

Review



Mr. David Linford, Chairman and Managing Director of Linford Building Ltd. presents Mr. E.J. Thompson, Chairman of South Staffordshire Waterworks Co. with a Commemorative Water Jug

Topping Out Ceremony

On Tuesday 10 April the extension at Central Office was 'topped out'. The occasion was marked by the presentation, on the site, of an engraved water jug to Mr. E. J. Thompson by Mr. David Linford, Chairman of Linford Building Ltd. It was attended by directors of the Contractor and South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, representatives of the Company's consultant design team and operatives on the site.

The topping out ceremony is a traditional way of saying

'thank you' to the men on site for completing the major structural elements of the building. It originated from the time when a bricklayer, having completed the chimney stack on a house, would fly a makeshift flag from a broom stuck in the chimney pot. The flag would not be removed until the owner of the property bought all the men on site a drink.

At this ceremony the Union flag was flown from the top of the lift shaft; the beer was Banks's.

Jeff Bishop

Corporate Plan 1984-89

I set out below a draft article for this month's News Review, which Mr. Markham has seen and approved:

"Introducing the 1984 Corporate Plan to one of three seminars for Senior Managers, the Managing Director designate, Mr. J. Carter, summed up the need for all individuals and organisations to have a "plan of action."

As an example, he used the family holiday to show how even a small group of people needed to give some careful thought (i.e. planning) to the problems of where to go, how to travel and when to arrive. Translated into the context of a large Company such as ours, many people had thought that such a plan of action was unnecessary, whereas in truth the need is even greater – the Company must plan even more carefully where it is going, what its operating policies are to be, and what rate of progress should be made towards its desired aims.

This, the second Corporate Plan, approved by the Board in March, builds upon the framework of the first Plan, published in March 1983. It gives a good indication of the major issues to be tackled by the Company during the next five years and is designed to give broad guidance on policy issues to managers,

supervisors and employees at all levels.

The Plan, in blue covers, is held by Heads of Department, Unit Managers and Section Leaders and is available to all employees on request. However, the document runs to 51 pages, and so a brief summary has been widely circulated for those who are interested in the general outline but who do not have a spare three or four hours to read the whole thing!

A separate version of the Plan will also be prepared for use outside the Company, for publicity purposes and to give information to consumers and their representatives. This will be of particular use to the proposed Consumer Consultative Committees when they are set up later this year.

Although the Plan covers a five-year period (1984 to 1989) we live in times of change, and the plan will be reviewed every year, commencing in October this year. This review process will help to ensure that the plan is always up to date and, with the backing of all of you, will mean that the Company continues to give its consumers an excellent service at lowest cost.

Any ideas for revision of the Plan should be forwarded through your line manager for consideration."

D. M. PENNA

Water Aid

Caribbean Cruise Draw – Result

Wessex Water Authority organized this draw and with such a tempting prize they were bound to sell many tickets.

The event made a profit in excess of £6,000 of which the combined Companies contribution was £1,115.

The winning ticket was drawn at the 'Wessex Fun Run' on the 8 April and the winner was MR. RIRIE of PURTON SEWERAGE WORKS, Nr. Swindon.

To all those who dreamed of lying on sunny decks and seeing exotic places, better luck next time for I'm sure that someone will think of another tempting venue to help support Water Aid.

Overseas Visitors



| NAME | PLACE OF BIRTH | NAME | PLACE OF BIRTH |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| ABURAS, Said | Libya | MANSON, Geoffey J. | Scotland |
| BROWN, Richard H. | Guernsey | MILAD, Mohamed A. | Libya |
| DINYA, Ambrose G. | Tanzania | MWENDA, Aidan T. | Tanzania |
| DWENLA, O. Francis | Nigeria | NORMAN, George | Britain |
| CONDWE, Jordan T. | Malawi | ROCHFORD, Tony | Barbados |
| JAMAL, Ebrahim M. | Bahrain | SAGER, Mohamed B. H. | Libya |
| KAIETI, Cain | Solomon Islands | SEALE, Gerald, W. | Britain |
| KAKAI, John W. | Kenya | SEKOBÉ, Gopolang J. | South Africa |
| KAWANGA, Michael | Tanzania | VEERAPEN, Canabady | Mauritius |
| MAGAGULA, Albert B. | Swaziland | WEBBER, Thomas | Sierra Leone |
| | | YIP, Stephen | China (Hong Kong) |

A group of twenty students from Aston University visited Company sites on Tuesday, 24th January to have a look at the Company's operations and how we deal with Safety problems.

The Group were shown around The WORKSHOPS, The LABORATORY and HAMPTON LOADE TREATMENT WORKS.

It is the second time that members of this course have visited The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, the previous visit being in January, 1983 and on both occasions the weather was extremely cold.

As you can see from the photograph shown and the listed names, most of the students were from Countries where the climate is usually somewhat warmer than even our Summer, so they must really have been feeling the cold as they posed for this photograph at Chelmarsh Reservoir.

These visits are not one sided as members of the Company's Safety Section regularly lecture at the Universities Environment & Occupational Health Department with Dr. Hani Raafat, the Department's lecturer co-ordinating.

M. PENNY, Safety Dept.

Overseas Activities Water Act 1983

Over the years many employed by overseas Water Undertakings have come to the Company in order to develop their knowledge and skills of Water Industry practice. They have usually been sponsored by the British Council and have used the Company to gain an insight into the working of a technically progressive Company.

The passing of the Water Act 1983 gave an impetus for the activity to be placed on a sound basis. The Act as well as changing the size and nature of the governing bodies of Water Authorities, had as one of its subsidiary clauses the right for Water Companies to undertake overseas activities on a commercial basis.

This came under the section of the Act simply entitled "Miscellaneous." It takes less than half a page to give Water Authorities and Water Companies the power to give advice or to give assistance including training facilities in which they have skill or experience.

But why spell out the right to undertake overseas activities if this has been done successfully for a number of years? The reason is government recognition that the Water Industry is successful and has some-

thing good to sell, namely the experience and the ability to run organisations that produces the best water in the world. This was made clear by the Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment, at the time Tom King, who urged Water Authorities and the Companies to go out and offer this unique service.

There are two minor hurdles mentioned in the Act. The first is that the Company needs the consent in writing of the Secretary of State and secondly, if expenditure is incurred then further approval will have to be given by the Treasury. The Company has been given to understand that in both cases consent would be readily given.

Mr. Markham has written to Company employees asking for volunteers if a suitable project were forthcoming. One or two have expressed a positive interest. Others within the Company have more informally shown a willingness to undertake a limited secondment overseas.

Maybe in the future there will be a small part of the world, entirely different from the West Midlands, that will be a South Staffordshire Company project and of concern and interest to all employees.

Central Workshops Improvements

The tradition of providing the Company with an adequate maintenance service has been greatly enhanced with the provision of the Central Workshops with its new machining facilities.

The majority of the work undertaken entails the overhaul of pumping plant and the manufacture or refurbishment of pump and valve components

Experience has proved that considerable time and expenditure can be saved by obtaining raw material and manufacturing replacements under our control.

The photograph illustrates the re-installation of a Sandhills Borehole Pump, which has been completely overhauled by the Mechanical Section.

The old saying still exists in the Workshops, 'Wonders are achieved daily but miracles take a little longer'.

DAVE WINDERS

