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THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
WATERWORKS COMPANY



NEWS
REVIEW

FEBRUARY 1969

Vol. 19

No. 1



EDITORIAL

We have been asked to express the thanks of a number of our Superannuated Members for the Christmas Cards which are sent to them from the Company each year. This remembrance is greatly appreciated and they would like the Directors to know how much this kind thought is warmly received.

Talking of Superannuated Members, we often think of them because "there are no friends like old friends". Later in this issue we have news from two of our old colleagues and we should very much like to hear how other retired members are enjoying their leisure.

We were hoping to include a Profile on Walsall Depot in this issue but unfortunately when the Editor visited the Area for the purpose of taking photographs the weather was dull and dismal, with a penetrating fog hanging over everything. Whilst the photographs of the personnel at the Offices are good, the ones taken of the men working on the various sites are not up to the standard we would like for reproduction in the News Review. We apologise to everyone at Walsall but would assure them that this omission will be rectified in the next issue and with the approaching Spring it will be possible to take photographs which will not be disappointing.

RETIREMENTS - WALSALL AREA

Chief Fittings Inspector H. D. Oldnall retired at the age of 63 on the 31st December, 1968.

Harry started his career with the Company as a Waste Inspector at Tipton in June 1926 and was later transferred to Walsall. In 1937 he was appointed a Fittings Inspector and in December 1960 he became the Chief Fittings Inspector at Walsall and he retired holding this position, although for health reasons, he was found light office duties towards the end of his working career.

Harry was a qualified First Aid man and many a colleague has had cause to be grateful for his expert attention after an accident.

We hope that retirement will prove therapeutic and we wish him a long and happy life.

Service Layer H. Fieldhouse retired on the 3rd January 1969 at the age of 65, after 34½ years' service with the Company.

Harry spent the last few months in the Depot Yard after working outside for many years as a Service Layer. In his early days he was also employed in the Depot Yard operating a Winget Concrete Block-Making machine. He made thousands of concrete blocks, mainly for re-lining Stowe Pool Reservoir at Lichfield, but many are still to be seen in various places on the Company's property fulfilling a useful function, although not always the one for which they were originally intended.

Harry was mate, for many years, to Horace Clarke (a leading operator at Walsall in the service laying field) and they were inseparable at work. There was perfect understanding between them and neither had to speak to the other to get responsive action. Together, and because of their exceptional abilities, they were often employed on work where important trunk mains were affected not only at Walsall, but in other areas, and therefore Harry and his partner Horace were fairly well-known throughout the Company.

Harry will be remembered for many things and perhaps not the least will be the exceptional care he always took with equipment. To open the under-pressure drilling machine box after he had put the machine away was a great pleasure. Every item of equipment had been punctiliously cleaned and oiled and nestled gleamingly in its appointed place. We betide anyone who disturbed the contents of the tool box. In Harry's eyes it amounted to sacrilege for someone else to handle his precious charge.

Except for some slowing up in his movements Harry leaves in good health and we trust that he keeps this for many years to come so that he can enjoy his well earned retirement.

Mr. F. W. Brownjohn retired on the 10th November, 1968, after 50 years' service.

He commenced as an Office Boy at Walsall in September, 1918. The hours of work were 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. with breaks for breakfast and lunch.

In those early days the Depot had no motor vehicles- the Superintendent went his rounds by horse and trap and men and materials were transported by a slow-moving but willing cart horse. Mr. Brownjohn recalls that part of his 'office' training was cutting chaff each day for the horses as well as cleaning the windows and fetching in the coal; tasks which were regarded in those days as a normal part of an office boy's curriculum. He well remembers the pride and joy that the eventual possession of a chain-driven Ford lorry brought to the Depot staff.

Mr. Brownjohn was transferred to Cannock Depot as Chief Clerk in 1929 and in 1940 he returned to Walsall in the same capacity.

It is interesting to note that he served under five Superintendents, Mr. W. Kirkman, Mr. H. Barratt, Mr. E.F. Sutton, and Mr. L.B. Stokes at Walsall and Mr. A.H. Rofe while at Cannock.

Unfortunately, Mr. Brownjohn's last year of service was marred by illness and we sincerely hope that his health will improve so that he can enjoy a very well-earned retirement.

NEWS FROM CANNOCK

Unfortunately, lack of space prevents a full report on the Sports and Social Club Annual General Meeting. And what a pity that is, because, although only about a dozen attended, it was a very lively meeting.

One or two spoke their minds - and not before time! Bearing in mind what had been said a new Committee was elected with representatives from all sections of the Depot, and the Committee resolved to make the club a Sports and Social Club. But what happened to that initial blast of enthusiasm? We cannot blame the Committee for they did try - well they tried once and gave up in total despair. They arranged a Christmas Party for the Children but our old friend, Apathy, killed that one.

The Committee would like to have ideas from everyone at the Depot; they are willing to work hard. We can only hope that ideas will be coming in thick and fast and that it will not be

another case of "We know what we do not want, but we don't know what we do want".

The new Committee:

Chairman:	Mr. M.K.Morgan
Treasurer:	Mr. B. Briggs
Secretary:	Mr. M.Walklate
Other	Mr. J. Mayer
Members:	Mr. C.Mears

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Bereavements

It is with deep regret that we have to report the deaths of Mr. T. Mayer, Mains Ganger and Mr. R. Birch, Mains Jointer.

