



The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company

NEWS REVIEW

OCTOBER 1980

LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO WATER INDUSTRY

MR. JAMES LAMONT retired on 1st July, after 21 years with the Company and a lifetime of outstanding service to the Water Industry.

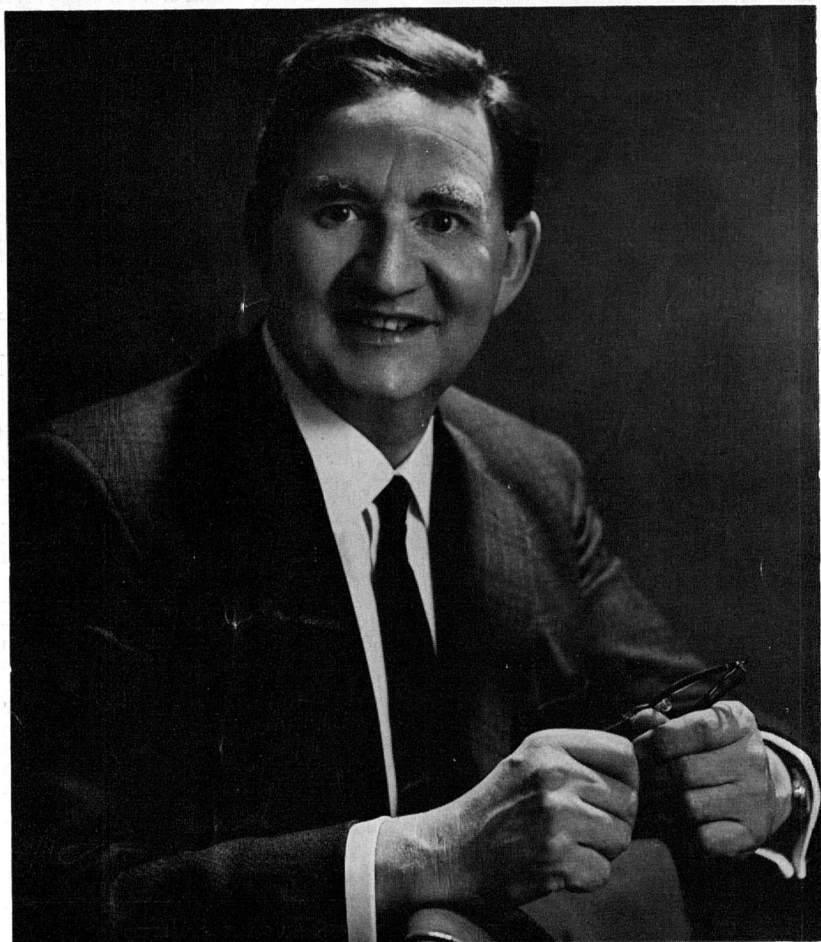
After initial employment in the contracting field his quest for knowledge and experience led him to positions of ever increasing responsibility with the Metropolitan Water Board, Nottingham Water Department, Oldham Corporation Water Department and Colne Valley Water Company.

During the past 21 years, in which he progressed through Deputy Engineer-in-Chief to Engineer-in-Chief to being the Company's first General Manager, he was at the centre of the many major developments within the Company. Under Mr. Taylor, Mr. Lamont was involved in the Cookley Scheme and the River Severn Joint Scheme. In particular, he was closely concerned with the design and layouts of the Hampton Loade Treatment Works, High Lift Pumping Station, River Intake Works and the large trunk mains to Sedgley Beacon Reservoir. He was also deeply involved in the construction of two major service reservoirs—Outwoods Nr. 2 and Glascode Nr 2—and the reconstruction and electrification of seven former steam pumping stations.

Achievement

He will be remembered for:—

- (i) the advanced technology of the Degremont Laing Water Treatment Plant, thus revolutionising water treatment plant management;
- (ii) encouraging the introduction of advanced technology into the Water Quality Laboratory;
- (iii) providing installations to allow River Severn water to be available in Burton-on-Trent and extending the River Severn Scheme to the Shavers End pressure zone;
- (iv) introducing water quality surveys and developing effective procedures for the scraping and relining of mains;
- (v) developing within the Company a sophisticated process of consumption forecasting and means for countering the effects of economic depressions in the West Midlands;



- (vi) encouraging the development of health and safety at national and Company level;
- (vii) introducing Joint Consultative Committees into the Company;
- (viii) improving transport facilities including the development of the Central Garage at Bridgeman Street;
- (ix) design and construction of the Central Office and Workshops.

