

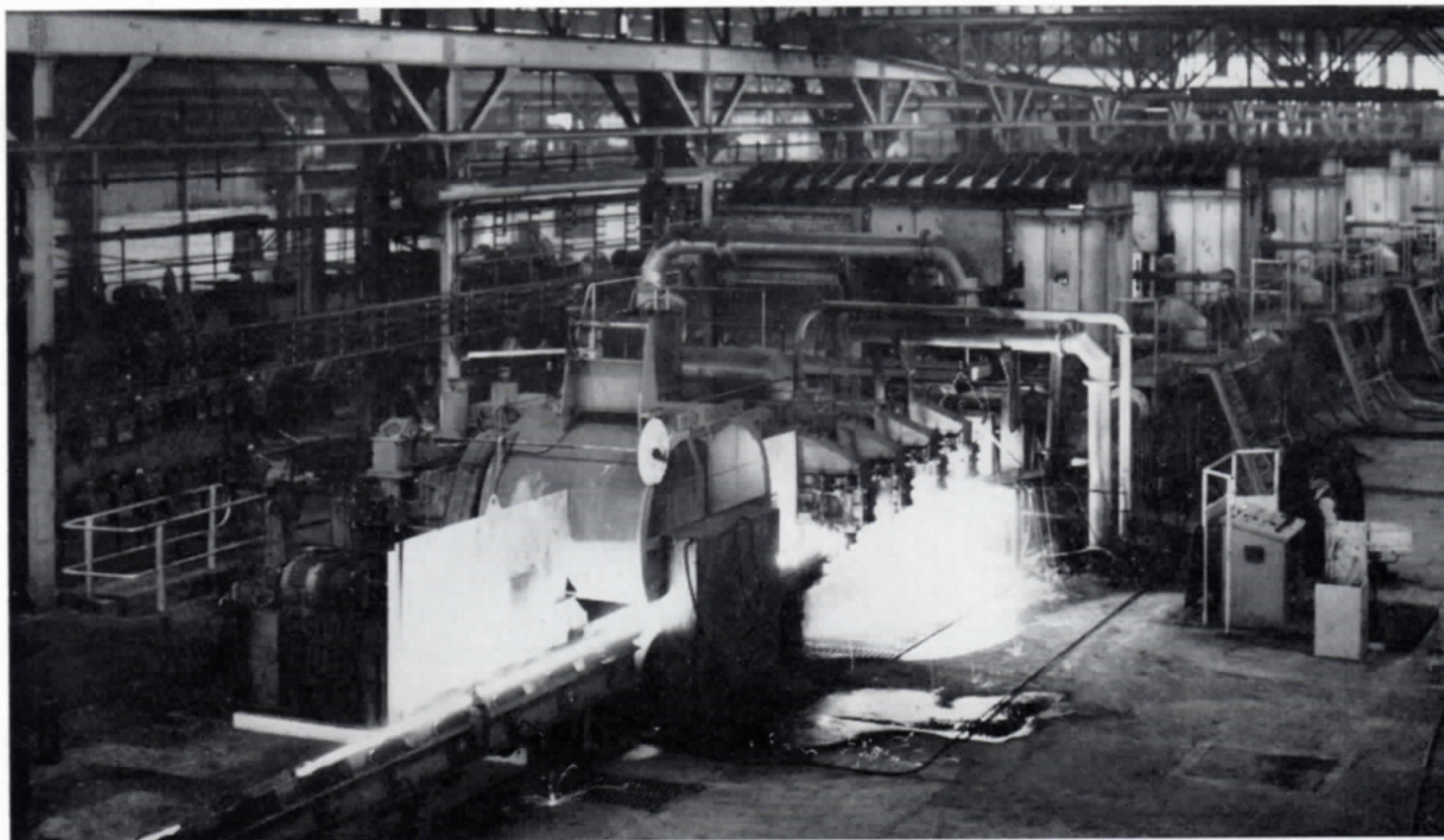
RIGHT AHEAD

THE HEAD WRIGHTSON NEWS LETTER

VOL. 6

APRIL, 1955

No. 1



Flying Hot Saw in operation at Stewarts & Lloyds Ltd.

Chairman's Letter

Most of us are so busy on our own jobs, that we do not often review the contributions Head Wrightsons make to the world's trade.

We have works, or are associated with works, in South Africa, Australia and India. We have offices in other Dominions and Colonies. We have agents in nearly every country where our products and services may be required.

Considering our products: we are building reactors at Harwell; heavy steel casings for the first new Atomic Energy Power plant at Calder Hall; the large heavy water plant in New Zealand; and have just completed the atomic waste destructor plant, over which there has been so much fuss in the newspapers. We shall participate fully in the increasing industrial development of nuclear power.

This is all new.

We have other new developments arising more out of our traditional lines, such as the latest gas cleaning plants, the latest sintering plants, and the latest type of large water cooling towers.

We supply unique modern plants for galvanising, tinning, tube and bar drawing, and for dealing with

sheets, tubes and bars, and similar end-products of iron and steel, and of non-ferrous materials.

Our colliery and coal preparation activities have been recently strengthened by our purchase of Colliery Engineering Ltd. in Sheffield. There is a subsidiary company which mines barytes, fluorspar, galena, and other minerals.

In addition to all these, we are still amongst the leading suppliers of our old-established lines in steel and alloy castings, iron castings, and drop forgings.

Most of us know all this. It is sometimes a good thing to refresh our memories. It is always a good thing to remember that the effect of our reputation for first class service and for high quality, in any one activity, has its effect over a very wide area.

"Progress is not an accident" said Herbert Spencer, the philosopher, who was, incidentally, trained as an engineer.

Our quality and service stand high. It will, I hope, continue to stand second to none. We can then be sure we make progress.

Richard Miles

PERSONAL

BIRTHS

Head Wrightson Machine Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Lambton—a son.
Mr. and Mrs. Stan Levett—a son.
Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Clark—a daughter.

Head Wrightson Steel Foundries Ltd.

Teesdale

Mr. and Mrs. A. Dwyer—a son.

Stockton

Mr. and Mrs. H. Laverick—twin sons.
Mr. and Mrs. Jock Robertson—a daughter.

Wagon D.O.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Holligon (nee Mavis Greenwood)—
a daughter.

Cashiers.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Huitson—a daughter.

Iron Foundries (Egglescliffe).

Mr. and Mrs. H. Williams—a son.
Mr. and Mrs. S. Davies—a daughter.
Mr. and Mrs. N. Webb—a son.
Mr. and Mrs. R. Brown—a son.
Mr. and Mrs. N. Rowntree—a daughter.

Head Wrightson Processes.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Taylor—a son.
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Paterson—twin sons.

Teesdale Bridge Yard.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Muldowney—a son.

Head Wrightson Stampings Limited.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Robson—a son.

