

WRIGHT AHEAD

THE HEAD WRIGHTSON NEWS LETTER

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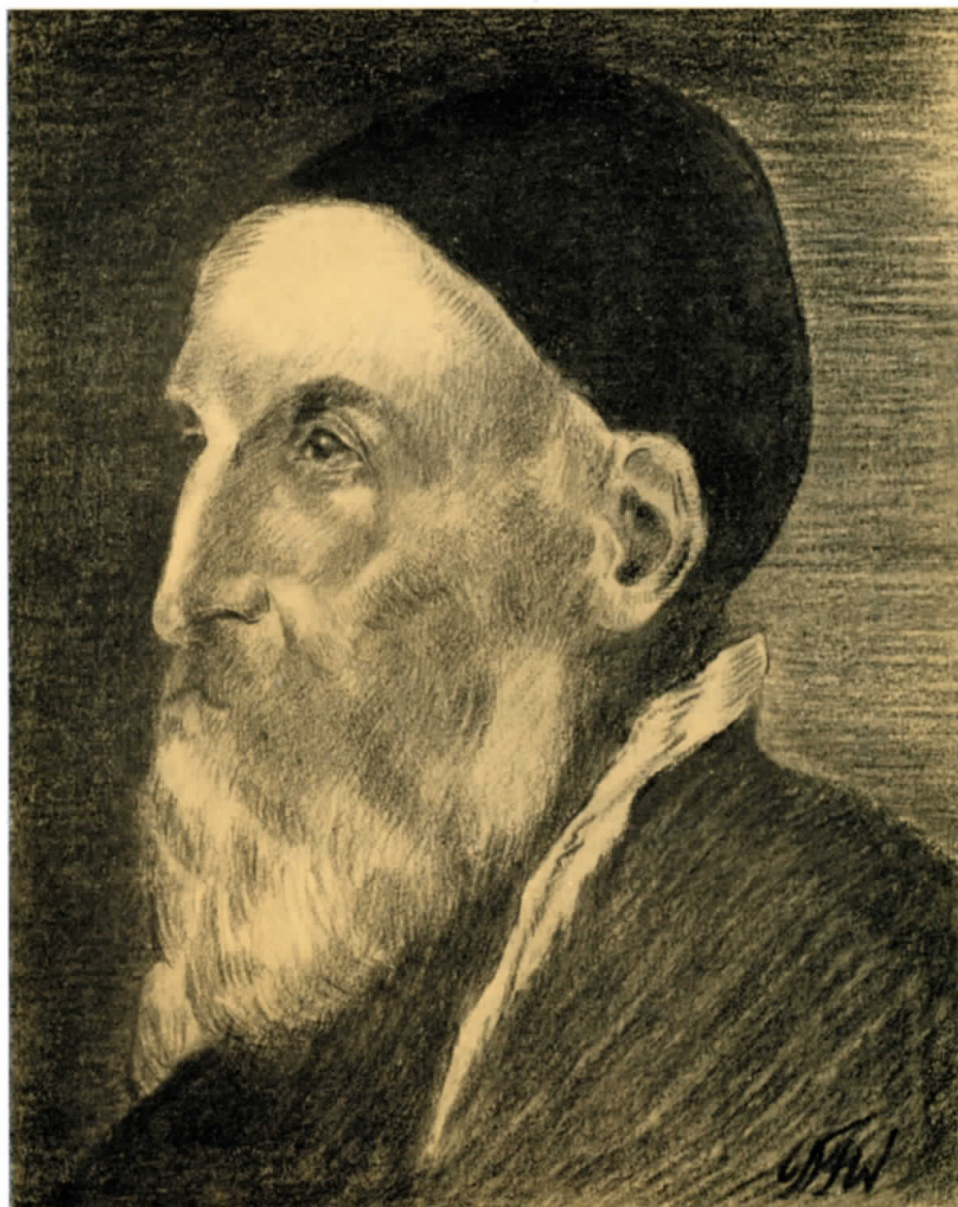
Chairman's Message

Last year on the front page of our Christmas number, we had a large photograph of a happy carefree child — "one of ours."

This year we reproduce the portrait of a severe old man. It shows Titian, painted by himself about 1565 when he was nearly ninety years of age. Some of us, engaged on our Spanish job, may have seen the original.

