

**THE SOUTH
STAFFORDSHIRE
WATERWORKS
COMPANY**



NEWS REVIEW

MAY 1979

WATER

OUR NEW CHAIRMAN



Mr. E. J. Thompson, the Company's new Chairman, joined the Board of Directors in 1971, shortly after the death of his father, Mr. G. Alan Thompson, who was a Director of the Company for thirty-four years. Mr. Thompson, who is Chairman and Managing Director of the Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries Limited and Chairman of the Brewers' Society, has been a member of the Works and Contracts Committee since his appointment to the Board and has always shown a very keen interest in all the Company's activities. We wish him well in his new appointment.

Editorial

Since the last edition, a little piece of Company history has been set: a new, record consumption of 396 megalitres, during one day in January in the midst of one of the severest winters experienced since 1963. A great many people helped out during this period, working long and inconvenient hours in order to maintain water supplies, and this has once again demonstrated the Company's ability to cope in such situations.

On the 19th March, this year, Sir Charles Burman J.P., D.L., announced his retirement as Chairman of the Board of Directors, although he will remain as a Director of the Company of which he has been Chairman for twenty years. Sir Charles also retires as President of the Birmingham Social Club, which has received very encouraging support from Sir Charles and Lady Burman throughout the past twenty years. I am sure that I speak for everyone associated with the Company in wishing Sir Charles a very happy retirement, whilst at the same time,

extending a warm welcome, to his successor, Mr E J Thompson.

With regard to the "News Review", I was most encouraged with the support I received for my first Edition at Christmas, and I hope to see such support continue in the form of competition suggestions and articles on any subject, especially from employees at our Area Offices, and all other Company sites, as well as from retired Company employees.

I should also like to thank Pete Bosley in Distribution Drawing Office at Birmingham for the design for 1979 News Review editions. This cover will be standard until the Christmas edition later this year, which will carry a more seasonal design.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to apologise for the delay in publication of this issue, but this has been due to matters entirely beyond the control of the editorial Committee, and I hope to ensure regular, prompt publication in the future.

TREVOR MONEY

NEWS REVIEW

MAY 1979

The Magazine of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company

Editor: Trevor Money, *Assistant Editor:* Peter Dodds, *Photography:* Graham Watkins, Ian Robertson, Ray Selvey, *Social events:* John Morrall, *Cover design and illustrator:* 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.

News from a Retired Employee

Mr Harold Hatfield at Birmingham Office has recently received a letter from Mr Arthur Hargreaves who was caretaker at Birmingham from March 1948 until his retirement in May 1969.

After leaving the Company, he and his wife moved to Scotland, but they now live near their daughter in Shanklin, Isle of Wight.

Mr Hargreaves, who is now seventy four years old, has recently recovered from a hernia operation, and many of his old colleagues will be pleased to know that he is now fully fit and getting "out and about" on most days, as well as tending to all his bedding plants and vegetables in his greenhouse.

His wife has also recently undergone an eye operation, and is now well on the way to a full recovery. Even though he retired nearly ten years ago, he and his wife still remember their days and colleagues at Sheepcote Street with great affection, and ask to be remembered to all their former associates, who they hope are all in good health.

I am sure that everyone who remembers Mr and Mrs Hargreaves would like to wish them both the best of health and a long and happy retirement.

Distribution Department

TRAINEE — TOP AWARD

In March it was learnt that one of the highest awards made by The City & Guilds of London Institute has been bestowed upon one of the Company's Trainee Waterworks Operatives.

Michael Ryan (Walsall Area Office) has been awarded the Guild's Bronze Medal. It is the highest award possible to obtain in the Part I Water Industry Certificate course, and is awarded to the student gaining the highest marks in the examination taken throughout the country.

This is the second time the award has been made to one of the Company's trainees, the first being Philip Hammond, Tipton Area Office (See July issue 1978). The staff at Bolton Technical College, needless to say, are jubilant as this bronze medal is only the second ever to be awarded to a student attending the college since the inception of the course 11 years ago. A special presentation is to be arranged in the near future.

Well done lads, and let us hope that this is a stepping stone to higher things.

KEITH CALLEAR

Health and Safety

A ganger from Burton recently had a rammer strike his foot and received a broken bone. He was, at the time, wearing safety shoes. Had he not been wearing protective equipment, he would have sustained serious injury, which at best, would have resulted in the loss of all his toes, and at worst, the whole foot.

Consideration is being given to nominating this ganger for the "Golden Shoe" award from the manufacturers.

So, how about helping yourselves a little by wearing the correct protective clothing and let this incident serve as a warning to those who claim that much safety equipment is an encumbrance.

MERVYN PENNY

Money makes the World go around

On the morning of Friday 5th January, I clocked in at 8.15, (Oops, sorry, I forgot, and had to have my time initialled!), for another eventful day at South Staffs Birmingham Office.

Shortly afterwards, the external telephone rang: it was my better half, Sue. I thought to myself "At such an early hour, it can only mean a calamity with our ten month old daughter, Rachel — surely at this age she cannot have found out that her Dad is NOT really Andy Gray!!"

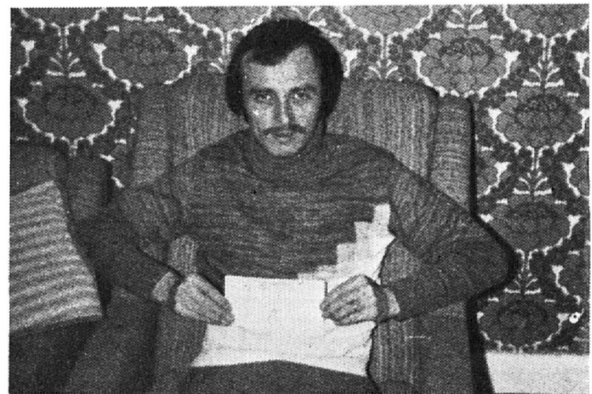
But no: Sue had just received notification that Premium Bond No. 7BK 984603 had rewarded me with £1,000 in the January 1979 monthly draw.

Within minutes, pleading letters arrived on my desk from ladies of dubious character in the Revenue Department, bearing such heart-rending stories that I had difficulty keeping to my original idea of using the money towards a new car. I eased my conscience by convincing myself that they could not be THAT desperate with so much overtime available at present. ??

It is to several of my colleagues at work that I owe the fact that I purchased the lucky bond. From 1973-76, eight of us paid 12½p per week and bought, in turn, £2 Premium Bonds. When the minimum amount was increased to £5 in 1976, the syndicate ceased, and we retained our bonds for our own future benefit.

To those involved — Mike & Marlene Crowe, Alf Hill, Keith Pyne and wife, Micky Geraghty and Sue — and everyone else, I say
CHEERS!

CHARLES SHAKESPEARE



After Dinner Speech

In the past, the Annual Dinner and Dance has produced some excellent humour in the form of the after-dinner speeches. This is just one extract from this year's speech, delivered by the Chairman, Alan Evers. — EDITOR.

"General Manager to Chief Engineer

Tomorrow morning there will be a total eclipse of the sun at 9 o'clock. This is something which we cannot see happen every day so let the staff line up outside in their best clothes to watch it. To mark the occasion I will explain it to them personally. If it is raining we shall not be able to see very well and in that case the staff should assemble in the canteen."