During his period of service, Mr. Lamont drew up plans for dealing with disruptions brought about by industrial action of the miners and power workers. He saw the benefits, and the problems, of the introduction of

bonus schemes, and the effects that would follow from delays in implementation of schemes. It was fitting that the Central Offices at Green Lane were formally opened in the week before his retirement for he had had the foresight to see the benefits which would accrue from integrating the Company's operational departments.

Predictably, on his retirement, a youthful-looking, spry Mr. Lamont assured us that he would be looking at the opportunities that the micro-chip industry had to offer for small businesses.

We are confident that his inquiring mind, many faceted talents, and restless energy will be put to further good use.

1st Aug

NOV

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW:-

General Manager



MR. MARKHAM joined the Company in 1958 and has been a senior member of the staff throughout a prolonged period of growth and technical advance. He was appointed Distribution Engineer in 1960 and Deputy-Engineer-in-Chief in 1971 and, following reorganisation of senior staff, became Chief Engineer in 1978.

His university training was interrupted for seven years whilst on active service in the army and, on graduation in 1948, he joined the staff of the former Metropolitan Water Board.

During his career, Mr. Markham has been principally concerned with the management and operational aspects of water supply. It is

important to him that consumers should feel they get value for money from their water service and inter alia he believes that this can best be achieved through keen financial management, a readiness to adopt appropriate technological improvements and the promotion of first class industrial relations at all levels of employment.

Within days of taking up his appointment as General Manager, Mr. Markham showed that he intended to improve communications throughout the Company by having the following statement circulated.

It is appropriate that it is repeated by inclusion in this, the first edition of the *News Review* under the new management.

LOOKING AHEAD

I should like to take this early opportunity to inform you of some of the important issues facing the Company.

First, in view of the severe economic restraints that the country is now experiencing, I wish to ensure that each one of us feels able to contribute fully and willingly to the efficient running of the Company and, indirectly, to the recovery of the economy. I hope to encourage this further by improving communications and industrial relations at all levels of the Company. Suggestions for raising efficiency will be warmly welcomed.

Secondly, I see the next few years as a

period of change and innovation. This arises from a number of factors, such as the completion of the Central Office, Stores and Workshops; the adoption, where appropriate, of advanced technologies and the effect of improved methods of working. I am sure that we can meet the challenge of change and make the Company even more successful than it is at present.

Thirdly, you will all be aware of the impending review of the activities of the Severn-Trent Water Authority and the Company by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. I consider that we are operating well

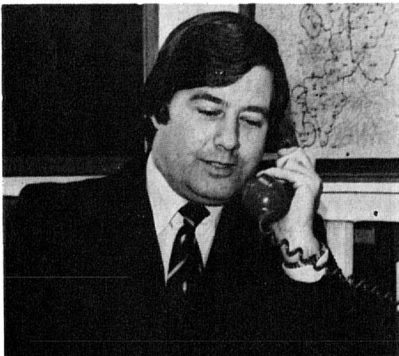
as a Company and that we can only welcome such an enquiry.

I have discussed some of these matters with the trade unions and believe that, in general, we share similar views about the future.

I look forward to working with you all in my new capacity as General Manager and trust you will feel that you are a member of a team whose joint experience and ability guarantees both the maintenance of the high level of service which our consumers have traditionally enjoyed and success in overcoming any difficulty.

W. A. MARKHAM

Chief Engineer

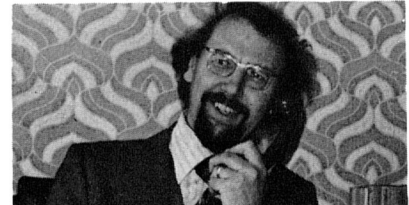


MR. D. S. BROWN joined the Company in 1954 as an articled pupil to Engineer-in-Chief, Mr. R. A. Robertson, qualified as a Chartered Civil Engineer in 1961 and, subsequently, following extensive involvement in the River Severn Scheme, was appointed Construction Engineer in 1967.

Seeking all round Water Engineering experience, Mr. Brown transferred to Distribution in 1971 and served as Distribution Engineer to the date of his appointment as Chief Engineer.

