

News Review

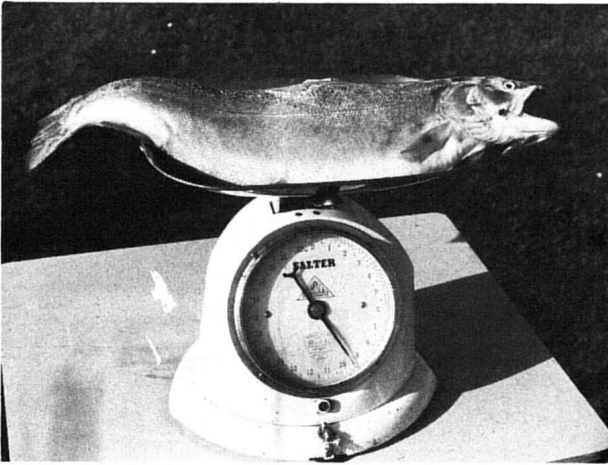
THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
WATERWORKS COMPANY

DECEMBER 1977

Happy Christmas



WHAT A WHOPPER!



Cover: and above, the biggest Trout ever to come out of Blithfield turned the scales at 9lb. 7 oz. was found dead on the shore, having died it seems of sheer old age.

ADAM'S ALE

Time was when water cogniscenti would compare the sweet and sparkling spring waters from the Welsh mountains with the still, refreshing draughts from the deep chalk pits of Kent — with the same relish that a vintner would assess the relative merits of the wines from Bordeaux and Languedoc.

Today, sadly, water is 'democratised'. It is collected from mountain-tops, rivers, and natural underground reservoirs. Then it is mixed, treated, piped and rendered safe from micro-organisms — and if not exactly, delicious, it is at least palatable.

As a result, water has lost much of its individuality. People in London, for example drink water, some of which has already been drunk four or five times by users higher up the Thames.

But there are still many interesting differences. Soft water is usually, but not always, water from the uplands and surfaces of the country, and hard water that which has percolated farther underground. Soft water has gone over or through hard rock and hasn't dissolved it, while hard water has gone over and through limestone or chalk, picking up calcium and magnesium.

Soft water is excellent for lathering soap, but tends to corrode metal. Hard water leaves deposits on glass and cutlery, but has much more flavour.

Soft water is found in Wales and Scotland and dotted about the rest of the country. Hard water is found in South-East Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Humberside, East Anglia, Northamptonshire, Somerset and dotted about elsewhere.

Hard water with a balanced amount of minerals in it, and one part per million of fluoride is the healthiest water for your teeth.

Hard water may also be better for your heart. There is a statistical connection between soft water and cardio-vascular disease.

Many tea enthusiasts swear that hard water makes the best tea. The Thames Water Authority tells of a lady who moved house out of their area and returned every day to fill her kettle.

But a spokesman for the Tea Council says it makes no difference 'because modern popular blends are mixed from so many different original teas, and some suit hard water and some soft.'

In the South East, it has been said for centuries that Kent has the finest water, drawn from deep chalk wells. Even today, when the water in this area is a mixture of recycled sources, Kent people still drink more well water than the rest of the nation.

The hills of Wales and Scotland share with the Lake District and the Pennines the accolade for pure, refreshing water. Ashwell in Kirton Lindsey, Lincolnshire has water which, according to the villagers, tastes just like champagne.

Another well, which has been bubbling more vigorously in the past four years than ever before, is at the side of the road in Bubbenhall near Coventry. Local people collect the water for drinking and tea-making. Publican, Jack Mohan of The Three Horseshoes, opposite, uses it in the bar.

The most famous bottled water comes from Malvern, bubbling out of a spring on the southernmost hill. It became popular in the middle of the last century. It's a still water with little distinguishing taste, but liked for its purity. The Queen uses it exclusively when abroad and the Royal yacht is stocked up with it.

Pure water, produced in a laboratory by combining one molecule of oxygen with two of hydrogen under heat and pressure, is without life and flavour because it contains none of the usual minerals and trace elements such as calcium, zinc, sulphur and iron.

(unknown Newspaper report)

THE SOCIAL CLUB (BIRMINGHAM)

At a Special General Meeting of the Social Club (Birmingham) on 17th November, amendments to the constitution, to extend membership of the Social Club to all employees, were approved by an overwhelming majority of the members present.

The matter was first raised at the Special General Meeting in the Autumn of 1976 and at the A.G.M. in February of this year, the pressure was such as to justify informal soundings being taken of members' feelings. This was carried out in June by members of the Executive Committee and feelers were also put out among employees who were not members. In both cases there was very strong support for the extension of membership and so the proposition was formally put to members on the 17th November as described above.

Any employee may now become a member of the Social Club (Birmingham) for £1.00 annual subscription if he/she works in Birmingham and 75p at other centres or stations. Any member may, of course, participate in any activity organised by the Social Club (Birmingham) and take advantage of other benefits available.

Although we welcome new members, we do not seek to harm the membership of other Social Clubs. On account of the diversity of facilities offered, some people might find it worthwhile to belong to more than one club.

W. A. MARKHAM, Chairman

Forthcoming Events

Children's Party — Saturday, January 7th.

Annual Dinner Dance — Friday, March 31st.

News Review

DECEMBER 1977

The Magazine of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company

Editor: PETER DODDS; **Assistant Editor:** BRON THURSTON; **Secretary:** YVONNE ELSDON

Photography: GRAHAM WATKINS; **Sport and Social Events:** JOHN MORRALL

Secretary's Department: JACK BILLINGHAM; **Illustrator and Cartoonist:** PETE BOSLEY

The Editor is always pleased to receive articles on any subjects, etc. However, the right is reserved to adjust material received to fit the space available.

EDITORIAL

A change of style for News Review, in an effort to improve the presentation of the many articles and photographs that I keep receiving. Due to pressure of the work the Company pay me for, there have been only three issues in 1977 rather than our usual four. Apologies to fans of the magazine; we shall endeavour to get back on programme next year.

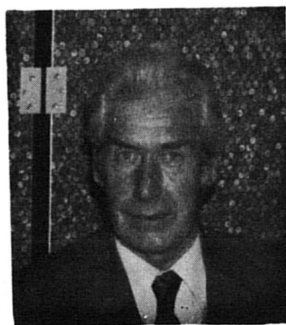
With the Head Office Social Club opening its doors to a wider potential membership, I would hope we can look forward to some exciting and well supported events in the future. With thriving social clubs at Tipton and Walsall too, there is an obvious challenge to take advantage of natural good natured rivalries that arise.

How about a darts or skittles match, or a physical and mental challenge game like the one on I.T.V. — we could call it the DRIPPED-ON FACTOR !

It has been some time since we had an article on hobbies. There must be many of you who have interesting hobbies that we at News Review don't know about — and don't worry if your hobby is obscure, highbrow or faintly ridiculous — these are the ones that make 'Nationwide' — like the man who collects mops (you know, the things that one washes floors with !). And remember, if you don't feel you can write about it, give me a call on the 'phone — N.R.'s roving reporter will be pleased to give you an interview and she's good looking with it !

Keep sending articles in — we print anything (well almost anything).