ENGAGEMENTS

Head Wrightson Machine Co.

Mr. Albert Brown to Miss D. Peacock.
Mr. Keith Latheron to Miss Judith Crowe.
Mr. Joe Dobson to Miss O. Lonie.

MARRIAGES

Bridge Yard.

Mr. J. Jordan to Miss A. Ruddy.
Mr. J. Dickinson to Miss B. Craggs.

Steel Foundry (Teesdale).

Miss Kathleen Burton (Estimating) to Mr. T. E.
Greenfield.

McKee Division.

Miss K. Wilkinson to Mr. H. Baruch.

Head Wrightson Processes.

Mr. R. Brooks (D.O.) to Miss Pauline Copping.

Head Wrightson Machine Co.

Mr. Francis Glenc to Miss Margaret Connolly.
Mr. Archie Husband to Miss J. Jones.
Mr. Allan Dixon to Miss Shirley Tate.
Mr. Peter Wilkinson to Miss Vera Thomas.
Mr. Wm. Steveley to Miss Patricia Pew.
Mr. Robt. Hunter to Miss Edna Wallace.

Head Wrightson Stampings Limited.

Miss Joyce Lambert to Mr. Sydney Davison of West
Hartlepool.

DEATHS

Head Wrightson Machine Co.

Mr. W. Millar.
Mr. J. Rutter.

Machine Shop.

Mr. W. Reeves.

Bridge Yard.

Mr. A. Peake.

O.A.P.

Mr. W. W. Wood (Plumber) over 40 years' service.
Mr. Fred Gray (Bridge Yard) over 50 years' service.
Mr. H. Booth (Egglescliffe) over 50 years' service.

Divisional News

ENGINEERING DIVISION

There was a slight fall in receipt of new orders for our Division before Christmas, which has given us a chance of catching up on the back log of work we then had. There are now signs that a good quantity of new work is coming forward, and the indications are that the future prospects are reasonably good.

The large number of orders for the Heat Exchanger Shop has been obtained by promises of early delivery and future orders depend entirely on our ability to deliver to promised dates. Our picture of an Oil Gas Separator is an example of the work we are doing in this section.

Boston Dock Gates were successfully launched from the Craig Taylor Yard on February 23rd, and have now been stepped into position on site. These were the last pair from this Yard. The convenience of the Richardson Duck Yard, adjacent to our fabricating shops, should speed up production. We have, at the present moment,

nine dock gates on the slips, which is a record for this section.

The E.N.S.I.D.E.S.A. contract is making good progress through the shops, and a start has now been made on the erection at site.

We have a full year's programme of work in our Wagon Section.

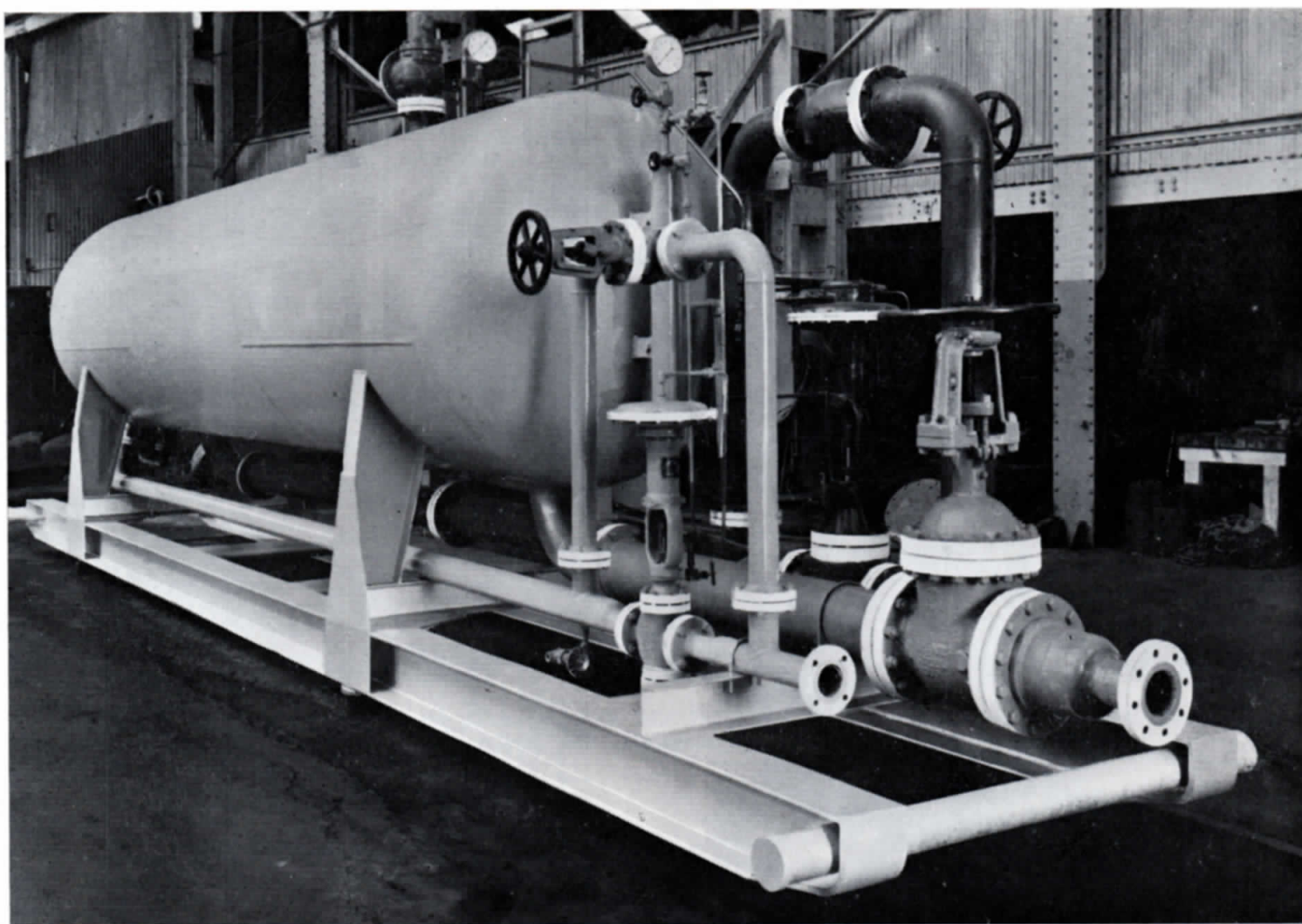
The heavy plate work in the new Nuclear Power Reactors, in the future we hope will offer us many opportunities, and this side is not being neglected.

The work for the National Coal Board now going through the shops, is, we hope, the forerunner of much more of this type of work.

R.H.S.

Bridge Yard.

