

JULY ISSUE, 1963

# WRIGHT AHEAD



THE HEAD WRIGHTSON HOUSE MAGAZINE

*Front Cover Picture:*

Lord Hailsham in the Heavy Plate Shop, talking to the Chairman and Mr. R. H. Sturges, Managing Director, H.W. Teesdale during his visit in February

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

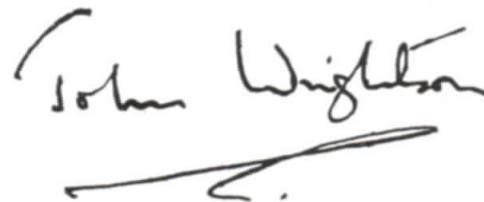
As you know each year at this time I prepare a statement reviewing the operations of the Company, which is circulated with the Annual Accounts to shareholders. Many of you will have seen extracts from the Statement in the Press but there are certain points upon which I place particular emphasis.

I am always grateful for the opportunity to appreciate publicly the efforts of the staff and workpeople. I have never regarded the tribute to the staff and workpeople as a formality, more especially in the tough year of 1962, with its uncertainties and attendant anxieties.

We are now publishing our group sales which has averaged annually over the last five years over £18,500,000. This is no mean achievement by the staff responsible for seeking orders and by the workpeople who have executed them.

Another interesting feature is that we spent last year £439,000 in improving our works. We take the view that to retain our competitive position it is essential to maintain the state of efficiency of all works at a high pitch.

I ended my statement with these words, "We have, however, the satisfaction of knowing that our organisation — both our men and our equipment — is in good shape and well able to satisfy the demands of what we trust will be an expanding economy".



John Wighton



Editorial Office —  
Publicity Department:  
20 Buckingham Gate,  
London, S.W.1.  
Telephone: Victoria 6581

## Contents

**Reporters:**  
*Headquarters:* Mr. F. E. Wiseman.  
*Iron Foundries:* Mr. A. Taylor.  
*Iron and Steel Works:*  
Mr. P. E. Rooksby.  
*Machine Co.:* Mr. J. J. Byers and  
Mr. J. Williams.  
*Minerals:* Mr. J. J. Gibson.  
*Processes:* Mr. G. D. Youngson.  
*R. & D. Division:* Mr. A. Lowther.  
*Stampings:* Miss N. P. Kaye.  
*Steel Foundries:* Mr. C. Lambton.  
*Stockton:* Mr. R. Mayhew, Mr. E.  
Chicken and Mr. E. Atkinson.  
*Teesdale:* Mr. M. Wilson, Mr. C.  
Banner, Mr. G. Burton, Mr. D.  
Crisp, Mr. J. Hunter and Mr.  
J. McRoyal.

Chairman's Letter - - -	Inside Cover
We Will Never See the Like Again - -	3
Company Round-up - - - -	4-8
Apprentice and Long Service Awards - -	8-9
My Road to Teesdale - - - -	9
Looking Ahead - - - - -	11
H.W. Works Band - - - -	11
Drawbench Demonstration - - - -	11
People in the News - - - -	12

## We Will Never See The Like Again

by C. Lampton (H.W. Steel Foundries)

In 1891 the shipyard of Richardson Duck & Company received a party of visitors from Nova Scotia. They were interested in purchasing two steel-hulled sailing ships. This was very strange because steam was becoming more economical and it was considered that the era of sailing ships was at a close. However, with the genius of local draughtsmen and shipbuilders there were launched in October 1891 the two fastest and most perfectly proportioned four masted sailing barques of which there never has been, and never will be, a more perfect sight of man made beauty.

These ships were the perfected product of a long evolution extending back over several centuries. They were

true aristocrats. These two ships were almost identical twins with the exception that one, the 'Oweenee', had 8 ft. more length in her middle body than the 'Muskoka'. They both held unbeaten world sailing records and according to the great shipping expert, Basil Lubbock, these two ships were considered the fastest sailing vessels afloat.

The 'Oweenee' was 300 ft. long, 42 ft. across and 26 ft. 6 inches deep, she weighed 2,334 tons and carried 3,700 tons of cargo. The 'Oweenee' had the finest clipper bow ever drawn which is the most difficult thing to design, so that all the various curves flow naturally into each other. The figurehead was an Indian Princess with a great head-dress of feathers and the right hand grasping a tomahawk. The figurehead on the 'Muskoka' was that of an Indian Chief who was the father of the princess.

Both ships were finished like yachts and were kept always in perfect tip-top condition.

The 'Muskoka' ended her career in June, 1920, when she caught fire and the 'Oweenee' was scrapped in 1947, after being converted by 'Shell Tankers'.



Both pictures are of the "Oweenee"



## Company Round-up

### H.W. STAMPINGS

To mark their long service with the Company, Mr. S. Garbutt (Cashier), 50 years; Mr. O. Billingham (Steel Control Dept.), 40 years and Mr. W. Gill (Die Shop), 40 years, were recent recipients of inscribed gold watches.

