



NEWS REVIEW

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS COMPANY NEWS SHEET

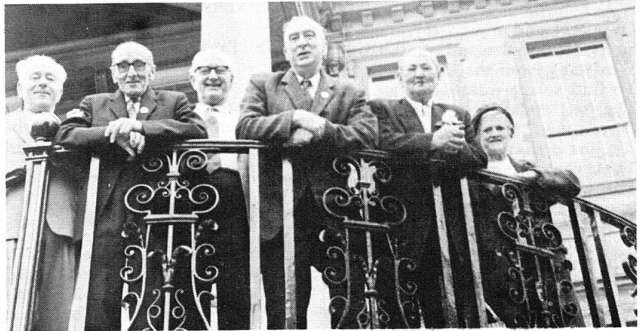
The Superannuated Members' Outing



The Annual outing of the Company's Superannuated members was held on Wednesday, July 19th. According to the chronicles 132 members, accompanied by their wives and girl friends, travelled in seven coaches from various points on the Company's area to meet at Ragley Hall.

Ragley Hall is the Warwickshire home of the Marquess and Marchioness of Hertford—historic seat of the Conway-Seymour family to whom it has belonged since it was built in 1680—standing in 27 acres of gardens within the 1,000 acre parklands overlooking lake and woodland.

On arrival the parties were welcomed by senior members of the Company's staff. Ice cream was handed round by the Stewards who did a grand job. Some then proceeded to view the house, others the



and Mr. F. C. S. Ward, who beat her by a short head with 50 years service. After referring briefly to the future role of the Company as agents of the new Regional Authority, he concluded his speech with a story on the exploits of "Eli and Enoch" when out fishing!

On looking around there were a few new boys present, young Jack Whitworth with 47 years service to his credit seemed to be settling in well. Among the Old Brigade was "Happy Harry" Felton with 47 years of suction to his credit and not forgetting J. Simkins a youth of 86 years, to whom must go the record of 22 years as a pensioner. However, all present have made a contribution to the wonderful record of service of a combined total of 3,761 years—an average of 32 years per man. The total ages of the members amounts to 8,339 years giving an average age of seventy years.



grounds, while the rest enjoyed the glorious sunshine out on the balcony. What a tonic to see old friends and colleagues gathered together to talk of yesteryear; problems rethought, mains dug up and relaid!

On leaving Ragley Hall, the coaches proceeded via Alcester and Stratford-on-Avon to the Guy Nelson Hall at Warwick, where the Engineer-in-Chief and the Secretary joined the party for tea. Mr. Tibbenhan, who welcomed the members present, apologised for the absence of the Chairman of the Company, who was unable to be present due to other commitments. He singled out for special mention his former secretary, Miss Brawn with a record of 49 years service,



Alas, time had come for the first farewells as each group rejoined their coaches for the homeward journey. However, it would appear that due to some mystique, the coaches developed engine trouble at various Inns along the homeward route and many succumbed to the temptation to sample the waters at the end of a very enjoyable day.

As scribe for this event I am sure all would wish me to thank the Chairman and Board of Directors for their generosity in making this outing possible. I should like to add a further "thank-you" to all those who helped in anyway to make this a memorable day, especially Miss E. Knowles and Mr. R. G. Clarke.

STAN WIMBUSH



BROMSGROVE ROVING



On a wet and windy day,
Some of us did wend our way,
Westward from the city smells,
To find solace in leafy dells.
The first of two, our sworn venue,
Of rambles vintage '72.
It's just a shame,
That when we came,
The weather was so soggy.
It turned a green and pleasant spot to something rather boggy.

The party met amongst the green,
Where rhododendron are oft seen.
Midst grounds that public feet n'er tread,
Our leader set off at the head.
Down the path and up the bank,
Round lakes which trees and shrubs do flank.
Though the rain has ceased to flow,
Mud prevails as on we go.
Churned by marching feet, that slog;
Soon our path is but a bog.