Finally, let me wish a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to all our readers — however far flung across the world.



Some of the latest recipients of Gold Watches

(See page 14)

LICHFIELD CONDUIT LANDS TRUST

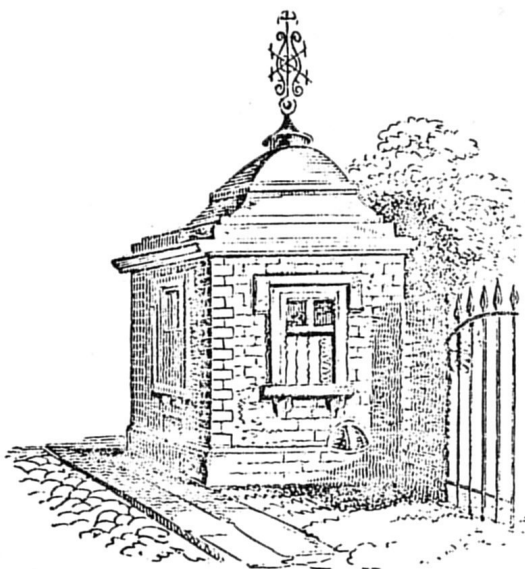
On the 3rd January 1546 the citizens of Lichfield came into possession of certain lands and tenements outside the city, whose revenues have proved to be the finest single benefaction out of many which has been granted to them. In the annals of charitable bequests there is none that can show a finer record of adherence to the terms of the original grant nor of the care exercised in conserving its resources and administering its revenues. It has been the main source of many of the amenities which Lichfield enjoys; its excellent water supply, its Guildhall, Grammar and Art Schools, Clock Tower, Market Hall, Baths, Museum Grounds, and so on. It is with obvious and particular interest that this article is devoted to Lichfield's water supply which the Company took over on 1st July, 1963 from the Lichfield Conduits Land Trust.

* * *

Very few towns in the Middle Ages had a communal supply. Lichfield was unusual in that it had its common conduit as early as the thirteenth century and whatever source was used it had, by necessity, to be situated at an elevated spot. Just such a source existed at Aldershaw, some 25 m above and about 1½ km from the city centre, where copious springs could yield as much as 160,000 litres a day.

For the next three centuries the Aldershaw springs were the only source of Lichfield's water, being carried part in stone heading and part in lead pipe to the Crucifix Conduit at the Friary gate. Later the trustees increased the distribution centres by adding three more conduits, all of which were most ornate and were regarded with special pride by the citizens.

Until 1792, when a change in the manner of water distribution came into operation and the three subsidiary conduits were taken down, they were the main gossiping centres and the scene of frequent quarrels. Such frays not only damaged the participants, but occasionally the conduits themselves! A continual source of trouble was the irresistible temptation for

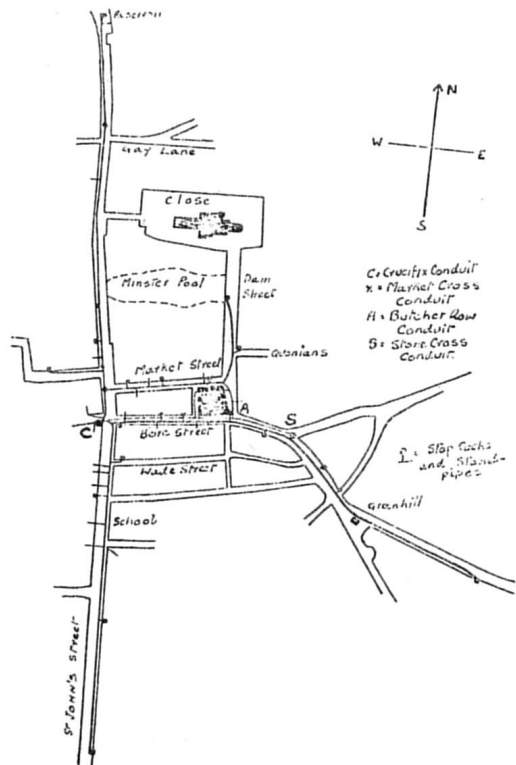


THE CRUCIFIX CONDUIT

housewives to hold wash-days in the only source of fresh water and the town crier was constantly warning the citizens of the consequences of this practice (a heavy fine). The tanners of the city, who also required copious supplies of water, frequently made a nuisance of themselves at the conduits so they were relegated to the marshy banks of the Minster and Stowe Pools.

The first demand for a supply to a private house came from the Headmaster of the City's Free School in 1707 and for this service he had to pay 1/- a year on the Feast of St. Michael, the first recorded payment of water rate in the city.

The population of the city was now growing fast and the local conduits became incapable of meeting the needs, and so the Trustees embarked on the ambitious scheme of distributing water by pipes down most of the streets. At intervals along the streets were erected stand pipes and public service cocks for common use, free of charge.



THE CONDUITS, PIPE LINES AND PRIVATE BRANCHES
1773

Soon there came a demand for supplies to more private houses and to avoid waste, no house was allowed water by the Trustees unless it already possessed a pump and cistern for soft water (presumably well or rainwater). Even so, the luxury of a domestic tap led to frequent wastage and with the ever-increasing number of private supplies there was a greater consumption of water. With so many houses having their own pipe lines, the quantity of water delivered into the Crucifix Conduit was insufficient, because of the small bore lead pipe from the conduit

heads at Aldershaw being unable to carry a satisfactory flow. In 1805 the Trust expended £400 to lay about 2,500 m of cast iron pipe to replace it.

The large-bore pipes certainly relieved the situation but the quantity delivered by the Aldershaw springs was limited and by 1821 the supply was causing great concern. Demands for water had to be refused and new sources were urgently needed from a higher elevation than the Crucifix Conduit. This was not possible, which meant that new supplies would need some kind of pumping installation.

The era of the steam engine had just begun. But engines required coal and, by a very fortunate circumstance, extensive deposits of coal were discovered beneath the very land which provided the Trust with its income. As if by the wave of a fairy godmother's wand the income and resources of the Trust were greatly augmented and a new pumping engine was installed at the Trunkfield Mill. Further demands at a later period necessitated the working of the engine by night as well as by day.

In 1868 the Aldershaw supply and the Mill Pond and Stream yielded 750,000 l/day, all of which was pumped to the Crucifix Conduit from where it radiated in three iron mains, north, east and south. These provided for 57 public pumps, 13 stand pipes and taps, 30 fire hydrants, and 343 private houses.

Difficulties with the lease of the Trunkfield properties compelled the Trustees to abandon the site in 1874 and built a modern waterworks nearer the city, on the Walsall Road. When completed, the supply was increased to 1.5ML/day.

Although there was no great excess of water, there was ample for the normal needs of the city for the next 50 years. By 1920 the consumption had risen to

150 litres per head per day, a figure the existing plant could just cope with.

In 1923 the Trustees laid a 9" link main to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company's 18" main at Gallows Wharf, which was initially only used for fire purposes.