At a recent Bowls presentation, it was very pleasing to see so many of the Bridge Yard personnel receiving awards for the winning of the Cleveland and South Durham Bowls league (section A) and in the Club



Portable Test Oil/Gas Separator for the Basrah Petroleum Company

This horizontal type Separator was designed for easy transportation over rough country on an articulated truck. The vessel was 60" I/D x 22'-6" lg., and was constructed in our Shops under Lloyds Survey, during 1951. A repeat order for a similar Separator has just been booked

championships, the top honours went to Bridge Yard members, A. Colbourne of the Template Shop is the present four wood champion with J. Bell the runner-up, while in the singles championship J. Bell was again runner-up.

National service is a scheme which very few like and especially those who have just completed their apprenticeship but it does give the unfortunates an opportunity to see the world at our expense. Ken Facey (plater) and J. Simpson (template-maker) have just embarked on overseas duty. Ken is enroute for Hong Kong much to the relief of the marking section while John is working his passage to Egypt and then perhaps to Cyprus. All best wishes for a good voyage.

At long last the Template-makers have a home of their own and are now settled down in their headquarters which have been converted from the two bays of the Smith Shop. After knowing the Smith Shop for so many years it is difficult to believe that such a conversion could be made to bring comfort and efficiency together to everyone's satisfaction. One bay contains a raised-up set-out floor while the second bay is being used for the marking out of all plates up to the tonnage of three tons.

March and April should always bring the thoughts of Spring but these days it is more often the thought of income tax returns, perhaps this is why our friends, Joe Dickinson and John Jordan's minds have centred on the

long straight walk up the aisle. Joe has just recently returned from London after working on the Gallion Dock gates and his next trip away will be as a married man. John Jordan who is a member of the Head Wrightson's football team must have lost a lot of his speed as an outside left and now comes down to the married stakes level.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery is extended to Mr. Gilchrist, mate on the guillotine. Mr. Gilchrist has been off work for over thirty-four weeks and for most of that period his wife has been on the sick list too. We do hope that the day will soon come when they will be restored to health once more.

Machine Shop

Since our last issue, we've held our Divisional Party in the Teesdale Hall, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Sturges and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shepherd came along and joined in the fun—Dancing, Games and Talent competitions. The hard-working committee deserve our thanks for this most enjoyable evening. We could have had a much larger attendance and as this is to be an Annual affair, we trust that the younger element will rally round the Committee.

Our old friend Cupid has been at work again, another case of boy meets girls in the Shop. Maybe before this is in print, wedding bells will have been rung for Sheila Leith and Ronnie Marshall and to both of them we send our very best wishes for the future. Our good

wishes go, too, to Bill Webster and Laurie Murrow, who have gone to Canada.

We are pleased to welcome back Richie and Jack Stead after their long absences and a quick return is hoped for in the case of Arthur Deere and Edgar "Ginger" Fellowes, both of whom are in hospital, but reported to be going on well.

The Heat Exchange Shop wish to extend their deepest sympathy to the wife and family of the late Bill Reeves, who was formerly in the Steel Foundry Dressing Yard and died at the early age of 39.

TEESDALE D.O.



Judith Wood

Tracers and Typists.

Congratulations to Judith Wood, one of our Tracers, on securing a place in Stockton's team for the Television show "Top Town" which took place on Monday, 14th March. All vacant seats round T.V. sets were gladly accepted. Judy also played one of the leading parts in the Stockton Amateur production of "New Moon", and we include a charming picture of her, dressed for that part.

EGGLESCLIFFE FOUNDRY

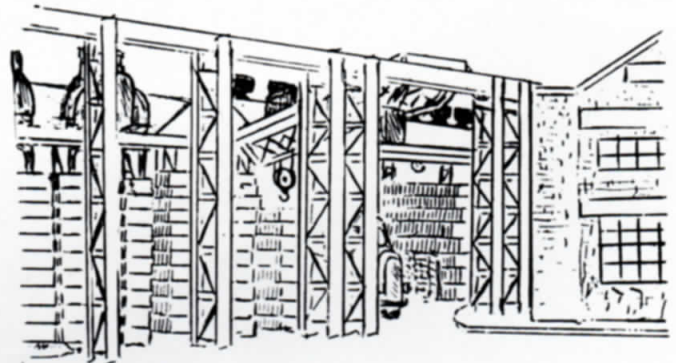
We say "Cheerio" to Messrs. J. Poulter, P. Metcalfe and A. Peat (Apprentice Moulders), who have joined H.M. Forces for their National Service and welcome back Messrs. J. Jobson (Apprentice Moulder) and G. A. Jackson (Labourer) who have completed their service.

Retirements:

Our best wishes go to Mr. G. Rowell (Moulder) who retired on 28th January after 50 years' service and Mr. O. Toulson (Labourer) after three years' service.

We regret to record the death of Mr. H. Booth (Fettler), aged 72, who worked for the firm for 50 years and we would like to extend to his relatives our deepest sympathy.

We are including some sketches which have been made by our Yard man showing the segment stocking yard and the casting of a 17 ton ingot mould.



Segment stocking yard



Casting a 17 ton ingot mould



Left to right—Mr. H. Dixon, Mr. Wm. Bolland, Mr. D. Atkinson, Mr. A. Doughty, Mr. Geo. Heaton, Mr. J. T. Baker, Mr. J. G. Allan, (Mr. Atkinson has not yet qualified for a watch).

STEEL FOUNDRY DIVISION

Teesdale

Roy Stewart and Pat Kane have returned to work after illness, we welcome them and hope their health remains good.



Evelyn Jenkins

The Division offers congratulations to Miss Evelyn Jenkins who for the third time played the lead in the Stockton Stage Society's annual production, this time in "New Moon."

Congratulations to Messrs. J. G. Allen, W. Bolland, J. T. Baker, H. Dixon, Alf Doughty and Geo. Heaton who received gold watches at the recent presentation of long service awards. Two of these have since retired, we trust the others will remain with us long enough to receive their clocks.

We wish a long and happy retirement to Messrs. Stan Paley, Jim Duffey and Tommy Duffey.

We have bidden "Au-Revoir" to Messrs. W. Johnson, B. Hamilton and C. Cummings who have joined H.M. Forces.