Never fear, raise a cheer,
Help to cross is very near;
A plank appears from know not where.
Thus with stealth, infinitive care,
As pirates did their victims cease,
Our party cross the mud with ease.
Round a field we all press on,
Seagulls chase a plough thereon.
Then with element of doubt,
Walkers halt and mill about.



The map is checked with greater care,
Is it that way, or up there?
Opinion splits and so the group.
Some go that way, others troop
Along the road and up the drive,
Back at last—and all survive.
Tea is ate beneath the boughs,
Of ancient trees, watched by cows.
Those that sit begin to fear
Dark clouds gathering, and to hear
The gentle splat of falling rain.
Soon it's pouring once again.

Then are bundled picnic rugs
In the basket with the jugs
Scamper, scamper, everywhere;
Lest rain should damp the ladies hair.
Some depart to home to see,
What is offered on T.V.
Others seek to flee the damp,
And seal a worthwhile Sunday tramp;
By touring what is house and home,
To our Host, who's land we roam.

Thanks again to those whose work
Made it possible to shirk
Week-end chores of weed and lawn;
And walk through fields where sheep are shorn.
Whether you planned, permitted or planked
Please, do note, you all are thanked.

Dave Parsons

Footnote: The Editor has been asked to record a general vote of thanks to Mr. J. Thompson for his hospitality.



Can you give me an estimate first?

WHAT IS A BUYER?

A Buyer is a recipient of 50 Desk Calendars every year. He uses a perpetual one.

A Buyer is a man who deals in 5, 6 and even 7 figures and gets 4.

A Buyer is someone with a superior who remembers the Buyer's smallest slip-ups, but never mentions his triumphs.

A Buyer is a person who gets upset if his typist adds an extra nought to a quantity.

A Buyer is a frantic man who scours the country for a desperately needed spare part (without which, apparently the water will stop flowing) and, when it comes, is told "Oh, we managed without."

A Buyer is a searcher who spends time looking through journals for something he saw recently, but did not need at the time.

A Buyer is a lonely man desperately needing someone to talk to on a day when no representatives call, and a busy man, without a minute to spare, when they do.

A Buyer is a man on the telephone, placing a long-distance call to a supplier while their rep. is, unknown to him, waiting in reception.

BRIAN WALKER

Superannuation Fund

The Annual General Meeting of the contributing members of the Fund was held in the Canteen at Sheepcote Street, Birmingham on Thursday, 29th June, 1972, under the chairmanship of Mr. A. W. Tibbenham.

In his address the Chairman commented on the Government's proposals for the setting up of Regional Water Authorities and explained that as far as could be seen there would be no adverse effect on members of the Fund. He also made reference to the Government's pension proposals which provide for preservation of pension on leaving service, widows' pensions, and other related matters.

Both these matters would be the subject of Parliamentary Bills, which are expected in the autumn and members were assured that their interests would be carefully watched.

The Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1972 was presented by Mr. R. G. Clarke who made comment on some of the more interesting items including the new rule proposals.

In the course of the discussion on the Report the Chairman announced that it was the intention to circulate members with the draft new rules and then to sound their views by holding 'surgeries' on the districts which would be attended by the Contributing Members representatives on the Committee.

The election of members to the Committee required a ballot resulting in the following three retiring members being elected for a further year.

Mr. K. H. Hand
Mr. W. A. Markham
Mr. P. F. Thomas

Weddings

Congratulations to:

Mel and Judy Walklate, who were married on the 13th May.

Diana and Keith Cooke, who were married on the 10th June.

Charles and Sue Shakespeare, who were married on the 22nd July.

Sue and Tony Norton, who were married on the 22nd July.

Philip and Edwina Radford, who were married on the 5th August.

We wish you every happiness together.



WALSALL SOCIAL CLUB

It is most pleasing to report that the Breakfast Trip held on the 21st May once again proved a great success.

A fishing contest was held in July at Chelmarsh Reservoir. Unfortunately, due to unco-operative fish, the contest had to be declared void—not even a tidler was caught. So sadly there will be no tall stories to relate, this year.

Driver Arthur Chadwick retired on the 10th July after 34 years with the Company.