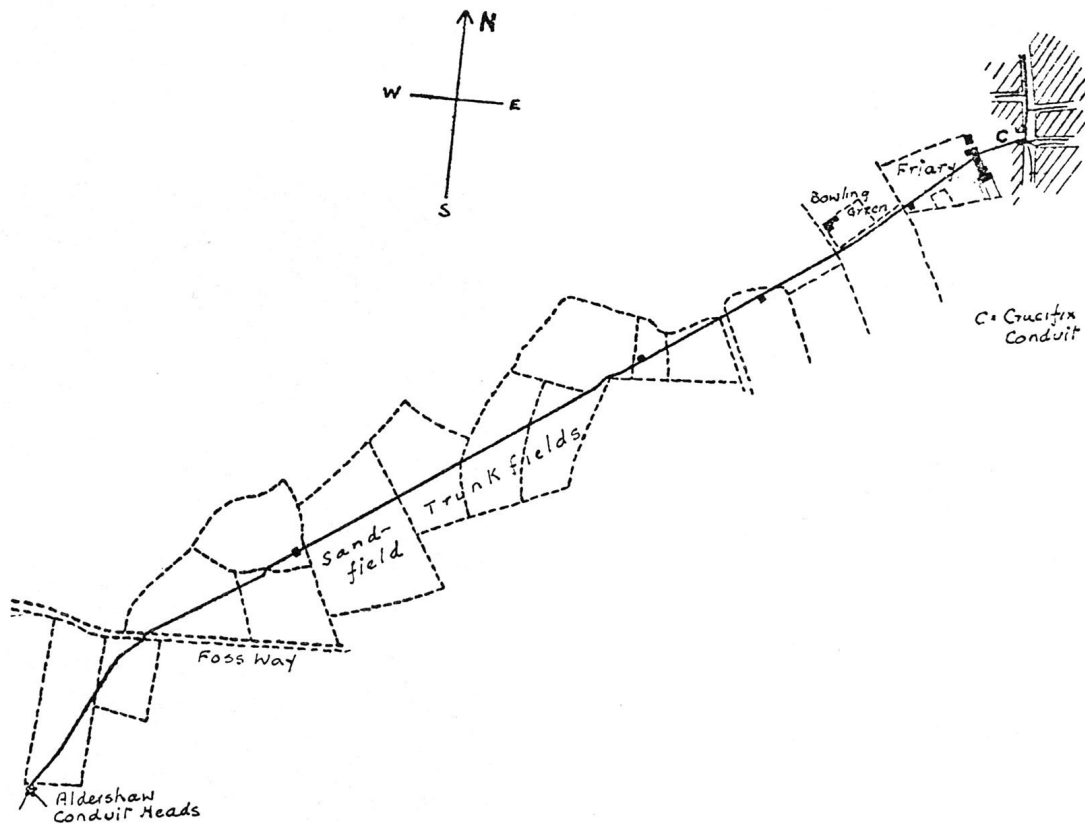
However, water shortage complaints from consumers due to low pressure became common; the old engines were no longer equal to the task, so the Trustees called in Mr. F. J. Dixon, Engineer-in-Chief of the S.S.W.Co. who advised a complete new plant. Whilst this was being installed a new and quite unexpected complication arose, the appearance of dangerous coliform bacteria in the water.

Work on the new plant was suspended and the citizens had to boil all their drinking water. The Trustees decided that the best way out of the crisis was to take a bulk supply from the S.S.W.Co. along the 9" link main already laid. The city was now assured of an ample supply of water of the highest purity.

During the Second World War, the threat of damage to the water system caused the Trustees to lay another two link mains to those of the S.S.W.Co.; one from Seedy Mill and one from Trent Valley Pumping Station.

From then until 1963 the city's supply was purchased in bulk and it was at this time that the S.S.W.Co. took over the supply area completely and thus closed a chapter of the Conduit Lands Trust that had lasted over four centuries.

M.P.Bowen



THE PIPE LINE FROM ALDERSHAW TO THE CRUCIFIX CONDUIT, 1773

MY OUTING TO LONDON

It was Thursday 9th of June. I left my house at 7.30 a.m. and went by car to Birmingham. It was very sunny as we waited for the coach. I was a bit dubious on travelling but then, after we had collected our packed suppers, we just travelled straight down to London without any bother. Half way there we stopped at Banbury for coffee and I saw the Banbury Cross.

We arrived in London about 1 o'clock and went for a meal at the Quality Inn down Regent Street. We had a lovely meal and then we made our own way round (we meaning my Dad and I).

First we went to the Post Office Tower, after consulting our maps. Unfortunately, it was closed to the public for security reasons and so we decided to go to Trafalgar Square. To get there, we had to go on the Underground which was cheap and good. It had many stops and we had to ask many times.

Trafalgar Square was packed but was also very beautiful with its statues and fountains. I fed the birds, but people were selling corn which made it very slippery. I saw Nelson's Column and had my photograph taken by one of the lions' feet. Then I went through Admiralty Arch and down the Mall which was decorated with flags and two big highly decorated lamp-posts. There were white crowns imprinted on the pavement and the lamp-posts were painted.

We saw St. James' Park and then carried on to Buckingham Palace. We saw Queen Victoria's Memorial Statue and then we waited just outside the Palace for the Queen. We waited 1½ hours in the rain before she came at 5.00.

I was standing only a few feet away from her and she looked lovely in her blue dress.

Then we went to the Mews, but that was shut, so we went down Birdcage Walk and had our tea. Then after seeing the band go past, we carried on to the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben. Although we didn't go in, they looked very nice and old. Finding nothing else to do there yet, we caught the Underground and went to Piccadilly Circus. We did some shopping there, though the prices were incredible.

After that we went back to Westminster on the Underground and after having been jostled for ages we watched the parade of boats, before the Queen came. They weren't lit up then and we decided not to watch the second part and went back two hours early to the place we were being picked up from. The reason for this was if we stayed any longer for the firework display we would never get back on time because of the terrific crowds. We also saw the Queen Mother and all the rest of the Royal Family. People were up trees and lamp-posts, buildings and anywhere else they could think of to see the Queen. We were very lucky on our places.

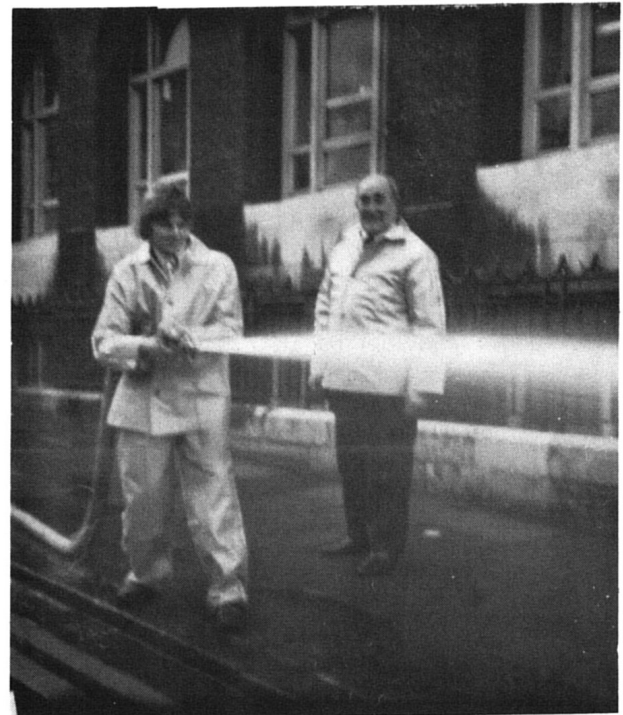
We now wandered around, had a drink and watched the rest of the boats through the window of a television shop. We then sat down cold and tired. After we in the first coach had started for home, we found the other coach had had to wait until midnight, our proper pick-up time 11.15. This was because 5 people had not turned up and they had to leave without them. They got back safely though. I got home at 3 a.m. happy and contented, waiting to show my presents to Mom and Chris a few hours later.