"Chief Engineer to Deputy New Works Engineer

I've got a message from the top. By ORDER of the G.M. there will be a total eclipse of the sun at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. If it is raining we shall not be able to see it very well on site, in our best clothes. In that case the disappearance of the sun will be followed thro' in the canteen. This is something we cannot see happen every day."

"Deputy New Works Engineer to Canteen Manageress

BY ORDER of the G.M. we shall follow through in our best clothes, at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning, the disappearance of the sun in the canteen. **THE G.M.** will tell us whether it is going to rain. This is something which we cannot see happen every day!"

"Canteen Manageress to Canteen Staff

If it is raining in the canteen tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock, our General Manager in his best clothes, will disappear. It is a pity we cannot see this happen every day!?!?"

Home made Computer at Birmingham . .

Garson Cummings (EMD Birmingham Office) is seen here with his hobby minicomputer. The unit is based on the new microprocessor technology which has brought the cost of a unit of this kind within reach of the individual.

He has already programmed the unit to beat his colleagues at a variety of games and he hopes he will learn about a technology that will become increasingly part of our every day life.

Garson is considering a practical application for the unit within the Company.



Company Cars

1. They travel faster in all gears, especially reverse.
2. They take "ramps" at twice the speed of private cars.
3. Can be driven for up to 100 miles with the brake warning light on.
4. Alarming engine noises are easily eliminated by turning up the radio volume.
5. No security needed : can be left anywhere, unlocked with the keys in the ignition.

Printed by courtesy of Ford (U.K.) Ltd.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I must complain at your continued contamination of my environment with chlorine, aluminium sulphate, and sulphur dioxide. I was living peacefully at Blithfield Reservoir until last week, when I was brutally dragged into a long pipe, flung round a large pump impeller, showered with all the above mentioned chemicals, and rudely pushed into a huge heap of sand. I was then forced back out of the sand along with several thousand of my friends, (and I do hate crowds), and dumped in a large lagoon.

I do not like my new home — there is much less room than at Blithfield, and it is too close to the Plankton Zoo. I must request immediate transfer from this very Seedy Mill.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHANIE DISCUS.

Editor Replies

Such a letter from an Alga whose natural habitat is the very same consumable product with which our Company deals, throws into the spotlight, very interesting arguments revolving around the morality of treating water without regard to how such action may affect the livelihood of similar inhabitants of microscopic size, who regard water as their home. Unfortunately for bacteria and the like, water must be treated in order to prevent the likes of typhoid running rampant throughout the human race, and obviously we must protect ourselves against such occurrences, even at the expense of micro-organisms who will find themselves uprooted, and "re-housed" as a result.

However, the Editor would like to suggest that if Miss/Mrs/Ms S. Discus is still dissatisfied, she should contact either Mr G Watkins, our Consumer Services Officer, or Mr R W Robertson, Engineer at Blithfield Reservoir, who will consider the merits of her case.

MR. R. W. ROBERTSON

Owing to a misunderstanding, Mr. R. W. Robertson was not credited with an article which appeared in the Christmas 1978 Edition, entitled "Changes at Blithfield". I should like to take this opportunity to apologise to Mr. Robertson, and to thank him for his article, which we hope will be the first of many.

All hands to the pumps It's a record breaker

On my birthday, it thawed! As I sat in the cabin of my boat, sipping tea, I thought of the Company, amidst the drip, drip, of melting snow echoing in my ears. "After the recent hard frost, this sudden thaw will create problems," and I moved closer to the fire.

The following morning, I left home for another day on the boat. The thaw was still with us, and everything was damp and dripping. I turned on the radio – not BRMB, or Radio 1, but channel 1 on the Company two-way radio. Almost immediately, I heard the voice of Dick Ault relating to Walsall Control the sad saga of Morillow Heath Tower: both inlet and outlet valves had fractured, and the tower was empty. This was followed by another message: Winhill Tower only $\frac{1}{3}$ full. I drove on, but with a growing sense of guilt at my planned day of leisure whilst all our standby teams seemed to be busy. Then I heard our Distribution Duty Officer, John Wilson, on the air from Control – things were bad – and I decided that I could ignore things no longer, and I turned off the Motorway and headed for Walsall.

When I arrived at Control, they were in the midst of a minor brainstorm. All the dozens of consumer queries – and there were plenty of them – were being answered by Sue Taylor, Control Assistant Mike Farrow, and Deputy Area Engineer Terry McAlister in the general office, whilst Control Assistant Sid Cooper and D.O. John Wilson were busy in the Control Office, trying to prevent the reservoirs emptying as the demand for water rose higher and higher.

Cost and Supply Records clerk, Stan Powell, had been into Birmingham Office on the Saturday afternoon to calculate the Friday and Saturday Consumptions – a job normally left until the following Monday – in order to assist us in predicting the consumption for Sunday, and plan the pumping accordingly. Tipton, Cannock and Burton Area Offices were also being manned, and dealing with their own problems instead of passing them onto Control as was usual.

When we have a cold spell, we get many complaints of frozen pipes and bursts, which is quite understandable, but less obvious, is the greater problem of a sudden thaw, when pipes de-frost and start to leak unnoticed. The wastage of water is tremendous and very swift action is needed to safeguard supplies. So Sunday moved on. Bob Wright relieved John Wilson, Graham Blundy relieved Terry McAlister, Ron Russell relieved Sue Taylor and Dennis Drew relieved Sid Cooper. No-one was able to take the place of the hard-pressed Watermen and District Inspectors though, and the reservoir levels continued their descent. Hanbury Tower and Winhill Tower were joined by Tutbury Reservoir in the list of reservoirs that had fallen below the 25% mark, and Northern Area Engineer, Ron Lawrence began to

chew his nails! Pye Green Tower began to plummet when the pumps tripped out, and Area Maintenance Fitter Larry Cooper spent a couple of hours struggling to bring it back in. Dennis Wooliscroft was in similar difficulties at Saxon Street Booster, trying to increase its output. Hayley Green bulk supply from the Severn Trent Water Authority, normally used for one hour a day, and frequently not at all, had been in continuous use since 02.00 hrs., and Conegre Booster was pumping flat out and rattling the windows! Meanwhile, Langley pumps tripped out on overload, adding to the problems, and Walsall Booster was running at its highest ever output.

There was no doubt in anybody's mind that this was going to be a record Sunday.

Meanwhile, at the Area Offices, life was just as hectic. Tom Potts at Cannock was continually on the radio directing his troops in search of burst mains in the Uttoxeter area, Les Hunt at Burton was rallying his platoons in search of the reason for Hanbury Tower's near-empty condition. Tipton area seemed fairly quiet, though Castle Mill valves in Shavers End were completely changed in an attempt to hold the water in the reservoir.

Then came the incredible news from Birmingham Office. Your Editor, Trevor Money, in his "part-time" capacity as a Cost and Supply Records Assistant, rang through the figures for the 24 hours ending 16.00 hours Sunday: the consumption was 370.37 megalitres, or 81,471,623 gallons. This was 26% above the normal consumption, and a Company record for a Sunday!

Throughout the winter, the Distribution, Electrical and Mechanical Departments have been struggling to reduce the cost of pumping to a minimum at our major source, Hampton Loade. By using off-peak electricity to pump the maximum quantity of water required, a lot of money has been saved. In addition, the Electricity Board charge a penalty rate based on the highest number of Kilowatts used each winter month, so a major decision was needed; a wrong decision could cost the Company £000,000's.