To mark the occasion, a "Free and Easy" was held at the Caldmore Liberal Club, where a presentation was made to him and his wife by Mr. Astbury on behalf of the Social Club and his Colleagues. We were entertained once again by the "Country Kind", the talented group which always proves very popular with our members.

It is with regret that we announce the illness of Mr. Dennis Drew, Committee Member of the Social Club. It is sincerely hoped that his stay in the Manor Hospital will be a short one.

An outing has been arranged for 90 persons to visit Windsor and London Airport on the 2nd September. We are pleased to note the excellent support given to this event.

SARA CHAMBERS

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

May to September

25 YEARS

Mr. A. E. W. Morcom, Pumping Station Foreman at Shavers End.

Mr. S. Morris, Mechanic at Tipton, Transport Section.

Mr. A. J. Myers, Deputy Administrative Officer at Birmingham.

Mr. T. Potts, Assistant Superintendent at Cannock.

Mr. G. Prendergast, Deputy Superintendent at Sutton.

Mr. W. H. Richards, Pumping Station Foreman at Sandhills.

Mr. T. H. Wall, Pumping Station Foreman at Churchhill.

Mr. W. S. Wellings, Waste Inspector at Tipton.

Mr. R. J. Wright, Senior Engineering Assistant in Distribution Department, Birmingham.

Retirements

Miss Dora Lees, senior filing clerk at Birmingham Office, retired on the 8th June, 1972.

Mr. W. Walker, pumping station attendant at Wood Green, retired on the 21st June, 1972.

Mr. A. Chadwick, driver at Walsall, retired on the 10th July, 1972.

Best wishes for a happy retirement.

Births

Congratulations to:

Ian and Margaret Allt on the arrival of baby Julie Marie on the 27th February, 1972.

Barrie and Pauline Hopkins on the arrival of baby Nicola Jane on the 19th May, 1972.

Diane and Colin Bytheway on the birth of baby Scott Anthony on 15th July, 1972.

Future of the Water Industry

There have been no significant national developments since the last issue of the News Review in June which affect employees of the Company.

The Government have, however, issued eight more Consultative Papers, six of which are concerned with the Government's proposals for legislation on water pollution control. The other papers are concerned with Operational Areas and Fringe Problems, and Local Law and Related Matters.

Copies of all the Consultative Papers may be borrowed by any employee either by direct request to Miss E. Knowles in Administration Department, or through local supervisors.

Stop Press

A consultative paper entitled 'Staff Commission for England and Wales' has been received from the Secretary of State for the Environment.

It recommends the setting up of a Staff Commission which, though not having a direct role in appointing staff to the Regional Water Authorities, would consider and review the arrangements for recruitment and transfer and recommend any steps necessary to safeguard the interests of staff affected by the reorganisation.

THE THRIFT FUND

Members attending the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Thrift Fund in June accepted the committee's recommendation to pay 5% interest plus a bonus of ½%, all tax free, for the year ended 31st March, 1972. The interest paid out to the 300 depositors amounted to almost £8,500.

If you would like to join the fund and participate in the benefits please contact any member of the committee, who would be pleased to arrange for contributions to be confidentially and painlessly deducted from your wages or salary.

The fund is also often able to lend money to employees on short term loans, at rates which are normally lower than those available elsewhere.

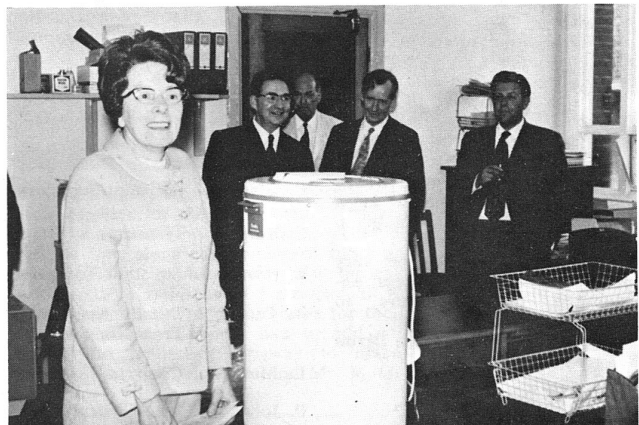
The committee members elected to serve for the year 1972/3 are as follows:

