

WRIGHT AHEAD

THE HEAD WRIGHTSON NEWS LETTER

VOL. 8

DECEMBER 1957

NO. 5



Chairman's Letter

We have perhaps observed that the Chairman's letter on the front page of "Wright Ahead" always follows a fairly consistent pattern.

There are usually three simple headings. In the first, attention is drawn to some outstanding work that we have done at Head, Wrightson's, and there is a picture to illustrate it. Under the second heading, reference is made to economic and trading conditions; and lastly there is, I always hope, a note of optimism and goodwill.

In the Christmas number it is obviously appropriate to emphasise the last heading: optimism and goodwill, to which we should add: peace on earth.

As our little works magazine is the only medium for the comprehensive expression of all our wishes, I take this opportunity on behalf of all of us to wish each other, and our friends:

**A Merry Christmas
and A Happy New Year**

May we especially not forget the very young, the very old, and those who suffer infirmity, or are otherwise in distress.

*At Christmas I no more desire a rose,
Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled mirth;
But like of each thing that in season grows.*

Richard Miles

PERSONAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Head Wrightson Machine Co. Ltd.

Mr. W. Lockheed to Miss J. Pallister.
Mr. S. Loynes to Miss D. Harrison.

Head Wrightson Teesdale Ltd.

Mr. G. W. Metcalfe to Miss Sheila Walker.

MARRIAGES



Mr. and Mrs. E. Wigglesworth

The Head Wrightson Machine Co. Ltd.

Mr. D. Craggs to Miss A. Lightburn.
Mr. M. Gibson to Miss J. Morgan.

Head Wrightson Iron & Steel Works Engineering.

Mr. J. B. Whenray to Miss M. Wilson.

Maintenance.

Mr. T. McCabe to Miss B. Lamb (Steel Castings).

H.W. Teesdale Ltd.

Miss D. Atkinson (Costs) to Mr. E. Wigglesworth.
Mr. C. Banner (D.O.) to Miss M. Pearson (Costs).

H.O. (Research and Development).

Mr. R. P. Brown to Miss L. Wright, LL.B.

BIRTHS

Maintenance.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Preece—a daughter.

Head Wrightson Stockton Forge Ltd.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Thomas—a son.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Liphthorpe—a daughter.
Mr. and Mrs. Don. Williams—a daughter.

Head Wrightson Iron & Steel Works Engineering.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Davies—a son.
Mr. and Mrs. D. Hudson—a son.

Head Wrightson Colliery Engineering Ltd. (Sheffield).

Mr. and Mrs. C. Elms—a son.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Steel—a daughter.

H.Q. (Research and Development).

Mr. and Mrs. E. Marshall—a daughter.

DEATHS

Condolences to the families of :-

Head Wrightson Steel Foundries Ltd.

TEESDALE.

Mr. J. Bond.

STOCKTON.

Mr. S. Burdett (coremaker) after thirty-four years service.

Maintenance Department.

Mr. W. Jones, electrician. Mr. J. Sturdy, labourer.

H. W. Stampings Ltd.

Mr. Arthur Gibbon (Fitting Shop). Mr. Gibbon was unmarried.

INTERNATIONAL ROLLER SKATING EVENT

2nd — 4th NOVEMBER.

Douglas Moore, one of our Maintenance Department fitters took part in the European Roller Skating Championships at Bologna, Italy, and obtained fourth place in the Roller Dance Competition.

The British team finished second behind the Germans on total place markings and the Italian team was third. Eight European countries competed.



Some members of the Senior Staff of Head Wrightson & Co. Ltd., and their wives. 1869.

HEAD WRIGHTSON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

For a beginning, we would draw your attention to the fact that the Society is at the moment suffering from an acute shortage of male acting members, as readers of the Society's own News Letter and of the Drama Column in the Evening Gazette will already be aware. We are sure that there must be plenty of dramatic talent among the men of the Head Wrightson organization. Previous experience is not essential, so if you would like to join just contact our secretary, Miss E. Turner, Teesdale General Offices, or any society member.

The first event of 1957/58 season was our Annual Ball, which was held on 25th October in Teesdale Hall. This function was, as usual, a great success, and we are grateful to Mr. Frank Shepherd and his staff for their contribution to this.