Stockton

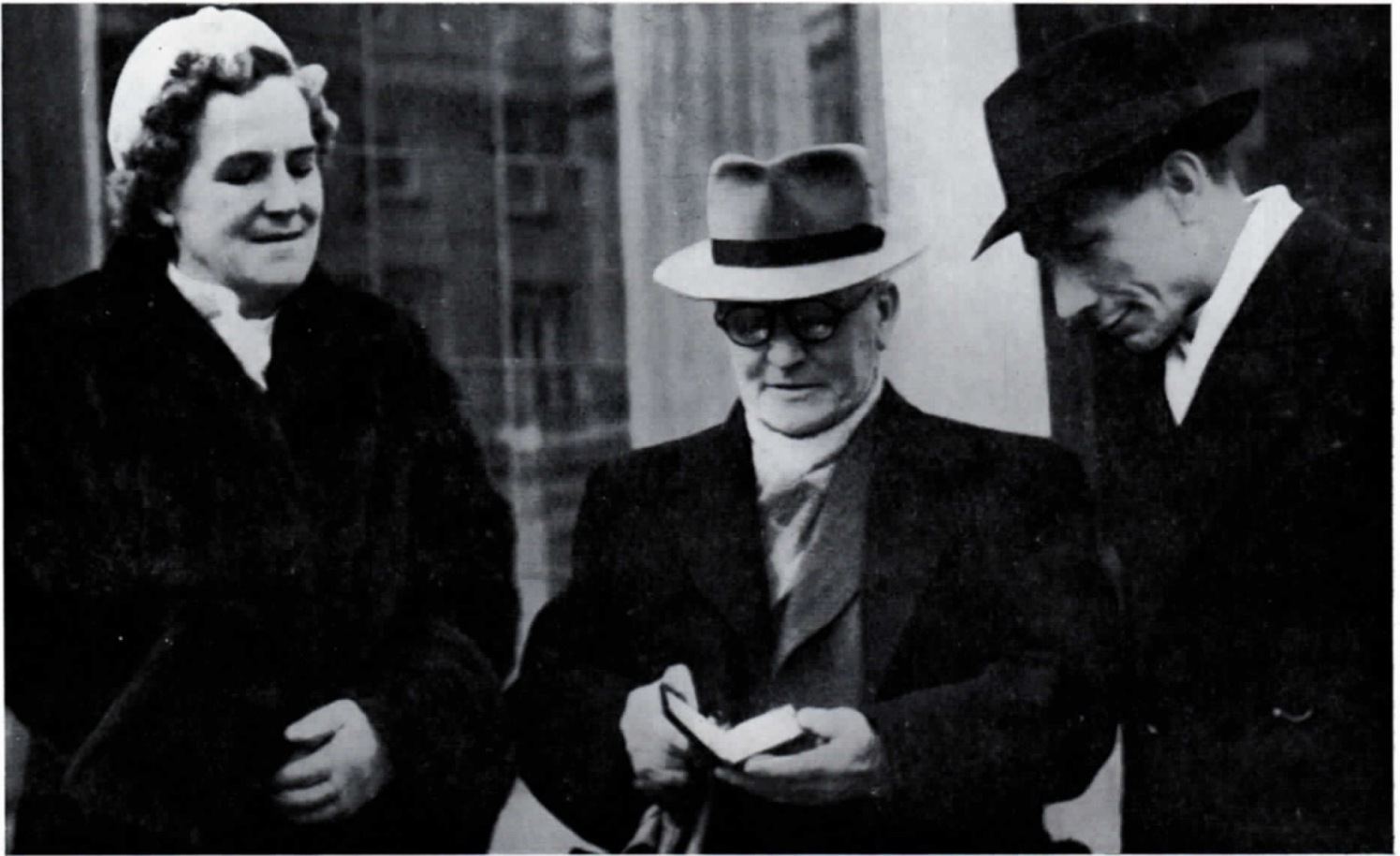
Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Laverick (Core Floor) who have had twin sons and to Mr. and Mrs. "Jock" Robertson (Patt. Shop) who, with the birth of a baby daughter have completed a double and now have a boy and a girl.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Geo. Featham (Dresser) on their sudden bereavement.

We wish a speedy recovery to Syd. Clarkson (Moulder), who is still absent after 7 months' illness. The lads hope to see you back soon.

Congratulations to Mr. Frank Marriott, our Works Manager, who has had double honours bestowed on him this year. Firstly, with a well earned and well deserved M.B.E. from Her Majesty and secondly, by becoming a grandfather, by permission of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Marriott (ex Teesdale D.O.) to whom we also extend our good wishes.

We at Stockton Steel Foundry have heard from Mr. Marriott of the magnificent splendour of the Palace



Mr. F. Marriott with his wife and son outside Buckingham Palace after the presentation

and of the gracious homeliness of Her Majesty. The whole ceremony was carried out with the dignity, calm and efficiency that we all have come to expect of our Royal occasions.

HEAD WRIGHTSON STAMPINGS LIMITED

A divisional dance organised by "Stampings" was held in Teesdale Hall on Wednesday, 22nd December, 1954. This proved a huge success and a vote of thanks is, therefore, extended to the following members of the Committee:— Mesdames M. Baker, C. Cull, T. Wilson and Messrs. A. Gascoigne, K. Pattison, D. Strachan and R. Thomas.

The staff extend their very best wishes to Miss Edna Brown upon her engagement to Mr. Eric Thompson of Dagenham.

H. W. MACHINE CO. LTD.

Congratulations to "Knock-em-Back" Evans on the acquisition of a "stripe."

We welcome two newcomers to our staff, Miss Hilda Rogers, Planning Department and Mrs. M. Knott, Stores Department, and bid farewell to Mr. Jas. Barry of the Fitting Shop, Miss Vera Lynas (Inspection) and Mrs. Mabel Hutchinson, Stores.

We are glad to see back after illness, Messrs. C. Cooper and Michael Cox and hope for the speedy recovery of Mr. Tom Harker, Geo. Curry, (P.C. 49), Geo. Begg, Bob Reed, Jake Bartlett, S. Shearer, Sam Parkes and Tom Parrish.

D.O. etc. News.

Promotions have been the order of the day at Middlesbrough and we offer congratulations to Bob Davies, now Technical Services Manager, Jim Black, Chief Engineer and Peter Llewellyn, Technical Assistant to the Management. On the Sales side, Allen Batty is now Chief Sales Engineer and Ernie Jopling joins him after a number of years as site erection engineer.

Gwyneth Evans is a new recruit to the Tracing Department in place of Elsie Greenwell who recently left us. Another newcomer is Bill Tharp who hails from Alabama, U.S.A. Bill served with the R.C.A.F. over here during the war. His southern drawl makes a refreshing change from our own dialects.

Congratulations to George Nofer on the birth of his third son and to Harrison Townsend on the birth of his first daughter.

Ian Hart recently spent a fortnight ski-ing in Norway. He claims to be proficient but we cannot help noticing how gingerly he takes a seat.

Finally, we are pleased to welcome back Bill Walton after seven months' illness.

H. W. ALUMINIUM LTD.

Mr. R. B. W. Bolland, Works Manager of this subsidiary company has been appointed a Director thereof.

National Service.

The Army has called upon Matt. Young to go and do his bit. Matt has the distinction of being the first apprentice from our School to be appointed direct to our Division and to have completed his time in our Template Loft. We wish him good luck during his service and as quick a return as possible.