I really enjoyed my day out and enjoyed my second view of London.

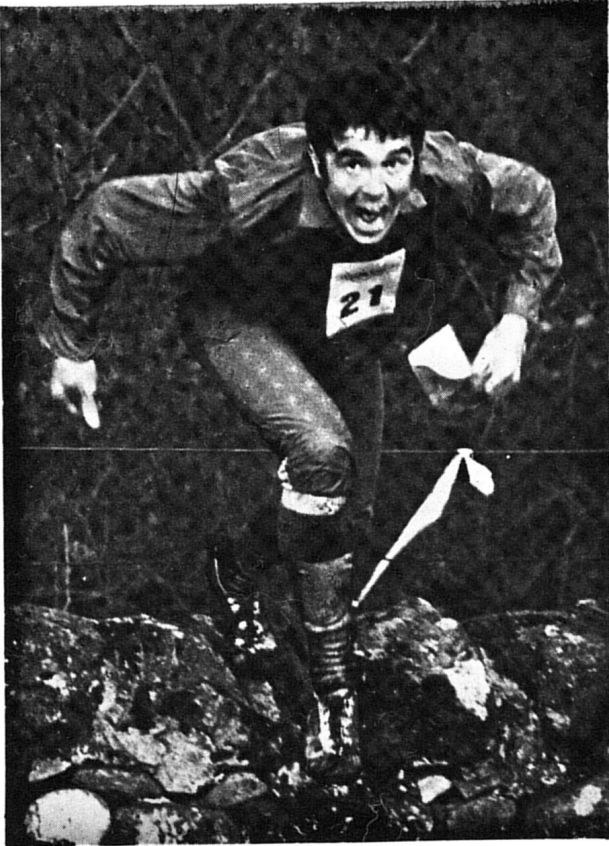
ANN WINTER (11 years)

RON'S ARMY

During the Firemen's strike, volunteer fire-fighting teams were set up under the direction of Safety Officer, Ron Perks. Seen below are two scenes from part of the Head Office platoon's training session.



ORIENTEERING (The Thought Sport)



Scenes from "The J.K."



The Jan Kjellstrom Trophy has a distinctly foreign ring to it and yet it is the title of Britain's biggest annual sporting event.

Jan Kjellstrom was the Swede who, in the mid-1960's made a competitive international sport out of orienteering which involves running through a forest with the aid of a map and compass and checking in at a succession of control points designated on the map.

Jan Kjellstrom was sent to Britain by his father to learn English, but he got so involved in teaching the sport to schools and clubs that his father sent him back for a second visit. The young man was seen as a missionary who influenced the sport enormously and made it much more sophisticated.

After visiting Britain on and off for two years, 27 years' old Jan Kjellstrom was killed in a car accident in Sweden. However, as a result of Jan's work the sport mushroomed in Britain.

The first event held in his memory, the Jan Kjellstrom Trophy of 1967 (affectionately known as the 'JK') attracted 60 men and 7 women competitors. This year there were some 2,000 orienteers competing in 18 different age classes for men, women, boys and girls. The youngest age classes are for boys and girls of 10 or below (M10 and W10) and the oldest for men and women over 56 (M56 and W56), although the 60 and 70 year olds are hankering for older classes still.

The family version of orienteering is called way-faring, and a most enjoyable afternoon can be spent walking through the woods with the added incentive of trying to locate the various control points marked on the map.

There are several local clubs in the Midlands who would be very pleased to point you in the right direction if you are interested, but in the first instance contact Alan Evers who will gladly give you more information.

ALAN EVERS

CHIEF FAN

I was most pleased to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Midland Association of the Institution of Civil Engineers on 15th September. At the meeting our Engineer-in-Chief, Mr. James Lamont, was inaugurated as the new Chairman of the Association and he gave a speech entitled 'Philosophy First, Design and Construction Later'. He used the Company's Hampton Loade Scheme to help illustrate his points.

It was a most enlightening lecture in which Mr. Lamont put forward his views on the way in which engineering projects, of any description, should be approached and conceived. His ideas (which are probably familiar to most Company employees) engendered much lively discussion from the floor of the meeting.

The evening provided me with an insight into the character of our Engineer-in-Chief and, being new to the Company, I was pleased to have my first opportunity to see and hear Mr. Lamont in person expounding his philosophies.

IAN ROBERTSON

It is with very great sadness that we learned of the death of Stanley Wimbush, former Superintendent of Sutton Area Office, on Sunday, 27th November. Stan had written the following account of this years Superannuated Members Outing and we know he would wish us still to publish it. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.



SUPERANNUATED MEMBERS' OUTING

The above event took place on Wednesday, 29th June in ideal weather conditions. Coaches starting from several points in the Company's Area conveyed Members to Sudbury Hall, one of the many stately homes for which Derbyshire is well renowned, formerly the home of the but now a National Trust property.

On arrival the Members were met by the Company's Chairman, Sir Charles and Lady Burman, after which a tour of the house and grounds provided the opportunity for many old friends to reunite and relive past glories. After partaking of refreshing ice cream, the party moved on to the Green Man Hotel, Ashbourne for an excellent tea.

The party assembled comprised 140 retired members, with a total age of 8,427 years and 3,714 years of service, the average service being 31 years. The senior member on parade was A. A. Miller of Cannock, a youth of 86, the newest recruit was W. A. Thomason, Moors Gorse, together with 118 guests and 38 members of staff, who did a grand job looking after our welfare.

Mr. Tibbenham in the regrettable absence of Mr. Lamont concluded the evening with a short speech, after which our coaches returned to their respective destinations.