May we all, at this season, have, as expressed in two pictures, a gaiety and serenity of mind, and in the words of the carol, receive "tidings of comfort and joy."

Richard Miles



A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year
to all the Readers of "Wright Ahead"

PERSONAL



Mr. and Mrs. C. Cowdrey

BIRTHS

Stockton Steel

Mr. and Mrs. W. Broomfield — a son.

H.W. Stampings Ltd.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Milburn (Die Shop) — a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Maughan (Die Shop) — a son.

H.W. Machine Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Glenc — a daughter.

Stockton Forge

Mr. and Mrs. P. Moreton (Elec.) — a son.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Rees (Millw.) — a son.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Porteous (B/Yd.) — a son.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Smith (B/Yd.) — a son.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Chipchase — a daughter.

MARRIAGES

Stockton Steel

Mr. S. Whinn (Pattern Shop) to Miss D. Angel.

H.W. Processes Ltd.

Mr. W. J. Coad (Deputy Accountant) to Miss P. A. James.

H.W. Machine Co.

Miss Doris Blows (Wages) to Mr. Colin Cowdrey (Merchant Navy) — formerly of H.W. Machine Co.

Stockton Forge

Mr. M. Armstrong (Labourer) to Miss R. Morley.

Mr. G. Cullan (Sam) to Miss M. Leuward.

ENGAGEMENTS

Egglescliffe

Mr. A. F. Chalmers (Draughtsman) to Miss Pamela Golding.

H.W. Processes Ltd.

Miss Betty Jinks (ex-Teesdale) to Mr. Dennis Woodcock (A.E.D.)

DEATHS

Condolences to the relatives of

Egglescliffe

Mr. A. Gladders — fettle.

Stockton Steel

Mr. A. E. Old — labourer.

Stockton Forge

Mr. A. John — labourer.

Mr. K. Crookston — Welder.

J. Lakey (Pensioner).

MAJOR KENNETH GORDON

Late of Head Wrightson Processes Ltd.

Major Kenneth Gordon, C.B.E., M.C., Director-General of Ordnance Factories under the Ministry of Supply since 1952 died on 29th November in Hospital in London at the age of 58.

He was appointed deputy managing director of Head Wrightson Processes Ltd. in 1951 but during the ensuing year he was released from his duties to become Director-General of Ordnance Factories.

The Ministry of Supply warmly acknowledged the generosity of Head Wrightson Ltd. in releasing Major Gordon for the important Government post, in which he had begun to make his mark, and it is very much to be regretted that his sudden illness and death should have come at a time when the ordnance factories form so important a part of the defence programme.



Mr. and Mrs. G. Cullan

From: Henri Breukel, a student from Holland who spent three months with the Company.

I should like to take the opportunity through "Wright Ahead" of thanking Head Wrightson & Co. Ltd. for their kind hospitality and for permitting me to work in their organisation.

I should like to thank, too, all those with whom I worked for their kindly co-operation which enabled me to learn something of the work they do and also gave me an insight into their private lives.

I should like to wish you all the best of luck.

Au Revoir.

(s) Henri Breukel.



Mr. and Mrs. J. Strong

ENGINEERING DIVISION**Drawing Office.**

We bid farewell to Bill Cowley who leaves shortly to seek his fortune and perhaps fame in the D.O. of I.C.I. Billingham.

Bill, who served his apprenticeship here and has been 17 years in the Teesdale D.O. will be missed by both the Management and all his colleagues, but we join in wishing him good luck and many more ten per cents.

The General Engineering Division Drawing Office records with regret the death of John Kelly who joined their Department in June 1934 and spent all his service in the print room. A willing, conscientious worker at all times, he will be remembered with kindly feelings by all the members of the D.O. Staff.

Machine Shop

At this time of the year our minds dwell on the lighter and brighter things of life and we, in the Machine Shops, are no exception to this rule. Unlike the offices, we are not gaily decorated but the spirit of good cheer abounds just the same. On behalf of the staff and workpeople of the Machine and Heat Exchange Shops, I, your magazine correspondent, wish a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all.

