



NEWS REVIEW

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS COMPANY NEWS SHEET

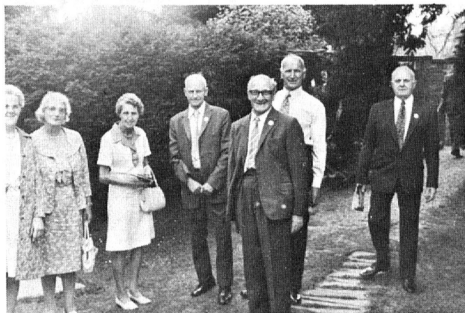
Derby Day

The Company's Superannuated Members set out on the 4th July to visit Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire.

During the tour of the estate, which took in the hall, gardens, church and museum, the party was joined by Sir Charles Burman, Chairman of the Directors, and other officers of the Company.



Ice cream was provided as a welcome refresher before the coaches were reboarded for a pleasant drive through the Derbyshire countryside to the Green Man Hotel, Ashbourne, for tea.



A short stop at an hotel on the homeward journey rounded off a thoroughly enjoyable day.

STAN'S LAMENT

Out from the Depot each day we went,
Onto the district all content,
Trousers creased and buttons aglow,
To read the meters and check the flow.

The waterman armed with bar and key,
An expert on topography;
Stood forty paces from the tree
And there the six-inch valve would be.

Two paces more and there's the four
Or so it was in days of yore,
Valve box no more shall we see,
Tarmac layers have hidden thee.

Main and box finder new you need
Provided the traffic will let you proceed.
Alas no signal will there be
Not if the main is P.V.C.

Mainlayer, jointer, plumber and mate,
Trundled their carts through the gate,
Compressors unheard of, just sledge and wedge
To tunnel the road from hedge to hedge.

The collector called and delivered the bill,
He gathered the coppers into his till.
No final demand or cut-off threat,
Consumers paid up without regret.

The pumping station with hiss of steam,
Its stack for location from miles could be seen.
The grounds around it tended with care,
Made many a passer pause to stare.

Controls, computers, mechanical aids
Make many a good relation to fade,
Work Study, bonus nor automation
Substitute for true dedication.

By day and night I've pounded the beat,
Through rain and hail, sunshine and sleet,
For forty years of my three score and ten
It's been a real pleasure to serve with good men.

STAN WIMBUSH

Re-organisation of the Water Industry

The Water Act 1973 received the Royal Assent on the 18th July.

The Act provides for the formulation of a National Policy on Water by the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. It also provides for the setting up of a National Water Council and for nine Regional Water Authorities in England.

Lord Nugent of Guildford, who has been appointed Chairman of the National Water Council, is President of the Association of River Authorities, Chairman of the Thames Conservancy and was M.P. for Guildford for sixteen years before being made a Life Peer in 1966.

Amongst the duties of the N.W.C. is the responsibility for ensuring the provision of adequate negotiating machinery in the industry, and Lord Nugent has already asked the National Joint Industrial Council and the National Joint Committee (Non Manual Staffs) to submit their views on the shape of the negotiating machinery which should be established after the reorganisation of the industry on the 1st April, 1974.

Sir William Dugdale, Bt., M.C., D.L., who has been appointed Chairman of the Severn-Trent Water Authority, is presently Chairman of the Trent River Authority and leader of the Warwickshire County Council. It will also interest all readers of the News Review to know that Mr. Randal H. Taylor has also been appointed a member of the Severn-Trent Water Authority. Congratulations, Mr. Taylor.

One of the first actions which Sir William Dugdale has taken has been the setting up of a Technical Working Party composed of four engineers seconded by existing water authorities to advise him pending the appointment of The Chief Executive Officer and other Principal Officers during the Autumn.

Expansion at Head Office

During the week-end of 30th June and 1st July the Civil Engineering Department moved into its new office constructed on the roof of the garage and canteen at Head Office.

This move is the result of prolonged discussions and planning to provide much needed additional office space for all the Engineering Departments.



New C.E.D. building on canteen roof with link bridge to main offices.

The new building, which gives a further 240 square metres of office space, was manufactured and erected in thirteen pre-fabricated units by Terrapin Building & Civil Engineering Ltd. The units were delivered on 3rd June and were lifted directly from the delivery lorries onto prepared foundations on the existing flat roof. A feature of this building is that it may be readily dismantled and re-erected should the need arise.

Prior to delivery of the building, modifications were carried out by Building Section to the first floor of the main building in readiness for the link bridge which provides access from the new building to the main offices.