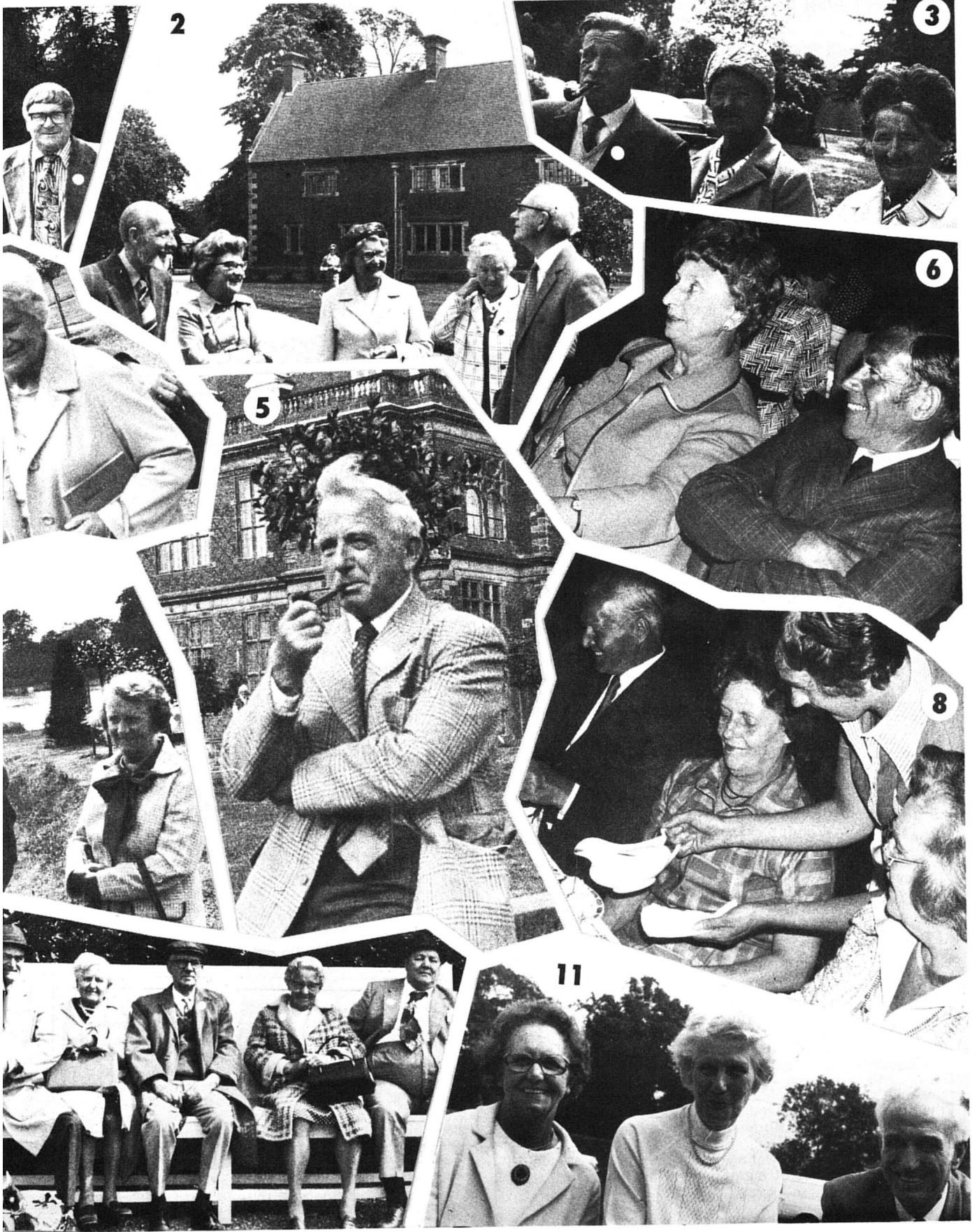
In conclusion, I am sure all those present wish me to thank the Company and all those who helped to make this a most enjoyable day out.

STAN WIMBUSH

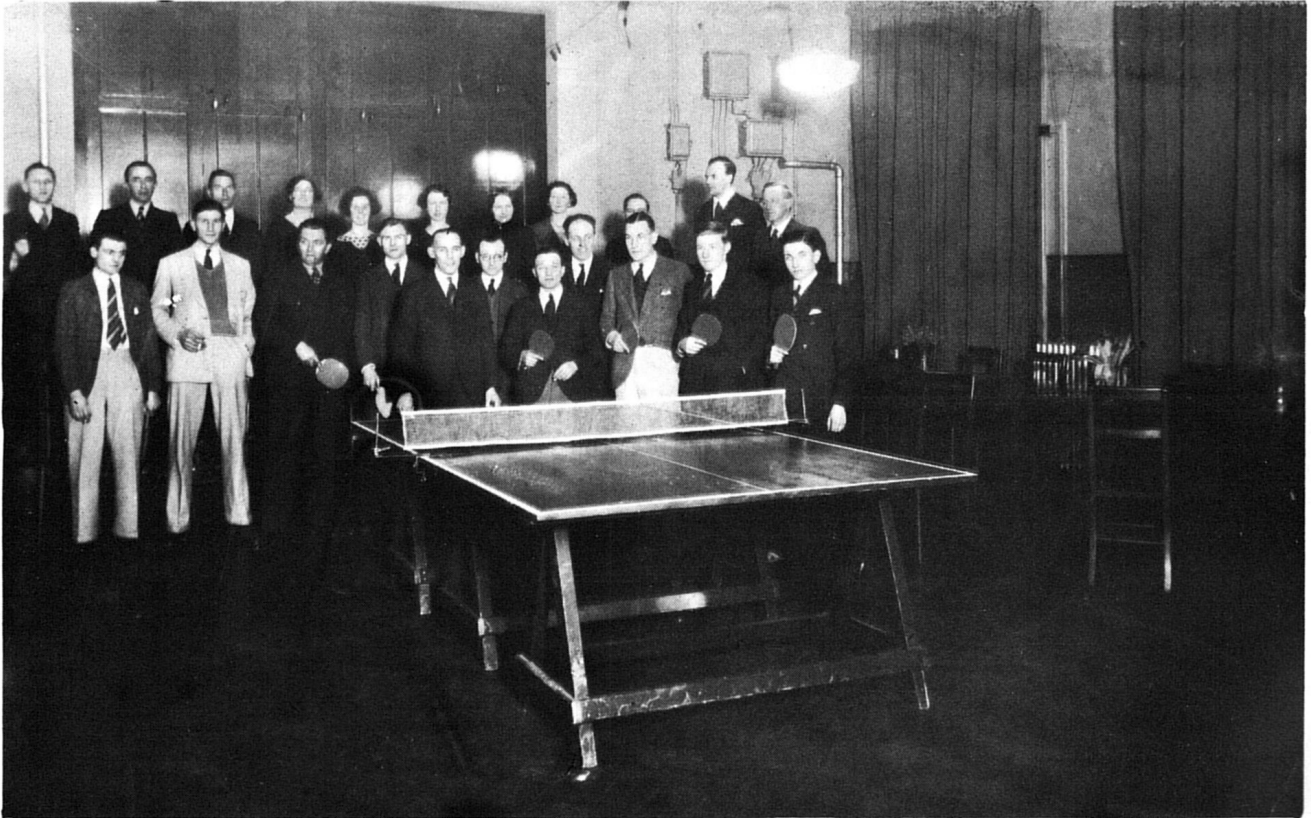
WHO'S WHO

1. Mr. & Mrs. S. Whitehouse, J. H. Dunne 2. Mr. & Mrs. W. Hunter, Mrs. Hardiman, Sir Charles Burman (The Chairman) 3. Mr. & Mrs. A. Marsh 4. Miss C. Parry, Mr. & Mrs. Chatfield 5. Mr. H. Wollaston 6. Miss C. Parry, Mr. C. Jones 7. Mr. & Mrs. J. Price 8. Mr. & Mrs. C. Tittensor, Mrs. F. Langston 9. Mr. & Mrs. W. Bickley 10. Mr. & Mrs. F. C. Ward, Mr. & Mrs. W. Bott 11. Mrs. W. Tapper, Mr. & Mrs. S. Tapper.