Mr. Brown considers that design and construction experience on the River Severn Scheme and subsequent operational and management experience in Distribution Department to have been invaluable, and is a strong advocate of service in both New Works and Distribution functions as a sound basis for the development of a career in Water Works.

Appointment of Distribution Engineer



MR. E. A. S. GADSBY was appointed Distribution Engineer on 2nd July, 1980. He joined the Company in 1971 as Deputy Distribution Engineer after previous waterworks appointments with Sheffield Corporation Waterworks and City of Birmingham Water Department.

AND WELCOME TO THE NEW

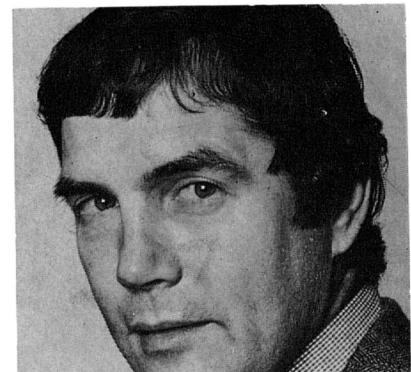
Administration Officer

JOHN HARRIS joined us as Administration Officer in May. He is a Chartered Secretary and a Graduate in Law and is hoping to become a Barrister-at-Law in the near future.

John, trained with an American Company, worked for a short while in the Legal Department at the C.E.G.B. and joined Coventry

Corporation in 1970. When he left he was an Assistant Chief Officer with responsibilities similar to his present post.

He is a keen sportsman, having played rugby for Kenilworth and Coventry and plays squash at the Coventry and North Warwickshire Club.





The Company's Chairman, Mr. E. J. Thompson, formally opened the New Central Offices at Green Lane, Walsall on 27th June.

OFFICIAL OPENING

ON 26th June, the Directors commenced their annual Visit to Works at the Central Office and the Chairman, Mr. E. J. Thompson, formally opened the Office, unveiling a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

In a short speech, the Chairman expressed his pleasure that the opening had occurred before the impending retirement of the General Manager, Mr. James Lamont. He complimented Mr. Lamont for his foresight in realising the site's potential and commented upon his drive and energy which had been instrumental in bringing about the transformation of a derelict area to provide in addition to attractive and practical working conditions for Company employees, an operations centre that would improve the efficiency of the Company.

GREEN FOR GO

ON 18th February, 1980, the first wave of Company employees arrived at Central Office, Green Lane.

They had said that it was just a dream, a kind of Nirvana which existed only in the innermost thoughts of senior management and visionaries in Building Section. There were visions of droves of menials struggling lemming-like to the upper reaches of the M6 motorway to the north of the portentously named 'Black Country', trailing their precious belongings in gilt-spurred (?) chariots.

But then prophets came down from the mountain, carrying messages from above which gave us hope of imminent achievement of paradise, with Ambrosia dispensed from the new tea machines, a machine that made money, and a summertime temperature all the year round.

A base camp had been set up some years ago (Walsall Area Office) and it was hoped that this could act as a control centre until control (?) was transferred to the new colony, at a later date, and so it came to pass.

The optimum size of a self-sufficient community was discussed at great lengths on Mount Olympus and much feasibility work was undertaken to ensure that all would be as mortals would wish in their new home. Adonis-like John Bryan was given a somewhat less attractive earthly form and set to work to revitalise the site. Much use had to be made of Apollo's bolts to ensure that the site was kept safe from marauding natives, but dreams came true, just as the prophets had foretold even though like harbingers of doom prophesying the end of the world. they got the date wrong.

Mortals being mortals of course, did not necessarily trust the prophets, and some cried that a wolf in sheep coat (?) was enticing them away with empty promises, but slowly these doubts disappeared and mortals came to believe that they would be located in the new centre of the Universe.

And so they came, complete with maps of how to get home again, and with descriptions of local beauty spots and native transport arrangements, in one of the smoothest displacements of peoples in living memory.

All staff associated with the transfer of staff to Green Lane deserve the thanks of management and employees alike.

NICK CURTIS, D/D

GREEN LANE LAMENT THE VENDING MACHINE

with apologies to Betty Hutton and all those who remember her.