The first play of the season, a light comedy, "Mate in Three", was staged on October 30th and 31st and November 1st. Although this play received good reports, and was enjoyed by the people who saw it, it was not one of our most successful ventures, the audiences being definitely smaller than average. We don't know whether the fact that it was so early in the season was responsible for this, or whether the society members did not work sufficiently hard selling tickets. However, this does not detract from the excellent performances of the cast, Eileen O'Hara, Eileen Turner, Harry Shields, Fred. Mothersdale, and two new members, Maureen Fidler and David White, nor from the very lovely set, in which the workshop staff really excelled themselves. Congratulations are also due to our former Stage Director, in his first venture as producer.

Our next play, to be held in March, is a drama "Someone Waiting" by Emyln Williams. It had a most successful run, as a professional production, and we hope that many of you will be along to see our production of it.

Personality Parade

MR. GEORGE WILKS

H.W. Stockton Forge Ltd.

Our previous personalities have all been actor members, whom our audiences are accustomed to seeing behind the footlights. George, in spite of repeated entreaties, has never yet acted in one of our productions, but, in his capacity as Stage Director, he has not only played a vital part in each one of them for some years now, but has been a great influence in the shaping of the Society.

George's first production as Stage Director was "I Have Five Daughters." As those of our patrons who saw this play will remember, it had a very elaborate Regency period set. This was constructed under very great difficulties. At that time the Society had no workshop in which to build scenery, and all the work had to be done in Teesdale Hall itself. This meant that it was only possible to work on one flat at a time, while the only available storage space for the completed flats was in the old stables. In spite of this, however, a really beautiful set was achieved.

After the production of "I Have Five Daughters", the firm kindly allowed us the use of an old template loft, in which George and his band of helpers were able to est-

ablish the long desired workshop, and here all our sets have been built ever since. Do you recall the oak-panelled set for "John Marlow's Profession", the "lettuce leaf" wallpaper, the pantry and old fashioned kitchen range for "Job for the Boy", the timbered farmhouse for "The Camel's Back", and the beautiful settings of "An Inspector Calls" and "Night Was Our Friend."

There is more, however, to the job of Stage Director than actually building the sets. In the early stages of the production, the set has to be evolved, calling for close consultation between the Stage Director and Producer. Later, suitable furniture has to be begged or borrowed (we've never yet stooped to stealing) from various places and persons. On the actual nights of the performance, the Stage Director has complete charge of everything backstage. The Producer's duties end (officially) with the final Dress Rehearsal.

Of course, things haven't always run smoothly. There was the first night of "The Camel's Back", when one of the cast opened a door on stage inwards instead of outwards and pulled it off its hinges. Fortunately most of the audience didn't notice, although one person who did was the producer, Fred Mothersdale, who was in the front of the house. He dashed backstage, and was roped in to hold the door in place while the backstage staff fixed it in time for an actress to make her exit. Then there was the little difficulty with the curtain raising music of "An Inspector Calls", which was taken from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. For the first two acts, the famous "fate knocking at the door" theme was used. For the last act, the curtain raiser was taken from a later movement of the symphony. On the first night, George didn't recognise this, and therefore didn't give the signal for the curtain to rise, so the cast behind the curtain and the audience in front of it waited in suspense, for the curtain to go up, while George waited for "fate knocking at the door."

And now George has changed his duties from Stage Director to Producer, and we are sure he will be just as successful in the new role as in the old. Whilst on the subject of George, we would mention that he did wonderful work on the Committee for a number of years, while our Monthly Meetings and social events owe a great deal of their success to him, and who knows, we may even persuade him to act one of these fine days.



H.W. TEESDALE LTD.

Machine Shop.

Quite recently a 'Material Handling Demonstration' was held in the Light Machine Shop. Lansing Bagnall supplied various types of Trucks and the demonstrators to put them through their paces. All the Engineering Division was represented — each representative was keen to see the most suitable type of truck for his department. In addition to the trucks on display were various space saving racks, bins, etc. The demonstration which was attended by Messrs. Sturges, Purnell and Hall and departmental representatives, provided all present with a further reminder of the advantage of keeping up-to-date with modern equipment.