YESTERYEAR



This month's photograph recalls the occasion when the local B.B.C. staff played the Company at table tennis in 1933. The match must have been very exciting since in those days the B.B.C. was a rather remote, austere body. The ordinary mortals of the Company met on that occasion such celebrities as Percy Edgar and Alvar Liddell.

The full line up, provided by Dick Chamberlain who was in the S.S.W.W. team, is as follows.

Back row — left to right : Jack Whitworth, Howard Bateman, Geoffrey Brooks, Barbara Reynolds, Margaret Greenup, Claire Parry, — ? —, Eric Stubbs, Phillip Burton* and W. H. Smith.

Front row : ? Woodst†, Alvar Liddell†, Percy Edgart, ? Pattmant, Cyril Gilbert, ? Lamb†, Bert Stampe*, Joe Fewtrell, Frank Vaughan*, Dick Chamberlain*, Charlie Williams*.

† B.B.C. Team

* S.S.W.W. Team

APPRECIATION!

Dear Sir,

Whilst looking through the August 1977 edition of News Review, which was passed to my Father-in-Law (H. Burgess) by a friend, I was delighted to see a photograph on page 7 headed 'Waste Not, 1935'. This was a photograph of the uniformed staff at the Walsall Depot and you can imagine my surprise when I realised that on that photograph were my Father (H. Etherington), who passed away in September 1974, my Father-in-Law (H. Burgess) and his Brother-in-Law (H. D. Oldnall).

Many thanks for printing this photograph which brought back a host of memories for my Mother.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. J. L. BURGESS

POWER CUTS LAFFS - 1



"Maplebrook Pumping Station? What's this requisition for 2,000 tons of Nutty Slack?"

UP THE PIPE

The potholers have been "at it" again. A team of Engineers have inspected 1700 metres of the 36" main from Seedy Mill Pumping Station to Barr Beacon Reservoir and re-inspected some 3850 metres. Repairs to the internal lining have now been carried out for about 3 miles southwards from Seedy Mill.

The inspections were carried out by Nick Curtiss, Terry Tapper, Alan Rogers, Frank Duffield, the writer, and oh yes! I almost forgot, Bob Wright. Time spent in the main varied from Alan Roger's marathon six and a half hours to Bob Wright's 20 minutes. (The editor claims that that is the gaffer's privilege).

A gang from Walsall generalised by John Mayer were responsible for carrying out the work and a fine job they all did. Some spent as many as 27 hours inside the main (but not all at once!).



Terry Tapper (D.D.) and Frank Duffield
Mainlaying Inspector ready to go up the pipe.

A necessary qualification for carrying out this type of work is a good sense of humour and I am sure that Terry Tapper appreciates this. The job naturally has stringent safety requirements and there was some very special equipment available on site should it have been required. We had all been shown how to use the Company's breathing apparatus, thanks to Cliff Jones of Water Treatment, and it had been decided that Terry should carry out a dummy rescue exercise. At a wash out we found the main almost half full of water tapering off to nothing, some fifty feet each side of the wash out, and Nick acquired a wet bottom when he volunteered to wade into the water to reposition the pump suction hose.

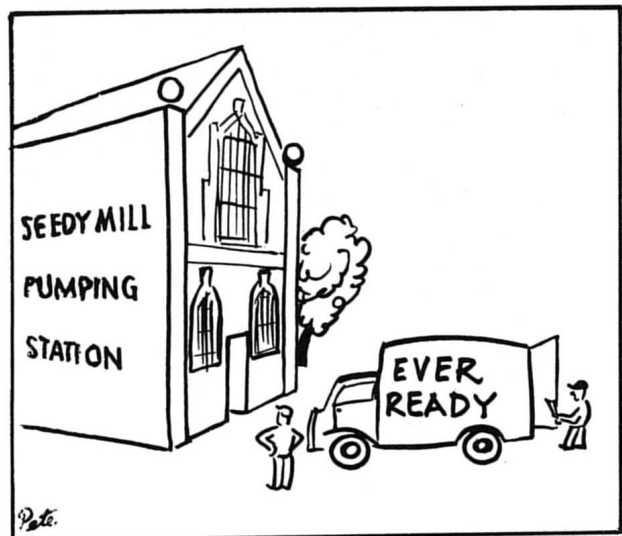
Meanwhile, Terry started his dummy rescue attempt.

He climbed into the breathing set, left a look out by the entrance and crawled into the pipe. About half way towards Nick, who was complaining that the cold water had reached just so high! Terry, in spite of valiant attempts to rescue Nick from his 'plight', was forced to give up. He was very quickly running out of air and was, to put it mildly, exhausted. Needless to say, the rescue system was improved, but was, fortunately, not needed in anger. The job as a whole ran smoothly and was completed within the very tight schedule.

E. M. PENNY

This cautionary tale serves to illustrate the importance of safety training, including rescue practice.

POWER CUTS LAFFS - 2



"This is the place all right, buy why would they want 60 crates of U2 batteries?"

EXAMINATION RESULTS 1977

Congratulations on their success to all the following:-

- L. BETTINGTON — Pitman 100, U.E.I. 90 Shorthand.
- J. DORRELL — I.W.S.O.M.
- A. GOULD — HNC Maths, Stats, Computer Studies.
- S. RABY — R.S.A. 60 Shorthand.
- G. TUNNICLIFF — R.S.A. Stage 2 Typing, R.S.A. Shorthand 70 and 80.
- J. BIRD — HNC Civil Engineering
- R. MORGAN — D.M.S.
- M. PELL — ONC Construction.
- A. L. ROGERS — B.Sc. Civil Engineering.
- M. CANAVAN — ONC Business Studies.
- S. HANDLEY — C & G Basic Engineering.
- K. HAYNES — C & G Basic Engineering.
- A. MORRIS — HNC Building.
- N. ASHWORTH — B.Sc., Estate Management.
- J. W. FERGUSON — Nat. Pres. of Institute of Construction Managers.
- M. CRANE — HNC Chemistry.

TRAINEE WATERWORKS OPERATIVES — A SUCCESS STORY



A milestone was reached in August when the first Trainee Waterworks Operatives employed by the Company successfully completed the City & Guilds Part II Examination in Waterworks practice.

The trainee scheme was 'founded' in 1974, when it was realised that there was a growing need to encourage young people to make a career in the Water Industry. Why a trainee operative scheme? An analogy can be drawn between a football club and a company work force. Firstly, success in both circles depends upon teamwork, skill and management.

Firstly, the management of a football club always ensures that a successful side is perpetuated by encouraging suitable youngsters to join the club and giving them specialist coaches and training. It is of no use at all to field the same players year after year and wait for them to retire before thinking about replacing them.

Secondly, by giving expert coaching to each player, it will encourage individuals to develop a particular skill and while some will specialise in playing in one position, others will be quite happy playing in a number of positions.

