

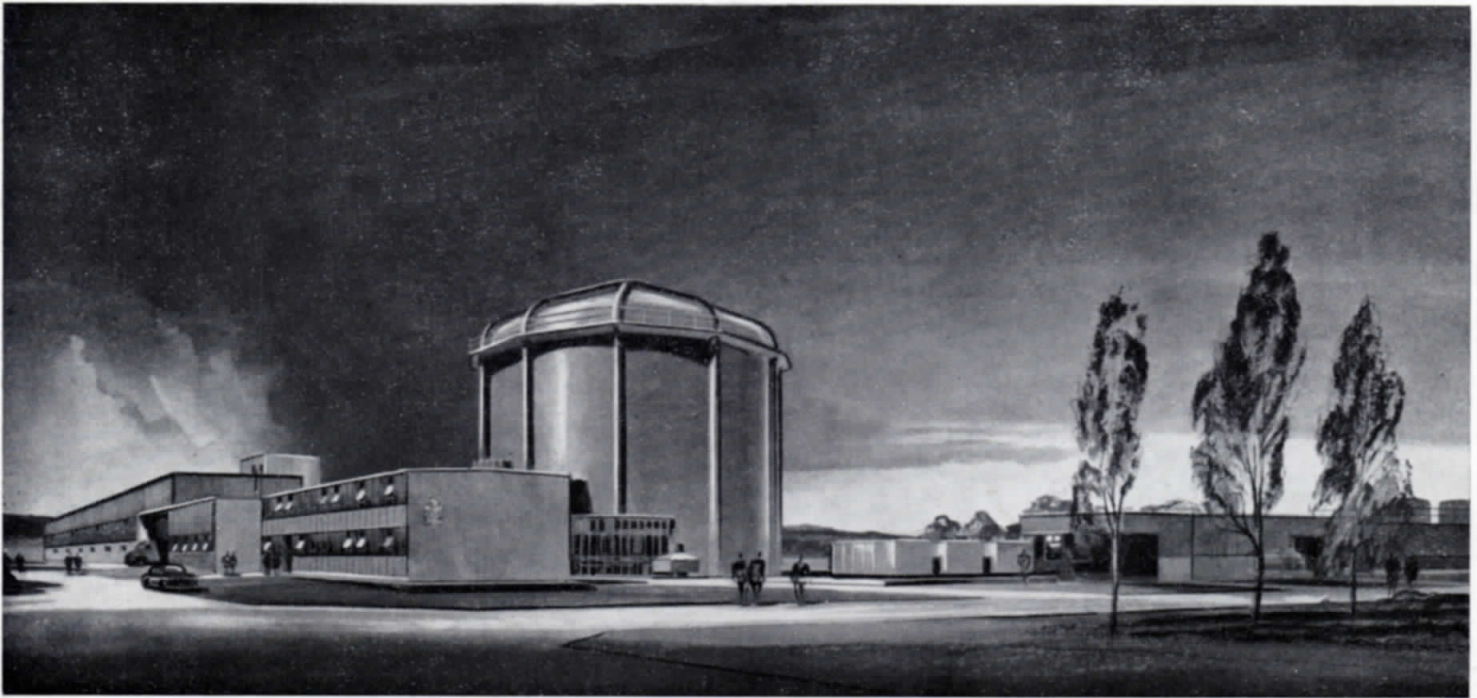
# WRIGHT AHEAD

THE HEAD WRIGHTSON NEWS LETTER

VOL. 7

JUNE 1956

NO. 2



Artist's impression of reactor E.443 at Harwell

## Chairman's Letter

This picture is taken from one of our recent advertisements in the technical press. It is the first in this country to show a nuclear reactor built by private enterprise. It was designed and engineered by Head Wrightson Processes Ltd. under instructions from the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Commission, and built and erected largely by our Engineering Division.

All of us at Head Wrightson's should be very proud of this achievement. It should augur well for our participation in The Nuclear Power Plant Company, with C. A. Parsons, and others, to build the large nuclear power stations, in the Central Electricity Authority's national programme.

It will be a very long time before nuclear power affects our Companies concerned with coal mining

and coal preparation, and with oil refining. They will be busier than ever, as the world need for electric and other power increases.

I have every hope that this forward policy, and this modern outlook will be typical at all levels in our organisation.

*"Ring in the new  
Ring out the false  
Ring in the true"*

*Richard Miles,*



Mr. and Mrs. H. Henery

#### BIRTHS

##### Egglecliffe Foundry

Mr. and Mrs. F. Watton (Cost Office) — a daughter.

##### Teesdale

To Mr. and Mrs. A. Wharham the birth of a son.

##### Teesdale Bridge Yard

Mr. and Mrs. R. Brown — a son.

#### MARRIAGES

##### Egglecliffe Foundry

Mr. A. Chalmers (Drawing Office) to Miss P. Goulding of York.

##### Teesdale Bridge Yard

Mr. F. Thornton to Miss R. Harrison.  
Miss M. Spence to Mr. H. Henery. (Photo.)  
Mr. J. Hawkes to Miss A. West.  
Mr. J. Moody to Miss J. Miller.  
Mr. R. Hawkes to Miss M. Robinson.  
Mr. J. McGuinness to Miss T. O'Brian.  
Mr. W. Lay to Miss A. Lloyd.

##### Steel Foundry Teesdale

Congratulations to:-

Mr. D. Irvin (Steel Foundry Costs) on his marriage to Miss Jean Fenny (Colliery Equipment).

Mr. D. Marshall (Steel Foundry General Office) on his marriage to Miss Dorothy Coates.

##### Stockton Steel Foundry

Mr. E. Trainer (Lab. Foundry) to Miss J. Hoggarth.  
Mr. W. Ellis (Coremaker) to Miss B. Harrison.  
Mr. J. Murtagh (Fettler) to Miss E. McCarthy.  
Mr. R. Kirk (Lab.) to Miss A. Evans.