Tom, who passed away on the 25th September 1968, worked for the Company for 38 years, during which time he showed himself to be a good and conscientious worker. He will be missed by everyone at the Depot.

Bob was with the Company for 28 years and died suddenly on the 23rd December 1968. Although he was based at Cannock he spent much time working at Burton Depot, where we are sure he will be missed as much as he is at Cannock.

Guess Who?

"By the same token".
"Staffs County County".
"George?".
"Have ya sin it?".
"Got nothing to do?. I'll soon find ya summat".
"Want to buy an 1100?".
"Who is Cannock's sex kitten? .
and Little Ugly?".

MARRIAGE

Congratulations to Miss Angela Ruth Cartwright, only daughter of Mr. E.C.Cartwright, (Pumping Station Attendant, Fradley), who was married on 28th December at St. Chads Church, Lichfield, to L/C John T. Goss of the Royal Australian Navy. Angela is emigrating to Australia later in the year and we hope she enjoys her life "Down Under".

THE TABLE TENNIS SECTION
THE SUMMER LEAGUE 1968 SEASON

The Summer League was instituted by the Birmingham & District Association about three years ago and its main object was to maintain the "line of continuity" between the end of the normal playing season, which is usually about the end of March, and the commencement of the winter season in October of the same year.

It also gives all playing members of the various clubs the opportunity of playing against a variety of experienced opponents and this in itself is good for the game.

Owing to other commitments it was difficult to maintain the same team every week and it necessitated calling on the services of "Guest" players outside the Company. The general summing-up revealed that the Company's team continued to show an all round improvement in playing standard and gives great encouragement for the future. The season ended with the Company's team finishing in 2nd position in the League, an improvement on last season when we finished in 5th place.

WINTER SEASON 1968/9

Members will remember that we finished in third place in the West Birmingham League Div. III last season.

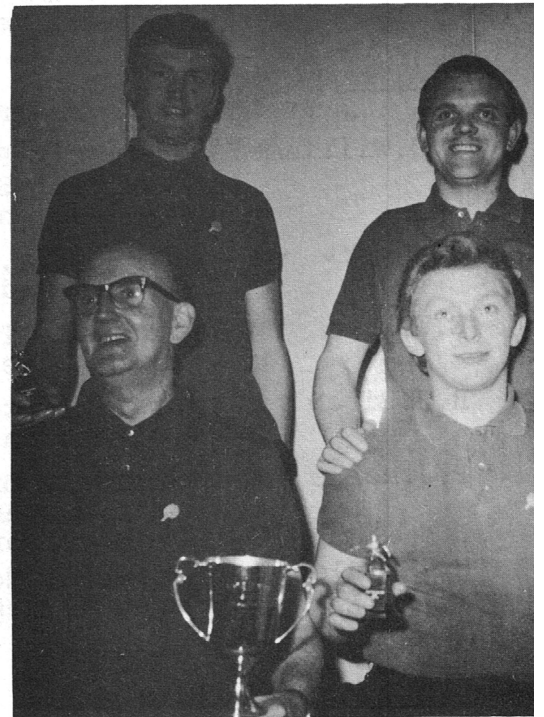
As four teams in the First Division moved out to the 3 Aside League, four teams from Div. II had to be moved into that division to take their place, and this made it necessary for the same number of teams, including ourselves, to be moved from Div. III to Div. II.

This is a good thing from our point of view, and at the moment we have every reason to feel satisfied, for we have won our first three matches, and we look forward to the remainder of the Season with confidence.

I will give a further report of the progress of the Company's team during the winter season at a later date.

J.E.S.

Proud Winners of the West Birmingham League Handicap Cup. 1967/1968 Season.



Personalia

RETIREMENTS

- C.H.F.Gilbert Clerk, Administration Department, retired on the 25th October 1968, aged 64 years, after 48 years' service.
- G.W.Edwards . Foreman, Sandfields Filtration Plant, retired due to ill health on the 1st October 1968, aged 64 years.
- F.W.Brownjohn Clerk, Walsall Area Office, retired on the 10th Nov. 1968, aged 65 years, after 50 years' service.
- E.Stubbs Draughtsman, Architectural Department, retired on the 29th November 1968, after 43 years' service.
- H. Fieldhouse Service Layer, Walsall, retired on the 3rd Jan.1969 aged 65 years, after 34 years' service.
- J. Caswell Waste Inspector, Walsall, retired on the 18th Jan.1969, aged 65 years, after 40 years' service.
- H. Oldnall Clerk, Walsall Area Office, retired on the 31st Dec. aged 63 years, after 43 years' service.
- J.Vass Waste Inspector, Walsall, retired on the 28th February, aged 65 years, after 41 years service.

DEATHS

We regret to record the following deaths.