We wish a happy retirement to Jim Wallace who has just left us after forty-eight years with H.W. His many friends and workmates showed their appreciation and esteem with a presentation of bank-notes. To Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding, best of luck and good health for the future.

(We are now informed that the date of the photo in the last issue should have been 1908 not 1905).



H.W. STEEL FOUNDRIES LTD.

Teesdale.

From the Director and General Manager—This is the time for New Year Resolutions. Can we all resolve to do our part in keeping the foundry and dressing yard tidy? A contract has been placed for re-decorating the shops throughout. An arrangement has also been made for the regular cleaning of roof light and side windows. The effect of this managerial effort to provide attractive surroundings will be spoiled if we ignore the notices "BE TIDY."

On November 22nd, we said good-bye to one of our colleagues, Roy Stewart, who has returned to his native Newcastle. We wish him all the best of luck and hope he won't forget his old friends in the Foundry.

Congratulations to Mr. Geo. Clarkson on his achievement in winning a cup and a plaque in the pairs and Coronation Cup (Bowls competitions) and also to his team mates.

Presentations :

Mr. Geo. Allen presented gifts to two long service employees, Mr. J. Cheetham with forty-two years service



Presentation to Mr. J. Cheetham

and Mr. J. Wesson with forty-six years service. The Staff and their colleagues had subscribed generously for their gifts and Mr. Allen recalled how small the foundry had been in the years when these men had begun to work there and how it had grown to be one of the largest in the area during their working lives. Both men were able to speak about the great improvements in conditions of work, etc. which had been made since their early days. They expressed thanks for the gifts received and regret that they were now at the age of retirement. (see photos).

It is with regret that we record the death of one of our colleagues, Mr. J. Bond, after a long illness. Our deepest sympathy goes to his relatives.

We are sorry to learn of the serious illness of one of our old employees, Mr. Alf. Proctor (late Brass founder). We wish him a speedy recovery.



Presentation to Mr. J. Wesson

CUPOLA MINING & MILLING CO. LTD., AT STONEY MIDDLETON send their seasonal greetings and best wishes to all readers for a happy and prosperous New Year.



H.W. STOCKTON FORGE LTD.

We welcome back after a long illness John Appleby of the Forge D.O.

The Drawing Office are holding a smoker on Thursday, 5th December as a preliminary to the Stockton Forge Dance which is to be held on Friday, 20th December.

Colin Jones who has recently returned from a world cruise in his capacity as

junior engineer aboard the Orient liner "Orcades," paid us a visit and from the tales which he told, we are thinking of nominating him for membership of "The Tall Story Club."

A Welder's Dilemma.

On the evening of 20th November last, two foremen and four welders set off in two cars to attend a lecture on "Fuse Arc Welding" and on arrival in the vicinity of the lecture hall, both drivers dropped their passengers and proceeded to find a parking place.

One driver (whom we shall call 'Jack') joined the main group who stood waiting for the other driver (let's call him 'George'). No George turned up so off they went to the lecture room. During the lecture, every movement at the door behind brought anxious glances from our five friends but still no George. Afterwards, they searched for and, eventually, found him. What happened? Well, George followed a crowd and ended up listening to a lecture on Economics and was too embarrassed to leave when the truth dawned on him.

Forge 'Teasers' for Christmas.

Smith walking down a country lane came to a fork in the road and being unsure of which way to take, enquired from a youngster who was standing nearby. Smith knew the lad, one of a notorious pair of twins, but was unable to distinguish them apart. He knew, however, that one always told the truth and the other always told lies. He then asked the lad one question and from the reply was able to carry on along the road. What was the question?

Can you solve the following addition sum, by substituting numbers for letters. No two different letters have the same value.

USE
TWO
PLY

WOOL

Can you find a word in the English language which has in it two 'U's side by side?

We wish a speedy recovery and return to work to:—
Messrs. P. Wallace, P. Finn and L. Littlefair.



HEAD WRIGHTSON STAMPINGS LTD.

In our last number, we reported the return to work after an injury to his head, of Mr. Hal Stather (Maintenance). Unfortunately, he has since suffered a fracture of the foot and is once again indisposed. We sincerely hope that 1958 will bring a year free of accidents and sickness. He seems to have had more than his share of the former recently, as earlier we have reported a fractured wrist, two fractured fingers and a fractured skull.