By this time, Deputy Distribution Engineer, Ted Gadsby, had arrived in Control, and both he and I gazed into our crystal ball. We had to assume an all time record consumption of 390 megalitres. This agreed, we gave the instruction for Hampton Loade to maintain a high output into the penalty time period, a decision that would cost the Company in the region of £4,000. It had to be right!

As the evening drew on, it became apparent that the tremendous output from Hampton Loade could not be stored in Sedgley Beacon Reservoir, where all the Hampton Loade Water normally goes. Therefore a way had to be found to spread the water as much as possible between all reservoirs to give the fullest possible reservoirs for the Monday morning peak demand. On the basis that two heads are better than one, I volunteered to stay and help the Control assistant overnight.

DAILY CONSUMPTION STATISTICS (IN MEGALITRES)		
NOTES	PUMPING STATIONS	QUANTITY
KINVER: Add Kinver (Meter) to Kinver (Balance) to give total pumped at Kinver INCIDENTAL INFORMATION SEEDY MILL BLITHE Barr Beacon Zone 33.78 Outwoods Zone 24.14 Gentleshaw Zone 8.42 TOTAL 66.34 MI Hilliards Cross	Ashwood	8.03
	Bourne Vale	6.63
	Brindley Bank	2.13
	Chilcote	6.89
	Churchill	9.94
	Cookley	3.85
	Crumpwood	5.63
	Fradley	3.50
	Hagley	8.56
	Hinksford	6.17
Hopwas	2.55	
Huntington	1.52	
Kinver (Meter)	0.99	
Kinver (Balance)	13.58	
Little Hay	2.80	
Maple Brook	6.67	
Mayfield	0.40	
Moors Gorse	5.66	
Pipe Hill	4.71	
Prestwood	15.53	
Sandhills	0.26	
Seedy Mill Borehole	4.82	
Shenstone	5.31	
Slade Heath	4.87	
Slitting Mill	5.79	
Somerford	4.11	
Trent Valley (Hopwas)	2.68	
Trent Valley (Burton)	13.08	
TOTAL VELLS AND BOREHOLES	190.43	
Add Impounding Systems Heath Street Hayley Green Derby Staffs. Potteries TOTAL YIELD Add - (Loss) Deduct - (Gain)	Lichfield (Sandfields) = 14.87 Seedy Mill Blithe = 66.34 Hampton Loade = 151.51 Less W'hampton = 34.69 TOTAL PUMPED 116.82 388.03 388.03 10.27 398.73 2.42 TOTAL CONSUMPTION 396.31	

The pumping sheet showing the breakdown of the record consumption.

By 03.00 hours, we could see that things were going quite well, but Sedgley Beacon reservoir was too full, too early, yet we dared not cut the rate of pumping. We needed every last drop! West Bromwich Booster would do the trick, transferring water from Sedgley to the Barr Beacon reservoirs, where there was plenty of room. West Bromwich is usually operated by remote control, and, full of confidence, Dave Walker pressed the button:

NOTHING!

After several attempts, he rang the standby maintenance operator, (it was, by now, 04.00), Ron Walford. He rang back a few minutes later to say that his car would not start. What a time for an attack of the gremlins! I went over and took him to the booster. It still would not start. We had no choice but to call in the Electrical Standby Engineer, Alan Baker, at 04.20. The booster was running by 05.15 – one of the large fuses had blown!

As dawn broke, it was all over for Dave Walker and I, but all the Area Office workers had to continue the search for the bursts and leakages. The crystal ball was, in the event, slightly conservative in its estimate of the Monday consumption. It was in fact, an all time high of 396.31 megalitres, or 87,177,738 gallons!

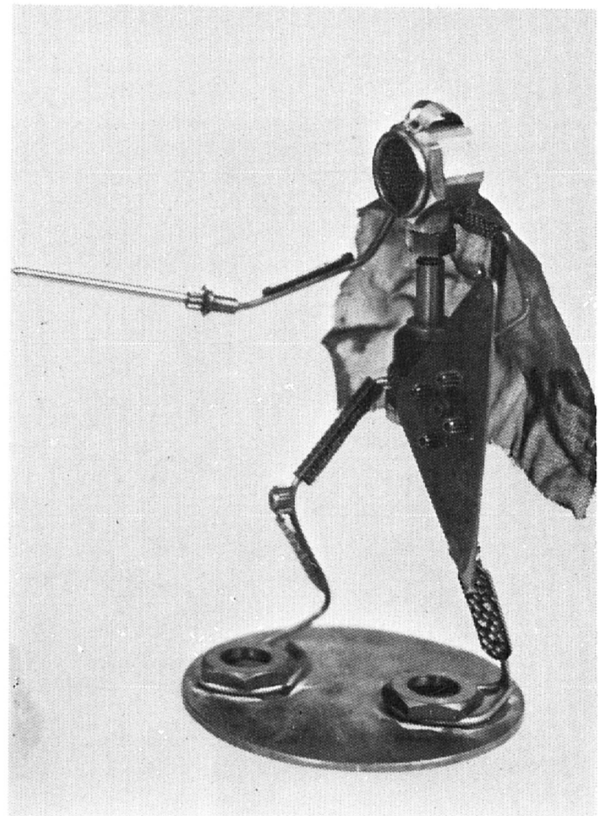
Obviously, we could have been caught napping, but thanks to the dedication and ability of all those who helped during that weekend, and that meant almost everyone on standby, as well as those who went into their respective offices in order to help, we won through.

Who said the waterworks spirit was dead?

PETER DODDS

Wood Green Sculptor

Wood Green once again demonstrate their inimitable capacity for culture and art. An interesting pastime is pursued by 23 year old Tony Sanders, who is, at present, employed as a meter repairer in the Meter Shop. In his leisure time he constructs figures of unusual character from, nuts, bolts, wire, glass, in fact, as he says "from any odd bits of material which conjure up a particular figure or shape in my mind." In the photograph is a figure of a knight, which took up to four hours to construct, although many more hours were spent in searching for the right components to fit the shape. A combination of brazing, soldering and epoxy-resin glue holds the figure



together with each part being individually treated. For example, some parts are polished to a gloss finish, whilst others may give a more desirable appearance in a matt-look finish. The whole figure is then lacquered to preserve the appearance, and prevent oxidation.

The types of figure that Tony creates vary from sprays of flowers, through to animals from cars to aeroplanes "There is no limit to the type of figure... although one must have a clear image of the finished article in one's mind." Much of his work is to be

admired as various articles sit proudly on mantle-pieces at his home, and the homes of friends and relatives.

Tony hopes to continue with more complex shapes in the future, since the more difficult the model, the more stimulating the art form becomes, and it is relatively inexpensive as most of the original material comes from the scrap heap!