- F.G.Williams Formerly Pumping Station Attendant, Ashwood, died on the 28th September 1968, aged 65 years. Mr. Williams retired on the 26th February, 1968.
- A. Court Trenchman, Walsall, died suddenly on the 29th October, 1968, aged 62 years.
- E.Wallin Formerly Trenchman, Sutton, died on the 6th Nov.1968, aged 81 years. Mr. Wallin retired in December 1951.
- R.H.Birch Main Jointer, Cannock, died suddenly after a short illness on the 23rd December, aged 51 years.
- P.J.Neale Formerly Bricklayer's Labourer, Lichfield, died on the 12th January 1969, aged 64 years. Mr. Neale retired in November 1964.
- H. Hendley Formerly Motor Driver, Sutton, died on 3rd March, 1969, aged 84 years. Mr. Hendley retired in October 1949.
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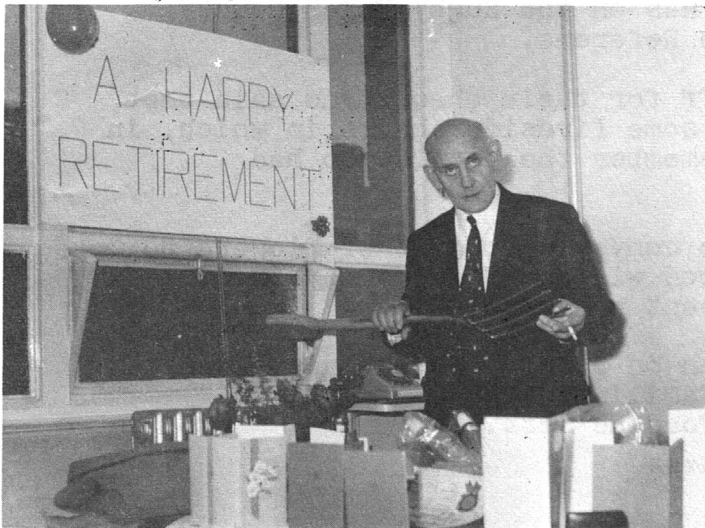


'Doc', a few days before his retirement.



Presentation of a cheque by Mr. R.J.Wright, Chairman of The Staff Association Club.

(below) 'Doc' with Gifts and Cards



(below) A Bouquet for Mrs. Gilbert



RETIREMENT OF MR. C.H.F. 'DOC' GILBERT

At about 8 o'clock in the morning on the 25th October decorations were being put up in Cyril Gilbert's office and individual gifts were accumulating on his desk, and later in the day the entire staff, with the exception of one or two sentries who were posted at vantage points to deal with the consumer public, gathered in the Canteen to drink his wine and wish him well on his retirement after 48 years with the Company.

During his career Mr. Gilbert was engaged on clerical work in the old Service Department, now the Consumer Service Section, until joining the army in February 1941 where he served for five years, and during which time he distinguished himself by becoming a Major in the Army Fire Service. After returning to the Company in 1946 he was principally concerned with welfare and Staff Association activities and was the Honorary Secretary of the Staff Association for 22 years - in this last role his achievements are legendary.

Before the war Mr. Gilbert was also Chief Instructor and Organiser of the Company's A.R.P. Service. He was also an Ambulance Officer of St. John and coached the Birmingham Police to win the National Championship.

Bob Wright, as Chairman of the Staff Association, made the presentation on behalf of the Staff and in his remarks said that whereas he could have spoken for a very long time about the many facets of Mr. Gilbert's career, he had been requested by 'Doc' to keep it short and not to embarrass him. He therefore spoke only briefly and was clearly at pains to put the Old Man at his ease when he referred to him as "Saucepan Face" - a term of endearment not heard since the days when he was on the Rugby Union County Championship Panel of First Class Referees.

Mr. Gilbert thanked the Staff for their cheque and said that it was to be spent in purchasing some fireside chairs in which, in future years, he would sit and remember the people who had contributed to them.

Mr. Gilbert was also asked to convey a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Gilbert and with them the good wishes of everyone for a speedy recovery from her then recent accident.

The day ended as it had begun on a note of festivity when we jealously beheld the somewhat unfamiliar sight of the girls queueing up to kiss the 'Doc' before he left.

A CHRISTMAS DINNER

On a frosty night in December a Christmas Dinner was held at the Park Hotel, Tipton, for Supervisory Staff from Area Offices, Wood Green, Blithfield, Lichfield, and Hampton Loade. Senior Staff from Birmingham Office, including Mr. R.H. Taylor and Mr. J. Lamont also attended.

Ron Pangborn, who was to have travelled from Hampton Loade, declined to do so at the last moment because of poor road conditions and Burton Staff declined owing to the distance involved - "They said they would have the money instead!"

After a very pleasant meal Mr. Taylor was invited by Bob Wright, the Staff Association Chairman, to address the gathering and he said he was pleased to see such a good attendance and was grateful to Mr. Markham who had suggested holding the event - the first of its kind. Mr. Taylor said he also welcomed the opportunity to say how much he appreciated the Area Office Staff's attitude to Work Study which he described as the "wind of change". He then pointed out that the pioneering in Work Study undertaken by the Company had been recognised both by the Company's Directors and Nationally within the Industry. Mr. Taylor also said, in regard to the increased load carried by Area Staffs, that he found their response gratifying and in the best traditions of the Company, and he assured them that their problems were appreciated both by himself and his Senior Staff in Birmingham.

Turning to working conditions, Mr. Taylor said that though he was well aware of the inadequacy of the Area Office accommodation generally, he felt sure that the Staff would appreciate that major changes would be inappropriate in the present economic climate and with the vague uncertainty surrounding the future of the industry with the Local Government Royal Commission about to report. He thought, however, we should not overlook some improvements that had been achieved - certainly in communications with on average a vehicle for every other man and over a hundred radios.