At the time of writing Bill Day continues to show good form on the wing for the Boro'. His fellow employees in the shop wish him continued success in the future. Whilst on the subject of fitters, best wishes to Billy Wallace on his forthcoming marriage. Any time now will see him line up for his two half shifts with the lads.

We hear George Cockrill is now making progress after his accident. George, one of our long service employees, is well-known in the organisation, having served on most committees during his time with us. Here's wishing him a speedy return to work and good health.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Claude Riley (retired) and his family on the death of his wife.

Bridge Yard

The first Annual Bridge Yard dance took place in the Teesdale Hall on the 4th November last, when everyone including our Guests, Mr. Sturges, Mr. Purnell, Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Clasper, had a very enjoyable evening with the revelry going on to the last with plenty of novelties and more than the usual spot prizes. Our thanks for a successful evening are due to the Bridge Yard Ladies who made all the necessary preparations and had a very busy time in finding all the grand Spot prizes.

Pre-war, the Boilermakers of the Bridge Yard used to have an evening out but, unfortunately, the occasions have not been revived. It has been suggested that a smoker could be arranged, so if there is any interest will you contact your representative.

STEEL FOUNDRIES DIVISION**Teesdale**

We wish a speedy recovery to Mr. Bob Graham, Mr. W. LaRoche and Mr. W. Winter and hope that they will soon be back again amongst us.

At the recent swimming gala, the Steel Foundry were very successful with their few entries. We wish to congratulate Master G. R. Harper First Junior Boys under 16 years. Master K. Wheelhouse 2nd Junior Boys under 12 years. Charlie Woodhouse 2nd and Syd Smith 3rd in

the Veterans Race. In the Team Race but for a misunderstanding we should have won.

Condolence to Mr. A. Dinsdale on the recent death of his mother.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Don Atkinson on recent addition to the family, a grand-daughter. The first child of Mr. and Mrs. D. Lockwood.

The Steel Foundry Dance will be held on 23rd December, in Teesdale Hall and we hope it will be a huge success.

The Steel Foundry Division take this opportunity of wishing all employees a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Our Canadian Office has been successful in securing an order from Crane Company of Montreal for 200 sets 4", 200 sets 6", 50 sets 8" and 50 sets 10" 150 lb. cast steel gate valve castings. This order is a result of the good quality of a small trial order supplied some months ago and we should see to it that our good reputation is fully maintained in the execution of the present job, which is order No. 94935.

Best wishes are extended to Mr. Jack Hodgson on his recent appointment as Melting Shop Manager at Teesdale Steel Foundry.

Stockton Steel

To Mr. Frank Marriott — best wishes for a speedy recovery from all personnel at Stockton Steel Foundry and from his many friends throughout the organisation.

Condolences to Bob Marshall (Pattern Shop) and Harry Marshall (Fitting Shop) on the loss of their Mother.

EGGLESCLIFFE

We welcome to our staff Miss Doris Burns of Yarm who just recently joined us. Miss Burns is in our Wages Department and we hope she settles down happily with us.

We wish "all the best" to Bill Wade of our Foundry Office who is leaving this week for National Service in the R.A.F.

We regret to learn of the illness of Dick Howe who worked in the Foundries for many years and whose son George is with us now at Egglecliffe. We hope Dick is soon completely well again.

We also learn with regret of the illness of another old servant of the Foundries Mr. Ted Maine whose nephew Frank Maine is with us at Egglecliffe on the Foundry Management. We wish a speedy recovery to Mr. Maine.

News of another old servant of the Foundries is happier than the two previous. We understand that Bill Woodcock who spent a lot of years with us is still going strong in his retirement. He is over 80 years old.

We are sorry to hear of the prolonged indisposition of Mr. Tom Maine, Chargehand, who has been away from work for many months now. We hope that the future will be brighter for him.

Since the last issue of "Wright Ahead" we have put into production our new cupolette for the purpose of making castings in other than our normal ranges of iron. This cupolette is small in structure compared with our existing cupolas and as Mr. Geoff. Morris is nursing this particular baby it has been christened by the men: **OUR MORRIS MINOR.**

To all who work under the banner of H.W., may the Iron Foundries extend best wishes for a happy Xmas and a prosperous 1956.