Competition

Although last Edition's competition was limited to entries from Birmingham Office, it was relatively well supported. The correct combination of photographs and their owners is below:



(A) Alan Jones



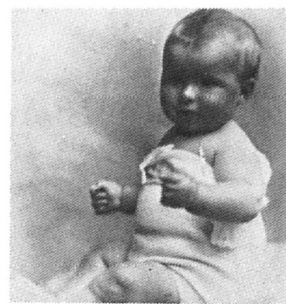
(B) Andrew Willmott



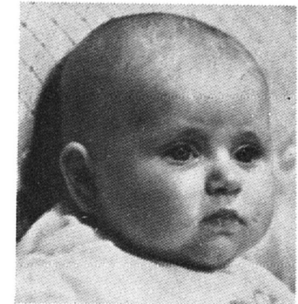
(C) Julie Court



(D) Debbie Yapp



(E) Harold Hatfield



(F) Sally Young

The winner was John Bird, Distribution Department, who received a £5 Boots Gift Voucher. Well done John. This month's competition is open to all readers, and I would be grateful if I could receive all entries by 09.00 hrs. on Monday, July 30th.

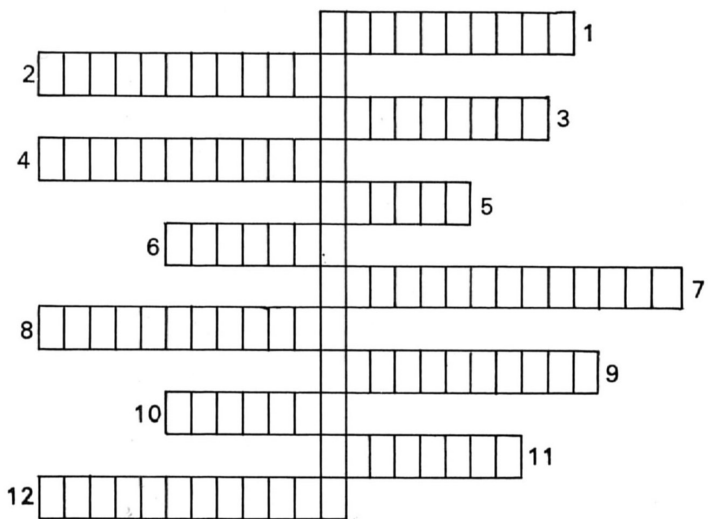
By answering the questions, the letters in the central column will form a well known Company location. **All** answers and the location must be correct to win the prize, a £5 gift voucher. Competition by courtesy of John Morrall, Birmingham Office.

T.V.

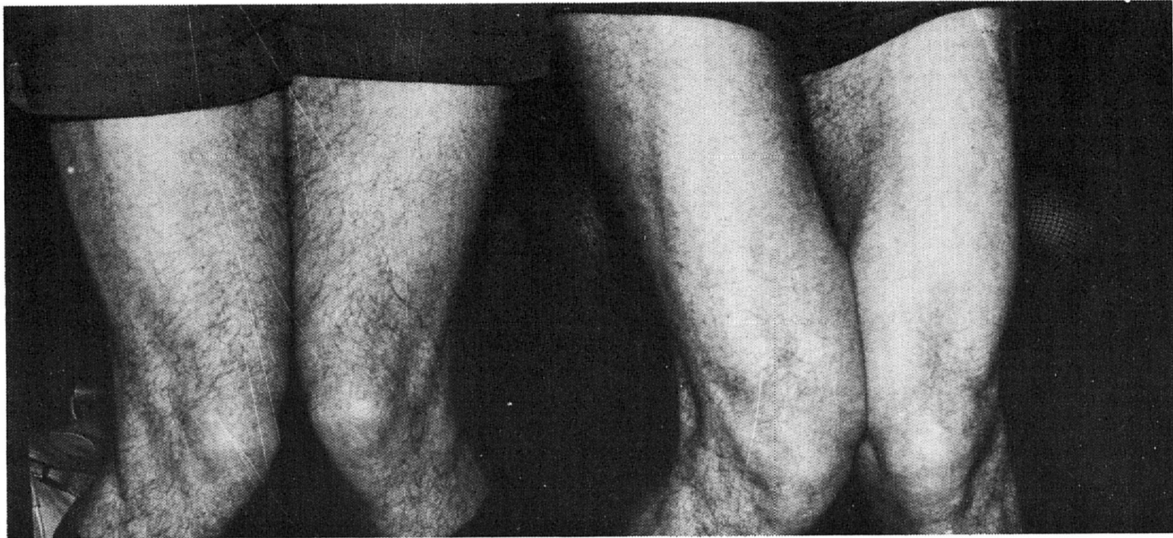
2. Robert Shaw fought his way to fame in this T.V. series.
4. Honor Blackman, Diana Rigg, Joanna Lumley.....Who is missing?
6. Surname of the actor who played 'Sir Lancelot' in the series of the same name.
8. In his efforts to subsidise the poor, Richard Green outwitted this actor on many occasions.
10. Troy and Foames befriended the only survivor from this city
12. The affirmative and negative were avoided in this series.

FILMS

1. Steve McQueen, Robert Vaughan, Yul Brynner, Horst Bucholtz, James Coburn, Charles Bronson.....Who is missing?
3. Even though never completed, this film provided Charles Laughton with his most challenging role.
5. Surname of the person credited with the most academy awards.
7. Which actor received an Oscar for the leading role in the film 'Marty'?
9. Her legs were insured for \$1,000,000?
11. Marlon Brando, Herbert Lom and Rod Steiger have all portrayed this famous person.

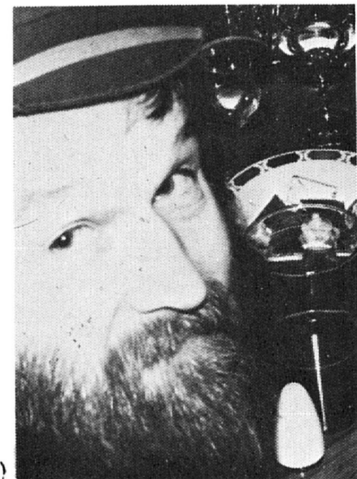


St. Trinians and Gre



(1)

- 1) Guess which pair belong to Miss World !
- 2) We were not allowed to have beards when I was at school.
- 3) Perfect specimen of a greedy schoolboy.
- 4) Obviously **this** prefect did not see the 'NO SMOKING' signs !
- 5) Gymslip Alco-frolics !!



(2)

....."When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even" but this did not deter 86 rather mature school kids from attending the "St Trinians and Greyfriars" New Year's Dance.

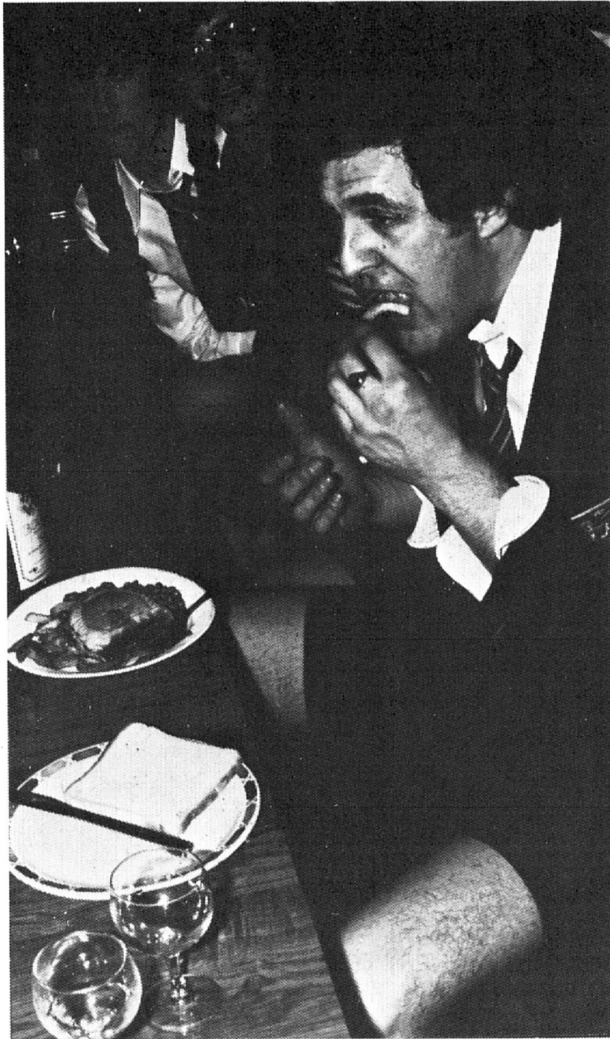
This splendid, joint venture, started off the way it was to continue all night, hilarious!!!