Oh, the vending machine, the vending machine,

Is not my friend,
If I couldn't see the vending machine
I'd be able to stretch and bend,
But I punch the buttons every day
It's buns and scones galore,
And since I came to Green Lane,
I've added a stone or more.

Oh, the vending machine, the vending machine,

It's got to stop.
My skirt is held up with a safety pin
And my buttons all go POP,
It's rolls with ham or scones with jam,
And coffee all sweet and white,
I cannot see my feet at all,
They both are out of sight.

Oh, the vending machine, the vending machine,

I wish it would fall to bits.
If I couldn't work the vending machine
Soon all my clothes would fit.
But I push those buttons every day
I've no restraint at all,
And it's not much fun looking five feet wide
When you're only five feet tall!

E. M. Harris,
Green Lane Lab.

PERSONNEL NOTES

EMPLOYEES—RETIRED

The following have retired since our last issue and we offer our best wishes for a long and happy retirement. We feature Mr. J. Lamont, Peter Thomas, Derek Sanders, Bill Webb and Rob Robertson.

R. Philip	Chilcoate Pumping Station	31-10-79	28 years
(Ill health)			
H. Gretton	Walsall	1-12-79	25 years
J. McCombe	Burton	12-12-79	17 years
N. Beebee	Wood Green	18-12-79	28 years
T. C. Clarke	Tipton	19-12-79	31 years
L. A. Riches	Sandfields Pumping Station	30-1-80	34 years
P. F. Thomas	Birmingham Office	31-3-80	41 years
W. R. Emery	Cannock	17-4-80	39 years
J. T. Mason	Tipton	30-4-80	26 years
(Ill health)			
Mrs. J. M. Dale	Walsall	30-4-80	29 years
R. W. Robertson	Blithfield	16-5-80	31 years
J. T. Garbett	Seedy Mill Pumping Station	9-7-80	29 years
J. Lamont	Birmingham Office	1-7-80	21 years
D. E. Sanders	Birmingham Office	31-7-80	40 years
W. B. Webb	Water Quality Control	4-8-80	45 years
E. Cottam	Tipton	6-8-80	14 years
L. J. Leason	Birmingham Office	13-8-80	16 years
S. Cooper	Walsall	13-8-80	21 years

PRESENTATION OF GOLD WATCHES AND THE TRAINEE WATERWORKS OPERATIVES' CERTIFICATES

A Gold Watch presentation, by the Chairman, was held on Monday, 28th April in recognition of 25 years' service to:—

Name	Job Title	Location
Miss B. R. Greenhall	Clerical Assistant	Head Office
Mr. A. H. Worthington	Senior Clerical Assistant	Central Office
Mr. W. A. J. Britt	Pumping Station Attendant	Cookley Pumping Station
Mr. C. W. Jennings	Mechanic	Transport Section
Mr. J. R. Lawley	Mains Joiner	Tipton Area Office
Mr. J. E. M. Taylor	Waterman	Burton Area Office
*Mr. G. Lockley	Leading Mains Joiner	Walsall Area Office

* Could not attend due to ill health.

On the same day a presentation of City and Guilds Awards was made to the following Trainee Waterworks Operatives:—

Name	Location
Mr. P. Smith	Cannock Area Office
Mr. M. Rooney	Tipton Area Office
Mr. S. Downen	Walsall Area Office
Mr. M. Hinton	Walsall Area Office

COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE DIED

Let us remember our colleagues who died recently.

Death in Service

Name	Died	Service	Work Location
A. M. Cooper	26-02-80	32 years	Slitting Mill
J. A. Bradley	16-04-80	20 years	Tipton A.O.

Death in Retirement

Name	Died	Service	Retired	Work Location
J. Caswell	23.11.79	41 years	18.01.69	Walsall
C. A. Smith	07-12-79	43 years	13-05-70	Lichfield
G. W. Bott	23-12-79	34 years	24-02-71	Walsall
E. L. Ingram	02-03-80	15 years	18-03-55	Wood Green
W. H. Wain	18-03-80	12 years	17-10-75	Burton
R. H. Stamps	24-03-80	41 years	14-05-70	Consumer Services Section, H.O.

