

The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company



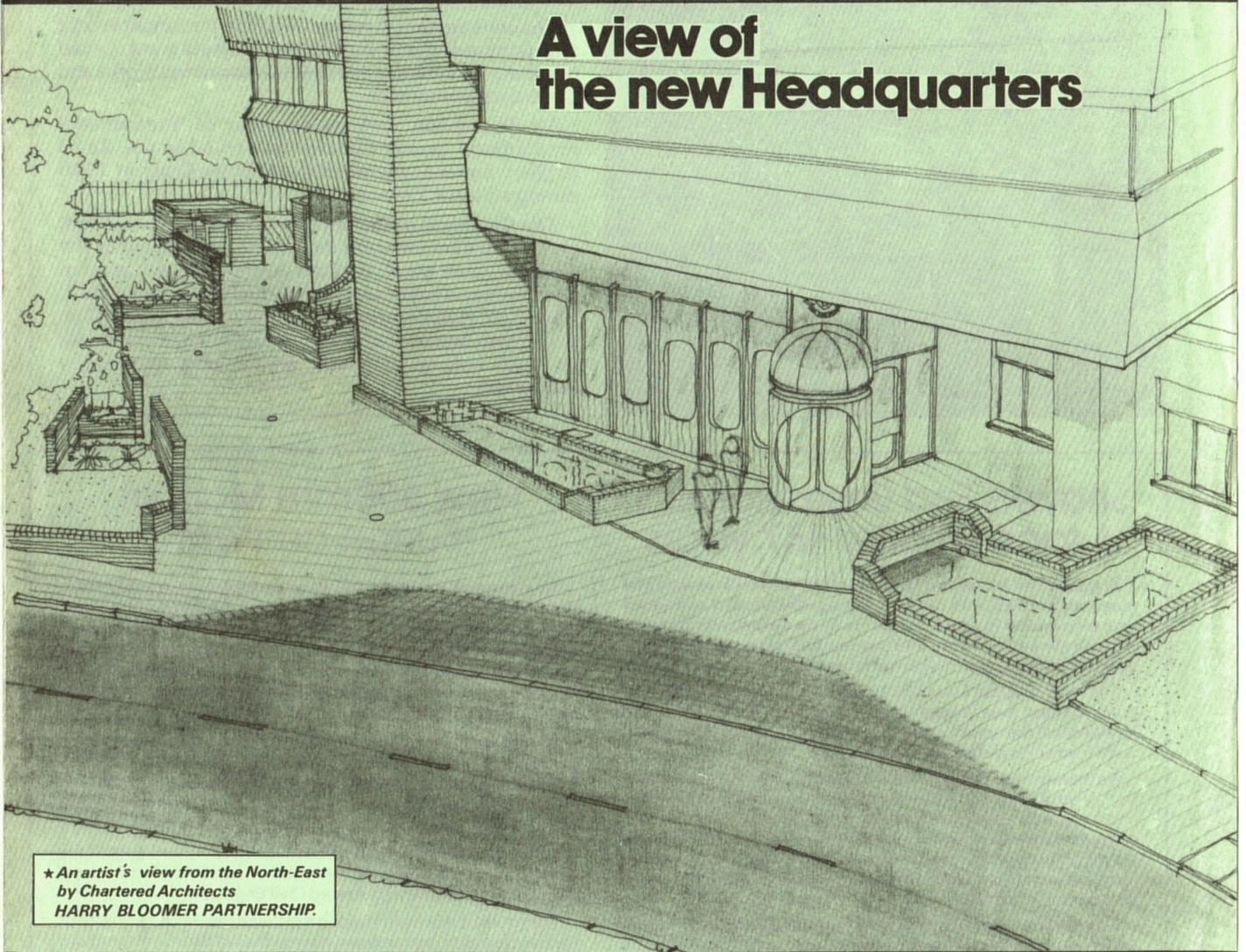
REVIEW

JUNE 1983

Monthly Newsletter



A view of the new Headquarters



★ An artist's view from the North-East
by Chartered Architects
HARRY BLOOMER PARTNERSHIP.