After a somewhat delayed start (several participants had been serving detentions) the fifth form meal monitors served up lashings of pie, chips, peas and bread and butter, which were swilled down by liberal measures of potent school milk (the 86 attendees would like to thank the 19 non attendees for their extra glasses of milk). As the photographs illustrate there was a vast assortment of knobby knees, pig-tails, and certain 'naughty bits' worn by the girls (censored in this edition). Once the meal had finished the over-exuberant gathering channelled their child-like energy into dancing.

During the evening a break from the dancing was called for, as the Chairman (or should I say Chairboy) of the Social Club, Alan Evers played M.C. to an assortment of games. My thanks to the winning girls hockey team who supplied the male element of the audience with fleeting glimpses of long forgotten gym slips and the undergarments there within.

Then came the highlight of the dance, the judging of the Grand Parade. First the boys... Meadows Minor complete with satchel and beer-filled bike pump, Andy (where did you get those legs) Willmott, Chris Pattison the only bearded schoolboy in Birmingham and many more. Who would win? The final judging by 'Joe' the security man with a hole... the author waits for laughter at this subtle joke.... a complete outsider.... Bob (Billy Bunter) Runham waddled away with first prize.

yfriars Social Dance



(3)



(4)



(5)

Now the girls...back boys, back... Amid wolf whistles, drools, and promises of "I'll see you behind the bike sheds" the females paraded around the room. The Davies girls (Anne and Julie) supplied adequate eyefuls of stocking tops (phone number supplied on written request to the Ed.) and were closely followed by Irene Deykin whose legs appeared to be never ending, but the outright winner...complete with red wig, lollipop and satchel, that perfect prefect, that temptress of the Geography room, yes...Carole Poole.

The judge was thrown into total confusion as one strange person paraded in both the male and female categories...after consultation with Chris Pattison it appears this 'person' was not, as first suspected, Danny La Rue smoking a pipe, but a friend of Chris's. He didn't win a prize, but deserved a medal for his efforts in fooling the male populus.

Once the temperatures had returned to 98.4°F the dancing continued till lights out.

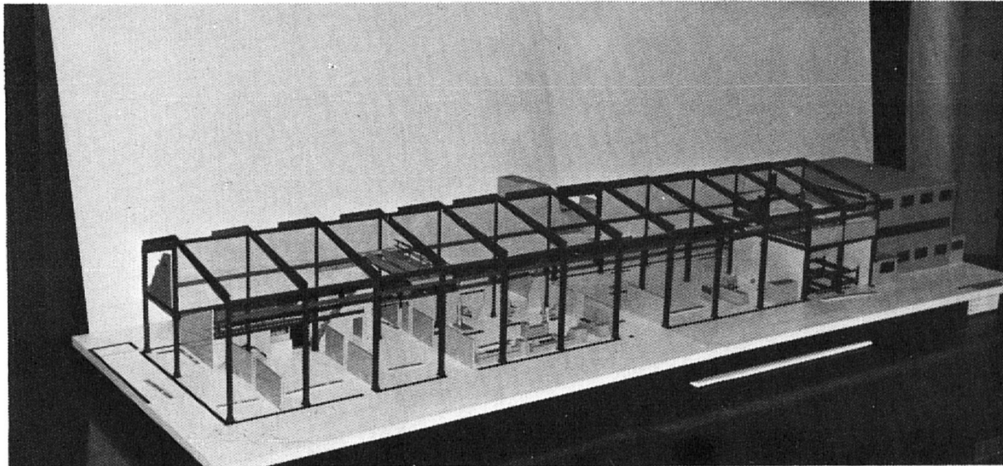
Once more, the now tired revellers, braved the atrocious weather to wend their weary way home. Our commiserations to Barrie and Pauline Hopkins who after a splendid effort in travelling from Whittington to Birmingham met with an unfortunate accident (thankfully the only serious damage to their persons was Barrie's lacerated bottom...we suspect due to a severe caning when he was caught smoking in class) on their way home.

My thanks to all those who attended, and to those who didn't... there's always the next dance to look forward to.

J. S. MORRALL
Social Club Secretary

Central Office, Green Lane

In January 1978, the Company purchased the site and offices at Green Lane with the object of bringing together many important activities which are at present isolated from one another and often carried out in temporary or old buildings unsuitable for their purpose. Subsequently it was also found possible to accommodate the whole of the operational staff of the Company there with the exception of the Tipton and Cannock/Burton Area Offices.



Photograph of an exploded model of the Green Lane Workshops.

The accommodation includes a modern, air-conditioned, brick-built single storey office building with a total floor area of 31,000 square feet, comprising offices and kitchen and dining facilities and a large open plan office. In addition, there is an office warehouse building which has a total floor area of 7,000 square feet. The 4½ acre site, which has been landscaped, has substantial car parking facilities.

Since the site was purchased, the greatest possible care has been taken by all concerned with the planning and design of the scheme to achieve the best possible results and following my invitation to employees' representatives and to individual employees, many useful suggestions have been received regarding the development of the offices. I would like to pay tribute to the value of these suggestions and contributions made to planning generally by numerous individual employees, particularly with regard to their own places of work.

The most careful consideration has been given to them and it has been found possible to incorporate a substantial number into the scheme. The present position is as follows:—

MAIN OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

Extensive developments have taken place to ensure that the office accommodation available is put to best use. The general lighting level in the offices is satisfactory and arrangements have been made for supplementary additional lighting to be provided as required. Additional toilets and conference room facilities have been provided adjacent to the Laboratories.

DINING AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The main dining room area has been extended and an adjacent room, originally allocated for training, will provide a coffee lounge. In addition, recreational facilities are to be provided in an extension adjacent to the dining room, since the earlier proposals to provide these facilities on the upper floor of the stores block proved to be impracticable.