STOCKTON FORGE

We are pleased to welcome back to the D.O., Fred Seaman, after service in H.M. Forces.

During the festive season — Friday, 30th December, 1955 — the Division is holding its dance in Teesdale Hall. There has been a big demand for tickets and we are looking forward to a most enjoyable evening.

Congratulations to Messrs. G. Cullan and B. Baily on their promotion to McKee Division.

We wonder if Harry Chatto B/Yd. enjoyed the bulbs he brought instead of onions for his lunch.

Does "Clam" (Template Shop) still go around Tilery for pig-meat?

Jack Green's wife must have thought him a beast when she gave him a tin of "Red Heart" dog food for his lunch instead of peas.

The Fitting Shop at Stockton Forge bade farewell to Mr. Jim Scott who retired from being shop steward to take up another position with the firm.

To mark his departure from the Forge, his fellow employees met together the other day and a presentation of a Parker Companion set and a torch was made to him by one of the old workmen, Mr. A. E. Greenwood. Thanks were expressed for the valuable service he had rendered in his capacity as shop steward and Divisional and Employees' Council representative. Mr. Scott was offered best wishes for success in his new appointment and a speedy return to better health.



Which one will the foreman bless?

MY FORD CAR

The "Ford is my Auto, I shall not want — another,
It maketh me to lie down in wet places.
It soileth my soul.
It leadeth me into deep waters.
It leadeth me into the paths of ridicule for its name's sake.
It prepareth a breakdown for me in the presence of
mine enemies.
Yea, though I run through the Valleys, I am towed up
the Hills.

I fear much evil while it is with me.
It's rods and it's engine discomfort me.
It anointeth my face with oil.
It's tank runneth over me.
Surely to goodness the darn'd thing won't follow me all
the days of my life, or I shall dwell in the house of
the insane for ever.



H.W. MACHINE CO. LTD.

Welcomes back to work after a long illness Mr. Jake Bartlett, of the Stores Dept., and wishes a long and happy retirement to Joe Gildroy who has had many years at Commercial Street, before and since the advent of the H.W. Machine Co. Ltd.

They look forward to a speedy return to health of Bob Reed, Steve Thompson, R. Horswell and Geo. Begg.

Bill Alexander (Electricians) and Dave Haughton (Erecting Shop) have joined the Merchant Navy for their National Service and Michael Cox has gone to do his "lot" in H.M. Forces. Good luck to you all.

Congratulations to Miss Hilda Rogers (Planning) on attaining her majority and to Mr. and Mrs. F. V. Hall on their Silver Wedding Anniversary. Mr. Hall celebrates too, 25 years service with Head Wrightson & Co. Ltd.

We offer sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Middleton (Stores Superintendent) on the death of their daughter, Sylvia.

At the recent Swimming Gala held at Stockton Baths, The Machine Company were very pleased indeed to be represented by the following team:—

JOHN RIDSDALE	LES. WILLIAMSON
RON. BURLEY	RICHARD DALTON

We did not manage to gain a position but we were not disgraced as Ron. Burley tells me that he closed his eyes — dived in — took one deep breath — and swam like fury! just in time to catch the ankle of the last man. Never mind — better luck next time.

The "Old" man of the team (Jack Green) showed the young ones up by taking first prize in the Veterans and second in the diving. Congratulations from the Young Ones.



The Annual Dance of the Machine Company Staff Benevolent Fund took place in Teesdale Hall on Friday the 18th November and a very successful evening it was.

During the evening Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Lake were presented with a silver condiment set to mark the occasion of their Silver Wedding which took place "in secret" earlier this year. This news leaked out and Mr. and Mrs. Lake were most surprised and delighted to receive this gift. The presentation (photo. above) was made on behalf of the Fund by the chairman, Ron. Burley. Just prior to this ceremony, which received a great ovation from the many people present, Miss Maureen Sherris, a member of the Committee, presented Mrs. Lake with a bouquet.

Amongst the many guests who had a really enjoyable evening were Mr. Peter Wrightson, Mr. and Mrs. W. Mather, Mr. R. N. Allison, Mr. W. Hutchinson, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Hall, Mr. George Holligon, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Batty.

We look forward to a repeat of this very successful function next year.