The main approach and entrance to the new Administrative Headquarters incorporate various design elements that highlight the Company's initiative towards the care and distribution of water.

A pool surrounds the screen and door assembly and also acts as an anti-flood device for excessive rain falling on the forecourt.

The slight vertical modulation of the lozenge-shaped windows reflects the rhythmic movement of water.

Furthermore, consideration has been given to illustrating aspects of Water Supply in etched glass panels built into the screen fenestration.

● (Foundations Laid... See page three)



Retirement of a Company Director

Mr J. H. N. THOMPSON retired from his position as Company Director on 24th February after 20 years service.

Throughout this period Mr Thompson took an active interest in the welfare of all Company employees and was at one time Chairman of the Superannuation Committee. As a Vice-President of the Staff Association and Social Club, both he and his wife supported many functions and the arrangements he made for the visits to Stanley Hall are recalled with much pleasure.

The construction of Hampton Loade Treatment Works and numerous major engineering projects were carried out under his stewardship as Chairman of the Works and Contracts Committee.

Mr Thompson was an engineer of international renown and during the war he served in the Royal Artillery and was awarded the Military Cross in 1940 during action in France.

The Chairman of the Company, Mr E. J. Thompson, presented him with two Persian rugs on behalf of the Company and Mr H. G. Sims made a presentation of decanters and wine glasses on behalf of the senior staff. Miss C. A. Hull, Honorary Secretary of the Social Club gave him a bouquet of flowers for Mrs Thompson. We all wish him good health and a long and happy retirement.

Shavers End Reservoir Nr 1 A face lift after 147 years

Shavers End Reservoir Nr 1 was originally built as an open reservoir in 1835, but, in 1903, it was refurbished and a roof was also added in 1905. It comes as no surprise therefore, to learn that after some 147 years of service, the reservoir appears to be suffering a little from old age.

The reservoir was taken from service in November 1981 as a precautionary measure, after an inspection of the structures revealed that the cracks in the brick arches and concrete roof, had worsened since the last inspection.

As the reservoir is so old, very little detail or information about its construction is available, therefore, it was decided to undertake a detailed site investigation to try and determine how earth embankments were constructed all those years ago, to examine the underlying natural ground formation and, finally, to install piezometers in the ground so that ground water levels could be monitored in the future.

Geo Research Limited were awarded the £32,000 contract to undertake the site investigation works which involved drilling 31 100mm diameter boreholes into the embankments and through the floor of the reservoir. These works were completed just before Christmas and the evaluation of the initial findings is now well underway. The Company's Geologists, *Edgar Morton and Partners*, have taken an active role throughout the period of works and, indeed, during the period of monitoring; it is hoped that they will forward their report to the Company outlining their recommendations by the end of June this year.

In the meantime, the reservoir has been refilled in stages (to simulate working conditions) whilst Technical Services Staff monitor and deal with the various details.

The reservoir will remain out of service until the remedial measures have been determined and carried out ensuring that it is fit for service once again.

H. J. BRYAN

New 500mm Main at Burton-on-Trent

Stretton and Rolleston areas are supplied at present from the Outwoods Reservoir pressure zone, supported by small quantities of local storage at Rolleston and Hanbury Towers. The system has not been working efficiently over the last few years and this, together with the development of a vast housing scheme, has meant that a mains reinforcement plan has had to be considered.

As part of the overall reinforcement scheme, John Bryan, Clive Ferneyhough and Jack Carnell from Technical Services Department, have planned the laying of a 500mm diameter 2.2 kilometers long ductile iron main to carry water from the existing 18in diameter main northwards towards Stretton and Rolleston.

Jack is on secondment from Operations Department to gain site experience which is required to enable him to take the Professional interview to become a chartered Civil Engineer.

The route of this main is along a disused railway embankment for the most part, terminating near to the old Stretton Junction. Considerable savings will be made by adopting this route as it is much more direct and, of course, there will be minimal reinstatement charges. It is not all 'plain sailing' however, and considerable skill will be required to lay the main with the Trent and Mersey Canal on the one side and a deep and wide drainage channel on the other.