We offer our condolences to the following who have been bereaved:—

- Miss Joyce Hall (Wages Dept.) and family.
- Mr. and Mrs. James O'Keefe (Labourer).
- Mr. Thomas Gibson (Electrician).

We have discovered recently that a certain member of the Staff is the holder of a Referee's Certificate, and recently acted as linesman during one of the F.A. Cup rounds. I can only forewarn the members of his section that any misbehaving or slackening on their part will no doubt be rewarded with a sharp blast on his whistle or the frantic waving of his flag, so no "offside play" if you please.

Much can be said for the motor show at Olympia, but what of "Stampings" own display? Models here ranged from a 1930 Ford to the latest and up-to-date Zephyr. These cars are not only confined to the official body either. One of the latest owners is a certain foreman who on his return from taking his test recently was heard to say "I was sure I did alright—I only mounted the pavement twice." Needless to say he didn't receive his diploma. Better luck next time "Mickey." Better luck next time also to the "Referee"—he says he failed for not using his mirror correctly—does this account for the number of successful women drivers?

Arrangements are going ahead for "Stampings" 4th Annual Dance, 14th February, 1958. Watch for posters giving details of the evening's events. We can assure you of a pleasant evening. Tickets will be on sale shortly after the New Year, so be sure to obtain yours as the number will once more be limited.

We will bid farewell to Mrs. E. Thompson, formerly Edna Brown of the Typists Section, on Christmas Eve. Edna has been with us this past seven years and is leaving to take up full household duties. We wish her joy and happiness in her new role.

We welcome to "Stampings" Derek Jopling, transferred from Teesdale Purchasing Dept.

To add a personal touch, I would like to say:—

It is often difficult to obtain suitable material for each number of "Wright Ahead." As the current copy is received, my immediate thought is "Will I be able to supply the Editor with a "Stampings" contribution next time." I sincerely hope that I have provided you with interesting reading during the past year, and take this opportunity to thank all who have co-operated in any way. And now as the Christmas Season is with us once more, "Stampings" send Greetings to all Divisions at home and overseas, and personnel in H.M. Forces for the merriest of Christmases and a Prosperous New Year. And to all magazine representatives once more "Happy Writing" in 1958.



HEAD WRIGHTSON MACHINE CO. LTD.

We extend a welcome to Mervin Liversedge and Miss Margaret Peel, newcomers to our staff. From nearby comes the news that Mr. Harry Foster is on a diet (reputed to consist entirely of fish and chips) and is doing nicely thank you.

A pair of 'L' plates, well worn and marked 'F.V.H.' have been gladly discarded from the Machine Shop but it seems that Jack Harris, D.O. has taken quite a fancy to his and is not prepared to part just yet. John Timothy has returned after illness and it is hoped that Jack Oldroyd and Mike Beckwith will soon follow suit. Don Macdonald has gone into the forces whilst David Auld has just emerged.

J. Graham Reed has been transferred to the General Office Staff. By the way, H.W. & Co. seem to be well represented in the matter of prestidigitators, (magicians to you).

It is usual for apprentice draughtsmen to do a "stint" in the shops, there are seven at the moment but new ground has been broken by the appearance amongst us of two lady members of that august profession, viz. Miss Janet Macdonald and Miss Beryl Stainsby, who are tackling things in a very workmanlike manner.

Congratulations to Allen Hird and Don Craggs who have attained their majorities.

The cheerful countenance of Michael Cox made its appearance in the shop and we presume that along with Jeff Bird, a return to civvy street and H.W. is imminent.

Jackie Patterson, we are glad to say, is out of hospital and we hope that we shall soon see him back in his usual place. Steve Thompson has been ill a long time but we hope for better news of him soon. It is good to note that John Ridsdale has been able to discard his leg caliper after his serious accident. We trust the improvement in his health will continue.



HEAD WRIGHTSON PROCESSES LTD.

Christmas is with us once more, and we extend our hearty seasonal greetings to all our friends.