##### McKee

Mr. Brian Bailey to Miss Dorothy Gill.  
Mr. J. Harfield to Miss Jean Douglass.  
Mr. Ken Bland to Miss Margaret Winn.

##### H.W. Colliery Engineering (Sheffield)

Mr. D. Cooper (Drawing Office) to Miss J. Spotswood.  
Miss P. C. Whitham (Typist) to Mr. B. N. Maddison.

#### ENGAGEMENTS

Gordon Reeves to Christine Bailie (McKee).

Miss S. Marshall (Typist) to Mr. T. Wright (Col. Eng.).

#### SILVER WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:-

Mr. and Mrs. A. Wild (Teesdale Bridge Yard), Mr. and Mrs. H. Lamb (Steel Foundry) and Mr. and Mrs. G. Hoggarth (Crane Driver Foundry).

#### DEATHS

Condolences to the relatives of

##### Egglecliffe Foundry

Mr. T. O. Neill, one of our pensioners, who had served the Company for over 50 years.

Mr. T. A. Maine (Chargehand).

Mr. E. C. Maine (retired moulder).

##### Stockton Forge

Mr. C. Willis.

Mr. W. Plumley.

##### H.Q. Costs

Mr. Spencer Birch, aged 22.

Many of our readers will learn with regret of the death of Mr. Richard Robson, son of Mr. Selby Robson who was one of our Parent Company directors. Mr. Robson's son was killed in a motoring accident in Khartoum.

#### HEAD WRIGHTSON RIFLE CLUB

The interdepartmental knock out competition was again won by the Electrician's "B" team, in the final they beat Heat Exchanger Shop after a close fight. The highest score in the final was obtained by J. Walsh, Heat Exchange with 24.

The only shooter to hit a possible was J. Huggins Electrician's "B" in the the semi final.

The club individual championship was won by M. Newton Bridge Yard, the pairs competition going to J. Davidson and R. Stubbs Electricians and the highest average over the season was won by R. Johnson Electrician's "A" team and C. Lilico Heat Exchange "B" team.

We should like to thank Mr. F. Shepherd who kindly came along to present the trophies to all the winners.



Mr. and Mrs. D. Cooper



**Mr. Richard Miles being presented to H.M. The Queen at Stockton Race Course**

*By kind permission of the Evening Gazette*

All Tees-siders were thrilled when H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh visited the area on Monday, 4th June, and nearly the whole of our organisation on Tees-side took the opportunity of lining the route near their works to give a cheer as the procession passed by.

Many of our people were represented in the military units, special constabulary, youth organisations, etc. and the Works Band had a place of honour in front of Stockton Town Hall and greeted Her Majesty with the National Anthem as well as providing entertainment for the thousands of people in the High Street.

We were all delighted that our Chairman, Mr. Richard Miles, was chosen to be presented to her Majesty and our picture shows the Queen talking to him at Stockton Race Course.

Incidentally a few weeks ago Mr. Miles made a brief appearance on T.V. when he was chosen by the B.B.C., as a leading industrialist, to make a short observation on export in a recent documentary film.

#### **HEAD WRIGHTSON DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

We are very pleased to report a successful close to the 1955-56 Season with the thriller "Night Was Our Friend," produced on May 2nd, 3rd and 4th. There is no doubt that this was definitely one of our peak productions to date. The cast, Harry Shields, Beryl Forrester, Fred. Mothersdale (who also produced the play), Eileen O'Hara and two new members, Eileen Turner and Jeff. Adams, gave performances of almost professional attainment, whilst the set was once again a triumph for our workshop crew. The production deservedly won a good press write-up, and, so far as can be ascertained at the moment,

receipts showed an encouraging increase on our last production.

A new venture on the part of the Society, which has been successfully launched during the past few months, is a regular monthly "Get-together" of members, to spend a pleasant evening in social activities with a dramatic basis. The three meetings so far held have been very well attended, and we hope they will become firmly established as part of the Society's life. Activities to date have included a one-act comedy and a number of impromptu sketches performed by some of our members, an excerpt from "Night Was Our Friend," acted by some of the cast as a "trailer" to the regular production, and informal discussions on the Society's possible future activities and suggestions for same. We are very pleased indeed to report that Mr. Ian Cunningham, producer of the Court Players at Stockton Hippodrome, is coming to address our Meeting, to be held on June 7th, and hope there will be a bumper attendance for this special attraction. These meetings, which are held in Teesdale Hall on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., are not exclusively for members, but are open to any Head Wrightson employee who may be interested, and we hope they will be the means of our making many new friends.

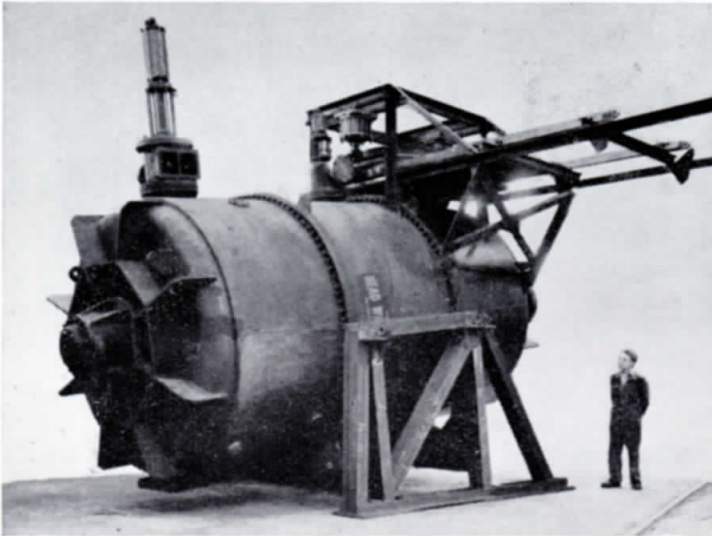
#### **Personality Parade. Miss Beryl Forrester, Engineering Division.**

It may surprise our patrons to learn that Beryl's early stage appearances were not attended with success, far from it! In her very first appearance, as Dick Whittington's cat, at the age of seven, her costume proved so tight that the cat had to walk on its hind legs all through the show, and in spite of this still split its "Skin." When rather older, appearing in a school play as the youthful Saint Peter, on the first night she slipped on the stage, and finished up flat on her back, in front of the astounded audience of parents and friends.