AMENITY BLOCK

A two-storey amenity block is to be provided which will include toilet, locker, shower and drying room

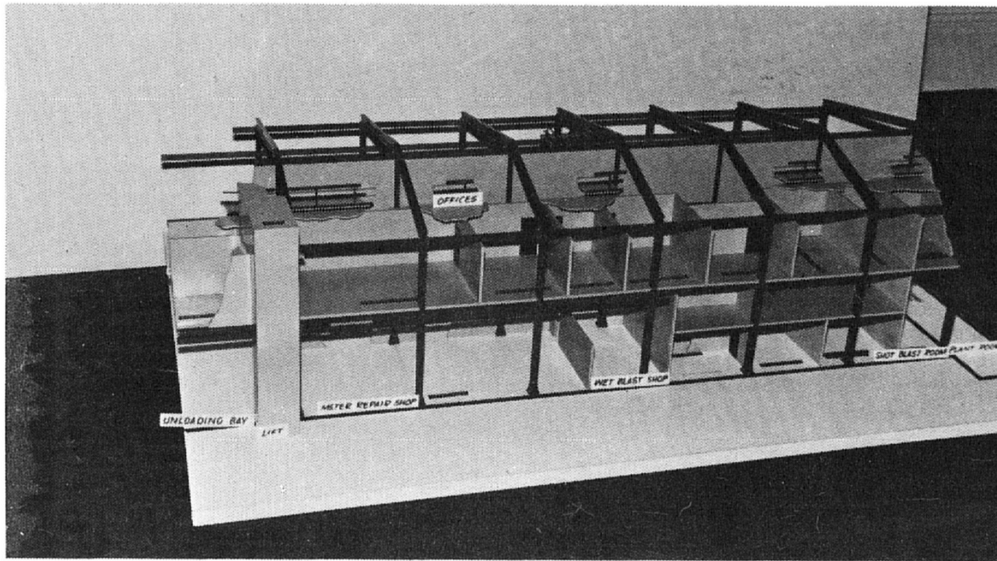
accommodation and catering for those employees who prefer not to use the main dining room. Within this block it is also planned to provide additional office accommodation for Walsall Area Office, particularly the uniformed grades.

WORKSHOPS

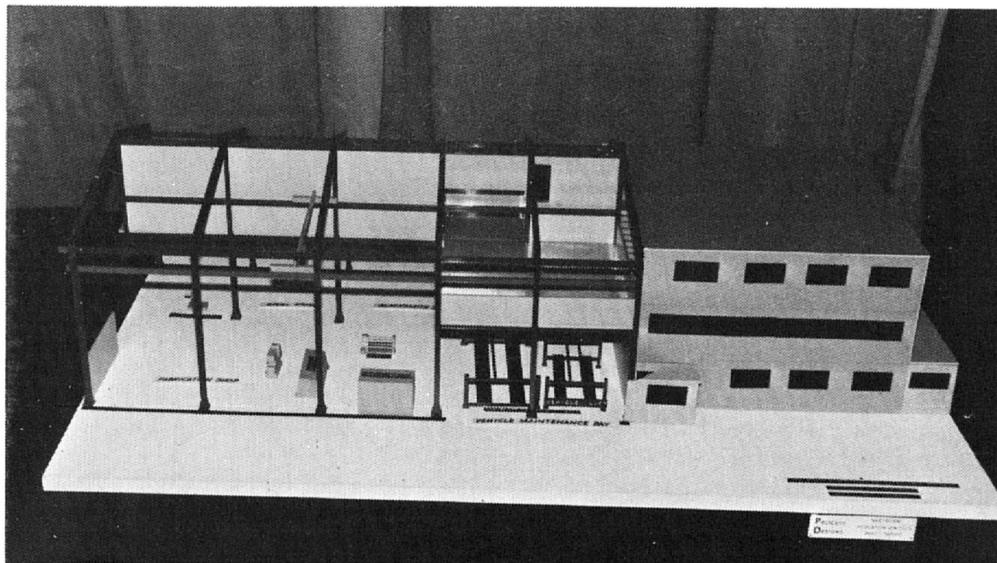
Great care has been exercised in planning the workshops and associated offices and the provisions will include machine shop facilities, electrical and mechanical fitting shops with associated testing areas for motors, pumping and meters, and a blacksmith's and a welding and fabrication workshop. There will be a main steel storage area together with local storage throughout the workshops and a facility for the surface cleaning and painting of manufactured items. Each workshop will be conveniently serviced by adequate craneage facilities and a separate vehicle maintenance bay with hydraulic ramps will also be included. A main entrance will be provided between the workshops and the amenity block, giving easy access to the workshops and associated offices.

ROAD AND OTHER SITE WORKS

A complete appraisal of road works and site storage has been carried out and the provisions include re-fuelling bays and additional open and covered storage facilities. Adequate car parking facilities for private cars will be provided and there will be convenient access to all storage areas and buildings. The detailed investigation of the works and the adoption of many of the suggestions made, together with the need to obtain planning permission and building regulation approval in changed circum-



Photographs showing the Meter repair shop, Wet blast shop and Shot blast room (above), and the Administration Offices, Fabrication shop and Vehicle maintenance bay (below)



stances, have taken time and the revised estimated dates of occupation are as follows :-

- Main Office – November 1979
- Laboratories – December 1979
- Central Stores – November 1979/July 1980
- Workshops and Amenity Block – July 1980
- Walsall Area Office and Building Section – July 1980

Whilst this detailed planning work was in progress, meetings were held on two occasions in July 1978, when the project was described in detail, and since that date information has been sent from time to time to the employees' representatives or has been communicated through the Joint Consultative Committees. Special meetings have also been held with the trade union representatives, outlining the

Company's proposals for disturbance allowances. In addition, interviews have been held with 250 employees with a view to assessing how the move would affect each of them personally. As a result, a small number of cases have been identified where employees have especially difficult problems and I am pleased to say that preliminary investigations of these cases show that it may be possible to make alternative proposals which will alleviate some of these difficulties.

Discussions are continuing with the employees' representatives on the disturbance allowance scheme and the effect of the move on Conditions of Service, with a view to obtaining agreement prior to formal recommendations being made to the Board.

JAMES LAMONT
General Manager

Anyone for Cricket

With the exception of a netball team, and a recently formed football team, the Company employees do not engage in many sporting occasions. This was not always the case. These photographs show The South Staffs. Waterworks 1956 cricket team which, by all accounts, was a fairly successful one. It features such well known personalities as the former Company Secretary, Mr. Tibbenham, the current Administration Officer, Mr. Thomas, Senior Distribution Engineering Assistant, Mr. Wright, and also the loyal supporter and scorer, Miss Clare Parry, who was for a long time the switchboard operator at Birmingham.

Unfortunately, little else is known about the team, and its achievements, if any, so the editor would be grateful to receive any such information so that we can tell all those who were still in their nappies, about the days when the sun beat down on a hard wicket, and how the heroic South Staffs. cricket squad bowled the Australian Touring Side out for 99 – or was it the other way round?

Photographs by courtesy of Mr Brian Morrall, Consumer Services, Birmingham.



Miss Clare Parry, the most dedicated of score keepers.



The 1956 South Staffordshire Waterworks Company cricket team.

"Waiter There's a Receptionist in my Soup!"

After willingly leaving the classroom at the age of 16, I had great fantasies of what hotel life, and being a hotel receptionist would be like. So I decided to take a one year course at the 'Birmingham College of Food and Domestic Arts'. This course was not only about hotel reception work, it covered a variety of subjects, making it suitable for those wanting to do other lines of work, in or out of hotels.

The first thing that comes to mind was working in the college restaurant. By the end of the year, after a long list of collisions, spillages and breakages, all the receptionists had become Silver Service Waitresses, as well as being able to work at a bar, or be wine waitresses.