During the four weeks from delivery to habitation of the new offices much work had to be completed. Terrapin weather-proofed the building and erected the partitioning; their sub-contractors constructed the link bridge and installed a new petrol tank; the Electrical/Mechanical Department installed the wiring and internal telephones; Building Section fabricated and erected wall units; Ashwell Scott Ltd installed central heating and the Post Office installed the external telephones. In addition to these items the Civil Engineering Department sorted and catalogued all its 7,000 drawings, the majority of which have now been microfilmed.

Retirements

Miss C. S. Parry, Senior Telephonist, Head Office—13.4.73.

Mr. H. A. Blake, Waterman, Burton—13.4.73.

Mr. C. R. Trueman, Head of Architectural Section, Head Office—30.4.73.

Mr. E. A. Newport, Assistant Superintendent, Walsall—18.5.73.

Mr. H. Tapper, Waterman, Walsall—15.6.73.

Mr. W. Edgar, Bricklayer, Building Section—11.7.73.

Mr. H. Attwell, Waterman, Tipton—23.7.73.

Mr. F. T. Holl, Main Jointer, Tipton—6.8.73.

Miss A. Oakley, Engineer's Secretary, Head Office—21.8.73.

Mr. E. Percival, Deputy Area Superintendent, Tipton—28.9.73.

Mr. J. Joyce, Mainlaying Inspector, Head Office—6.10.73.

Mr. S. A. G. Wimbush, Area Superintendent, Sutton—16.10.73.

Industrial Safety

Major new legislation to re-organise the system of safeguarding the safety and health of people at work and to protect the general public from industrial hazards is foreshadowed in consultative proposals issued by the Department of Employment in June this year.

The main proposals are:—

1. The creation of a Commission on Safety and Health with responsibility for development and execution of policy.
2. Bringing under the Commission's executive the existing specialist inspectorates, with responsibility for advising industry and government as well as enforcing the law.
3. The progressive unification of the existing mass of legislation and the extension of protection to virtually all employment.
4. A basic obligation on employers to safeguard their workers and the general public against risks arising from their processes.
5. Basic obligation on individuals to operate safely and with due care for the public at large.

PUTTING THE PRESSURE ON

The Company recently replaced its old dead-weight pressure gauge tester with a modern Budenburg instrument. This provides an accurate means of calibrating pressure gauges not only in lb/in² but directly in feet or metres head of water.

The overall accuracy of the tester is better than $\pm .05\%$ of the pressure being measured.

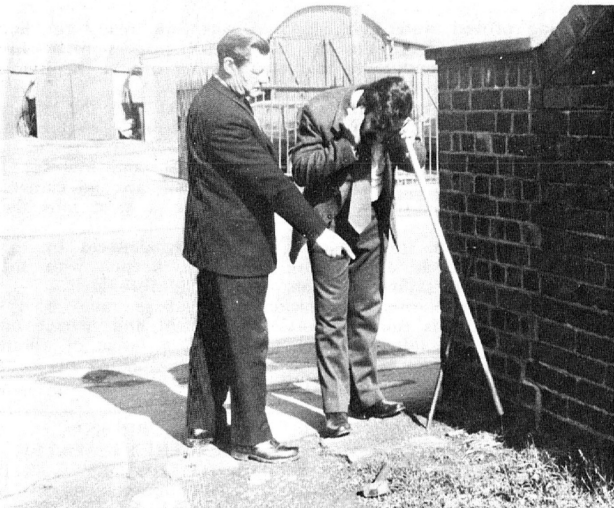
Ranges are 10 — 500 lb/in² x 5 lb/in² increments
 30 — 1100 ft head of water x 10 feet increments
 10 — 350 m head of water x 5 m increments



Tom Griffiths, chargehand meter repairer, is seen here applying pressure to the system by means of the screw press. Appropriate weights stacked on to the piston unit (rear left corner) provide resistance to the applied pressure, the piston rises and the head floats when the balance pressure is reached.

DON HILLMAN

Peruvian visitor to South Staffs.



Jim Creagh and Oscar Andradé listening for waste.

As part of a scheme of British Overseas Aid to Foreign Countries, the Company, at the invitation of the Water Supply Industry Training Board, welcomed Mr. O. A. Andradé, a Peruvian Engineer from Lima Water Undertaking, for a six-week visit during March and April.

During his six-month stay in the U.K. Mr. Andradé visited several undertakings to study their methods of waste detection. This is a problem of particular concern to Lima, which loses approximately 40% of its total consumption through waste in the mains network.