Mr. Taylor also recalled receiving a letter from "Tim" Brownjohn who, after referring to the splendid colleagues with whom he had worked for fifty years, described how, many years ago, he was left in charge of Walsall Depot in the absence of both the Superintendent and his Deputy, and after working from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. - no doubt for 6 days a week - he had to cycle from Bloxwich to Walsall at 10 p.m. to telephone the reservoir levels to the Distribution Engineer. Tim recalled that his reward for running the Depot for a fortnight was "a pound note from Mr. Barratt".

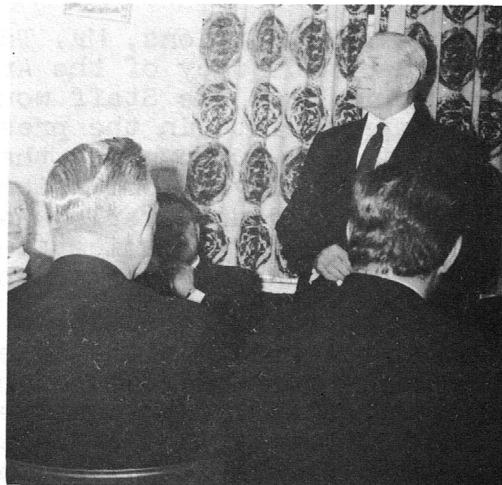
Returning to the present day, Mr. Taylor said how sorry he was that Mr. Markham was unable to be present as he was unwell. However, he conveyed Mr. Markham's good wishes for Christmas to everyone present and agreed to write to him reciprocating his good wishes.

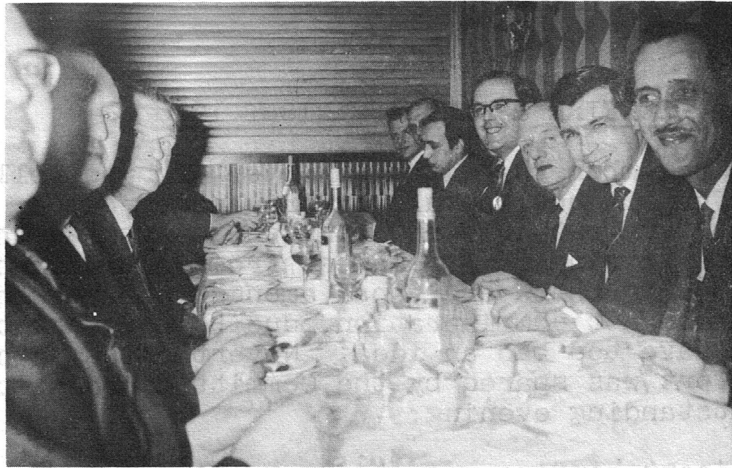
He also referred to the proposed retirement of Mr. Stokes, the Walsall Area Superintendent, who though he will be retiring early on the grounds of ill health will have created a record of 28 years as Superintendent by the time he goes.

Finally Mr. Taylor, clearly in a dilemma as to how to express his own good wishes to the District Staff in view of both the meteorological and economic climates, settled for "A burst free Christmas and Happy New Year".

Mr. Stokes, in a witty and characteristically "largiloquent" reply, thanked Mr. Taylor for his kind remarks and asked him to thank the Board of Directors for their grant towards the cost of the event.

The evening ended with an hour of conversation between the Bar and Dave Parson's piano accompaniment.

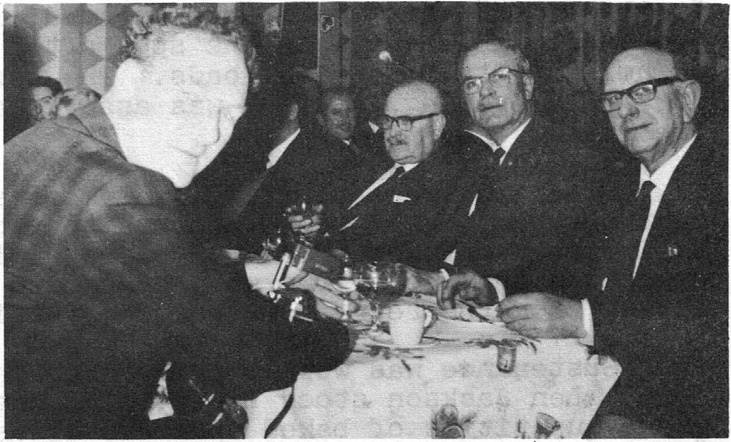




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BONFIRE & BARBECUE NIGHT 1968

"Please to remember the fifth of November" was well to the fore this year for the now annual bonfire and barbecue. There was an excellent turn out at West Bromwich to witness the celebration of the saving of Parliament from destruction by one Mr. Fawkes. Actually there are those amongst us who wonder why the celebration and not commiseration, due to the fact that poor old Guy did not have too bad an idea! Nevertheless, a celebration it is and no effort was spared by the Committee and helpers in producing an outstanding evening.

The magnificent bonfire was, to use a Fire Brigade expression, "well alight" when the writer arrived; in fact its beacon-like propensity guided him to the spot after becoming confused on unfamiliar Staffordshire Roads. The heat was such that, in spite of a cold evening, comfort was assured at nearly every point of the field.