COLLIERY EQUIPMENT DIVISION

The Division has recently had its first birthday — on 1st February, and as is customary with children of healthy and wise parents it has continued in its growth and development. It is now three times its birth weight, having a total staff in the office and at sites of forty-two.

Amongst the recent additions to the Staff are Steve Wilson, who having spent most of his working life at Stockton Forge wandered from the fold, but has now decided to return; David Turnbull who is now looking after the Civil Engineering side in place of Mr. D. M. Croudace who has recently left the Company's employ; Peter Charlton who has been transferred from the McKee Iron & Steel Division (rumours say that the fee paid was an all time record); and Miss J. Cooper (at Ogilvie Site Office) who, although known to very few of us personally is welcomed to the H.W. family.

No names, no packdrill, but have you heard these before.

"That's what I'm trying to wonder"

"Just a quicky"

"Now mind, don't misunderstand me."

McKEE DIVISION

A short while ago Mr. Tom Wilson had occasion to visit Head Wrightson South Africa Ltd., in connection with a sinter plant enquiry and we feel that a few of his impressions on the trip will be of interest to our readers.

The journey from London Airport to Johannesburg, in a South African Airways Constellation, took roughly thirty hours to cover the distance of 6,000 miles, stops being made at Rome, Cairo, Khartoum and Nairobi. In the space of that thirty hours weather conditions had changed from mid-winter here at home to mid-summer in South Africa.



Mr. Wilson was in Johannesburg for about eighteen days and thoroughly enjoyed his leisure moments, various members of H.W. & Co's. local staff doing their utmost to entertain him right royally. The social highlight of his visit was a weekend trip to the Kruger National Park Game Reserve where, by arising at the unearthly hour of 4 a.m. he managed to see the various forms of wild life of South Africa in their natural surroundings. Tom brought back a number of excellent and interesting photographs of animal life, probably the most striking being those illustrated in this magazine.

A great surprise to Tom was the frequency at which severe hailstorms occurred in the prevailing hot weather conditions. On one occasion there was a storm of such intensity that, on the outskirts of Johannesburg, approximately eighteen inches of hail and ice lay on the ground even though the temperature immediately afterwards was around 80° F.



The return journey to London was accomplished not quite so comfortably owing to bad weather conditions, the plane being held up overnight at Livingstone in Southern Rhodesia. The resumed journey was again interrupted at Rome for a few hours owing to the presence of fog over London Airport.

McKee Division would like to offer congratulations to Miss Kitty Wilkinson on the occasion of her marriage on 12th March.

HEAD WRIGHTSON PROCESSES LIMITED

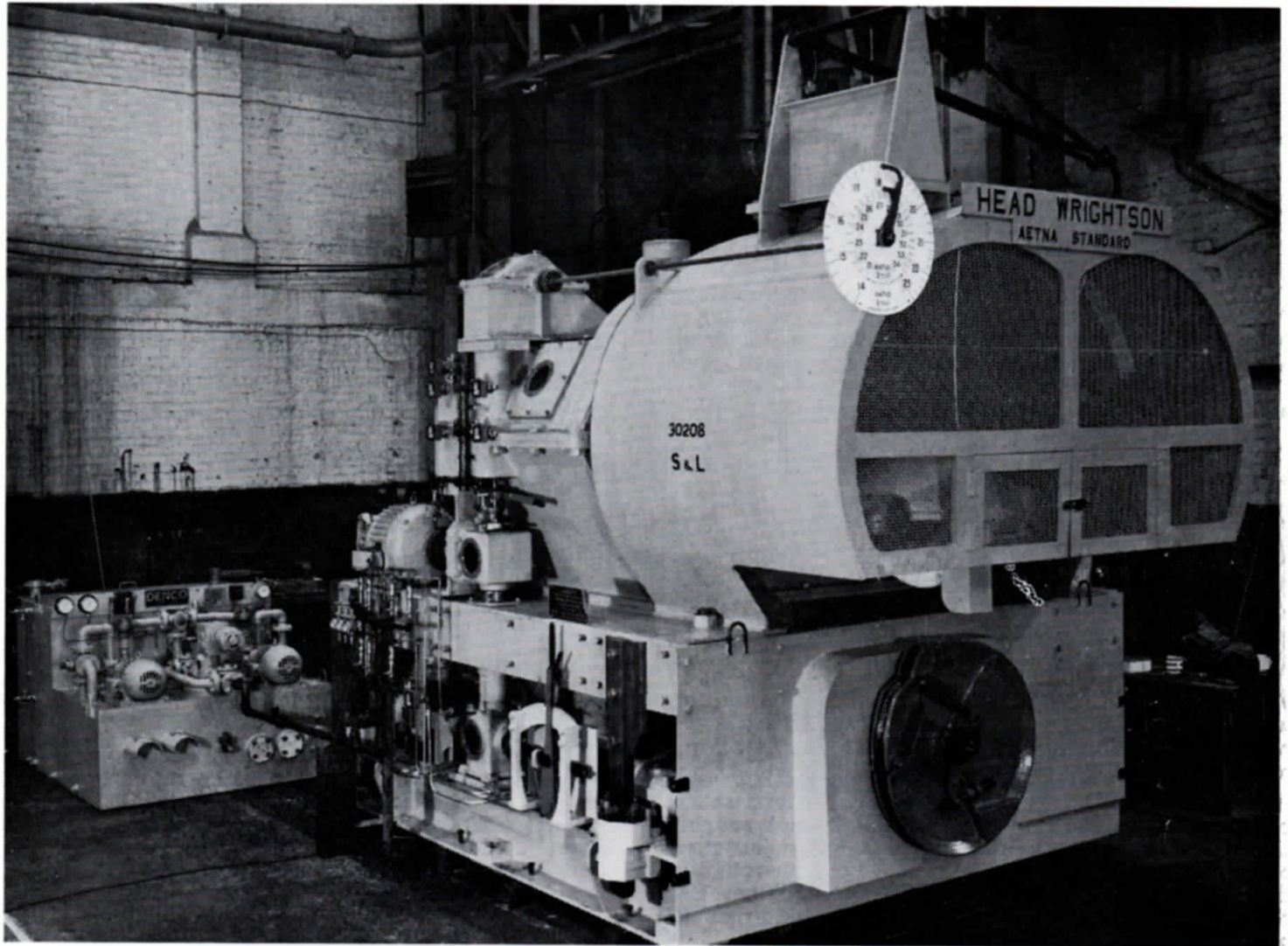
We are extremely pleased to announce that we have received an order from Geothermal Development Limited, a U.K. — New Zealand enterprise, for a heavy water plant at Wairakei in North Island, New Zealand. Energy supply for the operation of this plant is by means of steam which is taken from natural hot springs at Wairakei, and separation of heavy water is achieved essentially by distillation.

A brochure entitled "Plant Construction Services" which describes the organisation of this Company and the type of work it handles is being prepared and should be ready for distribution by the middle of the year. We hope that this brochure will prove to be useful both inside and outside the H.W. Group.