Organisation was in the hands of our hard working committee, ably supervised by our worthy Secretary, Mr. Wilf. Gartry.

20 Yarm Road,
Stockton-on-Tees.
19th November, 1955.

Dear Mr. Burley,

Mrs. Lake and I were very deeply touched by the very beautiful gift made to us at the dance last night, and by the kindly thought behind it.

Please express to the members of the Benevolent Fund our grateful appreciation.

We shall always treasure the condiment set as a reminder of a very happy occasion.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) N. C. Lake.

Congratulations to:—

Ron. Burley on his appointment to the Sales Side. We hope he will be able to sell the firm's products as well as he sells his own.

Good wishes to Sid Currie on his recent appointment as assistant Electrical Engineer to Mr. J. B. Green.

Welcome to New-comers

Mr. A. Rutherford — D.O. Mr. J. Vitty — Sales Staff.
Mr. Thornton — D.O. Mr. L. Croudace — D.O.

HEAD WRIGHTSON STAMPINGS LTD.

We are pleased to report the progress of L.A.C. Alan Forbes (Drawing Office) who has passed the mid-term examination for Instrument Fitting. We wish him further success in the final examination in February.

Delayed Action.

In our last issue we omitted to report the birth of a first son to Mr. and Mrs. S. Bristow, but hope that our

congratulations will be accepted nevertheless. Sid tells me his son will soon begin school — First Year Student?

We welcome the return to the Die Shop of Daniel Crum, who has completed his National Service.

Also our best wishes to Ron Hudson (Die Shop) who joined H.M. Forces in July, sorry Ron, but I wasn't around when you made your departure.

Good Luck to John McIlroy (Die Shop) who joined H.M. Forces on 10th November.

21st Birthday congratulations:—

David Strachan — (Die Shop).

William Carrol — (Die Shop) — belated.

We know the employees will be sorry to learn of the indisposition of Mr. 'Tutty' Smith, and sincerely hope that on the publication of this magazine, this G.O.M. of our organisation will be with us once more. Our very best wishes for a speedy recovery.

The staff wish a speedy recovery to Mrs. Olive Fryer who has recently undergone an operation.

Certain new facilities have recently been provided for the workmen, incidentally, "Stampings" own flag has fluttered majestically nearby of late.

Friends of Mrs. Audrey Moorhouse (Audrey Clements — Staff—Inspection Dept.) will be pleased to learn of the birth of a son in October.

Following the success of last year's effort, a Dance organised by "Stampings" will again be held in Teesdale Hall on Friday, 20th January. Full particulars will, no doubt, be displayed in various departments, in the near future. Make a note of this date, bring your friends, go "Right Ahead" and enjoy a happy carefree evening.

Soon we will say good-bye to yet another year. We at "Stampings" wish to extend to all departments in the H.W. organisation our very best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

McKEE DIVISION

We, the females of the species, have been asked to give our version of life in the McKee Division and on this dull November day we are gazing out of the window seeking inspiration from the beautiful panorama of smoking chimneys, black against a grey sky, and the only thought that comes to mind is "Will it be too muddy to go down the line?" After all this is a very important decision to take — is it better to be rash and go down the line, which is believed to be the shortest way home but will entail a few gymnastic feats here and there to dodge the puddles, or would it be wiser to be cautious and choose the roadway, thereby taking a chance on having our stockings splashed with mud by a passing car. Of course there's always the chance that a rich draughtsman may stop and give us a lift in his limousine — stranger things than that have happened!

Not that we have any fault to find with our friends in the drawing office — just one or two small details. There have been times when, sad to say, the atmosphere has been a little frigid due to our rather candid criticism of the handwriting of certain scribes. Generally we are able to solve the problem by getting our heads together and using a certain amount of imagination coupled with a spot of thought reading, but occasionally we have to admit defeat and go and ask the writer for an explanation. Then it is really sad to see the hurt expression on his face — to think that anyone could find fault with his writing when it is really quite clear (to himself anyway!).

There have also been in the past little misunderstandings over the spoken word and it is still undecided who should bear the final blame — are we after all growing rather hard of hearing, or could it be that the gentlemen concerned did not speak distinctly? A minor

sensation was caused the day a letter appeared bearing the heading "Carbolic System," which apparently should have read "Car Haulage System."