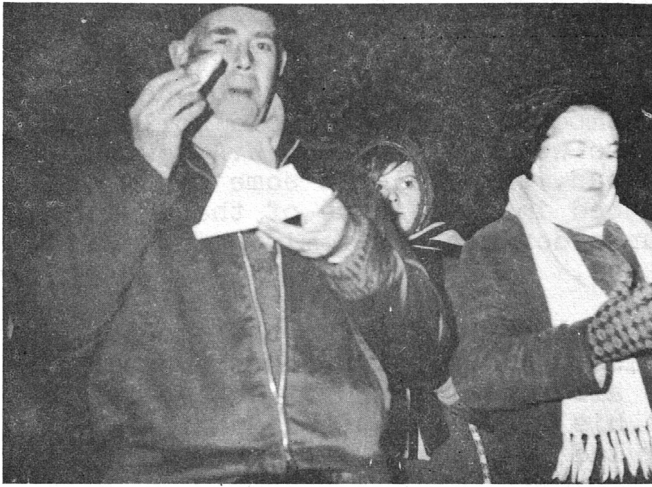
Fireworks were plentiful and Messrs. Packwood and Land were kept busy acting as torch bearers to provide a splendour of ignivomous ignition. Several private displays added to the explosion and one or two wary eyes were necessary to prevent an attack from the rear from the odd "Jumping Jack".

Sustenance was well provided for in either liquid or solid form. Len Jackson stood like the Blacksmith at his Anvil producing great quantities of baked spuds to be used as "central heating". "Hot Dogs" with onions were available, together with toffee apples and crisps which provided an interesting if not altogether balanced diet. Hot coffee and soup made a welcome addition to the menu although its presence did not detract from the popularity of the beer stall where quantities of hop juice were handed out by Mrs. Cheshire.

It is not possible to mention all individuals who provided help in making the evening such a success, without inside knowledge of the behind the scenes preparation. However, from a participator's eye view it was obvious that a great deal of work went into the evening, from building the giant bonfire to clearing the chaos of "the morning after", and a note of thanks should go out to all those who helped to make the evening literally - go with a bang!

D.J.P.

WRAPPED UP AGAINST THE COLD AND ENJOYING THE
BONFIRE & BARBECUE NIGHT



OUR RETIRED MEMBERS' PAGE

A 'newsy' letter has been received from Mr. S.R.Nixon, who is now living at Llandudno Junction, and he writes of days gone by. He wishes to be remembered to all his old colleagues and particularly asks about the wellbeing of Mr. W.A.Newton (Wannie) and Mr. Percy Whitehead. He enclosed some old photographs which are reproduced in this issue of the Review and I can imagine some of our older readers reminiscing and trying to recall earlier events.

"Nick" - as he was always called - refers to the photographs of "Thos" Moore in the last issue and says he remembers his first day at the office. He also recalls the first boy he engaged - a shy young lad in his school cap, accompanied by his father. That 'shy young lad' was Cyril Gilbert, who has recently retired.

"Nick" is living in a lovely bungalow overlooking the sea and two of his friends there are the daughters of the late Mr. J.S.Bird, former Deputy Engineer to Mr. Fred J. Dixon.

"Cis" Lowry writes frequently, and in her latest letter she mentions that she has received an air mail from Miss Stockham who is thoroughly enjoying her holiday in New Zealand. "Stocky" proposes to return to England on the 28th March, via America, in order to visit a relative. "Cis" also mentions Mrs. Andrews (formerly Miss Greatholder) who now lives on Gabriola Island, British Columbia, in a house overlooking the Pacific, which is a "little Paradise".

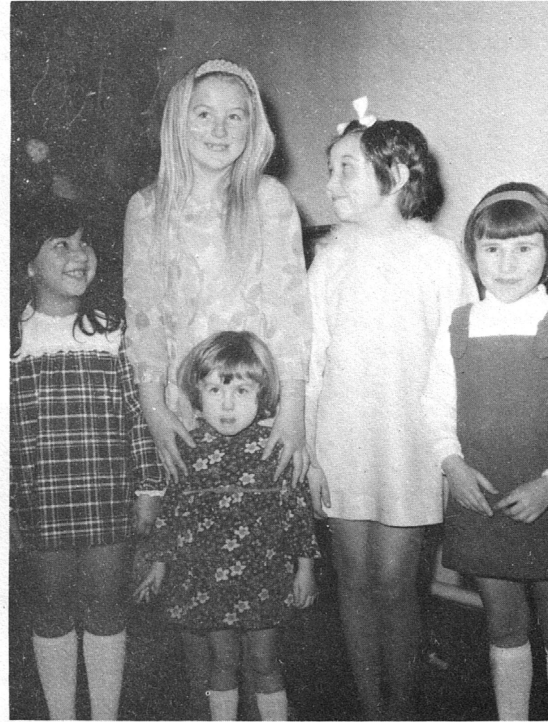
We hear that Mr. Oldnall, who retired at the end of 1968, has put a card on his door - "Please do not knock until after 12 noon!" Also his dog enjoys his afternoon walk! It sounds a lovely life and it is nice to know that the dog is also benefiting from Mr. Oldnall's retirement.

Barbara and "Thos" Moore called in to see us at Christmas, both looking well and happy. Here again the dark mornings seem to have curtailed their gardening activities but we have no doubt they will both find odd jobs in the house. Barbara will perhaps be knitting, and "Thos" will surely be 'making something'.

We were pleased that some of our old colleagues were able to join us at our Luncheon in the Canteen on Christmas Eve. The years go by all too quickly but our old friends do not seem to alter.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

4th JANUARY, 1969





A THOUGHT (AND WE ALL HAVE THEM)
ON MINI SKIRTS.