Perhaps these experiences made her rather shy of dramatics, as when grown-up she did not do any acting until the formation of the Head

Wrightson Dramatic Society. Her first role was in our second play "On Monday Next," as the vicar's daughter Avis, and her first starring part in the third one "The Feminine Touch," as Verity, the heroine from the backwoods who blossomed into a glamour girl. In "Quiet Wedding," she had the part of the French dressmaker, and caused consternation in the Society by developing laryngitis on the first day of the show. Her colleagues dosed her with medicines all day, and she was able to take the stage, although somewhat husky. However, this only lent realism to her French accent, which members of the audience declared to be exactly like Yvonne Arnaud. In "I Have Five Daughters," she played the part of Jane, the eldest daughter, a nice but somewhat dull girl. However, Beryl had a good deal more scope in "Easy Money," when she played the part of a twelve year old schoolgirl so realistically that several of the residents of Trafalgar Street were shocked by the spectacle of her smoking a cigarette, and wondered what modern children were coming to! In "Night Was Our Friend," Beryl proved her versatility by launching out in a new type of role for her, namely a strongly dramatic one, as a woman trying to shield her insane husband from the consequences of his mad actions, and finally being suspected of his murder. A very difficult part, which she played brilliantly.

In private life, of course, Beryl is now Mrs. Reeves, having married Alan Reeves, our former Business Manager and Assistant Producer, last year, but she follows tradition and acts under her maiden name. Whatever name she uses, we know all our patrons will agree she is a great asset to the Society.



### ENGINEERING DIVISION

The above photograph shows the first of a battery of four unusually large mixing churns which are now being built for installation in the new Courtauld factory at Grimsby, and which are to operate side by side under fully automatic conditions.

The churns are jacketed for cooling, and weigh 40 tons each, excluding all internal fittings and superstructure. The paddle shaft weighs  $8\frac{1}{2}$  tons, and the drive is by motor via double reduction gears.

The various process control valve units mounted on each churn embody integral air cylinders and pilot valves for pneumatic operation and control. When finally in service, the churns will handle successive charges of chemicals at pre-determined stages, and involving some 90 separate automatic sequences.

This is the first time churns of this type and size have been made in this country, previous churns having been built in America.

### Machine Shop

His many friends will join us in sending every good wish to Jack Martin (Tool Hardener) on his retirement. It is a matter of regret that at the time of writing, he is in hospital. To many, he'd be best remembered as the colourful and always smiling tool hardener. To others, he will always be a man of many sporting interests, having been

a boxer, footballer and runner. It was his proud boast, too, that he had medals for all three sports and could prove his abilities at them.

When his day as an active sportsman were over, he turned to training and had the good fortune to train both local and national champions.

We all miss you, Jack and hope that your health improves to allow you to enjoy your retirement.

Readers of the local press will have seen that Alex Brown has now retired from the Active list of Football referees. His experience is not to be lost however, for he has taken up, an appointment in Junior Football.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mr. Harry Parsons (Foreman) on the death of his wife.

We offer our congratulations to the Driller, who, on the occasion of the Bowls Trip to Blackpool, offered a policeman half-a-crown for seeing him back to his lodge on the Saturday night and got away with it.

### Eggescliffe Foundry

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. T. A. Maine (Chargehand). Mr. Maine has been with our firm for over 40 years. Our deepest sympathies go to his widow and family.

We also regret to record the death of Mr. E. C. Maine (Retired Moulder) who died at the age of 79 years. Our deepest sympathies go to his relatives.

We would like to wish Mrs. Kathleen Haswell (Wages) all the best in the future. Mrs. Haswell left our employ in May.

We welcome to our staff two new members: Miss Margaret Pollock (Telephonist) and Mr. J. Willis (Wages Clerk).

Mr. W. Wade (Works Office) called to see us on leave from the R.A.F. and we were pleased to see he was still his cheerful self after several months service.

### Long Service Awards

We are pleased to record that three members of our Works Staff have received long service awards.

Mr. G. Staton, Mr. A. Jessop—watches and Mr. R. Higgins—a clock.

### STEEL FOUNDRIES DIVISION

#### Teesdale

Condolence to:-

Mr. Laurie Woodhouse and Family on the death of Mrs. Woodhouse.

Mr. and Mrs. Storr on the death of their son Mr. Derek Storr.

Mr. A. Warren on the tragic death of his wife in a recent gas explosion. The Division express their deepest sympathy.

At the recent presentation of watches for 40 years service, the following from the Steel Foundry were presented:— Mr. H. Hutchinson, Mr. T. Johnson and Mr. R. Verrill. The Division congratulates them and hopes they will enjoy good health for many more years.

We welcome back again after their long illness Messrs. J. Cheetham, S. W. Haston, P. Dixon, P. Kane and F. Harris.

We hope that Mr. P. Weir will soon be back again after his long illness.

At a recent lecture to the Teesdale Scientific Group, Mr. R. McDonald one of the Laboratory Staff gave a talk on the structure of metals and alloys which was well received.

**Interdepartmental Football Competition**

Teesdale Steel Foundry do it again.

After winning the cup five years in succession thereby establishing a very proud record for this competition. The Foundry came back after a lapse of two years to win the cup once again for the sixth time which is a very fine record for a Department. But the steel foundry do not want all the praise. They would like to extend congratulations to those gallant losers Middlesbrough Works on their achievement on reaching the final for the first time. We hope that they will do better next year.

