

Joining the Waterworks as Foreman 加入水務局當工目

I was first paid at daily wage instead of on salary basis. At that time I was 19 years old and had just finished Form 4 and couldn't get promoted to the next grade. My parents were illiterate and my father was Class I Foreman. The Inspectors were all expatriate and it were they who referred me to join the Waterworks.

那時候以日薪計，沒有月薪，因為那時我才十九歲，剛唸完中四，升不了班。父母文盲，雖然父親已為(水務局)一等工目，督察皆為外籍人，我便是經他們介紹進去工作。

When I first joined the department I was on night shift. For night shift there were 2 foremen. The Hong Kong Island was divided into many areas, e.g. from Arsenal Street via Johnston Road to Percival Street, that was one area. At night we went out to investigate leakage points. The Foreman of the day shift was well experienced and told us what to do in the evening. We had to shut down the pipes to individual households so that no water got into the pipes. We would then use a headset to listen if there was sound of leaking water along the supply water pipes and fire service water pipe. The few of us would locate a leakage by identifying points with the greatest noise. Then we would pile a crowbar into 2 feet under the ground where the pipe was, and listen to the sound of leaking water. We would jog down the street number, make a mark on the ground surface and notify the Foreman of the day shift to send someone to repair it.

我入職時當夜班，有兩個工目。香港分許多區，例如由灣仔軍器廠街至波斯富街，經莊士頓道為一區。晚上就去探喉管漏水位置，負責日班那位經已知道怎麼做，於是教我們夜班兩個晚上做防漏，要關閉住宅的水喉，不讓水流入，然後用耳筒聽食水喉、救火喉有沒有聲音，我們幾個人沿路聽著，看哪兒最響，便認定哪兒漏水，然後我們會用鐵筆打進地下約兩尺深位置，接近喉的位置所在，用耳筒可聽到「沙沙」水聲。接著便記下門牌街號，並在地上做記號，及通知日班那位工目派人來鋤地修理。

My employment was changed from daily wage to salary basis in 1949, and was eligible for pension terms 2 years later.

49年後由日薪轉月糧，再過兩年便有長俸。

Working at the Treatment Works as Assistant Inspector 出任助理督察時瀘水廠的工作情況

There were only a few staff members at the Treatment Works, namely Foreman, Technician and Workman, just the 3 of them. There were 3 shifts a day, 8 hours each. The Technician was responsible for regulate the chemical contents in particular flouride in the water. The Workman was responsible for clearing air foam and waste in the water. The Foreman was in charge of recording the amount of water for reporting to the next shift, so as to ensure the procedures were in order, and the drinking water was clean and up to standard.

那裡每日只有幾個人，分別是工目，技工，雜工，三個人，8小時一更，分早，午，晚三更輪值；技工負責調校食水中氟及其他化學成份的分量；雜工負責清理水中的氣泡、廢物；工目則負責定期記錄水量，報告交予下一更，確保處理食水的程序潔淨妥當，且符合標準。

My responsibility was to check with the Foreman the amount of incoming and outgoing water and I would take the departmental vehicle to do site inspection every week. My role was to inspect and improve. I have made a lot of improvements. At the beginning there was no toilet and I requested to build one. The initial response was that the staff could use the toilets in the Workmen Quarter Building. Then I further proposed to build a toilet on the top level of the Treatment Works Building

and add a pipe leading from there around the parapets of the filterbeds and then down to the waste water pipe of the Senior Staff Quarters.

而我則要向他查問，著他報告來去水量，每星期坐部門的車到實地巡視一下。我的工作主要是巡視和改良，那時我改良了很多東西，初時沒有洗手間，我便要求加建洗手間給員工使用，但得到回覆是，員工可走路回工人宿舍的洗手間；後來我再建議，在濾水廠頂層，鋪設一條喉，繞過濾水池，從貯水池上面的石壘接連到高級職員宿舍的污水渠去水。

When my father lived there we had got a government telephone for emergency use.

我爸爸居住的時候，政府有提供一部電話，以供緊急情況下使用。

Memories of the Elliot Site 有關濾水廠舊址的一些軼事

When my children were small, I used to bring them to swim down Sassoon Road, where the present Cyberport is. At that time many junior staff in Waterworks were Hakka people and there were staff quarters down there, so that we could take a shower and change after swimming and then cook for lunch there.

子女年幼時，我經常帶他們到沙宣道即現在數碼港的地方游泳。當時有很多工人及客家人在水務局工作，下面也有宿舍，可以沖水更衣，然後煮午飯吃。

There was water from the old filters by the hillside. The water came from the lower pumping station. We all collected water from there to boil for drinking. Every week the water was sent to the Health Department for testing and we all drink that instead of tap water. Although there was tap water, the water from the crack in the hill was better than chilled water especially in the hot summer time. That quality of the water deteriorated upon the construction of the small salt water pumping station.

當時山邊那舊濾水庫的殘水，來自下泵房，我們全都取這些水來煮沸飲用。每周都由衛生局檢驗，所以我們都拿來飲用，我們也沒有用水喉水。雖有水喉食水，但那來自山邊石隙的泉水，用一條小喉管引流，在炎夏時，十分清涼，勝過冰水。自從後來山坡上建了小型鹹水泵房，水便變了質。

People at the Senior Staff Quarters 高級職員宿舍的人和事

Mr. Glanville who was there before Helen's father used to come home on a palanquin from the pumping station down the hill. Helen's father preferred to walk while my father usually drove back home as there were parking facilities. When my father saw them, he would pick up Helen and drove her home. I saw her grow up as I was 10 years old than her.

在 Helen 父親之前那位 Glanville 先生選擇坐轎，由轎夫從山坡下的泵房沿石級抬上山回家，Helen 的父親則多選擇走路，而我父親通常駕車回家，因家宿舍有車房，當駕車經過他們時，便會抱 Helen 上車載她回家。那時我看著 Helen 長大，我比她年長十年。

When they were not home in the afternoon, I would drop in the house as I knew the amahs and cook who were all Chinese.

下午他們不在家，我便到裡面串門子，因我跟他們家的傭人及廚師都認識，他們全都是中國人。

During Christmas time, they would invite us to join their Christmas party and we would bring alcohol of foreign origins, fruits and chocolates as gift. That was a necessary gesture every year.

在聖誕節時，他們會邀請我們參加他們家的聖誕派對，我們會帶備洋酒、水果和巧克力作禮物，那是每年必須的啊！