Have you seen the Manly eye
of they that note the Hem Line high.
That fashion trend that offers knees
a chance to catch the summer breeze.
At first it was a meagre space
above each knee, but then the pace
increased, with pleasing speed, to men
who watch with gaze akin to yen.

Fashion moguls each by each
attempt the ultimate to reach
and suddenly the tired eye
can rest upon a length of thigh
bedraped in fibre, made by man;
dye suggests a healthy tan.
Up and up the hem line rose,
as do the spirits of all those
who think that nature's greatest whim
was to provide a shapely limb.
For men may have a knee all wobbly
but female limbs are seldom knobbly.

Pity though the Motorist,
driving through the bend and twist
of the city street, all keen, intent
on care and skill in driving bent.
Suddenly his gaze averts
on seeing girls in mini skirts.
Oh! the sound of crunching car
Oh! the claim his records mar.
Does he protest to the law,
explaining that there must be a flaw
which allows girls to show their flesh
even though concealed by mesh.
Nay, he takes it on the chin,
putting on a wistful grin.
"I am guilty" doth quoth he,
"If guilty means a man I be".

Pity too the girls (though few)
whose legs would let a loose pig through.
Bandy as a wishbone they,
never all the course will stay.
Also those whose knees do knock,
for these poor Lasses, length of frock
is necessity, I fear, and so
into Maxi Length they go.

As I conclude this little rhyme,
a thought on aspects of our time,
let us with pleasure meditate
on what will happen when the state
is reached where hemlines rising skyward meet
the neckline heading for the feet.
It is hoped that when they do
I will be granted one front pew.

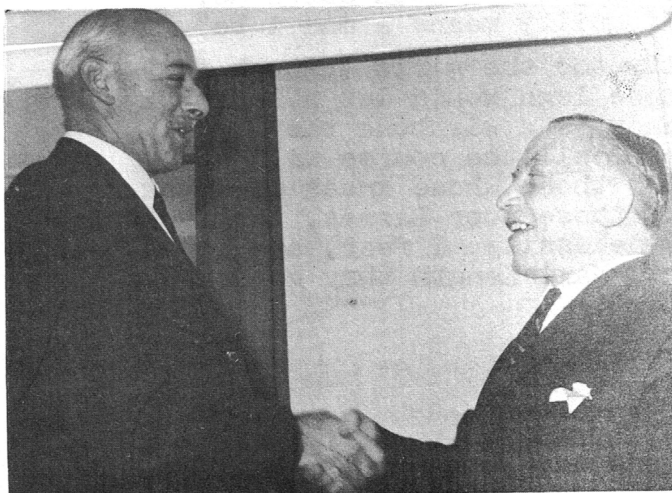
For the ambitious, one last note,
please recall this little quote,
"If ambitions you have gotten
better start right - at the bottom" !

D.J.P.



Mr. E. Stubbs
receiving a cheque
from Mr. R.G. Clarke
on the occasion
of his retirement
on the
29th November, 1968.

Best Wishes
from
Mr. C.R. Trueman,
Head of
Architectural
Department.



(13)

14th April, 1969

It is with deep and lasting regret that we have heard today of the sudden death of Mr. Eric Stubbs and we extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Edna Stubbs and her two sons.

This issue of the News Review had, of course, already been prepared and we feel that this report of the two functions held on the occasion of his retirement and the record of Eric's service with the Company should remain. We hope that when time has healed the wound this will be a memory for Edna and her family to store away with many others and recall with pleasure in the years to come.

RETIREMENT OF MR. E. STUBBS

On Friday, 29th November, the Architectural Section was filled to bursting point when members of the staff collected together on the occasion of the retirement of Mr. Eric Stubbs.

Mr. 'Nobby' Clarke, on behalf of the Chairman of the Staff Association who was unavoidably absent, presided over the gathering. He mentioned that Eric had, throughout his long service of 43 years been known as 'George', a name given to him when he started with the Company by an older member of the Architectural Department staff, and commenting on Mr. Stubbs' artistic ability said that he would always be remembered for the work he had done for Staff Association functions, his posters and the plan for each Annual Dinner: a successor was going to be hard to find. (Ed. Mr. Stubbs was also responsible for the very attractive headings used for many years in the News Review). His meticulous attention to detail in the preparation of drawings for the Company would leave a permanent record of his ability.

Mr. Stubbs had been a member of the Table Tennis Team and Secretary of the Tobacco Club and his wife (Edna Fincher) who had been with the Company for ten years prior to her marriage had also made her contribution to Staff Association activities: some of the longer serving members of the staff would remember her.

In handing to Mr. Stubbs an envelope containing a cheque which had been subscribed by his colleagues, Mr. Clarke said that he understood this was going towards a radio and wished both Eric and his wife a long retirement and a happy and healthy one.

On Tuesday, 26th November, a few of Eric's colleagues met at a restaurant almost on the spot of the old Paradise Street Office to wish him and his wife a long and happy retirement. This was an evening for reminiscing as many there had over thirty years' service with the Company and names of colleagues of other times, on both the Secretary's and Engineer's staff, were mentioned and remembered with affection.

The Chairman of the Staff Association, Bob Wright, welcomed Mrs. Stubbs, who had worked in the Addressograph Department on the Secretary's staff, and recalled that she had been a "Water Nymph" in both presentations of the "Revue" put on during the War, and circulated a copy of a photograph from "The Review" as the staff magazine was then called. He also paid tribute to Eric's contribution to the Staff Association and the Company during his long service of 43 years and wished them both a long and happy retirement. A bouquet was presented to Edna on behalf of those present with their very best wishes at the conclusion of a most enjoyable and pleasant evening.