We reproduce, at the foot of previous column, the photograph of a tableau which formed part of H.W.P. Instrument Section, D.O. decorations last year. The photograph was not available in time for the 1956 issue of "Wright Ahead", and it has been patiently preserved for now. The design and manufacture of the tableau were by our Mr. R. F. T. Ledwidge.

H.W.P. Annual Dance was held at Dunstar House, in the City of London, on 29th November, 1957. We feel sure that the usual fun of all sorts was had by one and all, including our visitors from the North, as in previous years. The dance was very well attended as usual and was voted a great success. More about this in our next number.

The Sports and Social club has recently enjoyed a grand opening of its club room in "The Green Man and Still" a most appropriate spot for a 'grand opening.' We feel confident that each meeting of the club will maintain the spirit of the 'grand opening.'

There is much interest and speculation on the new extension building to Teesdale House, which proceeds apace. It is expected that next Spring will see the completion of the new building and the re-housing of the majority of H.W.P. staff.

Going up alongside our new extension building (more or less) are a number of flats for the City Corporation, comprising five or six blocks with the central and dominant architectural feature of a water storage tank resembling the wings of an aeroplane and situated on the top of the tallest block of about sixteen stories. We always feel that the top portion of this building is about to 'take off.'

Engineers Defined.

There are so many varieties these days that this simple formula for telling them apart may be useful.

Electrical Engineers always tighten nuts with pliers.

Mechanical Engineers tighten them in the proper way with hammer and chisel.

Production Engineers make all this effort unnecessary, since they forget to mill flats on the nut.

Chemical Engineers have the simplest approach of all—they just let the whole thing rust solid.

Anon.

A real, right, uproarious Christmas and New Year to us all.



Britain Supplies Research Reactor to Germany



Based on the Agreement reached between the Governments of Great Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany, and in formal conclusion of comprehensive negotiations between U.K.A.E.A., Land Nordrhein-Westfalen and the company Head Wrightson Processes Ltd., in connection with design and engineering of a materials testing reactor The Land and H.W.P. have to-day signed a Contract for co-operation (see photograph above).

The Land also wishes to benefit from the considerable procurement and erection experience that Head Wrightson Processes Ltd. has gained on several other reactors.

The reactor is a high flux testing reactor similar to the "DIDO" and "HIFAR" Reactors they provided for the U.K.A.E.A. at Harwell and the Australian Atomic Energy Commission at Lucas Heights, Sydney.

This order is the sixth reactor awarded to the company and its third for export. In addition to the Australian project referred to above it was recently announced that the company had received an order for a research reactor in Denmark.

"DIDO" at Harwell has been in operation for almost a year and is at present the most powerful experimental reactor in Western Europe. It is an enriched uranium heavy water moderated Reactor with a flux of 10 exp. 14 N/CM exp. 2, SEC and a thermal output of 10 m.w.

The extensive experimental facilities built into the "DIDO" type reactors permit much essential research as well as providing the possibility of producing large quantities of isotopes of higher specific activities than have hitherto been available.

The reactor is intended for the Atomic Research Establishment of the Land Nordrhein-Westfalen. Together with ten research and development laboratories this reactor will be placed at the disposal of the universities of Aachen, Bonn, Cologne and Munster.

The Cover Photograph is reproduced by courtesy of the Hulton Picture Library.

COLLIERY ENGINEERING LIMITED HEAD WRIGHTSON

Thornaby.

As this issue of "Wright Ahead" follows very quickly on the previous one there is little to report from Colliery Engineering Limited—Thornaby.

There have only been two changes in the staff—Mr. Braham has left the Company's service to take up lecturing with the Constantine Technical College (no doubt he will be looking forward to the lengthy holidays which teaching staff usually enjoy) and Mr. Colin Richards, who has rejoined the Company.

We take this opportunity of wishing a Very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to all our Colleagues in the Parent Company and all other Subsidiaries.



Sheffield.

Resignations.

Mr. L. Lamplugh and Mr. E. W. Jones have recently left the employment of the Company and carry with them our best wishes for their future success in their new spheres.

New Staff.

We have much pleasure in welcoming Mrs. Smith, who has taken charge of our Stat Photographic Department.