Mr. Garbutt was presented with a wallet of notes by Mr. George Jones, Managing Director, on behalf of the Staff, upon his retirement after a period of 21 years with the Seaton Carew Company.

Mr. Harry Roberts — Inspection Dept., was presented with an inscribed gold watch by our Managing Director, upon his retirement after 50 years service. This was a token of appreciation from his friends at Seaton Carew which included those who had known him in his earlier working life in other departments and had since been transferred to "Stampings". Our congratulations to all and a long and happy retirement to Messrs. Garbutt and Roberts.

Mrs. Gillian White (Comptometer Operator) has left "Stampings" to accompany her husband, Mr. A. White, former stamper and now in the R.A.F., to Cyprus. They can at least be assured of a warmer climate. We wish them well in their new surroundings.

We welcome the return to work after illness of Mr. Robert Fountain, (Dies Inspector) and Mr. J. A. Turner (Forgings Inspector).

Our very best wishes for a happy future are extended to Mr. Ken Rowland (Drawing Office) and Miss Elizabeth Wood upon their marriage on 6th July.

A letter of appreciation was received from Mrs. White thanking all for the gift handed to them on behalf of the Staff to mark the occasion of their marriage.

Our condolences are extended to Mr. Cyril Robinson (Die Shop) and family, upon their bereavement.

#### Footnote :

We take this opportunity to thank Mr. Percy Richardson (Die Shop) for his services as photographer.

### Golden Wedding

On May 10th, 1913, at St. Luke's Church, Bilston, Staffs, by Rev. G. E. Ford. Robert William Peck to Lucy. Present address, 17 Princes Road, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Yorks. Mr. Peck who retired in 1951, was foreman of the Stamp Shop at Thornaby (H.W. Stampings Ltd.).

The Staff Christmas party was held on 27th December in the Owton Manor Lodge Hotel, a buffet supper being provided with dancing and games to add to the enjoyment of the evening. Our thanks are conveyed to Miss Hazel Roscoe (Typing Pool) and Mr. Ted Dickinson (Drawing Office), who so successfully organised this event. Our thanks also, to the waitresses of the hotel, for their valuable assistance.

The efforts of the following members of the Staff cannot be disregarded, as they were responsible for the decoration of the General Office, having forfeited their evening's leisure to help create the Christmas atmosphere :

The Misses Hazel Roscoe, Irene Bell and Delphine Forrestal.

Mesdames Margaret Duncan, Gillian White and Ann Gallagher.

Messrs. Robert Wetherby and Brian Matthews.

"Stampings" Workmen's 2nd Annual Dinner-Dance was held on the 18th January in the Masonic Hall, West Hartlepool. This proved a huge success. The demand for tickets greatly exceeded the number available. Those who were disappointed are well advised to obtain their tickets at an early date, when the date of the next event

is announced. The following were elected members of the committee :

Messrs. F. Maughan and F. Dalrymple (Die Shop), S. Robson (Maintenance), K. Dolphin (Gardener).

Misses Ivy Gibbon and Irene Bell (General Office), Nurse L. Trotter.

We are pleased to report the return to work of Mr. T. Piper (Wages Department) after a spell in hospital and Mr. Bob Herring (Stockyard) after an absence of 16 months. We hope that both will enjoy future good health.

Our good wishes for a happy future were expressed to Mrs. M. Knaggs (Costs Department), who left us after 9 years service. Marjorie has joined her husband in Scotland and we understand they are now nicely settled in. To mark the occasion, members of the Staff handed over a sum of money for a suitable gift.

### 21st Birthday

Miss Joyce Arnell (Sales Department).

Miss Ann Kerr (Wages Department).

### Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. F. Mitchell (Shear Shop).

### H.W. MACHINE CO.

#### Silver Weddings

Congratulations on celebrating their Silver Weddings to :

Mr. Willis (Office Staff).

Mrs. Best (Canteen Staff).

#### Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Bramley (Cook).

On Thursday morning, February 14th, one of the members of the Fabricating Department noticed smoke coming from a man-hole cover just outside the Fabricating Shop entrance. On reporting to the Works Manager the Fire Station was telephoned and an investigation requested. Within four minutes the turntable appliance and water carrier were outside the works together with the Deputy Chief Fire Officer in his car.

After some frantic chasing around, the search for the fire ultimately narrowed down to a portion of the works, adjacent to the incinerator. After prolonged investigation and much peering down man-holes the Fire Brigade gave up at about 12-30 a.m. and advised that they would be back in the afternoon to complete the search. However, during their absence the heat from the man-hole increased and the Brigade once again was telephoned, this time only one appliance turned up. It was suggested that a study be made of the plan of the various underground pipes in the area and before long representatives of the Borough Engineers Department, the Public Health Department, the Northern Gas Board and the Electricity Board were assembled round the man-hole, plan in hand, under the guidance of the Fire Chief in person and with members of the local police looking on.

Unfortunately, they were still unable to arrive at a possible solution and the search was finally called off at about 4 p.m.