However by the time this appears in print it will be Christmas, the festive spirit will prevail, and we will all be the best of friends. Our gaily decorated office will have been much admired by the male population (with just a few rude comments needless to say—how unnatural it would seem without the old familiar touches), and there will probably be the usual enquiry, "But where's the mistletoe" — the answer to which is a state secret!

COLLIERY EQUIPMENT DIVISION

On sitting down to write this article for "Wright Ahead" the writer found that there was an absence of incidents or items of special interest to report from this Division, but this does not mean that there is an absence of hard work and effort. Quite the opposite, for as the days go by drawings are completed and, although the final stages are somewhat distant, definite steps are being taken towards the creation of new plants for the National Coal Board.

As Christmas is approaching the Division would like to extend its best wishes to all members of its fellow Divisions and Subsidiary Companies of the Head Wrightson Group for "A very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year."

HEAD WRIGHTSON PROCESSES LTD.

H.W.P. has shown a large increase in staff throughout the year which contributed to the atmosphere of the Annual Staff Ball, held once again at Plantation House in the City.

We were delighted to welcome Sir John Wrightson,

Bart., and Lady Wrightson, together with members of the staff from Thornaby.

Our Managing Director, Dr. R. C. Fisher, talked to guests and greatly entertained us by reading aloud a letter from an 'agency' which, he assured us, contained useful suggestions for attracting new employees. But we feel a mass purchase of T.V. sets, Hartnell creations, and houses with swimming pools (as nefarious bribes to applicants) would soon be the downfall of H.W.P.'s, worthily achieved success!

Sir John made a special point of welcoming the sweethearts and wives and expressed his pleasure with the progress of the Company. It has been a good year and the order books were well filled, and in his estimation Processes amply demonstrated a sound ability to work hard.

We are pleased to welcome, from Teesdale, Miss Anne Pickering, who has left the North to seek the bright lights of the City — or Teesdale House?

Miss Betty Jinks (who hailed originally from Thornaby, too) has announced her engagement to Dennis Woodcock of A.E.D. Another addition to our list of romances within the organisation.

An order has been received from Berry Wiggins for a two stage crude oil distillation unit for erection at their Weaste Refinery on the Manchester Ship Canal. The order covers the initial planning operations and we are supplying the full range of our services, including designing, engineering, erection supervision and commissioning. This new unit will operate alongside another distillation plant completed by us at Weaste last year.

H.W.P. wish all other members of the Head Wrightson Group a very merry Christmas.



Head Wrightson Processes Managers' and Guests' Dinner on the occasion of the Annual Staff Dance

**COLLIERY ENGINEERING LIMITED
ATTAINS ITS "MAJORITY"**

On the 21st October, 1934, Colliery Engineering Ltd., commenced operations at 46 Rutland Park, Sheffield.

Sometime previously Dry Washers Ltd., of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, was acquired by Huntington Heberlein Co. Ltd., who were engaged in Coal Preparation Plant design in their London Office. To obtain single control and more effective working the staffs were merged under the new company in Sheffield.

During the past 21 years many plants for the preparation of coal by the Company's special systems, and also incorporating other systems have been functioning efficiently throughout this country, Canada, Australia and South Africa. At the present time a Preparation Plant is under construction at Manvers Main which, when complete, will handle the highest tonnage of any plant in Europe.

Of the original staff, the following are still actively engaged with the Company, F. W. Collins (South Africa), J. S. Oswald (Newcastle), and A. G. Self, S. S. Spence and A. Taylor (Sheffield).

The Toast

"The Company" May prosperity and continued progress be yours, as in this twenty-first year you advance into the future with new associates.

Christmas Greeting.

On behalf of the Staff of Colliery Engineering Limited, Mr. L. W. Needham conveys to all friends warmest greetings for Christmastide and best wishes for the New Year.

H.W. ALUMINIUM LTD.

Coming of age

Our congratulations and best wishes to Miss Winifred Hutchinson and Mr. John Bellerby on the occasion of their coming of age.

Mr. Jimmy Casey (Alloy Shop) has ventured into H.M. Forces for his National Service. We wish him good luck during his service and as quick a return as possible!