Congratulations to those in our midst who have recently become proud husbands or fathers (in the latter case, whether the arrival be singleton or doubleton).

An enquiry from the Drawing Office to the Postal Section — "Has a model arrived?" (Type of model not specified).

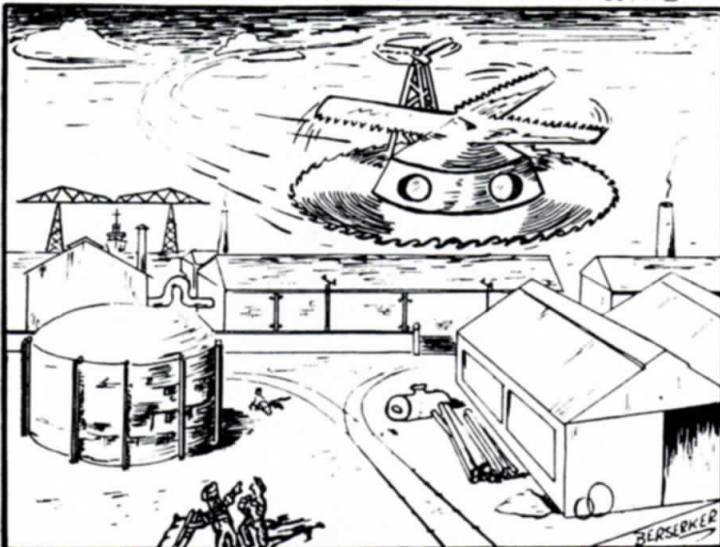
Weather! Those of us who have been nostalgic for the good old fashioned winter as depicted on many colourful cards surely have been well satisfied with conditions this season. However, hope grows eternal for a good old sunny summer.



A Flying Hot Saw before despatch to one of our Clients. The illustration on the front cover shows the unit in production

Flying Hot Saw

OUR ARTIST'S IMPRESSION
EQUIPMENT BY THE HEAD OF WRIGHTSON MACHINE CO. LTD



FLYING SAUCERS NOTHING BERT—IT'S ONE OF THEM
HEAD WRIGHTSON FLYING HOT SAWS!

Until about 1934 and even later butt welded piping for water and gas services was produced by heating short lengths of steel flats to welding heat and then filling these through a specially shaped welding die which bent the flats until their edges met with such pressure that they became welded together.

Early in the thirties, a new process was developed in which steel strip was fed from long coils through a very long furnace in which it was brought up to welding heat before passing through a series of rolls which curved the strip and brought the two edges together under pressure so as to form a continuous tube. This was known as a continuous weld mill.

To make this process continuous the leading end of a new coil is welded to the tail of the preceding coil.

For ease of handling, it is necessary to cut the pipe as produced into relatively short lengths, varying from 7'-6" up to 57'-0".

To do this a flying saw was developed and this enabled the mills to produce butt welded pipe at speeds of up to 350 ft. per min.

Attempts to run these saws at more than 350 ft. per min. were unsuccessful and for about ten years the speed of continuous weld mills remained at this level.

A few years ago our American Associates, Aetna Standard Engineering Company of Pittsburgh, developed a new flying hot saw which was capable of cutting piping at speeds of up to 1000 ft. per min. i.e., three times the previous maximum.

A saw of this design has recently been built by Head Wrightson Machine Company for Stewarts & Lloyds Limited, Corby and has been in satisfactory operation since January 1st, 1955. A second unit is on order.

The front page illustration shows this unit in production.

In the background can be seen the furnace for which the white hot strip is entering the forming and welding mill before passing to the flying hot saw.

This unit will cut the pipe into any length between

7'-6" and 57' in three ranges and at speeds of up to 800 ft. per minute.

It is possible to alter the length being cut without stopping the saw and by simply pressing a button on the control desk.

The whole of the saw is a highly complex piece of equipment which has to be built with great precision in order to give continuous running and accurate cutting.

Special arrangements were made for its installation so as to reduce the time that the mill was out of production.

As a result of a very carefully planned programme the mill was ready for production within fourteen days of stopping.

An angle on Australia

or SNIPPETS FROM SYDNEY

This article was sent to us by the wife of Mr. D. M. Taylor who is with our Associate Company in Australia. He left Head Wrightson Processes to take up the appointment in July, 1952.

"This article was originally started with a lot of high-sounding phrases about the vastness of Australia, the appeal of the countryside and the beauty of Sydney harbour, not forgetting, of course, THE BRIDGE but we feel that readers will already know about these and would be much more interested in our personal impressions and experiences of life "down under."

It takes at least two years to acclimatise oneself completely; to feel that one "belongs" and to understand fully what is popularly known here as "the Australian Way of life" so that only now do we feel competent to give our opinions. The Australians are quite rightly proud of their way of life. They enjoy themselves with great gusto in the freedom of the open-air life they lead—in Sydney here on the many beautiful beaches surfing, swimming, water-ski-ing on the lagoons. For the less energetic there is the week-end picnic. To an English mind this conjures up a picture of sandwiches and a vacuum flask of tea. Not so here—a picnic is a sizzling hot steak, a string of succulent sausages washed down with hot, aromatic billy tea. To us at first it seemed almost barbaric in its primitive simplicity but now there is nothing we like to do better than drive out to the country, select a secluded shady spot, make a fireplace with stones and, having gathered all the necessary gum leaves, proceed with the barbecue. The leaves of the gum tree are highly inflammable due to the eucalyptus oil they contain and only a few are needed to cook a thick steak which is suspended over the flames in a simple wire contraption with a handle. The finished steak *looks* like a charred sacrifice on the outside but is delicious with a flavour unobtainable by any other method of cooking. Knives and forks are dispensed with and the steak slapped on a thick slice of liberally buttered bread to be eaten in the fingers. Silence reigns apart from the champing of jaws and the spluttering of sausages which cook whilst the steak is being consumed. Then the billy of water is put on for the tea. We always wear old clothes—usually shorts and T-shirt so that we really relax and enjoy ourselves. Barbecues on the beach are fun too where there are

gum trees growing—this appeals to the young social set who organise slightly more elaborate occasions usually by moonlight.

The miles of beaches around Sydney are unsurpassed and the blue of the Pacific ocean is everything we had ever imagined. Too often travel advertisements are so glowing in their praises that reality can be disappointing but we can truly say that this is not the case with Sydney. Living as we do, one mile from Manly (the first beach North of the Harbour) we spend most summer week-ends either in the surf or in the shark-proof bathing pool on the harbour side. Another favourite beach of ours one and a half miles away has the lovely name of Curl-Curl. The half-hourly ferry service brings people from the city to Manly at the week-end and at the moment the holiday season is in full swing. The streets are gay with coloured lights and, our pride and joy, the centrepiece from the Whitehall Coronation decorations, still stands proudly in the Corso (main street).