The more academic subjects included English Language, Maths (of course), French, and German, concentrating mainly on the oral content that was more essential in top class hotels. One hour of typing every day allowed us to take both 1 and 2 grades of the Royal Society of Arts examinations. Also, there was one lecture a week known as 'Social Skills', which attempted to make us all into very proper young ladies (?), by teaching us how to sit, speak and act properly.

At the end of the year came the final hurdle – examinations. The Diploma in Hotel Reception was the goal that everyone aimed for and I am glad to say I passed.

Unfortunately, actual hotel life turned out to be extremely different to the picture painted to me at college. Although they prepare you very well, they cannot show you the whole picture: that you must find out for yourself, and it was not all glamour, wine, and roses.

MANDY PYNE

The Consumer is always right

Our Consumer Services Department, as well as the Walsall Control Assistants, often have to deal with a wide range of customer complaints, so it is of no surprise to anyone, that they have, between themselves, come up with a selection of genuine consumer complaints.

Letter from Consumer:

"Thank you for reassuring me that my water supply is satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically, but as its occasional foul taste ruins my whisky, I shall have to drink the latter neat!"

Lady with Asian accent

– "I have 'bust' water all over in kitchen."

– "Ah – you have a burst pipe in the kitchen."

– "No understand – bust"

In black country accent

– "You've got a bust?"

– "Yes."

Then there was the lady who was asked what type of house she lived in, and left the phone for 5 minutes, and on returning breathless said, "It's detached."

The Consumer who had a shut off notification and rang to enquire when the water would be on – he was asked whether he had tried the taps and said he hadn't thought of that!

The lady who had no water – when asked where she was replied, "in the hall."

Control Officer: *"Good morning, South Staffordshire Waterworks"*

Consumer: *"Good morning, is that the Waterworks?"*

Consumer: *"I've got a leak"*

Control Officer: *"Where's that Madam?"*

Consumer: *"I'm in a call box"*

Consumer: *"I have a burst pipe"*

Consumer Services: *"Sorry Sir, but it's not Company responsibility"*

Consumer: *"But it's your ***** water, you fix it!!"*

"I have a blockage in my waterworks....."

Courtesy of Consumer Services at Birmingham and Walsall, and our team of Control Officers.

Modern Time Toys

Have you noticed how the common or garden wrist watch is changing? There may have been earlier ways of time keeping than a slow-burning candle, but it must have been helpful at least to the monks, in those early days, to know the hour, if only to determine the working, praying, and sleeping time. This beat the old system of going to bed at dark and rising for work when the cock crowed. Obviously 'Timepieces' were here to stay and were to improve vastly during the following centuries.

Recently, I was told that the office clock was nineteen seconds fast! This earth-shattering statement came from none other than our beloved "News Review" Editor. However, it was not based on a radio time signal, the speaking clock, or even a Divine message. Instead, it came from the Editor's new Quartz Digital Watch, which he was proudly waving under my nose.

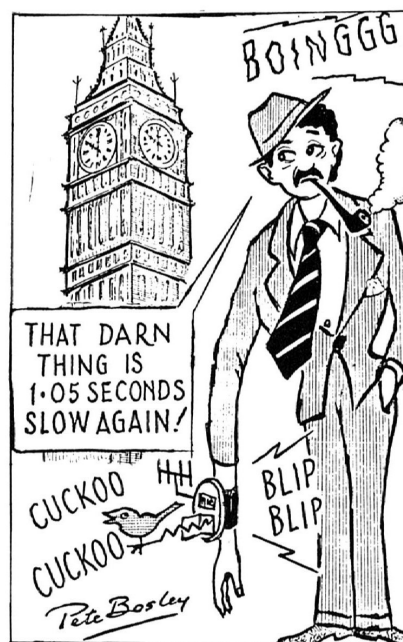
Today's Quartz watch, which up until recently did no more than tell the time, is a much more complex box of tricks, and is more of a plaything for the adult than the nodding Mickey Mouse watch is for the child. To keep up with the Jones's, it must have at least twenty different functions, the first four of which, surprise, surprise tell the time. One function displays the day. Everybody knows that it is Wednesday when it is Wednesday, you may say, but you will be forgetting that this information can be invaluable to castaways, alcoholics and honeymooners. (Help! What happened to Sunday, Monday and Tuesday?). Another function tells you the date, which must be particularly useful if you are in the habit of crossing the desert without such essentials as a piece of wood and a penknife! Equally as important for cave dwellers is the back light, but it must be remembered to keep an electric torch handy so that the correct operating button may be selected.

If your present watch falls short in any way from what is laughingly called a "Present Day Wonder"

don't let it get you down as Tomorrow's watch will outstrip them all. Your personalised "CHRONO-MONOGRAPH" of the future will be the near ultimate in wrist-wear. It will provide you with such exciting extras as one's personal Biorhythms for the day, will monitor your calorie intake, register body temperature, pulse rate and blood pressure, give you immediate contact with the Police, a direction indicator to the nearest public convenience, plus a plug-in module to enable the owner to 'lock-in' to an orbiting satellite for other specialised information. An 'A' Level course will be offered for instruction in its proper use, of course.

Will it give the correct time? One would hope so, but you can't expect everything, can you?

BOB MOUNTFORD



"Them and us"

If one is to believe the economists, and newspaper commentaries, then a "Them and Us" situation exists in British Industry. Here is a more humorous look at such a situation:

"They have nothing to do – "We are overworked!" and all day to do it in!"

"They are well paid executives." – "We're slaves on the poverty line."

"They are snobs!" – "We are better than they."

"They **never** have any problems." – "We have **ALL** the problems."

"They never tell **us** anything!" – "We are forever giving **them** information."

"They are unreliable." – "We are infallible."

"They are never at work." – "We never have time off – even when we are sick!!"

Remember, you may be "We" to yourselves and others in your office, but to others, you will always be one of "Them"!!

ROGER H. MORGAN
Tipton

Annual Dinner Dance

The Social Club (formerly the Staff Association, Birmingham) celebrated its 58th anniversary at a splendid dinner dance held at the Pavilion Suite of the Edgbaston County Cricket Ground on Friday 23rd March, 1979.

There was a good attendance of 162 members and guests including five of our Directors who, by all accounts, thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were pleased to see the members obviously having a good time. It was encouraging to see the participation of the members from Wood Green, Walsall, Tipton and Burton which we hope will increase in the future.

Both Mr E J Thompson, our new Company Chairman and President of the Social Club, and Mr J H N Thompson who proposed the toast to the Social Club, praised the retiring Chairman, Sir Charles Burman, for his leadership and guidance on behalf of the Company as a Director for the past 30 years and as Chairman of the Company and President of the Social Club for the past 20 years.

Mr Evers, the newly elected Social Club Chairman, also thanked Sir Charles and Lady Burman for their support and encouragement of the Social Club over the years and, at the end of his speech, presented Sir Charles with a Stuart Crystal cut glass decanter and Lady Burman with a basket of flowers as a token of the Club's appreciation. Sir Charles thanked the Club members for their kindness and thought, and said that the decanter would be a constant reminder for him and Lady Burman of the years they had been associated with the Club.

The official guests for the evening were John and Shirley Banham. I am sure many readers will remember John from his years as Deputy New Works Engineer and later Deputy Distribution Engineer in the 1960's. John is now Controller of Operations for the Derwent Division of the S-T.W.A. and, is at present, Chairman of the Midland Section of the Institution of Water Engineers and Scientists.