We are pleased to record that, in conjunction with our Sister Company in Australia, we have been successful in obtaining an order for an extension to the Coal Preparation Plant for the Broken Hill Pty Company. Recently Mr. A. G. Self, of our Technical Department, visited Australia and successfully co-ordinated the preparation of the project, which has resulted in our receiving this order.

Christmas Wishes.

All members of the staff at Head Wrightson Colliery Engineering Ltd., offer warmest wishes and greetings to all friends throughout the Group. May 1958 be a year of much joy and prosperity.



H.W. IRON & STEEL WORKS ENGINEERING LTD.

How to get rich quickly . . . who doesn't seek the answer to this problem! Of course there are a few fortunate people who have solved this mystery, so why shouldn't the staff of H.W.I.S.E.L. try their luck

Some four years ago a certain genius, who shall be nameless (except that the dictionary definition of his nickname is "a water lizard") had a brainwave—"Why not form a Football Pools Syndicate?" If say fifty people joined the scheme we could invest about £5 per week on a certain permutation and it would be a "dead

"we just couldn't go wrong—we would have at least a fourth dividend every week with a first thrown in for pleasure about every other month. We would send a r expert advice and forecasts and within a few weeks our fortunes would be made. Of course the office would be empty on the first day we scooped the pools, but we wouldn't be too bad about it—we would come back to work the following day even though our minds may keep drifting away from blast furnaces to those little luxuries We started discussing new houses, cars, televisions, mink coats, world cruises etc. etc.—after all it was just a matter of a week or two before we'd be in the money. As a matter of fact we clamoured to be privileged to join the scheme and some even went down on bended knee to ask if their relatives could be included. What innocent babes we were!

We are now in the midst of our fourth season and despite odd small gains our losses are rather more than we'd care to admit in print. However, a fortnight ago we had a great surprise, we won—six second dividends and twenty-three thirds. This was it—the day we had been waiting for (for four long years!). We knew it would not be a fortune but it would help us to hold up our heads amongst the "unbelievers" who considered we were throwing away hard earned cash but were waiting to join in the celebrations if and when we won! Yes, the "water lizard" was all smiles that Monday morning, gaily forecasting how much the share-out would be; the more cautious members thought "Well, it won't be very much but perhaps it will pay our share of the stake for the next two or three weeks." Is there need to say any more you've guessed it. Our winnings that week were approximately one half of our stake so that the net result was as per usual—a loss! After all, it would be a pity to alter the weekly routine!

However, let it be said, the spirit of the H.W.I.S.E.L. swindle is undaunted—we must all be followers of Robert Bruce and believe in the old saying "If at first you don't succeed" Very few have dropped out of the scheme since it started, for the simple reason that we all have a feeling that if we drop out one week then the next week it's bound to be a winner, and just to prove what optimists we breed in H.W.I.S.E.L.—two ex-members of the staff still send in their contributions from Worcester and Rotherham—who knows, one day they may be lucky! !

P.S. Would anyone care to join our brand new, can't fail, get rich quick Premium Bonds scheme? ?

We should like to extend to all employees of Head, Wrightson & Co. its Greetings for Christmas and wish that everybody will enjoy a Happy and Prosperous New Year.



MAINTENANCE DEPT.

We welcome home again from H.M. Forces, R. Johnston and K. Sudron.

Norman Barker has just started his National Service training, and we wish him every success.

We extend the Season's greetings to all our readers.

PARENT BOARD APPOINTMENT

It is announced that Mr. N. C. Lake, hitherto General Manager and Managing Director of the Head Wrightson Machine Co. Ltd. has been appointed to the Board of Head Wrightson & Co. Ltd. as deputy Managing Director.



BREVITIES

The best way to kill time is to work it to death.



Thanks to taxation, never have so many been left with so little.



A pat on the back has knocked many a chip from a shoulder.



Derek Roy's description of a temperamental actress : "A star of rage and scream."



Good manners maketh man : they maketh woman, too.



"No, Private Smith, the Gaza Strip is not a dancer in Suez."



"Give up smoking? There's nothing to it", said Mark Twain. "I've given it up hundreds of times."



Hylda Baker defines a celebrity as "someone who wears dark glasses to avoid being recognised after he (or she) has worked day and night to become known."