H.W.A. extends to all our friends in the H.W. organisation both at home and overseas our greetings for Christmas and the New Year.

**HEAD WRIGHTSON SENIOR STAFF GUILD
Fourth Annual Dinner**

The members and guests present had a most enjoyable evening in Teesdale Hall on Wednesday, 23rd November, when the Guild held its Annual Dinner.

There were about a hundred present when Mr. W. Sowerby (Stockton Forge), the Guild President, welcomed the many guests at this year's function. Mr. Richard Miles, our Company Chairman, was the principal guest. Sir John Wrightson and Mr. Peter Wrightson were unable to attend because of urgent business commitments but the remainder of the senior management were present in force.

Mr. Miles, following what is becoming a tradition at these dinners, responded to the toast "The Company" and gave an outline of the future projects and developments of the Head Wrightson Group.

Mr. J. G. Allen, Steel Foundries Director and General Manager, responded to the toast "The Guests," performing most ably in the breach left by Mr. Peter Wrightson. As a "second reserve," he gave a most able and humorous speech. Once again "Congratulations Mr. Allen."

Entertainment was provided by Mr. J. Archer and

Company and, in view of its first class quality, it was a pity it had to be curtailed.

It would be wrong not to mention the excellent fare and arrangements provided by Mr. V. Spence and the Canteen Staff who played no small part in making this dinner the best so far held by the Guild.

A TOUR WITH A TENT

(From London Office)

It is pleasant, during the chilly, cheerless days of December, to recall one's Summer holiday — or is it??

This year, my husband — one of the keenest of keen motor-cyclists — was anxious to tour Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, and camp. Not being the hardy type, this idea did not commend itself to me, but I (very ungraciously) condescended to accompany him.

The first problem as far as I was concerned was to cut down luggage to a minimum. As I usually like to go on holiday with "everything but the kitchen sink," this was quite a wrench. Leaving at last one fine Saturday morning in July, our only concern en route for Somerset was low bridges — our paraphernalia was piled rather high on the rear carrier!

Our first night under canvas was somewhat disastrous. My husband had blithely asserted that "With a tent, one can just stop anywhere at any time." This we did — at a farm at about 9 p.m. This wasn't a very good idea, as we found ourselves without food, drink, lighting, or any of the small luxuries which make life more pleasant. We did, however, manage to buy from the farmer some milk and bread, and after a trip of seven miles each way, found a general stores open and equipped ourselves for a reasonable supper. Never having pitched a tent or crossed swords with a Primus stove before in my life, I had some hard lessons to learn. The "Primus" and I had taken an instant dislike to each other, and cooking a simple meal was a major operation. Camping on a different site each night entailed re-loading each day. This we could never master very satisfactorily, and our load became wider and higher with each morning. The whole was now topped with a plastic washing-up bowl, which hardly added to our dignity.

From the point of view of my "better half" the high-spot of the tour was our ascent of Porlock Hill, with a gradient of 1 in 4 (which, for ignorant types like myself, means it is extremely steep!). Travellers are cheered on their way at an early stage by a notice reading "Pedestrians are warned not to loiter, owing to danger from vehicles out of control." Hanging grimly on to the pillion, before numerous sightseers, I felt rather like a competitor in the Monte Carlo Rally. Most vehicles have to park at the top to "recuperate," and ours was no exception except for belching smoke, she looked none the worse for the ordeal. During this pause in our travels my husband was quite delirious with joy because the motor-bike had "made it."

We returned home two weeks and 1,000 miles later, looking horribly healthy and ready to appreciate anew all the trimmings of civilisation. For anyone contemplating two weeks hard labour, I can thoroughly recommend this sort of adventure!

J. R. Powell



If all be true that I do think.

There are five reasons we should drink :

Good wine, a friend, or being dry,

Or lest we should be by and by,

Or any other reason why.

Henry Aldrich 1647-1710



H. W. PERSONALITY

MR. A. J. WASS

Chief Draughtsman, Stockton Forge

Mr. Wass started as an apprentice in the Drawing Office at the Forge in June, 1911 under the late Mr. George Elcoat, who was then Chief Draughtsman, and has spent the whole of his working life there, except for service with the Royal Engineers from September, 1915 until March, 1919.