Lima has to supply a population of 4 million. It draws 40% of its water from boreholes and the remainder from a new river scheme on the River Rimac.

Mr. Andradé wishes to thank all whom he met at South Staffs. for their help.

NICE ONE, DUNCAN

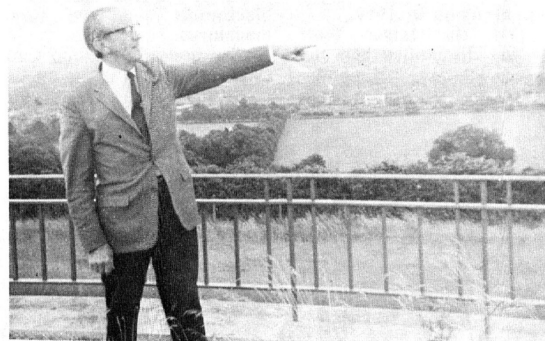
This year is Duncan Parker's forty-fifth year with the Company.

The younger of two sons, Duncan was born in Darwen, Lancashire, into a family with a sea-faring tradition. Admiral Sir Hyde-Parker, who served with Nelson, was his great-grandfather. Duncan's own father began his career at sea, as a trainee marine steam engineer, but eventually took a land job at Maple Brook Pumping Station.

Duncan savours many experiences of childhood spent with his brother Angus around the open countryside surrounding Maple Brook. He remembers the delicacy of fresh trout caught in the brook and the excitement of earning his first 3p wage packet as lamp cleaner for his father.

His first full-time job was as a clerk at Walsall Area Office. He started the eleven-mile trek to work at 5-00 a.m. each morning, travelling by a combination of push-bike, trolley, petrol bus and tram, and arriving at 7-30 a.m. for a nine and a half hour day, all for 75p a week. Dissatisfied with the time wasted travelling, he saved up and bought himself a Sunbeam 350, side valve, motor cycle and journeyed in style.

One of Duncan's daily duties at Walsall was to check the depth of the then open reservoir at Walsall. Many an idyllic lunch break was spent floating in the old wooden punt. One particularly peaceful, sunny day, he recalls, with a twinkle in his eye, he fell asleep and returned to the office via the back door at 3 o'clock.



During the 1930's Duncan ran his own dance band, which achieved a fair measure of popularity in the local area as well as at South Staffs. social functions. His talents included playing the violin, singing and tap dancing.

Early in 1940 Duncan enlisted in the Army and served in North Africa, Italy and Austria. After the war he returned to the Company as Assistant Superintendent at Burton Depot, gaining promotion to deputy under Mr. J. Flatt, and finally becoming Area Superintendent.

Through his long career with the Company, Duncan has had part in much of its northern development, including the opening of Blithfield Reservoir in 1953, the laying of the new trunk mains along the A38, the building of Findern and Yoxall booster stations and the No. 2 Reservoir at Burton. He recalls vividly the frost of 1963 when the working day seemed never ending.

Looking to the future, may it too be long and memorable.

GRAHAM WATKINS

Long Service Awards

44 Years

Mr. E. Percival, Deputy Area Superintendent, Tipton.

43 Years

Mr. E. A. Newport, Assistant Superintendent, Walsall.

40 Years

Miss C. S. Parry, Senior Telephonist, Birmingham.
 Mr. S. Wimbush, Area Superintendent, Sutton Coldfield.

25 Years

Mr. E. Cattell, Yard Foreman, Walsall.
 Mr. P. Dodd, Laboratory Assistant, Sandfields.
 Mr. H. K. Greenway, Station Attendant, Ashwood.
 Mr. J. W. Martin, District Inspector, Sutton Coldfield.
 Mr. R. Rainbow, Stock Control Assistant, Birmingham.
 Mr. T. J. Reynolds, Plant Attendant/Waterman, Burton.
 Mr. E. Smith, Clerical Assistant, Tipton.
 Mr. H. E. Tabberer, Deputy Area Superintendent, Walsall.

PROFILE ON WOOD GREEN



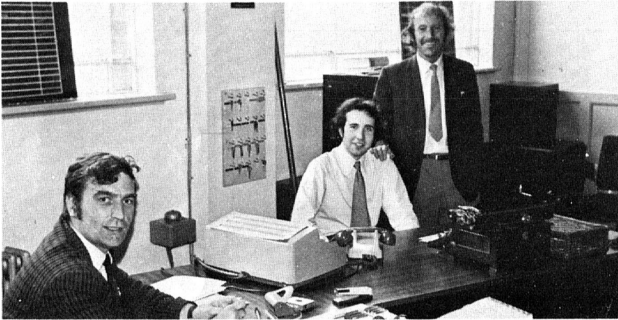
Approaching Wood Green workshops along Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury.