Still not satisfied, however, members of the Machine Company Fire Fighting Squad, together with the Works Manager decided, after discussion, that heavy transport may have disrupted one of the gas pipes. Eventually, the lightest member of the Squad was lowered head first into the man-hole to look along the sewage pipes. We cannot report his exact words although we gather that extensive flames were observed and within half an hour Gas Board Personnel were frantically digging up the road and after working all night were able to seal the gas leak having everything back to normal within 24 hours of the outbreak being notified.

Congratulations to Mr. H. T. Errington on his appointment to the Control Engineering Group at Head Wrightson & Co. Research and Development Division.



Congratulations also to Mr. T. Smith on his promotion from Quarter Master Sergeant to First Lieutenant in the R.A.O.C. Section of the Territorial Army.

### Staff Benevolent and Social Fund

On Wednesday, 6th February, 15 of the lady members of the Fund spent the evening being shown around the new Middlesbrough Police Headquarters. Starting with a talk on Safety First, then visiting the Gymnasium, Museum, Rifle Range, Information Room, Garage and various offices, the visited terminated after 2½ hours in a look around the Cells.

Not to be outdone, male members of the Fund had a similar visit on the 5th April.

During discussions at the Annual General Meeting of the Fund it was decided to start a Golf Section. This Section is intended primarily to initiate novices into the profession.



Mr. Peter Wrightson presents Mr. Bob Lyall with an automatic tea-maker and clock

### 59 Years Service

Mr. Peter Wrightson praised "a magnificent record of family service" during the presentation to Mr. R. (Bob) Lyall, on his retirement after 59 years service with the Company. In presenting "Bob" with an automatic tea maker and clock, it was observed that "the Lyall family's connection with Head Wrightsons is far from broken. Mr. Lyall's father worked for the Company for over 42 years, his two brothers had over a 100 years service between them, his son John is with Machine Company and his grandson David is at present serving his apprenticeship with us.

We hear much about the future belonging to the South said Mr. Peter Wrightson, "but with this sort of family tradition and loyal service there can't be much wrong with the North."

It is with deep regret that we report the loss of our Fitting Shop Foreman, Mr. G. Henderson, who died in Hospital on 28th March, 1963, after a short illness.

Mr. Henderson joined the Company in 1940 and served as a Chargehand Fitter, later gaining considerable experience as a Site Engineer. He was promoted to Fitting Shop Foreman, and since then a tremendous number of orders for the export and home market have passed through his hands.

His death is a great loss to the Company and has been felt as a personal loss to each and every member of the Works Staff. His death was rather sudden and the impact of this on his colleagues has shaken them all.

### H.W.I.S.W.E.L.

#### Arrivals

We wish a warm welcome to

Mr. G. E. Clasper.

Mr. K. Hutchinson.

Mr. M. G. Street.

#### Departures

We bid farewell and good luck to :

Mr. J. W. Coulthard, D.O.

Mr. J. W. Elliott, D.O.

Mr. J. C. McCrone and his family have left us for India where John is to be Assistant General Manager — H.W. India. We wish him every success and hope that they are settling down in Calcutta.

Mr. G. Rahilly and his wife have left us for Australia, where Gerard is to work on the Whyalla Contract. We hope that they settle down well and enjoy the Australian sun.

Congratulations to Mr. A. Gillespie on his 70th Birthday.

Dr. K. H. Hoyle has now returned from a holiday on the Bondi Beach, from whence we understand that he had telephone conversations with the client.

#### Site News

Our Italian representatives on the Montecatini Contract — Messrs. G. E. Newell, W. Lander, K. Bland and J. A. Bellerby, have moved to Follonica where we believe that John Lander is 'roughing it' in beautiful weather by the seaside.

The following 'lads' have now become 'chaps' by attaining their 21sts :

Anthony Mitchell.

Peter Randall.

Keith Clennett.

We offer our sympathies and congratulations.

### H.W. MINERALS

#### Staff

Our good wishes go to :

Miss S. Grey and Mr. L. Crossland who have left the Company to take up other employment.

### H.W. PROCESSES, YARM

We are pleased to report that the Friarage is still standing, although on the day of the great thaw, when the ice floes came down the River Tees, we had visions of escaping from the top storey windows by boat. Anxiously we consulted tide tables as the river rose higher and higher completely covering the tow paths on both banks and lapping against the back garden walls of the houses in Yarm High Street. However, although a small part of our land was flooded and we had the experience of seeing water-hens where there is normally dry land, the water never rose as high as the buildings, to everyone's relief.

Now that the weather is becoming more spring-like, we are beginning to appreciate once again the advantages of working in the country. After all, it is quite rare to find an office where you glance out of the window to see a squirrel frisking around or a brace of pheasants casually strolling by! Recent visitors to our river bank were some very handsome wild ducks. We understand from the naturalists on the staff that these were a quite unusual species called "schmoo".



## Arrivals and Departures

Since the last issue a number of our staff have left to take up appointments with other firms. We wish them every success in their new ventures. They are:

Miss M. Sinton, Typing Supervisor and 'Wright Ahead' reporter.