R. A. Rudkin	16-04-80	35 years	28-02-68	Tipton
C. T. Broadhurst	22-04-80	19 years	12-03-60	Walsall
A. T. Windsor	02-07-80	41 years	21-03-66	Sandfields
W. J. Johnson	07-07-80	41 years	17-11-65	Trent Valley P. S.
C. W. Jennings	14-08-80	42 years	28-04-68	Walsall

Mrs. T. Winterbottom, wife of Tom Winterbottom, of Tipton Depot, died on 23rd July, 1980.

In Memoriam

Samuel Tapper died 4th August 1979, who served the Company for 36 years, before retiring in 1975. Fondly remembered by sons Tony, Terry and Gary.

ENGAGEMENTS

John Morrall (Admin. Green Lane) to Rosalyn McFetridge on 25th May 1980.

Len Jackson (Dist. Green Lane) to Margaret Freeman on 29th August 1980.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to: Michael Kiely (Personnel) to Leony Hampton-Mathews on Saturday, August 9th at 3.00 p.m. at Harborne.

Karen Owen (Green Lane) to Ken Hill at Birmingham Registry Office on Saturday, June 21st at 10.45 a.m.

Karen's marriage to Ken was a happy affair, marred only by her obvious ill health, the symptoms of which were giving cause for alarm to her family and friends.

EDITORIAL

The 'News Review,' it is hoped, will once again become a regular edition.

We will endeavour to make copy that will be of interest to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company as a whole and great effort will be made to give adequate column space to Depot News, as well as Head Office and Central Office.

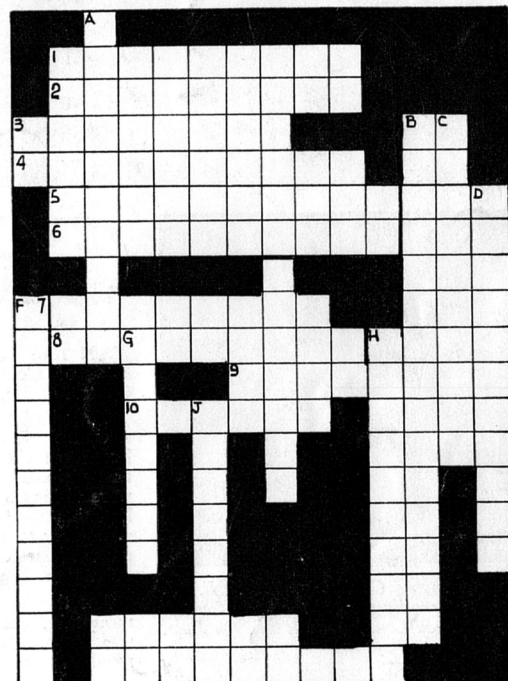
Alf Myers and myself, as joint collators, have tried to produce a newsy 'News Review' for your interest and, I hope, amusement, but, please remember, this is your magazine and we want your features in it.

If 'Joe Bloggs' in your Depot, Office or Trench gets married, grows the best orchids in Staffordshire or has won the Pools, please give us a ring.

Celia Turner—Central Office, Ext. 219

Alf Myers—Head Office, Ext. 268

S.S.W.W. CROSSWORD



(Main Clue: All part of the Company)

11. Witches Meadow?
12. Winter dress.

CUES ACROSS

1. Hard Board.
2. A run down power plant.
3. Faulty deep freeze.
4. Kindly coastline.
5. N.U.M.
6. An Inn Sign.
7. Perhaps the relation of a garage foreman.
8. No grass.
9. Double doors.
10. 20 cwt. of nutty slack on your drive.

CUES DOWN

- A. No Duty Free this way.
- B. Natural cover.
- C. Discarded blade.
- D. Ancient road.
- E. Burnt Tree.
- F. Never out of bounds.
- G. Disapproving fruit?
- H. Not so good Benny.
- J. Red Indian smoke scene?

Produced by Ron Woodhouse, Building Section.

She bravely managed to cope with the excitement of her special day.

However, three days later she was admitted to hospital for an emergency operation for a brain tumour. It was a great relief to all concerned that the operation was totally successful and that no complications from the illness are foreseen and friends who have visited her in hospital report that she is rapidly returning to good health, with a good sense of humour.

We look forward to seeing her soon and wish her a long and happy marriage.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to: Terry and Chris McAllister on the birth of their second child, a son, Antony Lawrence, on 25th July, 1980, weighing in at 7 lb. 14 oz.