Thirdly, the success of the side will depend upon how hard they work and how well they pull together, in other words efficiency depends on team spirit, and hard work. In football rewards are commensurate with the measurement of a player's performance and until he has proved his ability to hold a first team place, rewards are average.

Although good training for tradesmen in other industries, i.e. the construction, electricity, gas industries, is quite common, it is rare in the water industry, since reliance had been placed on the W.S.I.T.B. (now the N.W.C.) training divisions' residential courses. Although the standard of training is good, no recognised certificate is available and demand for courses

is four times the number of places available (resulting in long delays) and each course covers a single subject hindering the multi-skilled broad-banding principle.

The City & Guilds Course covers all aspects of waterworks practice, both in academic and practical terms. The syllabus has recently been reviewed to take into account the re-organisation of the water industry.

Part I of the syllabus gives an understanding of the complete water cycle and Part II, in addition to the traditional subjects of science, mathematics and technology, offers specialist optional units of Water Supply, Sewage and Sewage Treatment, and Rivers Management. Two external examinations are set, Part I after 1 or 2 years and Part II after a further 2 years, which is equivalent to about O.N.C. standard. The student also has to complete a project on a related subject (which is assessed by the City & Guilds of London Institute) and satisfactorily complete the practical work set by the college.

In 1974 when the Company were pioneering the scheme, colleges offering the course were few and far between. The annual intake of trainees was planned to be 6 trainees, based on retirements expected over 10 years. Local colleges were approached, but although enthusiastic, they were unwilling to provide the course for this small number of students.

The S.T.W.A. were also asked if they would participate. Again, the reaction was one of enthusiasm, but the dust had yet to settle on 'the re-organisation'.



Peter Lynes - Proud Prizewinner



Peter shows his prizes to Arthur Astbury, Area Engineer.

The course was well established at Bolton Technical College on a block release basis and after a visit to see the facilities available, it was decided to enrol the trainees there.

In between attending block release at Bolton, usually three 3 week blocks in the Autumn, Spring and Summer, the trainees complete a practical training programme spending time in each of the distribution functions, i.e. waste inspection, valve operations, fittings inspection, mainlaying, service laying, meter repairs, etc. The programme is intended to be flexible and to be as interesting as possible. It is inevitable, of course, that some jobs are more enjoyable than others, but it is all necessary experience. The trainee also keeps a diary of what he sees, has assisted with, or actually carried out on his own initiative, making a valuable record for the future.

The progress of each trainee is carefully monitored and for those who possess the right attitude, are determined to obtain a better than average result in examinations, there is progression on to further education.

The Technician Education Council Certificate is a natural step for trainees with the appropriate entry qualifications. The T.E.C. certificate and the Higher T.E.C. certificate are probably to replace the present O.N.C. and H.N.C. system. Outstanding students taking the T.E.C. certificate can, depending on progress, apply for a University place and go on through higher education to membership of professional institutions.

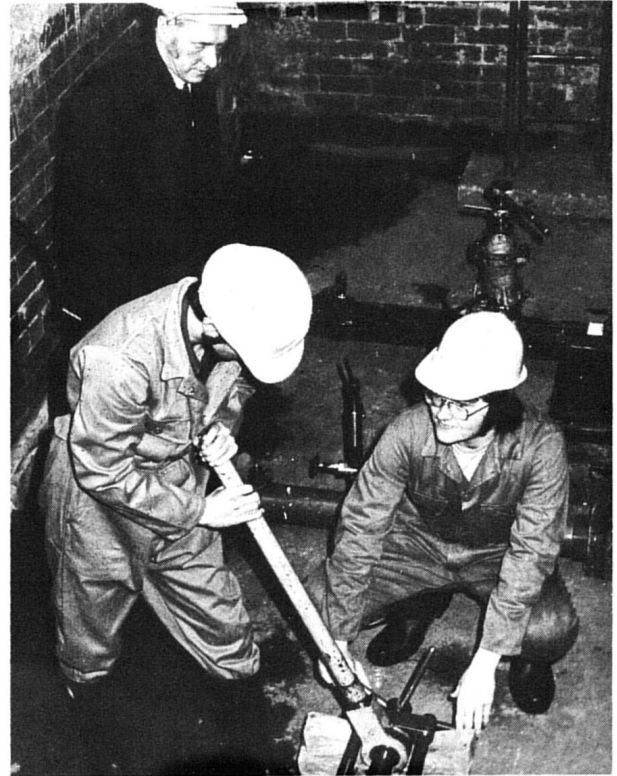
Three trainees who are going on to T.E.C. certificate are Peter Lynes, Peter Winwood (Walsall A.O.) and Glen Tynon (Cannock A.O.). Peter Lynes gained three distinctions out of the three subjects taken in the Final Part II examination (Calculations and Site Measurement, Science, Technology and Drawing, and Project Work). As a reward, the college have awarded him the Peart Trophy and prize (donated by E. Peart & Co.) for the student with the highest mark achieved in course work and examinations. He received his award on the 22nd November at a special prize-giving at Bolton Technical College. The standard is set so come all you other trainees!

The acquisition of academic qualifications does not mean that jobs or positions are available automatically, trainees still have to compete with people who have the relevant experience for which there is no substitute.

Training schemes always seem to arrive too late. No doubt there are many people already employed by the Company who would have given a great deal for the opportunity of participating in such a scheme.

With experience, enthusiasm and hard work, our scheme must go from strength to strength.

TRAINING COURSE SCENES



NEWCOMERS

We extend a warm welcome to those who have joined us since June.

Burton

EILEEN COURNAE — clerical assistant
BILL GREENWELL — service layer
CHRIS REA — service layer
GERALD WALKLATE — waste inspector

Cannock

KEN BEECH — trenchman
BILL PLANT — trenchman
PAUL SMITH — trainee operative

Hampton Loade

KEVIN BATES — labourer
CHRIS LARDER — deputy superintendent

Head Office

PAUL BARRINGTON — clerk, revenue
JUNE BEDDOWS — trainee programmer, computer
GLEN COLEGATE — clerk, revenue
JULIE DAVIES — trainee operator, computer
GEOFF DENHAM — graduate, new works design
PETER JACKSON — trainee operator, computer
LYNN JONES — junior, central services
PAT LANDERS — clerk, revenue
SYD LEEKE — driver/clerk, central services
MARGARET PHILLIPS — punch operator, computer
JANET ROBINSON — junior, central services
LYNN TATLOW — cook
JUDITH WOOLFORD — clerk, buying section

Tipton

STEPHEN BRETTELL — waste inspector
MARTYN ROONEY — trainee operative

Walsall

GARY COCKAYNE — apprentice mechanic
STEVE DOWEN — trainee operative
MARTYN HINTON — trainee operative
ROGER MASSEY — trainee operative
BOB RANKINE — waterman