Mr. J. S. Phillips, Development Engineer.

Mr. R. D. Downes, Boiler Engineer.

Mr. C. E. Dickinson, Drawing Office.

Mr. J. Z. Drweiga, Drawing Office.

We have also lost two of our ladies, who have retired into domestic life. They are Mrs. A. J. Foxton, Secretary and Mrs. B. Brooks, of the Typing Pool. We wish them every happiness in the future.

Over the last few months, we have had the pleasure of welcoming two new Typists, Mrs. D. Brown, formerly of H.W. Teesdale, and Mrs. C. Prentice, and also a new canteen cook, Mrs. I. Hughes. We hope they are now settled in and feeling at home in their new surroundings.

## Obituary

The death of Mr. Stan Kirby was a great shock to his many friends at H.W.P. Mr. Kirby was originally a sea-going engineer and took part in the 'D' Day Operation. Towards the end of the war his ship hit a magnetic mine, as a result of which he was badly injured and spent twelve months in hospital.

He joined H.W.P. London in 1949, transferring to Tees-side some years later when the Nuclear Power Division was formed and during his stay at Yarm was Contract Engineer for both the Latina and Dungeness Contracts.

He had not been in good health and was ordered a spell in hospital and a long rest. Only a few days after admission to hospital he died suddenly. We extend deepest sympathy to his widow.

Another death was that of Mrs. Eileen Wells, formerly our Canteen Cook. Mrs. Wells was compelled to resign through ill health in September of last year, since when she had been almost continuously in hospital. We send sincere condolences to her husband and family.

We also send our deepest sympathy to Mr. J. Whitaker, whose father died on the 28th March.

## Social Activities

Our Annual Dinner and Dance was held at the Ladle Hotel, Marton, on 18th January, and once again was a great success. We were particularly pleased to welcome a number of guests from other Companies in the Group. Very many thanks are due to the Social Committee for the hard work they put in to ensure the success of this function.

The Annual Smoker was held in the Smith's Arms, Billingham, on Friday, 22nd February, and was well supported. Mr. W. Grainger won first prize in the Darts competition, Mr. S. Brennan being second. The domino "flyer" was won by Mr. E. Bell, with Mr. K. Graham second. The usual buffet supper was laid on and an enjoyable evening was rounded off with the inevitable sing-song round the piano.

We wish to congratulate David Morgan of the Drawing Office, on his success in winning a car rally organized by the Middlesbrough Motor Club. Who knows, we may have a representative at Monte Carlo one of these days.

## H.W. TEESDALE

### Joiner's Shop

Harry Carter, a man for whom no one had a wrong word, retired after nine years steady and willing service

in the Joiners' Shop and twenty years previous service in the Smiths' Shop. We wish him well in his retirement.

We know that his many friends throughout the H.W. Organisation will join in wishing a long and happy retirement to John Franklin (Machine Shop Manager). His whole working life, fifty one years, was spent in the service of Head Wrightson. He served his time at the 'Forge' and worked there until appointed Foreman of our Shop in the 1930's. He then became Machine Shop Manager the position he held until his retirement at the end of May.

Congratulations to Tommy Smith on his election to Stockton Town Council.

## H.W. STEEL FOUNDRIES

At present our Stockton Steel Foundry is still shut down through lack of orders, but we are installing another 5 ton electric arc furnace to raise our capacity to over 200 tons and casting weight up to 10 tons maximum.

We have two engagements in the office staff, Miss Margaret Trainor and Miss Judith Stayman.

We regret the passing of one of our old employees, Mr. George Smith, (formerly of the Test House) who died suddenly after a short retirement. George retired about 18 months ago after 40 years service. He was 77 years of age.

We extend our sympathies to the relatives of one of our old workmates, Danny Wheatley.

Best wishes go to Mrs. Whittaker, Tommy Plews and Albert Dunger, on their retirement.

Our Sales Office had to arrange accommodation for a visitor for one night only at short notice. As accommodation is rather difficult on Tees-side, someone rang up the Highfield Hotel. When the telephone was answered the question was asked if there was a single room available for the night and the voice at the other end replied, "We have a lot of single rooms available — this is the Middlesbrough General Hospital!"

## H.W. PROCESSES, LONDON

### Social Club

Visits were made by the Social Club during April and May. A pleasant time was spent at Lord Montague's stately home at Beaulieu Castle, Hampshire, viewing his magnificent collection of vintage and veteran cars. Evening visits were made to the Black and White Minstrel Show and to Cinerama, which was thoroughly enjoyed.

### Leaving the Company

We are sorry to lose the services of "Ted" Cook and Alan Scott, Ted, who was our Chief Chemical Engineer, left on the 30th April to join C.E.G.B. and Alan left on June 30th to join Bechtel International Co. We wish them every success for the future.

## H.W. IRON FOUNDRIES

Since the last issue we have had two visits from German Engineers and Government Officials to inspect the Cast Iron Segments for the Rendsburg Tunnel in Western Germany, the order for which we obtained against German competition.