The surf life-saving clubs you have all no doubt read about and seen on television I believe. The members do a wonderful job quite voluntarily—in fact, it is an honour to be chosen as a life-saver. At the moment we are in the middle of the surf carnival season—each beach has its own carnival and teams from other beaches compete in various life-saving events. Watching the surf boats battle out through a heavy surf is certainly a thrill—these boys have a lot of strength and courage. The beltmen who carry the life-line out to people in difficulties are terrific swimmers. Shark alarms are fairly frequent especially in January and February but actual fatalities are very rare. There have been two only since we came to Australia. Constant watch is kept by the life-savers from an elevated position and the surf-boat patrols the area. People may only swim within a certain defined distance so that rescues are easily made if necessary, the lines being kept opposite the swimmers. When a shark is sighted, an alarm bell rings and everyone scrambles out of the water until it has been chased away. Surf skis or surf boards are popular with the young bloods. These are paddled out

beyond the breakers and then, when a good roller begins to form, in come the boys with it, standing feet apart with superb balance and at a terrific rate.

Enough of the beaches although they do play a large part in the lives of Sydney-siders. We found lots of things very much the same as at home and others vastly different. Commercial radio was one of the latter. Personally we see no harm in sponsored programmes operating side by side with the unsponsored national station, the A.B.C. whose programmes are very like those of the B.B.C. Amongst the things we first found strange were the Palm trees and Norfolk Pines, the tropical vegetation and fruits which we eat a lot especially in the heat of summer when it is uncomfortable to do much cooking—passion-fruit, mangoes, custard apples, pine-apples, juicy red water-melons and pale canteloupes, bananas, oranges and lemons all grown locally. Both of our neighbours have luscious lemon trees growing in their gardens and passion-fruit vines. Gardening is impossible during the day in summer and, as darkness falls before 7 p.m. even on the longest day, it is difficult to do any at night. Sydney has a high humidity rate and this, coupled with the high temperatures, contrives to make our lawns grow like wild-fire—no sooner is one cut than the other has malevolently sprouted a good couple of inches! In our ignorance, arriving here in the middle of winter whilst nature was dormant, we bought an ordinary lawn-mower. Came the summer and purring electric mowers appeared all around us—now we know why!

Food is plentiful and varied all the year round but quite expensive. The *week-end* meat bill for example, is never less than £1 for two of us; this for a modest joint of beef or lamb, 1 lb of rump or fillet steak and 1 lb of sausages. The price of vegetables surprised us—we assume that labour costs must put the price up as growing conditions are ideal. To quote a few—potatoes are 5d lb now—were 1/- lb some months ago; peas and beans between 1/6d. and 2/- lb; cabbages 1/- each; apples 4d. each; oranges 6d. each. Fish prices are high at 4/6d. lb upwards. Prawns and lobsters are the biggest and best we have ever tasted. Coming from rationed England, we revelled in food, especially meat, at first. We are glad to know that at last you have been able to burn your ration books—that was a pleasure we had promised ourselves too but I suppose that leaving them behind was just as good.

Due no doubt, to the continual flow of immigrants there is a great shortage of houses here. To rent a house is practically impossible and to buy one needs twice or three times as much money as in England. Young couples are courageous enough literally to build their own homes working at week-ends and holidays. This way takes about three years to complete a house but the saving is great and they are at least getting somewhere—also they don't need to worry about frosts or snow! The houses are very attractive—mostly bungalow or ranch type, built of timber or brick and painted gay sunshine colours. Hardly two are alike—a welcome change from the rows of terrace houses in England. Over eighty per cent are completely detached in their own grounds. Sydney also favours blocks of flats and, instead of the English semi-detached, a building

comprising two flats and called a "Duplex" in one of which we live.

Going to the cinema is more comfortable here—all seats are booked (no queues) and programmes (sessions they are called here) start at definite times consequently nobody is pushing past your knees half the time. There is always an interval during which people go out either to smoke (no smoking in the cinema) or to the adjacent milk-bar (there always is one) for a cool drink or simply for a short stroll before the second half of the show. British pictures have a good market here and are mostly well appreciated.

A few of the customs are American inspired, for instance, we have to carry our garbage cans (dust-bins) out to the road on collection nights and they are left there after emptying for us to bring back in ourselves. Then again with the mail—we have two little metal boxes on the gate into which the postman drops letters, we have to remember to go look for letters. Parcels are only delivered if the postman can carry them. If they are too big for him, we have to fetch them ourselves from the Post Office.

Until yesterday all public houses closed at 6 p.m. but after a recent referendum, the people voted for a closing time of 10 p.m. (The influence of the European immigrants was surely felt in this decision). Under the old system it was a race against time to down as many middies ($\frac{1}{2}$ pints—cost 1/-) and schooners ($\frac{3}{4}$ pint) as possible between finishing work and 6 p.m. with easily imagined results. Yesterday was "10 p.m. day" and we went around to see how they were reacting. Women, who have hitherto not been allowed in the bars but had to keep to a separate room, were now sitting with their husbands in beer-gardens and newly constructed lounges, looking at the same time pleased and a little self-conscious about it all. (The public bar is a circular bar in the middle of a tiled room—no chairs). The new experiment has yet to prove itself but we feel that it can be no worse than what was previously called the "six o'clock swill" and at best has a chance to provide a sorely needed social meeting place for new Australians to meet their old-Australian fellows.

We spent Christmas this year quietly endeavouring to digest the traditional English Christmas dinner in a temperature of around 90 degs. Each year we have sworn we would eat a sensible salad meal and each year have succumbed to nostalgia and literally "gone the whole hog."

Ah well, it will not be long before we are sailing out of this beautiful harbour which has so many changing moods—carefree and gay at the week-end when dotted with graceful white yachts; earnest and busy in the workaday morning rush of ferries bringing people from dozens of harbourside suburbs to the city to work; calmly dealing with a vast number of cargo vessels daily; truly majestic in the quiet, early dawn when the large ocean liners move slowly down and under the bridge to their berths.

We shall be sorry to leave so much beauty behind us but the white cliffs of Dover have a beauty all their own."

Marjorie Taylor.

BOWLS NOTES

A smoker was held on Wednesday, 16th February for the presentation of prizes won during the season. Mr. R. H. Sturges presented the Singles Individual Cup to T. Watson and vouchers to the losing finalist, and the semi finalists, R. Lackenby and A. Whitehead. In the 4-Wood H'cap, there was a cup for the winner, Mr. A. Colbourne, and another for the losing finalist, J. Bell, other semi-finalists being A. Lackenby and T.

Frosdick. The Cleveland & South Durham League president, Mr. A. E. Sudlow, presented the Northern Goldsmiths' Cup to Mr. A. Crowe, our president, for our team who won the 'A' Section of the league. Others present included Mr. Frank Shepherd, personnel manager and other Employees' council representatives.