The Steel Foundry wish to extend to Mr. T. Hall of Middlesbrough Works their appreciation of his kind remarks at the presentation of the cup to the steel foundry. Mr. Allison (Steel Foundry Fettle) who is Captain of the Steel Foundry Team, thanks to him also, and to all officials of the competition.

In March last Harry Lamb and Len Johnson flew the Atlantic for a two week's visit to the Crane Co's Steel Foundry in Chicago. Accompanying them was Mr. H. H. Barker of Crane Ltd. Ipswich, for which firm we have now been making steel valve castings for ten years.

Len Johnson was particularly pleased to be able to renew acquaintance with friends he had met at Crane Co. during a month's stay in 1946.

While Harry Lamb had not visited Crane Co. before, he was of course a member of the first productivity team to visit the U.S.A. and he was in his element exchanging foundry "know-how" with our friends in Chicago.

Our chaps cannot speak too highly of the whole-hearted co-operation extended to them by all contacted at Crane Co. and of the way they maintain a very high production rate of first class quality steel valve castings although severely handicapped by lack of white labour.

The way those guys work — from the general manager down to the coloured foundry labourer — has to be seen to be believed.

Sympathy to Mr. Harry Hutchinson (Steel Foundry Costs) on the loss of his wife.

Mr. J. G. Allen, General Manager and Director of Head Wrightson Steel Foundries Ltd., has been honoured by being appointed a Serving Brother of the Noble Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Mr. Allen joined the St. John Ambulance Brigade (Stockton and Thornaby Division) in 1919 and acted for 21 years as Secretary and Treasurer, when he became Hon. Treasurer which position he still holds. Four years ago he was made President of the Stockton and Thornaby Division. He points out that he is in his 36th year as Treasurer and still maintains the Brigade as his chief interest in spite of the many other associations which take up so much of his time. We congratulate him on his well deserved honour after so many years of willing service.

**Stockton Steel Foundry**

Congratulations to L. Winn (App. Moulder) who gained Second Prize in the Mould and Casting Section of the Institute of British Foundrymen's Competition.

We wish a quick recovery to J. Flynn (Charge-hand, Yard) from his accident, Mr. Marriott, Sid. Burdett, Len. and Sid. Clarkson and Paddy Coates.

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of Mr. Frank Marriott, M.B.E., the Manager of our Steel Foundry at Stockton. Mr. Marriott joined Head Wrightsons in 1926 as steel foundry shop foreman and was promoted to Works Manager of the Stockton Steel Foundry Company Ltd., around 1933 and on the change of name

to Head Wrightson Steel Foundries Ltd., became Works Manager of that Division. We offer deepest sympathy to his widow and two sons.

**HEAD WRIGHTSON STAMPINGS LTD.**

Congratulations and Best Wishes are extended to the following :—

Mr. Arnold Gascoigne (Drawing Office) upon his marriage to Miss Joan Atkinson.

Miss Shirley Smith (Wages Dept.) upon her 21st birthday.

Mr. Raymond Thomas Thomas (Drawing Office) upon his Engagement to Miss Shirley West (Purchasing Dept.) Yet another Office Romance which has borne fruit.

We have wished "Bon Voyage" to Miss Marlene Hume (Sales Dept.), who sailed with her parents on 18th May, for Canada.

We will soon wish "Bon Voyage" also to Miss Joan Benson (Estimating Dept.) who sails for Canada on 27th July. A Pen friendship started 10 years ago, has resulted in Joan's decision to conquer fresh fields. We hope that the future of all will be blessed with good fortune and good friends.

We regret to record the Death of Mr. R. Lamb who began his employment at "Stampings" as Bricklayer's Labourer some 20 years ago.

It is with sorrow and regret, that we record the passing of Mr. R. (Bob) Raine, after a short illness. In his 50 years service with this firm, he earned the respect and good esteem of all fellow associates. He was connected for many years with the Thornaby Corinthians Football Team, playing as Centre-half. A keen sportman, it may be remembered that at the opening of the Head Wrightson Sports Ground, he carried off many prizes for running. Our sympathy is expressed to his Widow and all relatives.

Much is heard of Production and such,  
And according to some, a little too much.  
Indeed for a change, let's think of Repairs,  
Needed always I fear, one of many cares.  
The Cinderella department here is often cussed,  
Expected to do wonders, win or bust.  
Note well what is done, and for failures allow,  
And you'll find none can do better, that I vow.  
No Miller works, No Press, or Hammer too,  
Constantly, unless we see it through.  
Ever at hand, to answer Production's Call,  
MEN with true skill, and Craftsmen all.

J.A.W.

**MY REPLY TO J. A. W.**

WE're aware of your presence, indeed, of your skill,  
Though your praises we rarely do speak,  
But what of the Clerks, who sit down with a will,  
To determine your wage, week by week,  
It's easily seen, by the grime and the grease,  
Just how much you have done, day by day  
But all we can show is our brow prone to crease  
With the thought of our meagre pay  
We know we are frowned on, the 'collared and tied'  
And the womenfolk smart, without doubt,  
But we also know, that though methods they've tried  
We can't be done without,  
However, here's news, you may welcome perhaps,  
It may fill you all with elation,  
It could affect us, as well as you chaps  
This new-fangled thing—'AUTOMATION'

N.P.K.

Hammers stamp forgings at Seaton Carew,  
Egglescliffe products go out to Timbuctoo.  
At Thornaby machines are made for those down below,  
Destined of course for increasing Coal's flow,  
What with amalgamation and the ventures abroad,  
Requires some thought and vision from Directors Board.  
If the Chairman's advice can be accepted as read,  
Great is the wisdom in what he has said.  
His quote "The reason firm, the temperate will,"  
Then "Endurance, foresight, strength and skill,"  
Should tend to make this world a better place,  
Or at any rate benefit the whole human race.  
Notwithstanding as a whole a vast concern,  
Sets example how the wheels of Industry should turn.

J.A.W.

## THE HEAD WRIGHTSON MACHINE COMPANY LTD.

### Visit to Stewart & Lloyds Ltd., Corby

Three 'bus parties left Middlesbrough Works in the early hours of Tuesday morning, May 22nd, to see the Seamless Tube Mill at Corby Works.