Six contractors were invited to tender for the mainlaying contract, together with the Company's direct labour force from the Northern Area Office. Very careful examination of the tenders has been undertaken and, as the submission by the Northern Area Office has proved to be the lowest, they have been awarded the contract. Work will commence on the site in May and should be completed by October of this year.

H. J. BRYAN

Central Office Development

F. and E. V. Linford Limited from Cannock have been awarded the Contract for the construction of the new offices at Green Lane and commenced construction on 14th March.

The Contractors first task was to remove the ground around the tops of the concrete piles installed earlier by Cementation Limited and it will be mid-summer before the reinforced concrete frame of the building begins to appear in view.

The Company's Architects, The Harry Bloomer Partnership, are responsible for the design of the building and overall supervision of construction and Jeff Bishop, Ernie Horobin and Keith Hodson have been seconded to the Architects to undertake the day to day supervision of the works.

Arrangements will be made to ensure that liaison with the staff who are to move into the new building is carried out to determine accommodation requirements and provide the opportunity for the architect to explain his philosophy of the design and how the building will function.

The new building has been designed to be energy conscious. It will be equipped with its own computer control centre which will monitor heating and lighting systems, internal and external temperatures and external lighting levels. The computer will be programmed to adjust the heating system, control the boilers and even switch lights on and off in the offices automatically at the start and end of the day or if the sun comes out!! All to make the most efficient use of the energy consumed within the building.

In parallel with construction of the new building, additional car parking facilities are being provided on the adjacent, former T.I. site. M. and J. Drilling Services have located and stabilized two mineshafts within the proposed car park. Each shaft was about 2m in diameter, one was 33 metres deep, the other about 80 metres deep and although both shafts had been filled sometime in the past a total of 100 tonnes of grout were injected to ensure that they are now stable.

Design and supervision of construction of the car park is being carried out "in-house" and it is anticipated that the work, including landscaping will be completed by October 1983. The existing temporary car parking arrangements will have to be amended from time to time during the three or four month construction period.

The report, from our consultants, on the working environment within the existing open plan office at Central Office has been received and so discussions to consider practicable modifications to the offices can now take place.

A. EVERS



New Control Office Telemetry

The existing equipment for the telemetry system was installed in the original control room at Bridgeman Street during 1969, and a computer display was added in 1973. Since then there have been many additions and the main desk is now covered by push buttons, metres, and indicators. After the transfer to Green Lane in April 1980, the system was reviewed and a decision made to replace all the separate controls by three colour T.V. displays (V.D.U.'s) and keyboards.

The new system is currently being commissioned, but when completed the control assistant will have a direct indication of the level of every reservoir and the output of every source station. Many of the existing verbal devices such as Teletalks and Autodiallers will become redundant except for use in emergencies.

In addition to the summaries of reservoir levels etc. the computer displays will show a series of mimic diagrams for

each reservoir zone. These will include the state of every major item of plant as well as pressure, flow and level readings. For selected reservoirs a graph of the level over the previous 36 hour will also be available.

A total of 28 telemetry outstations will be installed at various sites. Some of these such as Holly Grange Reservoir will communicate over new ultra high frequency radio links, whilst others will use the traditional land lines rented from the G.P.O. — now British Telecom. At some sites which do not need remote control, the telemetry will share the normal telephone line with the station telephone. If you receive a strange series of noises it may not be the station attendant speaking.

The system will contain a total of 59 micro computers, and it is hoped that all the main parts of the system will be operational by September.