Work has now commenced on the London Transport Board's Contract for Cast Iron Segments and the first deliveries were due in May. We were all very pleased indeed to know that the Iron Foundries secured this major order as it will mean steady employment in the Segment Foundry for at least three years. This order was won against German, French, Belgian, South African and British competition.



## VISIT OF STUDENTS FROM CONSTANTINE COLLEGE, 21st FEBRUARY, 1963.

On 21st February we had a visit from a group of first year Foundry students from Constantine College of Technology. Accompanied by the lecturer they spent a morning in the works followed by a discussion with the Foundry Management.

### Inter-departmental Darts Competition

Congratulations to the darts team on reaching the final of the competition.

The Foundry was represented by Messrs. Lowcock (Captain), Bowes, Chaney, Gourley, Merryweather, Perrott and Surtees.

Mr. G. Taylor, when presenting the prizes, praised the strength and enthusiasm of the Foundry supporters at the competition.

### Welcome back after long illness

Mr. Fallowfield (Office).  
Mrs. Earp (Core Floor).

### Retirement

We extend our best wishes for a long and happy retirement to:

Mr. S. Wade (Moulder).  
Mr. G. Byass (Pugmill).

## NORTON NOTES

It is with something akin to sadness that these notes are being penned, for much has happened at Stockton since the last issue of 'Wright Ahead'.

Further along we have to report the loss of old friends through emigration, illness and retirement and saddest of all in the case of one old friend the Ultimate Farewell.

However much we regret these losses there are always new faces to welcome, and new friends to make.

We also had a "nine night wonder" when some of the local inhabitants saw a 'vision' in the General Office window. Press, B.B.C. and Police were there, and Merriweather insists that he wasn't working late.

This fact does not perturb Mr. Dale who despairs at times of getting work out of Jack **before** 5-15 p.m. never mind **after**.

Ken Lavery our Cost Department 'Expert' has joined the Durham County Police Force, much to the relief of the younger female staff. Although Ken is no Charlie Barlow, we wish him the best of luck in his new career.

Best Wishes to:

Mr. D. Rogerson, Design Office, who left for pastures new at Gloucester.

Keith Harrison, Sunrod Department, who emigrated to Canada.

Miss D. Ashcroft, Purchasing Department, who left us to get wed.

Mr. K. S. Hudson, Drawing Office, breaking fresh ground at Head Wrightson Iron & Steel Works Engineering Ltd.

We wish Ronnie Brennan success and happiness in his new job in Canada. Ronnie sailed on the 25th June.

Best wishes also to Roy Husband, who leaves us this month to take over as Assistant Works Manager at Banbury. After 24 years with Head Wrightson we know Roy will hold his own anywhere.

Our local darts champion Norman Toulson is still keeping top form and is now in the final of the Vaux's Individual Darts Tournament. Is he wearing gloves or is it dirt? Keep them in treble top Norman.

We've no doubt Charle Hughes will be a real asset to his new country — Australia — because the years have taught us that any 'Forge' trained Boilermaker can take his place anywhere in the world against the best. Good Luck Charlie to you and your family, we know you won't let us down.

We mourn the sudden and untimely demise of Bob Snowden (Machine Shop Estimating).

Quiet and self effacing as he was, Bob was a popular and very pleasant colleague of whom it could be said, (not as a platitude, but in real sincerity) he was liked by all with whom he came in contact. His sudden death on Good Friday, 12th April, 1963, came as a shock to us all because we understood that he was recovering from the illness which put him in Winterton General Hospital. After 47 years of service, men of the calibre of Bob Snowden are really irreplaceable.

We respectfully extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Snowden and the Family.

### Hello Girls!!!

We would like to pay our small tribute to two very hard-working members of our staff.

No matter how busy, nor how much trouble they have in getting a number, their pleasant courtesy never seems to fail them. Total strangers have commented on the charming reception they have received when calling Stockton by phone.

Our two telephonists, in spite of what the cynics say about getting crossed lines and wrong numbers very rarely get the Chinese Laundry instead of the National Coal Board, and it is not true that a Draughtsman once asked for the Friarage, and later found himself on that night's issue of Panorama.

Both girls, however, are already married!

May we add our best wishes to the many that have followed Mr. E. Lodge to his new post.

Mr. Lodge, a protege of Mr. Wardell, started as an Apprentice Fitter at Norton Road in 1940 and during his 23 years with the Company had a most varied and progressive career. He was made Engineering Work Shops Manager following upon the recent re-organisation at Stockton.

We are deeply sorry to record the sudden death of one of our best Platers, Dick Hornby. He was well respected by everyone and indeed it was a privilege to have known him.

There were some record scores in the Evening Gazette Darts Championship when four Head Wrightson men in a team of seven, Captained by 'Nosher' Toulson, playing for the Golden Fleece (Thornaby), beat Bowesfield Hotel 'White' team in the Semi-final then beat 'Double-Tops' team from Station Hotel (Northallerton) in the final 751 up. In 5 'arrows' Toulson got 3-100's - 140 - 85.