This visit, attended by 120 staff and works personnel, was at the kind invitation of Stewarts & Lloyds' Directors and a very interesting visit it turned out to be.

One 'bus party was almost presumed lost, it had encountered a rather wide "Teesdale" load on the way down, however it arrived safely on site 15 minutes late, after search parties had been sent out.

After being welcomed by Mr. W. Crawford, Tube Works' General Manager, a very fine lunch preceded by drinks all round was enjoyed by all.

The remaining period up 'till tea-time was occupied by a tour of the Continuous Weld Mills, where our Flying Hot Saws were seen in operation. This was followed by a visit to the Automatic Seamless Tube Mill, which was designed and manufactured at Middlesbrough.

The party, which was split up into groups, was ably guided by officials of the firm. The party was most impressed by all that they saw, particularly with our own mill, which aroused considerable interest. This mill is now producing two tubes, each 35' long, every two minutes and is, no doubt, a grand advertisement for our products.

After a very enjoyable day Mr. Lake thanked our hosts for the wonderful welcome we had received and Mr. Crawford responded, saying how delighted he was to see such a large number of H.W. M. Co. employees present. The general opinion of all who went to Corby was that it was well worth while and everyone was impressed by the friendly welcome given by Stewarts & Lloyds' personnel. Our thanks to our hosts and also to the Company for this visit.

### Office Topics

Mrs. Blackburn (Sylvia) left this Division to take-up switchboard duties at Teesdale and to mark this occasion was presented, by Mr. Gowthorp, with a coffee perculator. We wish her good luck in her new surroundings and hope to hear her say 'Hello' sometime.

One hour's hard labour by a certain member of our Staff did not save him from the arm of the law. I wonder if we dare ask him to write about his experience in front of the 'beak'? How did he feel when confronted with this grave(1) problem?

Congratulations to P. J. Llewellyn on his appointment as Project Superintendent in connection with Nuclear Power Plant. Mr. Lake, on behalf of the Benevolent Fund, presented Peter with a Parker 51 Pen and Pencil Set, Good Luck and Best Wishes from the Machine Company! We still hope to see him pop in now and again.

Best Wishes to Alan Collinson and his new bride, who were married on Saturday, 19th May, in Bradford Cathedral. Alan was presented with a Tea Service, by Mr. R. H. Davies, on behalf of the Benevolent Fund. We understand that Alan and his bride are now living in a caravan, somewhere on the Gower coast, South Wales. He invited all members of the Benevolent Fund to drop in sometime to try out the Tea Service.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Bob Elliott (Welder).

### Stork News by 'Marg' !!

Congratulations to Gordon Surtees, A. Rutherford, Ron Burley, Geoff Hutchinson and Tom Hunt. All are now proud fathers since our last issue.

### News in General by S.E.

A Married Men versus Bachelors Football match was organised by the Benevolent Fund at Teesdale Park on Tuesday, 1st May, Married Men's team was:



L. Williamson, J. Boston, A. Blencarne, T. Smith, F. A. Batty, E. Jopling, D. Burns (Capt.), J. Harris, W. Gartry, with J. Stevely acting as substitute.  
Single men: H. Milner, T. Hill, H. Foster, I. Atkinson, S. Loynes, K. Austin, W. Elstrop (Capt.), L. Walker, K. Goodison, W. Lockheed, D. Mushens. Referee: S. Jackson.

The Old Married Men won the day by 4 goals to 1 and goal scorers were W. Gartry 1, D. Burns 3. The Single Men's scorer was H. Foster. There was good support from our female staff, who seemed to be on the Single Men's side and a jolly good evening it turned out to be.

I understand that Archie is being watched by one of Middlesbrough's scouts. Our tame cameraman was there again and took shots of both teams before the match. The illustrated shot shows Harry Foster about to 'kick' Les. Williamson or the ball. Aren't those pants too tight, Les. ? ? ?

We were pleased to hear of Mr. Gowthorp's appointment as Assistant General Manager and we wish him success in this new field.

Welcome to newcomers in the D.O. Two Lady Apprentice Draughtswomen, Jan Macdonald and Beryl Stainsby, and Ken Davies, (trainee draughtsman) who has transferred from the Pattern Shop.

One of our female members, now known as 'The Terror of the Transporter' is reported to have ventured up the steel stairway, one sunny lunch time. Evidently the canteen lunch began to tell and she retired gracefully landwards after reaching the halfway mark. Will there be further attempts to reach great heights this summer? Who knows? !!

Best Wishes to Albert Brown who was married at Easter to Miss Doreen Peacock. Our news hound reports that Albert was presented with a magnificent ball and chain at the wedding breakfast. Was this a good omen or not !!

Another member of our staff Miss Hilda Rogers became engaged recently to Stoker Mechanic A. W. Archer, R.N., it must be the spring in the air.

Best Wishes to Arthur Beddow who is joining the R.A.F. to do his bit of national service.

The Machine Co. Football team played the Steel Foundry on 4th May, at Teesdale Park. They lost the match 1-0 to worthy oponents but as records stand last year they reached the semi Finals, this year the Final, so watch out for next years results !!

### Tom Brown-ed Off

It's sad, I failed may driving test,  
I hope I succeed later,  
By then, I think I'll do my best  
To "drop" my indicator.

**McKEE DIVISION**

With the prospect of a greatly increased amount of work to be done due to the promise of a major contract for blast furnace and materials handling plant in India, there has been of recent weeks a frantic race to complete a considerable extension to our drawing office; the roof has been removed and replaced over a portion of the old template loft, a new floor laid, windows removed and replaced and altogether an enormous amount of activity to make the place habitable to accommodate an increase in Drawing Office staff. When complete, the office will be 250 ft. long — we have heard rumours of the inauguration of an internal bus service and a flight of pigeons to carry mail back and forth but cannot vouch for the authenticity of such speculations.