Chairman, Mr. A. W. Tibbenham. Messrs. G. W. Anderson (Lichfield), E. B. Bailey (Cannock), E. Jones (Tipton), J. W. Keeling (Seedy Mill), C. T. Langdon (Birmingham), H. Brookes (Walsall), A. Spink (Wood Green), R. G. Clarke (Birmingham), P. D. Johnson (Shenstone), I. E. Wallis (Birmingham), J. H. Dixon (Birmingham), A. C. Bateman (Birmingham), Hon. Sec. P. F. Thimas. Hon. Treasurer E. Burgess.

DORA'S DEPARTURE

The Company's Senior Filing Clerk for 19 years, Miss Dora Lees, retired on Thursday, 8th June, 1972.

On the great day Dora was presented with a spin drier and the previous evening she had been entertained to dinner by a group of her colleagues.



Dora joined the Company in 1946 as assistant to Miss Mary Cutler in central file. Her duties included responsibility for the reception and despatch of the Company's post. In this capacity, any previous experience she may have had during the war as a fire watcher would have come in handy, because in those days waiting for letter books was a very lengthy business. On occasions it assumed the proportions of an all night vigil. As always, though, Dora didn't allow things to get her down and her sunny disposition sustained not only herself but also the juniors who worked with her.

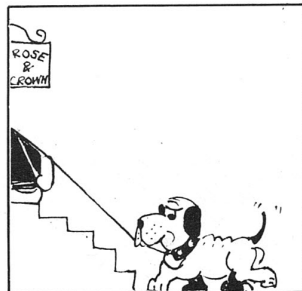
We wish Dora every happiness in her retirement and look forward to seeing her smiling face not only at the annual pensioners outings, which she recently attended but, also, when ever she is able to tear herself away from her numerous activities and pay her old colleagues at Head Office a visit.

JOHN SUGG

HOOTER



"My Master says he's going to take me a walk!" . . .



"I might have guessed!"

Visit to the B.B.C. Pebble Mill Studios

A large group of Birmingham employees visited the B.B.C. radio and television studios on the evening of Monday, 10th July.

The visit began with a lecture given by a radio drama producer, followed by a demonstration of sound equipment, including a heart operation in stereo, recorded in an operating theatre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Statistics of programmes and hours "on the air" were made available to the interested audience.

Vistors were then conducted to a large television studio for a demonstration of screen and camera techniques.

An insight into other activities connected with broadcasting was given with the aid of films and slides shown on overhead screens.

The evening came to a close with coffee and biscuits provided in the lobby by the B.B.C. staff. At this point three members of the Staff Association were invited to answer questions put forward by interviewer Geoffrey Green and recorded for the B.B.C. Jubilee Celebrations to be broadcast later this year.

Neil Wilson

Central Police Station visit

A visit to the Central Police Station in Steelhouse Lane on Monday, 26th June was well attended.

The intention of the visit was to take a brief look at the communication and control systems employed by the Police.

The highlight was a demonstration, with the aid of a very sophisticated computer, of Police "strength", immediately calculated and tabulated at a moment's notice, for a given area within the Midlands.

The visit proved to be very interesting and its success encouraged the organisers to arrange more visits.

John Dixon

DEATHS

Mr. J. H. Artess, former Ganger at Tipton, till his retirement in 1950, died on 24th May, 1972.

Mr. H. J. Stampe, former head of Meter Department till his retirement in 1957, died on 27th May, 1972.

Mr. H. Kirk, former Secretary of the Company till his retirement in 1954, died on the 8th June, 1972.

Mr. W. C. Liddiard, a labourer at Wood Green, died on 14th July, 1972.

BENEVOLENT FUND A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of the S.S.W.W. Benevolent Fund was held at the Caldmore Liberal Club and Institute, Walsall, on Friday, 30th June, 1972, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Lamont, President of the Fund.