Alan Fawcett (Foundry) won two sets of darts by sticking 3 'arrows' in treble 20 both in the semi-final and the final.

The high standard of all the players provided a very enjoyable evening for a huge crowd in the Thornaby Village Social Club.

Once again our apprentices are showing their special ability by achieving a double award.

Alan Stainthorpe — Templatemaker — has been granted an award of £7 10s. for books and tools by Mechanical Handling Engineers Association.

Alan Poppleton — Plater — an award of £10 for books and tools by British Gas Development Corporation (Plant Manufacturers).

These achievements should be an added incentive and arouse the competitive spirit in all the apprentices so that we can publish more and better award winners in future issues.

We were sorry to receive a sick note covering absence for a further long period. The sick note was from one of the best known and most popular Foreman on the Outside Erection Staff, Mr. Stan Howe. After 46 years service with the Company, Stan, who will be due to retire in 18 months time, has unfortunately been



stricken with heart trouble — angina. He has travelled and worked all over the British Isles and was in West Africa with that doyen of the Erection Dept., Mr. A. F. Emerson, 1935-36.

We are glad to say that Mrs. Howe is now recovered from the successful operation she underwent at Christmas and under their present circumstances we wish them both well.

Looks like the old belt and frog will be hung behind the bar in the 'Jollies' for good, Stan!

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. R. Suttill, on their Silver Wedding Anniversary, 16th April, 1963.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. R. Ingledeu, on their Silver Wedding Anniversary, 1st January, 1963.

Welcome to

Miss G. Morren, Typist.

## Presentation of Awards to Apprentices

Presentation of Awards by Sir John Wrightson, Bt., chairman of Head Wrightson & Company Limited, 16th May, 1963.

The following young men were awarded prizes in recognition of their achievements in the various technical examinations which have been approved by the Executive Committees of the Gas Plant Manufacturers Development Council and the Mechanical Handling Engineers' Association.

The awards came to a total value of £145 0s. 5d. and were in the form of technical books, instruments and tools.

### H.W. Teesdale Ltd.

City and Guilds Craft Certificate :

John Hampton, Bridge Yard, Plater.

### Higher National Certificate (Structural) :

Terence Easter, Drawing Office, Draughtsman.

### H.W. Iron & Steel Works Engineering Ltd.

Diploma in Technology :

Ian Wigmore, Drawing Off., Jun. Eng. (two awards).

Higher National Certificate (Civil) :

Brian Midgely, Drawing Office, Draughtsman.

Distinction in S.2. :

Brian Dickerson, Drawing Office, App. Draughtsman.

### H.W. Stockton Ltd.

City and Guilds Craft Certificate, Fabrication Steelwork :

Alan Poppleton, Bridge Yard, Apprentice Plater.

City and Guilds Fabrication Steelwork Advanced Cert. :

Alan Stainthorpe, Bridge Yard, Apprentice Plater.

### H.W. Machine Co. Ltd.

Ordinary National Certificate (Electrical) :

Christopher Bell, Drawing Office, App. Draughtsman.

City and Guilds Craft Certificate, Machine Shop :

Michael Kemp, Machine Shop, App. Fitter and Turner.

Distinction in S.2., National Certificate :

J. B. Cope, Machine Shop, App. Fitter and Turner.

City and Guilds Craft Certificate, Machine Shop Practice :

Peter Fawbert, Machine Shop, App. Fitter and Turner.

Assoc. Member of Inst. of Mechanical Engineers :

C. G. Wilson, Drawing Office, Draughtsman.

### H.W. & Co. Ltd.

City and Guilds Advanced Cert., Machine Shop Eng. :

Kenneth G. Icton, Drawing Office, R. & D. Division, Draughtsman.

### H.W. Processes Limited (Yarm).

Distinction in S.2. National Certificate :

David James, Drawing Office, App. Draughtsman.

### H.W. Steel Foundries Ltd. (Stockton).

City and Guilds Craft Certificate, Patternmaking :

Colin Redican, Pattern Shop, Apprentice Patternmaker.

City and Guilds Advanced Certificate, Foundry Practice :

Philip Welsh, Pattern Shop, Apprentice Patternmaker.

### H.W. Steel Foundries Ltd. (Thornaby).

Diploma in Technology :

Robert Alexander, Steel Foundry, Project Engineer.





City and Guilds Craft Certificate, Foundry Practice.  
 Leslie Pilgrim, Steel Foundry, Apprentice Moulder.  
 City and Guilds Advanced Certificate, Foundry; and  
 City and Guilds Advanced Certificate, Patternmaking :  
 James R. Stapleton, Pattern Shop, Patternmaker.  
 City and Guilds Craft Certificate, Patternmaking :  
 Ian Lyall, Pattern Shop, Patternmaker.  
 Ordinary Diploma, Foundry Tech. :  
 James Welsh, Pattern Shop, Patternmaker.