We are extremely pleased to report that this year the staff team, a fair proportion of which consisted of members of this division, were successful in winning the Junior Interdepartmental Football Cup and we would like to congratulate the boys most heartily on their endeavours, particularly as this is the first time in ten years that a team from the office staff has won this competition.

We had hoped once again for the assistance of our star bowler, Tom Eckford, in the current bowls season but unfortunately Tom, who has had rather a bad time due to illness, is not yet as well as he might be. We understand that he is again going to hospital for further examination and wish him a speedy recovery when we will once more see him on the green.

Friends of Andrew Young will no doubt be pleased to learn that his wife has presented him with a daughter. We sent him a small token to mark the occasion and as a reminder that he is still among us, at least, in spirit.

Our much maligned (they say) Tracing Staff have gone all poetical with the advent of June and we conclude with their combined effort of verse, headed, with apologies to Shakespeare.

**Trials and Tribulations**

To work, or not to work: that is the question:  
 Whether 'tis nobler for us all to suffer the deeds and  
 tortures we endure,  
 Or to take arms against all draughtsmen, and by oppos-  
 ing end them? To strike,  
 To work no more; and, by a strike to say we end  
 The tracings and the thousand alterations that we are  
 prone to,  
 'tis a thought devoutly to be wished.  
 To work, or strike; To sleep: perchance to dream: aye:  
 there's the rub;  
 For in that sleep what dreams may come!  
 When we have rid ourselves of one great toil may not  
 another take its place and make calamity of our short  
 lives;  
 Yet who would bear the whips and scorns of men,  
 The tracer wrong, the draughtsman always right.  
 The return of amended tracings, the hours spent, the  
 insolence of men,  
 the spurns we patiently bear, when we ourselves might  
 easily rebel and refuse to alter? Who would tracing bear,  
 to toil and sweat under a weary life,  
 Yet makes us rather bear these ills we have,  
 Than rush to other trades we know not of?

**MAINTENANCE**

Two most enjoyable evenings were spent in our Club some weeks ago and a good deal of hidden talent revealed that would have done credit to the "Works Wonders" programme.

What with 'our Frankie,' George Howe, the Baker brothers, D. Preece's "Goodbye" being as good as ever;

Jim Stockdale as the singing wrestler; Bill Kennedy's "Red sails in the Sunset," and many more who provided good entertainment.

The occasion was to bid farewell to three of our electricians who have decided to make their fortunes abroad; Bill Kennedy having gone to the U.S.A.; Ronnie Johnson and Eddie Metcalfe to Canada. Each received suitable gifts and good wishes which were presented by Mr. Hutchinson. We all join in wishing them every success in their new venture.

Once again our Air Rifle teams showed their prowess, the "B" team being once more successful in winning the Interdepartmental trophy by beating the Heat Exchanger Shop in the final. This victory recompensed the "A" team's defeat by the Heat Exchanger Shop by one point in the semi-final. We are all out now for the 'hat trick.'



**Russian Minister inspecting Cooling Tower at Harwell**

*By permission of the Daily Mirror*

**H.W. PROCESSES LTD.**

The Shell Petroleum Co., for whom we have executed a large number of plant projects in the past, have instructed us to proceed with the design of an extension to their Middle East Crude installation at Stanlow.

In March of this year the Russian Minister for Power Stations visited the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell, and inspected the cooling tower which we are erecting on the site of the new nuclear research reactor, E.443. A picture showing this inspection was widely published in the national press.

From the beginning of this year a monthly News Letter has been dispatched to the Area Managers and the Head Wrightson offices overseas, giving up-to-date information concerning the sales of our products and details of new projects upon which we are engaged. This letter serves as a useful instrument for the interchange of information.

H.W.P. Social Club is showing signs of a revival due to the enthusiasm of certain of our staff members. Its first big event of the season is an "Informal Dance" to be held in Finsbury Town Hall on Friday, 8th June. Informality is the theme and 'anything goes' — within reason ! !

We're promised a wide field of dancing; from old-time jiving to crazy creeping. Hep cats and slim Jims will rule the floor and music-lovers have been respectfully warned to bring ear-plugs. The proceeds of the dance (our Estimating Department visualise 1½ per cent profit) will promote future Club ventures. These include the exploration of Chelsea Creek in a banana-boat and scaling the North front of St. Paul's Cathedral at the next full moon.

In answer to enquiries about the activities of H.W.P. Mountaineering Society, our next attempt will be that famous landmark, the Five Lamps, Thornaby. (Before the Council replace the Lamps, of course).

We hear from an ex-member of Parent Company, now at H.W.P., who recently visited them 'up there' that Trafalgar Street has taken on a new air with the completion of the new office-building. The entrance hall, we are told, surpasses the decor of any Espresso coffee-house. We, in our turn, boast an extra office-building, on Old Street. The decor of the 'Annexe' is gracious and dignified, to fit the mood of the City. H.W.P.'s most eligible bachelor, however, sports a window-box in which he has carefully nurtured pinks. Reds are banned. (We're all screened at H.W.P. — Atomic Energy, you know).

It may have been the visit of the Russian Minister to Harwell which prompted a certain H.W.P. bod to wear the latest thing in Russian headgear to the office. Alas, he was twice accosted in Baltic Street and mistaken for Davy Crockett.

#### THE HEAD WRIGHTSON EXPORT CO. LTD.

The Head Wrightson Export Company, which grew from the former Export Sales Department of the Parent Company, started work as a subsidiary company in September last.

It is the job of "H.W.Ex." to look after the overseas sales interests of the Parent Company, and of all our subsidiaries, to see that our overseas agents do a good job, and generally to collaborate with companies and divisions in seeing that H.W.'s work overseas is sufficiently plentiful and adequately profitable.

Mr. Vaughan Pendred, the Managing Director, is necessarily out of England for a good deal of the time, but Mr. W. B. Thompson and Mr. Fred Holland are normally in London Office, and are ready to give advice and help on export matters to anyone in the H.W. organisation who wants it.