It was pleasing once again to hear of the continued successful operation of the Fund and of its financial stability. For the first time we were led through the accounts by Mr. Burgess, the new Treasurer, with Mr. Whitworth nodding approval nearby, shrouded in his familiar haze of pipe-smoke.

In his address Mr. Lamont referred to the progress of re-organisation of the water industry and assured his audience of the continued uninterrupted progress of the Company in contrast to the prolonged upheavals and difficulties that may affect other undertakings and their employees during the setting up of the Regional Water Authorities. He thanked all employees for their contributions to the maintenance of supplies at the time of the miners' strike.

He drew particular attention to the need, on account of the reduced trade consumption, for the continued exercise of great economy in all activities. Mr. Lamont, welcoming the formation of additional Joint Consultative Committees, underlined their value in promoting the exchange of ideas and the better understanding of each other's points of view. He concluded by thanking the officers of the Fund for the wonderful work they had done.

Mr. Tibbenham re-assured members that re-organisation would not affect the operation of the Superannuation Fund.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

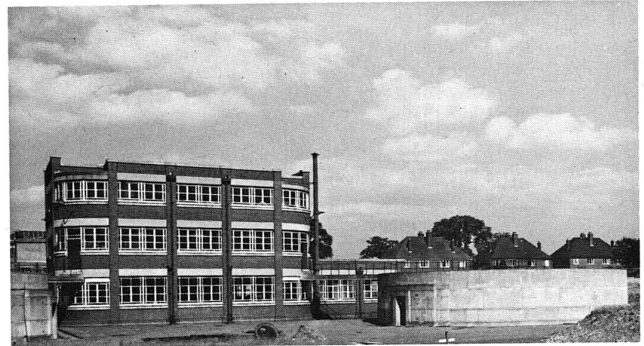
A. Reed	Secretary
E. Glasse	Assistant Secretary
E. Burgess	Treasurer
E. Newport	Assistant Treasurer
A. Tapper	Deputy Assistant Treasurer
L. Morrall	Chairman
P. Johnson	Vice-Chairman

The appointment of Mr. Tapper as Deputy Assistant Treasurer presages the impending retirement from work of Mr. E. A. Newport, who has so ably served the members of the Fund for 31 years.

After the formalities were over the evening continued to the accompaniment of the usual competent piano entertainment of Mr. A. Maddox and his mother, and the exchange of news, over a pint, between old friends.

PLANS FOR SEEDY MILL TREATMENT WORKS

No major work has been carried out at Seedy Mill since the completion of the final phase of the treatment works in 1955.



Seedy Mill Chemical House.

During the interim period there have been advances in the methods for handling chemicals and in treatment processes and approval has been given to carry out a number of modifications the treatment works.

The scheme provides for improved methods of handling and dosing lime, alum and chlorine by installing bulk handling facilities. An order has now been placed for the new lime equipment which includes a 20 ton silo from which the lime, delivered in bulk quantities, will be blown into the existing daily storage hoppers.

The old conveyor system which is at present used for handling bags of lime and alum is to be removed and in future alum will be delivered in bulk form, dissolved in tanks situated on the ground floor of the chemical house and pumped into new holding tanks from which it will be accurately dosed using new metering pumps.



Cliff Felton stacking sacks of alum.

To improve the means of sterilizing the water leaving the station, new chlorine dosing equipment has been ordered and will be installed in the near future.

The proposals also include for the introduction of chlorine dioxide treatment which commenced in February of this year, to supplement the normal chlorination process and with a view to extending penetration of the chlorine residual in the distribution network. Associated with this, construction has now started on a new bulk storage tank for sodium chlorite, which is used in the production of chlorine dioxide.

The scheme also provides for the improved treatment of the filter wash water and the disposal of accelerator sludge and experimental works in connection with this part of the work are currently being carried out at the Sandfields Laboratory.

These new works will modernise part of the plant at Seedy Mill and improve effluent standards to meet the requirements of the Trent River Authority.