## Presentation of Long Service Awards

Sir John Wrightson, Bt., chairman of Head Wrightson & Company Limited, presented clocks and watches to long service personnel in the senior staff dining room at Teesdale, 16th May. Recipients were as follows :

### 50 Years' Service

#### H.W. Teesdale Ltd.

J. Shaw, Bridge Yard. J. Franklin, Machine Shop.

#### H.W. Iron Foundries Ltd.

J. Smith.

#### H.W. Stampings Ltd.

S. Garbutt.

### 40 Years' Service

#### H.W. Teesdale Ltd.

J. C. Wright, C. Sanderson, Bridge Yard; W. Laing, W. Cockrill, Machine Shop; W. Crosbie, J. Summerbell, J. H. Hall, Erection.

#### H.W. Iron Foundries Ltd.

F. Maine, O. Wynn, E. E. Baker, W. Newbold.

#### H.W. Steel Foundries Ltd.

Thornaby. T. W. Carlton, Shop.

Stockton. H. P. Greathead, Pattern Shop.

Sales. E. V. Roche.

#### H.W. Stockton Ltd.

E. Norton, Bridge Yard.

#### H.W. Stampings Ltd.

O. Billingham, W. Gill.

#### H.W. & Co. Ltd.

S. Bates. H. Gale, Traffic.

These presentations brought the number of awards presented since the inception of the scheme to :

67 for 50 years' service and 319 for 40 years' service.

## My Road to Teesdale

by Mike McCabe (H.W.T. Drawing Office)

The ghost like stillness of the town, resplendent in the cold light of early morning, is shattered as my machine bursts into life; a couple of minutes for the engine to warm up and I set off for work. Soon I have left the silent houses behind and begin the long four mile climb onto the moors; over on the left the church spire in some village penetrates up through the early morning mist while, far over, on the right of the road, from this lofty vantage point, the remnants of the fishing fleet can be seen straggling back to port after a night's arduous work.

The hill is breasted and laid out before me in a vast rolling panorama of rough, coarse moorland, stretching to the horizon; a horizon broken by the odd stunted wind blasted tree and far over to the south by the great white ball that is Fylingdales Early Warning Station.

I now begin the long run, down the other side of 'Skelda' (800 ft. above sea level) and the speed begins to build up. This however must be checked as my arrival round the next bend seems to coincide with a few yokels taking their cattle to graze. True to form they are here, but this morning the noise of my engine seems to worry them so I leave the scene as fast as possible, with the curses of 'stick-waving' yokels ringing in my ears.

The road sweeps round, past the A.A. box and runs along the crest of a ridge, bordered on one side by wild moorland and on the other side the land rolls away in a huge basin down to the cliffs and the coast. Towering up, on the fringe of this basin, is an old windmill, converted now, by the affluent society, into a splendid house looking out over the surrounding countryside.

At this point large numbers of sheep dart about the road creating havoc with the traffic. To the tourist and wellington-clad sheep lover, these animals may seem all right, but to the motorist they are a menace. Sheep give the impression that if you hit them you'll knock them out of the way — Don't believe it, they're as solid as a brick wall — I know, I've hit one!

The ridge along which the road runs flattens out after a couple of miles and merges with the moors then the road sweeps round to the left and suddenly Scaling Dam and its attendant village is spread out before me. This is a particularly bleak part of the moor and but for the village would look very formidable and desolate. In the summer the lake looks like some lagoon with a dam, but this morning I half expected to see icebergs floating about. The village consists of a few houses, a filling station and a pub, but on a cold winter's night it is an oasis in the desert; especially if there is a moorland fog. This blankets everything and complete silence reigns with the visibility about 10 to 20 feet. A common sight in this part of the moors is the Carrion Crows, these get to resemble Vultures more everyday. They circle about then drop down onto the road to feed off some carcase of a rabbit or something killed by a passing car.

This area is supposedly criss-crossed with old smugglers' roads though there are so many of them that I can't see how any smuggling was done for they must surely have been too busy building roads.

The road winds on, past the dam, and starts to climb again, up the side of the sort of basin in which the dam resides. Once up here I move on to the top of Jolly Sailors Bank and start the descent just as the rays of the early morning sun strike out over the green fields below. Halfway down the bank, in an old wood cabin, sit two roadmen, clad in floppy hats, old raincoats tied around the middle with string and old weathered boots. These two odious fellows maintain the road at this point and shovel snow off in winter. At the bottom of this bank is a quaint 'olde worlde' yokel pub — 'The Jolly Sailor's, but time has passed it by and so must I.