Mr Evers paid tribute to his special guests Wood Green electrician Trevor Wright, and his charming wife Rosemary, and the members at the dinner were enthralled by the success achieved by both Trevor and Rosemary in the world of long and middle distance running, wishing Trevor every success in his bid for the Olympic Title in the Marathon in Moscow in 1980.

John Wilson, the Club's new Vice-Chairman, organised the raffle which raised £54 towards the Children's Christmas Party and our thanks are due to the Company's Chief Officers for their generosity in providing the prizes.

The evening was generally considered to have been a huge success which was due to the pleasant air of informality which existed, and was encouraged by the use of circular tables at the dinner. John Morrall, who organised the occasion, will be building upon the success of the evening in the hope of encouraging

greater participation of the members next year. Many thanks John, and all the other members who helped behind the scenes to make the evening so enjoyable.

A EVERS

Social Club Chairman - (B'ham)

Walsall Social Club 1978

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

One of the highlights in Walsall Social Club's calendar is the children's party, which seems to improve from year to year, with no exception in 1978. After jelly, cakes, ice cream, pop etc. had been readily consumed, we sat to watch cartoon films, with a well earned rest for all the helpers, until it was time for Father Christmas to arrive to distribute his presents, much to the delight of all the children.



DUDLEY CANAL TRIP EXPEDITION

On Saturday October 7th, 1978, the Social Club (Walsall) set off by coach to visit the Dudley Canal Tunnel. After travelling around Dudley enquiring as to the embarkation point, the party duly arrived only to find that the boat was nowhere to be found, so a search party was sent out to find same. On their return we set off to board 'Electra', where our captain and crew awaited us, then off into the tunnel we set. The history of the tunnel was relayed to us en route, amongst the screams from ladies and children as water dripped from above!!

A welcome hot drink was served by Mr P Dodds and his crew, as members were asked if they would like to propel us along by the old method of 'Legging' which proved to be a very hilarious experience, as we bumped along from wall to wall, but eventually emerged safe and sound to wend our way home.

R SELVEY
Walsall

Forthcoming Birmingham Social Club Event:-

2nd Annual Outing

- Tuesday, 19th June, Trip to London, including an evening performance of "Evita".

Personalia

Welcome, to the following newcomers to the Engineer's Department.

Birmingham Office

Mr R Harding, Electrical Design Draughtsman
Mr E J Bayliss, Chauffeur
Mrs K Massey, Work Study Assistant
Miss M Beynon, Junior Clerical Assistant
Mr N Ridgway, Electrical Design Draughtsman
Mr J Golding, Technician Engineer

Blithfield

Mrs E Lycess, Clerical Assistant
Mr D Murray, Estate Worker/Sawyer

Burton Office

Mr M Chadbourne, Waste Inspector

Hampton Loade

Mr D Jeffreys, Fitter
Mr G Steward, Plant Operator

Tipton Office

Mr E Willis, Trenchman
Mr P Fox, Trenchman

Walsall Office

Mr P Banners, Waterman
Mr N Houghton-Williams, Trenchman
Mr B Crawley, Waste Inspector
Miss B Grainger, Clerical Assistant
Mr D Schofield, Charge Hand Vehicle Mechanic

New Appointments

Mr Andrew Scudamore, Deputy Administration Officer, Birmingham Office.

Welcome, to the following newcomers to the Secretary's staff.

Accounts Dept

Miss I Krutin, Clerical Assistant
Mr K McCullough, Assistant Accountant
Miss H Sadler, Typist
Mrs M Randell, Clerical Assistant
Mr P Yates, Internal Auditor

Computer Dept.

Mrs S Deykin, Computer Punch Operator
Mr I Jenkins, Computer Punch Operator

Revenue Dept.

Miss L Bromage, Office Junior
Mr J Hatfield, Clerical Assistant
Miss D Ingram, Trainee Shorthand Typist
Miss E Kilminster, Cashier
Mr E McCabe, Clerical Assistant
Mrs S Rudge, Cashier
Mr A Sabin, Office Junior
Mr P Salmon, Clerical Assistant
Miss J Taylor, Clerical Assistant
Mr S Went, Clerical Assistant

RETIREMENTS

Best wishes for a long and happy retirement to:

Mr W Pearson,
Waterman at Walsall **18 Dec 1978**

Mr J Mark,
Plant Operator at Hampton Loade. . . **26 Jan 1979**

Mr W J Chapman,
Filter Operator at Chilcote. **28 Feb 1979**

Mr F Nock,
Plant Operator at Hampton Loade. . . **17 Jan 1979**

Mr V W Guest,
Assistant Superintendent at Tipton **31 March 1979**

GOLD WATCHES

A Gold watch presentation was held on the 28th March in recognition of **25 years continuous service** to, **Mr D S Brown**, Distribution Engineer at Birmingham Office.

A Gold watch presentation was held on 30th April, in recognition of **25 years continuous service** to :-

Mr L R Torr, Waterman at Burton

Mr R S Cope, Driver at Cannock

Mr A T Jones, Ganger at Cannock

Mr E Hockell, Driver at Tipton

Mr S H Derrington, Waste Inspector at Walsall

Mr E J Fletcher, Group Foreman at Brindley Bank

Mr F Nock, Plant Operator at Hampton Loade

A Gold watch presentation was held on 31st May, in recognition of **25 years continuous service** to:-

Mr I E Wallis, Secretary/Treasurer, Head Office

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations go to Miss Vickie Brown, Work Study at Wood Green and to Mr Paul Wood, a BSc Civil Engineering Student at Birmingham University on their engagement on New Year's Eve.

Also,

to Mr Trevor Money, Administration at Birmingham and Miss Jill Blakeway, Sales Ledger Controller for Newey & Eyre, on their engagement on January 17th.

We are also pleased to announce that Mrs Margaret Riley, who left Consumer Services at Birmingham in December last year, has given birth to a bouncing 8lbs 5oz baby boy. The baby was delivered at 3.28 a.m. on Thursday 29th March at Birmingham Maternity Hospital. All our best wishes go to Margaret, the baby and of course the father, all three of whom are doing well.

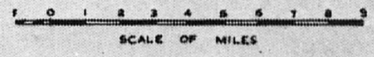
It is with deep sadness that we announce the death on the 26th January, 1979, of Mr Maurice Tildesley, a fitter at Wood Green. Our deepest condolences go to his family, and he will be sadly missed by all his friends and colleagues at work.

**THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
WATERWORKS COMPANY**

**PLAN OF AREA OF SUPPLY SHOWING SOURCES
OF SUPPLY AND PRINCIPAL WORKS**

EXISTING WORKS SHOWN THUS:—

PUMPING STATIONS
SERVICE RESERVOIRS
WATER TOWERS
AREA OFFICE



FLOW IN RIVER SEVERN
MAY BE AUGMENTED IN DRY
WEATHER WITH WATER
FROM CLYWEDOG RESERVOIR

Based upon the ordnance survey map
with the sanction of the Controller
of H.M. Stationery Office

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| 3. HULME SPRINGS | 18. NETHERTOWN | 33. SHENSTONE | 48. LANGLEY |
| 4. CRUMPWOOD | 19. PYE GREEN | 34. HOPWAS | 49. WARLEY |
| 5. PRESTWOOD | 20. MOORS GORSE | 35. GLASCOTE | 50. ASHWOOD |
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