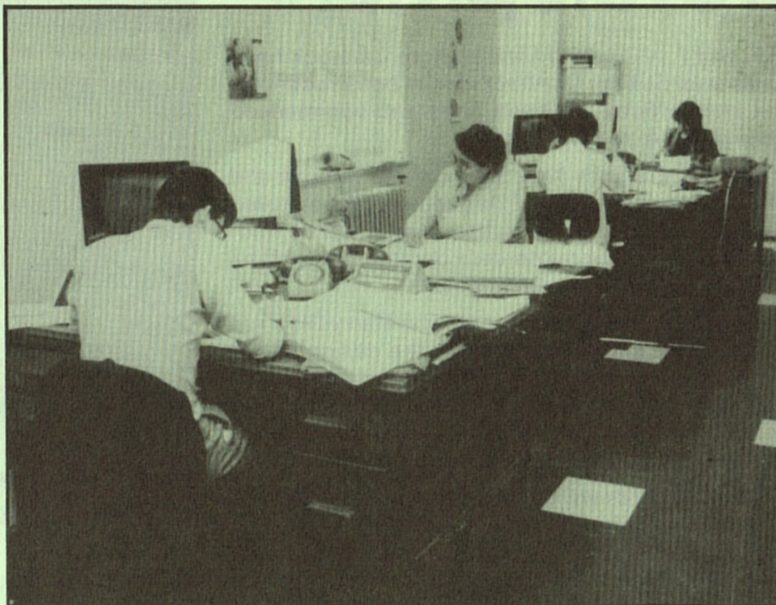
ROBIN COMLEY

REVENUE ENQUIRY BUREAU

As part of the re-organisation of the Revenue Department a new Enquiry Bureau has been set up using, as the picture shows, new Visual Display Units linked to the Computer main frame. The Bureau comprises six Stations complete with Visual Display Units, 10 line key and lamp telephone equipment and micro-fiche viewers (for back up).

The telephone number is 021-643 7599 and will appear on all future Accounts, Reminders, Notices etc. The main Head Office switchboard can also put accounts enquiries through to the Bureau.

An answering machine responds to callers outside working hours. The Bureau not only provides a fast and efficient service to consumers, but also relieves the rest of the department of the bulk of interruptions by telephone.



Safety Policy

The Company's Safety Policy for Health, Safety and Welfare has been revised and received Board Approval on the 24th February 1983.

It should be noted that the Safety Policy revision was carried out by the Management of the Company under direction of the Safety Officer, Ron Perks and consultation with the Company's Trade Unions Safety Representatives played a major part in shaping parts of the Policy.

The Revised Policy replaces the Safety Policy issued in 1980. The revision has been due mostly to the re-organisation of the Company.

Two of the main changes are the introduction of Section 7 and 8.

Section 7 is the Index of Safe Systems of Work and Section 8 entitled Safety Rules for Contractors lays down standards of Safety expected from contractors working on Company premises and sites.

It is intended that the Policy Statement, Departmental Safety Organisation Charts, Unit Managers responsibilities and employees responsibilities will be issued to all Company employees in series of seminars before the end of June 1983.

Full copies of the Safety Policy will be available for perusal from Principal Officers, Heads of Departments, Unit Managers and Safety Representatives.

R. PERKS

Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)

From the 6th April 1983, employers became responsible for paying SSP to employees for the first eight weeks of sickness in any tax year or single spell of sickness. There are flat rates of SSP, and no extra allowances are paid for dependants or married employees as under the old state benefit system. SSP will be taxed and both employers and employees will have to pay N.I. contributions on the SSP payments.

SSP is off-set against the Company's Occupational Sick Pay Scheme as determined by the Collective Agreements: it is not paid in addition to SSP.

After eight weeks of SSP payments in total, benefit becomes payable again under the old state scheme.

The SSP arrangements are immensely complicated and even the records to be kept are determined by the SSP legislation. The Company is administering the scheme through the Personnel Services Department, the bulk of the work being undertaken in the Payroll Section.

In order to cope with the changes required, the Company has reached agreement with the Trade Unions on the way in which the scheme will operate. The details are also the subject of National and Regional Agreements. John Morrall and Bill Hazelton have played an important role in ensuring that the necessary agreements and arrangements were made in time.

Seminars were held in March to inform supervisors and managers of the SSP arrangements, and they should be approached in the first instance if you have any queries on SSP.

More detailed queries can be answered by John Morrall, Sheila Phipps or David Downes in particular; other members of the Personnel Services Department will also be able to give advice generally.

In view of the complexity of the SSP legislation it is clear that many employers will not have been able to make adequate arrangements. However, the Company can proudly say:

"We were there when it happened."