A rink has been entered in the Veterans' league and any pensioner interested should get in touch with Mr. Alf. Littlewood, our Secretary.



A Scene from "An Inspector Calls"

(Mr. J. McCarten, Miss A. Griffiths, Miss D. Borrett, Mr. G. Heaton, Miss S. Cross, Mr. H. Shields and Mr. R. Williams)

Head Wrightson Dramatic Society

The second play of the 1954/1955 Season, J. B. Priestley's well-known "An Inspector Calls" was produced in the Teesdale Hall on February 9th, 10th and 11th. This play, the most ambitious staged so far, caused producer, cast and scene-makers alike several headaches, but this was amply compensated for by the enthusiastic reception which it received from our audiences, the general verdict being that it was the best production to date.

Reg Williams, best known as a producer, stepped in front of the scenes this time to play the ghostly inspector, while a new member, Harry Shields, made an excellent debut in the role of the industrialist, Arthur Birling. The remaining members of the cast, Annette Griffiths, Sheila Cross, Dorothy Borrett, Jim McCarten and George Heaton, are all well known to our patrons from previous productions, while Fred Mothersdale was responsible for the production.

Once again, great credit must be given to our scenic workers for the magnificent set which they produced under great difficulties, caused by the Arctic weather conditions prevailing at the time. These not only necessitated working in outfits reminiscent of the Everest Expedition, but on one occasion actually caused the paint to freeze on the canvas before it dried. The temporary result of this was a beautiful crystallized effect, but for several days everyone held their breath, awaiting the results of the thaw. Fortunately everything turned out all right, and the set was completed in time, to the great admiration of all who saw it. Incidentally, we would mention that the furniture and fittings used were genuine antiques, hired from local dealers, and were insured by the Society for the sum of £250.

We hope that all our friends, old and new, will be

along to see us in the remaining two productions of the season, which are both comedies. The first, "Easy Money" will be over by the time you read this. The second one, "The Camel's Back" by Arnold Helsby, is being staged on May 18th, 19th and 20th. It is set in a farmhouse, and we understand contains some good advice on how to get rid of an unwanted guest. We hope you'll all be along to help us give a real rousing finale to the 1954/1955 season.

PERSONALITY PARADE

MISS EILEEN O'HARA McKee Division.

Members of our audiences who have seen Eileen's accomplished and versatile performances, will find it difficult to believe that she never did any serious acting until she joined the Society. Her previous nearest approach to it was during service in the A.T.S., when she was cast for a part in "Ladies in Retirement." Unfortunately this production never materialised, the only man in the cast being posted elsewhere, and no-one else being willing.

Eileen attended the inaugural meeting of the Head Wrightson Dramatic Society, "as an interested bystander", to use her own words, and was promptly elected Secretary, an office she has held ever since. She has certainly proved the right choice for this very responsible job, and I think all members will agree, that she possesses the gift of presenting the minutes of meetings not only as accurate records, but also as interesting reading!

Eileen's first acting role in the Society was as the garrulous "char", Mrs. Northrop in "When We Are

Married." She proved her versatility by following this with the entirely different part of the sophisticated actress "Sandra", in "On Monday Next." Since then, she has appeared as the bride's mother in "Quiet Wedding", and as the matchmaking Mrs. Bennet in "I Have Five Daughters." After a break from acting roles

during the first part of the current season, during which she painted scenery, and, in "An Inspector Calls", acted as prompter, she comes back once more to delight our audiences as the absent-minded Mrs. Stafford in "Easy Money", and we hope she will continue to do so in many future productions.



H. W. PERSONALITY

J. R. (BOBBY) WILSON

Egglescliffe Foundry

Mr. J. R. Wilson (Bobby) is a moulder at our Egglescliffe Foundry. He served his time at Teesdale works and has worked either there or at Egglescliffe Foundry for the last fifty-two years. Most of the time he has worked with his brother, who recently retired. They were responsible for the production of the rope drums and other general engineering jobs.

Mr. Wilson's father was a policeman at Osmotherly and moved to Thornaby so that there would be work for his large family of sons, and two of them were apprenticed in our Iron Foundry and have worked nowhere else.

Mr. Wilson recalls that his first wages were 4/- per week and in the last year of his apprenticeship he earned from 12/- to 13/-. He has always worked extremely hard but has been blessed with excellent health and looks many years younger than he is. He says when he entered the foundry he had not a great deal of interest but in time he grew to like his work there very much and is now at a loss to discover the reason why there is difficulty in getting recruits for this work. There is no job he would have preferred to the one he has.

In his youth Mr. Wilson was a good athlete and ran in sprint events both as a professional and an amateur. He regarded this as a good pastime and recalls that he won three handicaps at Stockton.

We wish Mr. Wilson continued good health and hope that he will have many more years at the work he enjoys.

HEAD WRIGHTSON WORKS BAND

Looking back to two and a half years ago, when I first played with the band, it is hard to realise that so much progress has been made.

In November, 1952, Mr. C. Midgley of West Hartlepool was asked to coach the band. After listening to it, he was undecided whether to accept the appointment because of its poor performance.

However, he took the job, and three months later, the band entered its first grading contest in 'D' section of the Durham Brass Band League. Here we gained our first success and as the winning band passed into 'C' section. In February, 1954, we were again successful and passed into 'B' section and this year we were promoted to 'A' section having been awarded second place in the 'B' section contest.

It is somewhat of an achievement to move from the bottom to the top of the league in two years. There are fifty-five brass bands in the Durham League and Head Wrightsons' is now one of the top nine. With luck the band may be competing in championship class in two more years. Our present success is due to good leadership and keen enthusiasm on the part of the bandsmen.

Engagements are now being booked for the 1955 season and we are already booked to play in Ropner Park during the summer. Our next contest is at New-

castle in May in the Daily Herald Championship. Last year, we were second in this contest and went to London for the Championship Finals. We are keeping our fingers crossed and hope for success at both places.

HEAD WRIGHTSON AIR RIFLE CLUB.

On January 21st, the above club held its first Smoker for members and their wives. Plaques were presented to the winner and runner-up of the Individual Club Championship. The presentations were made by Mr. T. H. Wain, Chairman of the Club, to Mr. E. Cooker, Bridge Yard and Mr. F. Llewellyn, winner and runner-up respectively.

Entertainment was provided by local talent and all agreed that it had been a very enjoyable evening.

This year the club hopes to enter two teams in the Middlesbrough Air Rifle League. To do this the club needs the support of old and new members. Those interested should present themselves at the Teesdale Hall at 7-30 p.m. on any Monday night.

The Hon. Secretary of the Section is Mr. E. Cooker of the Bridge Yard, Teesdale and any information may be obtained from him.