The Forge, in those days, was mainly a huddle of old brick and timber buildings, covered with pantiles and slates and the old forge from which the works takes its name, was still in being, a heap of derelict machinery in the north east corner of the works. Since then the old buildings have gradually been replaced with modern buildings and machinery.

During the lean years in the early 1930's, the Forge was closed down and what was left of the D.O. staff was housed in the attics above the Main Offices at Teesdale. Whilst there, a contract was obtained for a screening plant and further improvement in trade led to the re-opening of the Forge in 1932. A re-organisation was carried out and Mr. Wass became Assistant Chief Draughtsman and continued in this position until 1949 when he became Chief Draughtsman.

He has been mainly concerned with Colliery Plant and was responsible for the design of the first coal skip plant manufactured in this country. The first contract was obtained from Manvers Main Colliery in 1945 and since then about 20 plants have been installed, Head Wrightson & Co. Ltd., being responsible for 60% of these.

HEAD WRIGHTSON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Once again the members of the Head Wrightson Dramatic Society wish all their friends and patrons a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

We are pleased to report a successful start to the season in October, with "Job For the Boy," a very homely and hilarious Yorkshire comedy. Even though the accents of all the members of the cast were not as "West Riding" as they might have been, the audiences readily overlooked this and enjoyed the humour. We would once more congratulate our Scenic Department on the set, particularly the wonderful "kitchen range," not to mention the lurid "wallpaper." Among our audience on the Thursday evening we were pleased to welcome Mr. Ian Cunningham, producer of the "Court Players," who have had such a successful season at Stockton Hippodrome. Mr. Cunningham talked with the cast and stage crew after the show, and gave us some very useful advice, particularly concerning the art of make-up, from which we hope our future productions will profit.

After finishing our three nights' run at Teesdale Hall, the following evening we performed the play again at Poole Sanatorium, Nunthorpe. This followed a suggestion made at an earlier date by Mr. Cunningham, who knew how keen the authorities there are to obtain entertainment for the patients. The performance was given in the theatre of the Sanatorium, before an audience of staff and convalescent patients, and was relayed by microphone to the patients in bed in the wards. This was our first venture away from home ground, and naturally we were somewhat nervous, particularly as the stage was larger than the one we are accustomed to at Teesdale Hall. However, we had a really wonderful reception and

a cordial invitation to come again, faring better than one very well-known professional entertainer from Middlesbrough Empire, who had been "booed off" by the patients a few weeks before. Our play made history by being the first show staged at Poole with full scenery, for which great credit is due to those gentlemen of the Society who spent practically the whole day at the Hospital setting the stage.

Personality Parade

Mr. Peter Evans, Steel Foundries Division

Peter, who is a foundation member of the Society, has specialised rather in elderly character parts, so it may come as a surprise to some of our readers to learn that he is actually a sprightly young man in his twenties. He started his acting career at school in Leeds, in various historical plays. After moving to Stockton, he appeared in a number of one-act comedies with Holy Trinity Church Youth Club, given for the benefit of various local charities. He also made one entry into religious drama, in a pageant in Stockton Parish Church, taking as usual, the part of an old man, the Venerable Bede.

In our first production "When We Are Married," Peter was one of the "stars," as Alderman Helliwell. Complete with an artificial "corporation," and a massive gold watch chain, he played this part so realistically that some of our audience thought he was one of the firm's pensioners! Peter dropped a number of years from his age in the second production "On Monday Next," when he appeared as the stage manager of the repertory company, Jackson Harley, only to age once more in the "Feminine Touch," when he appeared as the crusty farm hand and inveterate woman hater, Utility Jones. During our last season, he appeared in two productions. In "John Marlow's Profession," as the petty crook Sam, and in "Easy Money" in his only romantic role to date, that of Martin Lathom, who, whilst not remarkable for intelligence did get his girl in the end.

In "Job For the Boy," there is no doubt that Peter gave the performance of his career to date. In an extremely long and difficult role, he never lost character, and made the most of every line, whilst his magnificently genuine Yorkshire accent was a joy to listen to. We hope he will go from strength to strength, and look forward with eagerness to his future performances.

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