in memory of their former colleagues who had passed away since the last meeting.

It will be remembered that Mr. A. Simkins left to take up an appointment with the Mid.Northamptonshire Water Board and consequently it became necessary to appoint a new Chairman. On the proposition of Mr. J.W.Whitworth, Mr. R.J.Wright was invited to take up the Office of Chairman of the Association and Mr. R.G.Clarke was invited by Mr. R.J.Wright to take over the Office of Vice-Chairman.

The President and Vice-Presidents were re-elected en bloc, with the addition of Mr. Geoffrey N. Wright, who has been appointed to the Board of Directors.

The following are the Officers and Members of the Executive Committee for 1968.

Chairman:	Mr. R.J.Wright.	Vice-Chairman &	Mr. R.G.Clarke
		Hon. Treasurer:	
Acting Honorary Secretary:		Mr. C.H.F.Gilbert	
Honorary Auditors:		Mr. P.J.Burton and Mr. K. Hand	
Tobacco Club Secretary:		Miss C.S.Parry	

Executive Committee:

Secretary's Dept.	Mr. M.A.Alderman and Mr. & Mrs. G. Cheshire.
Engineer's Dept. (Head Office)	Messrs. B.Hawkley, J.C.Land, C.E.Packwood, G.Thomason.
Engineer's Dept. (Outside Staff) -	
Burton, Cannock & Sutton Depots	Mr. K.B.Rhodes
Walsall Depot & Wood Green	Mr. R.R.Pearsall
Lichfield Area & Outside	
Staff on Construction Work	Mr. G.W.Anderson

INSTITUTION OF WATER ENGINEERS, MIDLAND SECTION
SUMMER MEETING - VISIT TO HAMPTON LOADE
TREATMENT WORKS, INTAKE & CHELMARSH RESERVOIR
6th OCTOBER, 1967.



Mr. W. O. Skeat, Secretary,
Institution of Water Engineers.
and Mr. A. W. Tibbenham.



Mr. W. C. Johnson, Engineer &
Manager, Wolverhampton Water
Dept. with Mrs. Johnson.



Mr. R. C. Whitehead, Engineer
& Manager, Birmingham Water
Dept. and Mr. F. Harrop,
Deputy Engineer & Manager.



Mr. J. Lamont and
Mr. R. C. Whitehead.



Mr. & Mrs. C.A. Risbridger and
Mr. & Mrs. A. Simkins



Mr. Peter Lamont
Engineer & Manager,
East Worcs. Waterworks
Company.



Mr. R.H. Taylor,
After Luncheon
Speech



Mr. W. O. Skeat and
Mr. J.V.D. Banham (Honorary
Secretary, Midland Section)
Institution of Water Engineers.

Personalia

- T.E.Kendrick, Asst. Superintendent, Cannock, retired 16th Nov. 1967, aged 65 yrs. after 43 years' service.
- T.A.Smith, Foreman, Slade Heath Pumping Station, retired 13th Dec. 1967, aged 65 years, after 29 yrs. service.
- A.J.Earp, Plumber/Ganger, retired due to ill health on 1st Nov. 1967, aged 60 years, after 42 years' service.
- H. Irvine, Labourer, Lichfield Pumping Station, retired on the 2nd February 1968, aged 65 years.
- J.G.Miller, Foreman, Somerford Pumping Station, retired 19th March 1968, aged 65 years, after 27 years' service.
- J.W.Price, Foreman, Slitting Mill Pumping Station, retired on 7th February 1968, aged 65 years, after 41 years' service.



Mr. A.J. Earp, Plumber/Ganger, Burton, with the Barometer - a gift from his colleagues - on the occasion of his retirement on 1st November, 1967.



Mr. R.D. Waller, Clerk of Works, receiving a cheque from Mr. A. Simkins with good wishes from members of the Staff Association

F.G.Williams, Pumping Station Attendant, Ashwood Pumping Station, retired 26th February, aged 65 years, after 28 years' service.

H.H.Sales, Foreman, Huntington Pumping Station, retired 8th March, aged 65 years, after 20 years' service.

W.C.Niblett, Leading Waste Inspector, Tipton, retired 10th March, aged 65 years, after 45 years' service.

C.M.Page, Reservoir Attendant, Lichfield, retired 8th February, aged 64 years.

R.A.Rudkin, Waste Inspector, Tipton, retired 28th February, aged 64 years.

T. Didlock, Service Jointer, Tipton, retired 1st March, aged 64 years.

F. Potts, Main Jointer, Tipton, retired 20th March, aged 65 yrs. after 33 years' service.

J.Burns, Stoker, Brindley Bank Pumping Station, retired 31st Mar. aged 69 years, after 20 years' service.

J.H.Cook, Welder, Wood Green, retired 12th April, aged 65 years, after 20 years' service.

DEATHS

We regret to report the following deaths -

J. Birks, Formerly Water Sampler/Motor Driver, Lichfield Laboratory, died 14th Nov. 1967, aged 78 yrs. (retired Sept. 1953)

R.W.Keay, Formerly Ganger, Walsall Depot, Died 17th Dec. 1967, aged 56 years. (retired 1st February 1966)

W.H.Smith, Formerly Chief Clerk, Service Dept. died on 30th Dec. 1967, aged 81 years.

E. Holford, Formerly Lorry Driver, Walsall Depot, died 11th February, aged 73 years. (retired April 1959)

C.H.Taylor, Formerly Chief Storekeeper at Wood Green, died as a result of an accident on the 7th April.

W.T.Kirkman, Formerly Distribution Dept. Head Office, died in December, 1967. "Bill" emigrated to Canada in 1949.

GOLD WATCH AWARDS

H. Hollis, Labourer, Maple Brook Pumping Station

C. Hooper, Clerk, Walsall Depot.