#### HEAD WRIGHTSON COLLIERY ENGINEERING LIMITED

##### Sheffield

Hearty Congratulations to Mr. D. Cooper on his marriage to Miss J. Spotswood, and to Miss P. C. Whitham on her marriage to Mr. B. N. Madison.

Congratulations to Mr. H. J. Walker on completion of 21 years' service with the Company.

##### Engagement :

All best wishes to Miss S. Marshall on her engagement.

##### Teesdale

We welcome the following new members on joining our Staff.

Miss Margaret Bennett — Wages Dept.  
Miss Janet Harris — Typing Dept.  
Mrs. Jean Spurr — Typing Dept.  
Miss Thelma Truelove — Filing Dept.  
Mr. Jack Whitehead — Drawing Office.

Since the last issue of "Wright Ahead," the following members have joined the staff of Head Wrightson Colliery Engineering Limited at Thornaby:

In the Civil Engineering Department.

Mr. J. L. B. Emery, Mr. B. W. Robinson, Mr. D. Whitaker and Mr. H. A. Harrison.  
In the Drawing Office.

Mr. R. D. Lynch, Mr. T. W. Ross, Mr. L. Riley, Mr. A. Hutchinson and Miss J. Fenny.

(This is not quite up to date as Miss Fenny has now become Mrs. Irvin. Her wedding took place on the 2nd June and all members of the staff would like to offer their congratulations and best wishes for a long and happy married life.)

Mrs. I. M. Land has also joined our Typing Staff and we hope that her stay with us will be a happy one.

The offices, which until Easter were occupied by the Shipping Department, have now been taken over and have helped to house some of the new members of the staff mentioned above.



#### Nuclear Power Plant Co., Ltd.

It is now exactly twelve months since we took up residence in our country home at Knutsford, the initial Head Wrightson contingent consisting of Fred Carr and Rod Taylor, who came from H.W.P., and Peter Rooksby, John Oliver and Frank Austin, who moved down from Teesdale, Mr. Austin returning to Teesdale last Christmas. Since then we have been joined by G. Elliott, B. Ediss, M. Proudlove, R. Tolliday, G. Ritson, H. R. Fish, A. R. Cooke, F. West and L. Gandolfo, who were engaged locally.

Work is proceeding at an ever increasing pace on the design and tender for the first of two nuclear power stations which are to be built by the Central Electricity Authority. The designs of these are based on the atomic power station now being built at Calder Hall.

We know that our various comings and goings to Thornaby are often shrouded in some mystery and that all manner of interpretations have been put on the test rig which has been erected at the end of the McKee Division offices, in fact the official nickname for this at Thornaby is now "Quatermass," but really it is quite a harmless piece of equipment.

We find working at Booths Hall quite a change to working at Teesdale, the rural atmosphere of the park surrounding this lovely mansion is entirely the opposite to the "green fields and trees" surrounding Teesdale Works! The buzzing of the bees and the twittering of the birds make a pleasant change to the riveting hammers and clattering steam cranes which one normally hears at Teesdale. However, the amenities of a private tennis court and swimming pool help us to get by.



**PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE AWARDS**

A third annual presentation of long service awards was made in the recently completed senior staff dining hall at Teesdale Iron Works, Thornaby-on-Tees. Sir John Wrightson, Bart., Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, supported by Mr. Peter Wrightson, O.B.E., Managing Director, parent Company directors, the Rt. Hon. Viscount Ridley, C.B.E., Col. H. D. P. Frances, C.B.E., M.C., T.D., Mr. K. W. Hickman, members of the organisation's senior management and of the Employees' Council (a joint consultative body), handed over handsome clocks to five employees with over 50 years' service and twenty-four gold watches to those with over 40 years' service.

Mr. Harry Parsons, Foreman of the Tool Room, who was a recipient of a clock, responded to the speech made by Sir John Wrightson.

Though this is only the third year these awards have been presented, 53 employees have received clocks for 50 years' service and 180 have been given watches for 40 years' service.

**LONG SERVICE AWARDS, 1956**

**Clocks.** 50 years' service.

F. W. Parsons, H. Parsons (Tool Room), J. C. Boucher (Bridge Yard), R. Higgin (Egglescliffe), G. Lee (Seaton).

**Watches.** 40 years' service.

J. Foxton, W. Lakin, G. M. Renton, T. Smith (Machine Shop), R. E. Brown, J. H. Leeson, P. W. Wren, J. Green (Bridge Yard), E. Gray, W. Sheldon (Alloy Shop), J. H. Hutchinson, T. E. Johnson, R. Verill (Steel Foundry), A. Jessop, G. Staton (Egglescliffe), A. Emmerson, F. Hammond, R. Snowdon, C. Warriner (Stockton Forge), R. E. Cummings, H. L. Hopps, S. Lamb (Seaton), H. Vickers (Wages), A. Tuck (General Stores).

**Lines from an Absent Recipient**

There is a party to-day — a splendid affair,  
 Along with the workmen, the Directors are there,  
 The reason — you'll ask — I'll have you believe  
 It's the Firms recompense for the past forty years.  
 Now "Always Advancing" is the motto of our Town,  
 Head Wrightsons' are proving they won't let it down.  
 They started just here a century ago  
 With a very small foundry — "Head Ashby & Co.,"  
 Then later, the name was altered again,  
 To Head, Wrightson & Co., who helped it to fame.  
 Now the "Right Sons" are following the Family Trail,  
 Up to now, they are showing they don't need to fail,  
 The reason these lines are written by me,  
 Is because through ill health, I'm an absentee,  
 Though absent in person, in thought, you'll agree,  
 I'd much rather have been with you, enjoying my tea.

By J. C. Boucher.