Photograph:
Express
&
Star

The above photograph shows Mr. Alan Baker (left) with his Royal Humane Society Award, and Mr. John Poyner (Pumping Station Attendant at Coneygre) who received the Society's Resuscitation Certificate.

Mr. Poyner decided quite by chance to take a short cut to work along a canal tow-path, and saw a woman lying at the bottom of the canal. Unable to swim, he shouted for help and 19 year old Alan Baker came to the rescue. Mr. Baker jumped over the fence, dived into the canal and brought the woman to the side. Then began a life and death struggle to revive the semi-conscious woman and Mr. Poyner started to give her artificial respiration - learnt from a chart which hangs in the pump house at Coneygre.

We understand Mr. Poyner was very modest about the matter and not much was known of it until the report of the presentation. It is particularly interesting to learn that although Mr. Poyner had never before given artificial respiration, the fact that he had studied the chart at the Pumping Station enabled him to help to save a woman's life.

We all offer him our warmest congratulations.

WANTED - A GARAGE

It would have been a fairly simple matter to purchase a garage of timber, asbestos cement or perhaps even prefabricated concrete section and erect it on the existing concrete surfaced area at the side of the house. A few days and the job might have been completed.

That was not what we had in mind. We wanted something more substantial, something that would enhance the value of the property, in a word - an "Integral" garage blending with the house.

Early in 1964 we decided on a brick built combined garage and kitchen extension at rear, both under one roof, but separated by a dividing wall with communicating door, and with side door from kitchen to outer yard.

Plans were drawn up accordingly and with the necessary forms duly filled in, were submitted for approval to the local Planning Authority on the 4th March, and were approved by the Council on the 18th March.

Like most of you, we have seen quite a lot of building work being done and have often thought how much more interesting is the other man's work than our own. So, in this age of "Do It Yourself" and as Wilfred Pickles would say, "Go on, have a go", we decided so to do.

With this end in view we had, during the early weeks of the year, been gathering information, making calculations and estimates of materials required, collecting tools, etc. etc. and now, furnished with the Council's "Go ahead" we were able to commence preparing the site.

The first job was to measure up and fix pegs to mark the position of the walls, in readiness for excavation for foundations, footings etc. This meant opening the surface concrete about 2'6" wide and about 50 ft. in length, and excavating to a depth of approximately 1½ ft. down to the virgin clay.

Three cubic yards of 'ready-mixed' concrete, delivered on the 18th April, were required to provide the foundations - 2 ft. by 7 inches deep, which is the required minimum for 11 inch cavity walls.

You have probably wondered what we did with all the broken up concrete and ground excavated. It was placed in two separate heaps on the back garden, for use later.

On 20th April we placed an order for bricks, as follows :-

3,250 - Hard Red Wirecut bricks	@	323/6d per 1000
250 - Multi-Red Rustic Facing bricks	@	346/6d per 1000

and delivery was promised for May 12th.

We found much to keep us busy whilst waiting for the bricks, such as getting in about 3 tons of sand, obtaining door and window frames, and a dozen and one other small but necessary jobs.

The bricks arrived as promised; and what a job it was to stack them conveniently for use as building progressed.

A few courses of bricks on the foundation concrete brought us up to the damp-course, and having well and truly laid this, followed by a further course of bricks, it was time to position the outer door-frames. These we had already primed, as one of the small but necessary jobs. Here I might coin a phrase - "The essence of continuity is preparedness".

Bricklaying was continued to window-sill level, and the window-frames set in position - more bricks now until we reached lintel level of doors and windows.

Special care was given to the lintels, each of which was built in situ, cast in the position it would remain, not forgetting the necessary reinforcement.

Building cavity-walls is building two walls with a 2" gap between them, and it is necessary to connect them at specified intervals by means of wall-ties. It is also essential to keep the cavity free from drippings of mortar or brick splinters (not to mention small tools). A strip of timber a little under 2" wide by $\frac{1}{2}$ " or $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick, suspended at each end by a piece of cord, and lowered within the cavity over which one is operating, collects any drippings and is readily removable.

We continued building to the height of the roof-eaves. Here the side wall is almost completed but the front and rear walls are to be continued to finish squarely, a little higher than the level of the apex of the garage roof.

I said - the side wall was almost completed; not quite, because it was necessary now to set into position the 5" x 2" Timbers to carry the roof, one end of each into the wall of the house and the other ends into the new side wall.

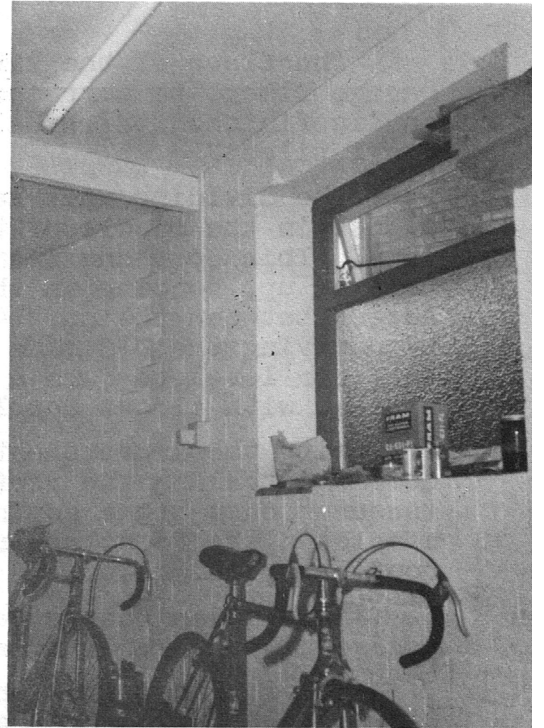
The four 4" x 2" cross timbers to which the asbestos roof was to be fixed were now also placed in position so that they could be correctly built into front and rear walls as building progressed.