Wood Green

HARRY CARTWRIGHT — labourer
BERNARD MORSON — welder
CHARLES MOSELEY — fitter

RETIREMENTS

ROGER WADDINGTON — section leader Revenue Department — 27.7.77

COLIN TITTENSOR — station attendant at Trent Valley — 27.7.77

LAWRENCE WHEELTON — labourer at Chilcote — 29.7.77

BOB AVERY — clerk/storekeeper at Burton — 28.9.77

SAM MORRIS — mechanic at Tipton — 30.9.77

REG BRADLEY — clerical assistant at Walsall — 14.10.77

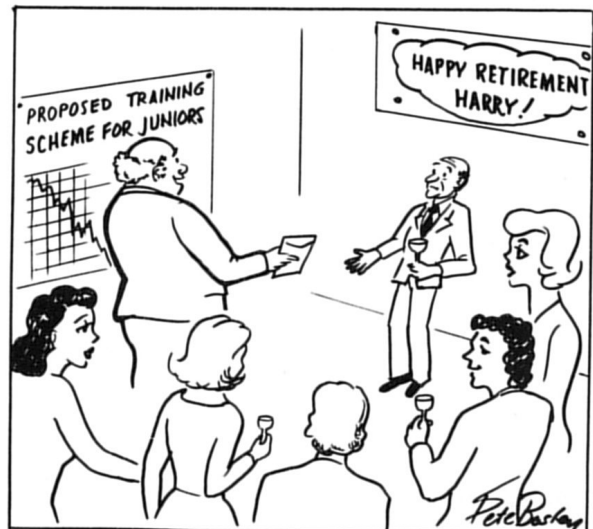
BILL RICHARDS — foreman at Sandhills — 26.10.77

JACK EVERITT — storekeeper at Wednesbury — 31.10.77

BERT READ — foreman at Sandfields — 8.11.77

LEN CLARKE — pipe yardman at Walsall — 9.11.77

BETTY ROBERTSON — clerical assistant at Blithfield — 30.11.77



"ONE LAST THING BEFORE YOU RETIRE BLENKINSOP!
HERE'S AN ANSWER TO THE SUGGESTION YOU
SUBMITTED WHEN YOU WERE A JUNIOR!"

(The Management wish Harry to accept their apologies and to assure him that the remaining backlog is being dealt with as quickly as possible).

PROMOTIONS

ROY JONES appointed Assistant Superintendent of mains and service laying at Tipton — 1.6.77

KEITH HAYNES appointed Electrician at Wood Green on completion of his apprenticeship — 23.7.77

GREG LLOYD appointed Fitter at Wood Green on completion of his apprenticeship — 6.8.77

GEORGE WILDMAN appointed Fittings Inspector at Burton — 1.9.77

GLEN TYMON appointed Waterworks Operative at Cannock on completion of his training — 8.9.77

PETER WINWOOD appointed Waterworks Operative at Walsall on completion of his training — 8.9.77

ROY FELTHOUSE appointed clerk/storekeeper at Burton — 1.10.77

DEREK SABIN appointed Waterman at Burton — 1.10.77

ROD BLOODWORTH appointed as Superintendent at Seedy Mill — 1.11.77

CHARLES FARRELL appointed Plant Operator at Chilcote — 5.11.77

BILL BRITT appointed Foreman at Cookley — 23.11.77

KEN COLE appointed Foreman at Sandhills — 1.12.77

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

were presented by the Chairman to commemorate exceptional long service at the July Board to

FRED LANGSTON and COLIN TITTENSOR who had both completed 39 years

at the September Board to

ROGER WADDINGTON for 44 years

and at the November Board to

BERT READ who also completed 44 years.

GOLD WATCHES

were presented by the Chairman on 19th October to acknowledge 25 years service by

JO CRESWELL — reservoir maintenance operative at Burton.

EDDIE PALMER — district inspector at Tipton

JIM PRICE — maintenance operative at Sandfields water treatment.

KEN STACEY — station attendant at Seedy Mill

BILL THOMPSON — reservoir attendant at Blithfield.

THE NORTHERN OUTPOST

'Twas in the year of 'sixty eight,
The Company did amalgamate,
With Uttoxeter Waterworks,
A unit rather prone to quirks.
From then until this very day,
A debt to Fred we all must pay,
Hulme Springs, Crumpwood, Prestwood too,
He knows more than me and you.

Be it day or be it night,
Fred's prepared to make the flight,
To Croxden, Stanton, Dods Leigh pumps,
First sign of trouble — up he jumps.
Graham had the book that week,
The three at Mayfield springs a leak,
Fred gets his waste team out at night,
Until the system is quite tight.

Mayfield two has stuck its float,
The duty man is Aqua Note,
But Fred's already half way there,
He heard the message on the air.
"The Res. is dry" jokes Alan Gould,
Poor Fred was very nearly fooled.
He starts the pump at Bentleyfold,
But first, please contact Aqua Gold.

Supplies are running very thin,
But in an hour the big pump's in.
Bob designs a brand new main,
In the field it's to be lain.
Fred ensures that all are keen,
The tenant of each farm he's seen,
He thinks of every little thing
And keeps in touch with Aqua King.

Henry Childs and Albert Jones
Dig the trench and show road cones.
Now the main is fully laid
And the grass track since re-made.
A new Pump House is on the book,
Near Ellastone, just by Tit Brook.
Fred advises how and where,
But in the end the cows just stare.

(Mayfield now will see no harm,
Unless it's up at Ashfield Farm.)

The road near Bamford's rather wet,
Have we a diagnosis yet?
The ten at Rocester's sprung a hole,
Fred compensates by opening Fole.
Bramshall's very nearly dry,
To fix the pump at Spath, we'll try.
Eric does so, just by noon,
Not by half a minute soon.

Overpark that day is low,
Check the pressure, check the flow.
How's the tank upon the Heath,
Check there's no drips underneath.
Fred commands a big assault,
With Ray Johnson and Dick Ault.
Walk the fields near Gratwich way,
Or else there'll be all hell to pay.

So now an era has just past,
One we thought would always last.
Whene're there's trouble — he's the man,
We just called up — AQUA TAN!

TED GADSBY



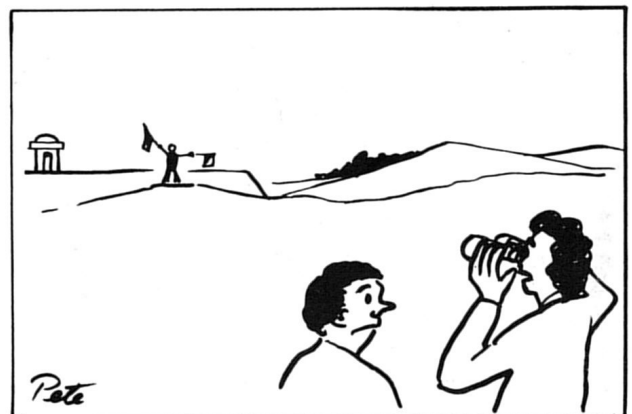
Fred Langston and his wife on their retirement. Fred was presented with a Carriage Clock by his friends and colleagues and David Brown presented his wife with a bouquet of flowers at a small gathering at Head Office.

SEEN IN CANNOCK DEPOT

We the willing, led by the unknown, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. We have done so much for so long for so little, we are now qualified to do anything for nothing.

(When shown the above, a member of D.D.'s engineering staff who shall be nameless said "Cannock, where's that?").

POWER CUT LAFFS - 3



"RESERVOIR LEVEL 10 FEET 6 INCHES"