**THE ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE NORTH EAST COAST**

From Friday afternoon the 25th to Sunday afternoon the 27th of May, Mr. John W. Wardell was one of the four tutors conducting a week-end course on the above subject at Wrea Head College, the adult education centre of the North Riding Education Authority at Scalby, near Scarborough. The other tutors were Dr. G. V. Scammell and Prof. E. Hughes of Durham University and Mr. F. W. Brooks of Hull University, and their periods were the 13th to 15th centuries over the whole area, the 18th

century with particular reference to the Tyne and the Wear, and the 16th and 17th centuries with the emphasis on the Humber, respectively. Mr. Wardell's subject was the development of Tees-side trade and industry, particularly during the last 150 years, and this proved to be of the greatest interest to the students, because the final session — the general discussion — was practically devoted to it.

In his introduction, Mr. Wardell dealt first with the river Tees and its modifications; then with Yarm, the main port and trade centre until 250 years ago, and lastly with the early development of Darlington, Stockton and Hartlepool. From 1810, when the Mandale Cut was made and the idea of the Stockton and Darlington Railway was born, the lecture fell naturally into three divisions. The first covers the exuberant stage of localised industrial development, which was given its first co-ordination by the setting up of the Tees Conservancy Commission in 1852. The second takes us through the hectic 70 years of maximum expansion, during which the emphasis passed from coal to iron and then from iron to steel. In this period the many small iron and steel and manufacturing units coalesced to form fewer and ever-growing larger ones, while the building of small sailing ships gave place to the production of ever-increasing steam-propelled vessels with dock and harbour facilities to suit, but the vastly expanding population was tied to the three basic industries of iron and steel, shipbuilding and repairing and heavy engineering. The final stage, from 1922 to date, began with trade recession, which was followed by mass unemployment, rationalization and reorganisation, and ended with the present phase of full employment, in which the chemical industry has joined the other three basic ones, all now in greater units, and a start has been made with light industries in trading estates to create occupational diversity.

It is noticeable how, throughout the last 150 years, the centre of gravity of the Tees-side industrial area has moved steadily towards the sea. Eston is now the most important development area in the North, and in a few years' time, all the Cleveland plain from Acklam to Saltburn will be filled with factories, townships and housing estates.

Throughout the lecture reference was made, stage by stage, to the birth and development of the many firms which have assisted, or are still contributing to, the growth of Tees-side, the greatest industrial area on the North-East Coast, and in this galaxy Head Wrightsons are duly noticed.

**TENNIS SECTION**

**TENNIS PLAYERS — PLEASE NOTE**

**TOURNAMENT FORTNIGHT**

18th August—1st September

Miles Trophy—Men's Singles

Ladies' Singles

Men's Doubles

Ladies' Doubles

Mixed Doubles

## H. W. PERSONALITY

### MR. JOHN FRANKLIN, Machine Shop Manager Engineering Division

Mr. Franklin commenced work at Stockton Forge at the end of 1912 and was Mr. J. Lawson's first apprentice. His wage was 4/11d. per week and this was 1/- per week more than was paid to the apprentices in Federated shops.

His first job was on a small pin-drilling machine. Following the normal course of an apprenticeship at that time, he was taught the job by the boy who preceded him on that machine. He progressed to a different type of machine at intervals of 3 — 4 months. He was doing his first work on a lathe when the 1914-18 War began. In 1915 a number of machines were purchased and set down in what was then known as the "Old Forge" and most of the apprentices were put to turning shells on these lathes. During the course of this work a new shop was built over their heads and they very often worked in overcoats whilst the snow was falling. When the new shop was completed, a day and night shift was instituted with hours 6 a.m. — 5 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Before the work on shell turning had begun, apprentices were engaged on the machining of parts for and the building of mine sinkers, often working from 6 a.m. in the morning until 9 p.m. at night and sometimes all night on a Friday night. As a result of this apprentices were prevented from attending their twice weekly night classes. For the extra time they worked they received the sum of 6d. per day. A request to be released on two nights per week to attend Night Class was refused but the Management agreed to pay at the rate of time and a quarter for all hours worked.

Mr. Franklin continued on various classes of work, mostly turning until late in the War when he joined the R.A.F. He returned from the R.A.F. on the day of his 21st birthday and started work after the Easter holidays in 1919 as a journeyman fitter.

He was engaged in fitting work for about two years and then began work on the big lathe and had the job of turning the largest diameter ever to be turned and also that of the heaviest hopper. In those days, the firm did not have all these modern machines and, very often, lathes had to be adapted to do the normal work of the planing machines.

The firm, at that time, were particularly anxious to keep as many of their employees as possible and in their efforts to do so, cut down their hours of work and there were periods when hours were 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on four days per week and for quite lengthy periods, four day weeks at normal hours were worked.

In 1932, trade again began to improve and in May, 1933, Mr. Franklin was brought to Teesdale by Mr. Lawson as Assistant Foreman in the Machine Shop. In 1934, Mr. Franklin was given complete charge of the Machine Shop and was responsible for the building of



the first 1,000 ton hot metal mixer, the first casting cars and the first Greenawalt sinter plant.

His earliest days at Teesdale coincided with extensive orders for tube mills for South Africa and the record of the shop was 45 mills in 43 weeks.

October, 1939, is the date when the shop began new piecework and time recording systems, leaving behind the old time boards for the cards as they are to-day. At the same time Mr. Franklin became responsible for the whole of the Engineering shops at Teesdale which included the Old Factory, which was burned in 1949.

In 1946, the Railway line which ran alongside the machine shop, was moved nearer to the offices and our present fitting shop was built, and has since been extended to enable us to build the first continuous McKee sintering machine.

After the fire, the machine shop was extended and a new tool room provided and further extensions into the Old Smiths' Shop, now reconditioned and rebuilt, have provided the present Light Machine Shop.

After 44 years' service, Mr. Franklin continues to enjoy his work with the Company and looks forward to many more years with us. When one looks at Mr. Franklin, it is difficult to imagine that he was among the recipients of a watch for 40 years' service at the Company's first presentation of long service awards.