Working weekends and when possible during the evenings for an hour or so, we managed to complete the main structure and fix the roofing sheets by mid-September, and by the end of October had fitted and glazed outer doors and windows. "E'er the Winter Storms Began".

General conditions curtailed our activities during the winter months except for small jobs which we could do under cover, but we were at it again as soon as possible, breaking up more concrete, excavating soil and using up some of the aforementioned heaps of broken concrete as hardcore on which to lay the garage floor. This consisted of a minimum of 4" hardcore well consolidated, levelled and covered by polythene sheet to prevent possible rising damp, and overlaid with a 4" thickness of ready-mixed concrete - ($2\frac{1}{4}$ cubic yards).



Front aspect of garage.



Garage interior.



(above)
Showing the kitchen
extension

(right)
Interior of
kitchen (extension)



The floor of the kitchen extension is about 5½" higher than the garage floor, to correspond with the existing kitchen floor level, and is finished off by a much finer and smoother surface to receive Vynyl tiles.

The dividing wall between garage and kitchen extension came almost in the middle of the original kitchen side-doorway outlet to yard. This door and frame had to be removed and the aperture bricked up, bonding in the dividing wall at alternate courses. Access between the now two parts of the larger kitchen was gained by removing the old side window and dismantling the brickwork below to floor level to form a wide opening. We had now an 'L' shaped kitchen with almost double the former floor space.

With the improvement in weather conditions we were able to complete sealing the roof by lead-flashing it all round. "Made to measure" cast stone copings, sloping inwards to drain on to the roof, completed the front and rear walls, guttering and down-spout taking roof water to drain.

Insulation boards were used to line inside the roof of the garage and both ceiling and interior walls are finished white.

Polystyrene tiles on plaster-board form the ceiling of the kitchen; the walls are half-tiled in pale blue and the remainder finished in white.

Regarding the cost. The main items were approximately -

Bricks, Cement, Sand etc.	£70. 0. 0.
Ready-Mixed Concrete	£24. 0. 0.
Joinery & Timber	£33. 0. 0.
Roofing, Flashing, Copings	£40. 0. 0.

plus Glazing, door and window furniture, insulation boards, plaster boards, tiles for floor, walls and ceiling.

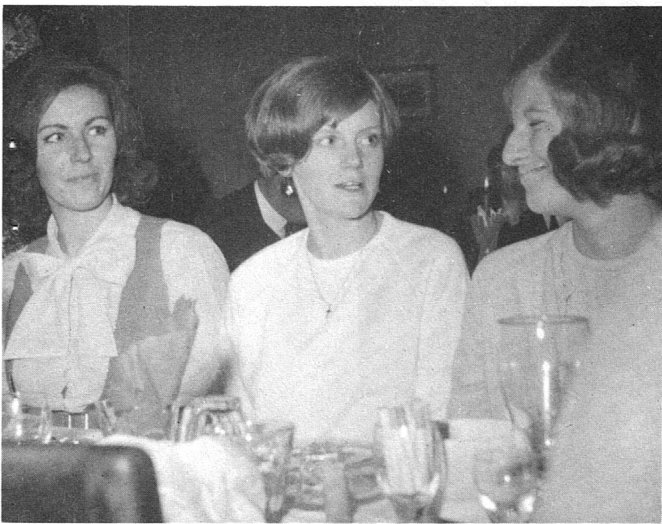
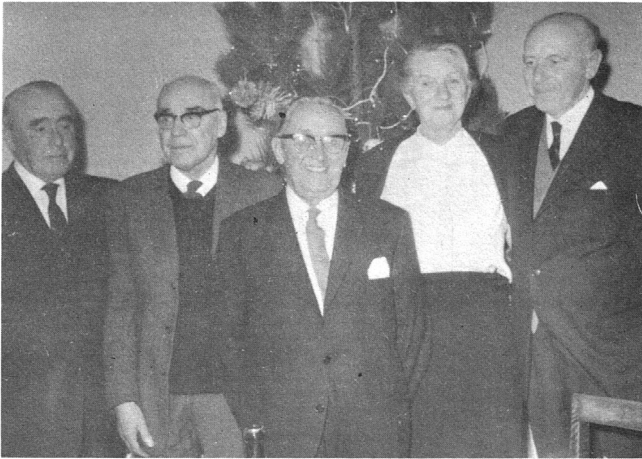
Electrical wiring and fittings and numerous other items, bringing up the cost to between £200 and £250.

The Rateable Value of the property was increased immediately by £14. per annum, but the true value is that which is felt by the improvement of amenities, resulting from the completed project.

C.W. Jennings Snr.
C.W. Jennings Jnr.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON IN THE CANTEEN

24th DECEMBER, 1968



How many of your old colleagues do you recognise?