The site at Wood Green has been used for pumping water since the first beam engine was erected there by James Watt & Co. in 1871. Two more beam engines were installed in 1877, followed by a triple expansion engine in 1911.

In 1918 the James Watt engine was dismantled and the

Water meters are tested and repaired by two repairers in the Meter Testing Shop. General welding and fabrication is carried out in the Welding Shop and a variety of metal work is carried out by the blacksmith and two turner/machinists.

Also housed at Wood Green,



Jim Butler, Peter Jones and Alan Lander posing for the camera.

empty pump house was converted into a workshop. This was extended and a central store created in 1920, when the two remaining beam engines were replaced by three electrically driven centrifugal pumps.

A new block was built in 1938, adjacent to the pump

but administered by Civil Engineering department, is the carpenters' shop. The three carpenters and two joiners work in the shop or at the Company's properties as required.

The longest serving employees at Wood Green are Assistant Superintendent, Bert Spink, who joined the Company in



Deliberating work in the Fitters Shop

house, to contain offices, central stores, garage and carpenters' shop.

David Coldicott, the Superintendent, and his deputy, Cecil Carpenter, are responsible for a largely mobile work force, including 13 electricians and eight fitters, who work on installation and maintenance throughout the Company's area.

1929, and welder Albert Cooke, who, together with carpenter Harold Marshall, started in 1937.

It is anticipated that pumping at Wood Green will come to an end in 1974 with the commissioning of Walsall Booster.

H. G. SIMS

Nimrod's Maiden Voyage

Having begun building model aircraft at the age of 10 and been designing his own flying models by 15, Geoff Evans can rightly claim that model building is his hobby.

The main problem with model aircraft is their determination to fly in the direction they choose. Geoff's last aircraft, a motorised glider model, even with £40 worth of radio control equipment aboard, headed irretrievably for the horizon on its first solo flight.

Feeling that this was something of a mug's game, he decided to try his hand at boat building. Though half-way through his first attempt the thought occurred that here too was a danger, that of sinking.

After some 600 hours of dedicated evening work with glassfibre and plywood, the Nimrod, a 34-inch semi-scale model of a Southampton tug, weighing 8lbs., was ready for its first sea trials. With bated breath and sweaty hands it was lowered onto the local swimming pool. All went well.



Geoff Evans holding Nimrod and radio control panel.

Having proved water-tight, Nimrod was now ready for her maiden voyage. Geoff brought her in for inspection by his E/MD colleagues and together they tried her out in the lunch hour on Edgbaston Reservoir.

A range check completed, she was launched into the water, the throttle moved forward and away she went. To put her through her paces she was made to approach and round a mooring buoy, and then followed a few high and low speed passes dangerously near to 16st.4lbs. Don Hillman and camera precariously perched on a lump of concrete a yard into the water.

Youthful elation, however, was temporarily deflated by the wearisome approach of a uniformed park keeper with the reminder that the sailing of boats was strictly forbidden.

Satisfied with Nimrod's sophisticated Japanese radio equipment which affords fully proportional forward and reverse on motor speed, plus left and right rudder, to a range of about a mile, Geoff is now well on the way to completing his next model, an R.A.F. rescue tender.

Be Suggestive

Put forward an idea which will save the Company money, improve efficiency or, equally important, result in safer working, and you stand to gain up to £100.

A new scale of awards of up to £100 for an individual suggestion was passed by the June board. The revised scheme will be administered by the personnel staff and suggestions will be considered by the heads of departments. Suggestions which they recommend for awards will be passed to the Engineer-in-Chief or Secretary, as appropriate, for approval.

STOP PRESS SEVERN/TRENT WATER AUTHORITY

First Appointments:

Chief Executive:

Mr. Marshall Nixon, C.B.E., T.D., B.Sc., C.Eng., F.I.C.E., F.I.W.E., M.I.Mech.E. Formerly Engineer, Trent River Authority.

Director of Operations:

Mr. D. A. D. Reeve, B.Sc., F.I.C.E., M.Inst.W.P.C., A.M.B.I.M. Formerly Chief Executive, Upper Tame Main Drainage Authority.

Director of Finance:

Mr. F. Lindley Shaw, B.Com., F.C.A., F.C.M.A., F.C.I.S. Formerly Assistant General Manager and Secretary, Banque Nationale de Paris Group.