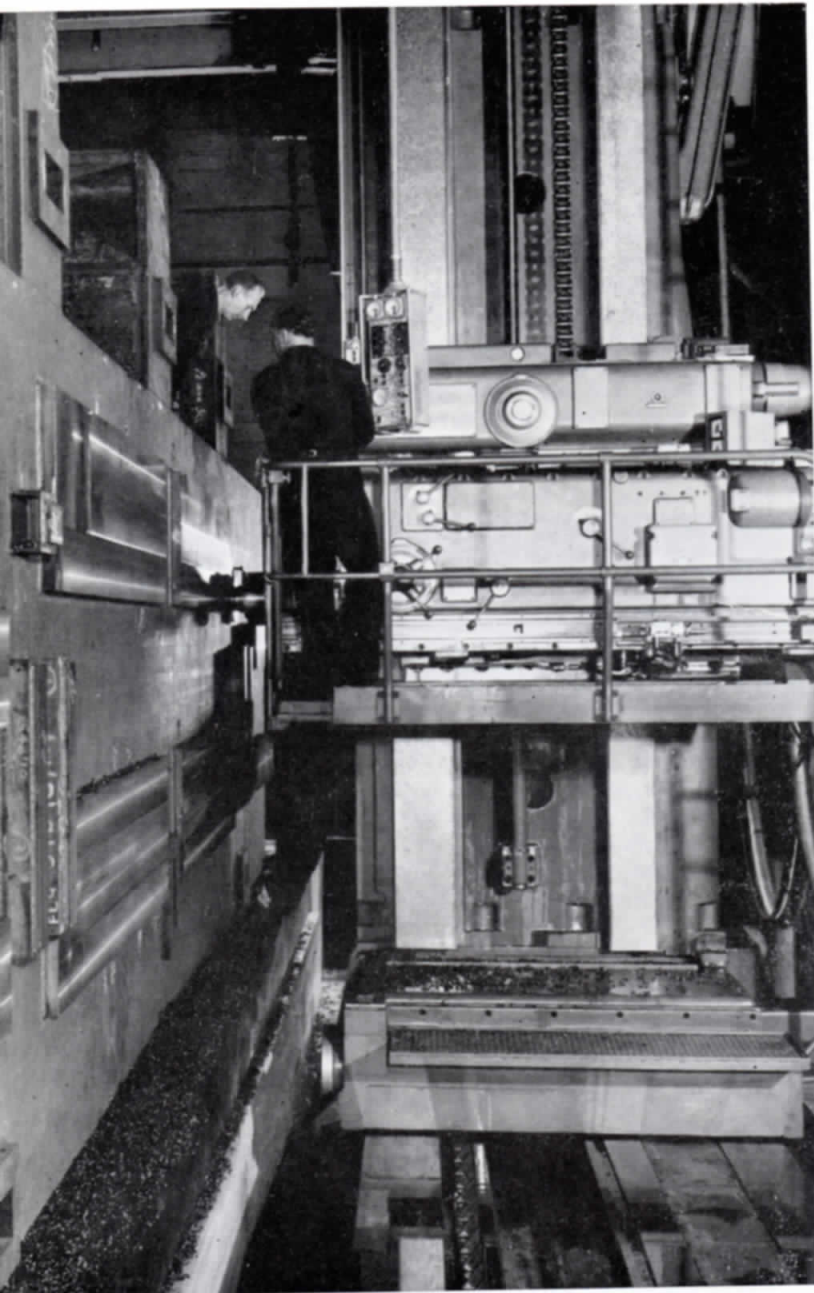
Another two miles and I come to a particularly tight hair-pin bend dipping down over a stream. At one point on the bend a section of the concrete fence, bordering the road, is missing, this section it is deemed is not worth replacing as weekend motorists, sporting types, etc., periodically overshoot the bend and vanish through the gap into the stream below.

The road winds on, past Lockwood Beck with its fresh smelling pine trees and rises up to the top of Birk Brow, a formidable escarpment, the top of which overlooks the smoke haze that is Tees-side. But at this point my spirits fall, for I know that for the next eight hours I must literally descend from this 'other world' into the smoke and grime of so-called civilisation. The only pleasant thought is that at the end of my stint I can escape from the dreary smoke-bound rat race!!!

\* This article was originally a contribution for the Christmas issue, but owing to lack of space we were not able to include it. However, it is now reproduced above in appreciation of the interest taken in 'Wright Ahead' and the time and effort spent in producing a good article.

— Editor.





The new Innocenti machine at work on a Kaldo vessel baseplate for Teesdale

## Looking Ahead

One Monday morning last September the fitting shop at The Head Wrightson Machine Company Limited, was invaded by men from Tarmac equipped with windy chippers, compressors, lorries, cement mixers and all the other tools of their trade. It was the start of the foundation work for the installation of our new floor type milling and boring machine.

The installation of the machine is now completed and it commenced operation on March 21st and is engaged at present on machining parts for the Kaldo and L.D. Vessels being manufactured by H.W. Teesdale Ltd. The machine is ideally suited to this type of work.

The machine, made by Innocenti of Milan, Italy, and designed by the internationally famous machine tool designer, Charles W. Berthiez, is the latest example of the efforts of the Board of Directors to ensure that Head Wrightson is equipped with the best tools that money can buy so that we can compete in the national and international markets for capital equipment.

Before the order was placed a very exhaustive survey was made of all types of large floor type Milling and Boring machines, and it was only after full analysis of the facts that the Innocenti was selected as by far the best available. Works Personnel and operators have spent some time in the Innocenti works at Milan to ensure that the best possible results are obtained from the machine.

The total investment in this machine of over £120,000 represents one of the largest sums of money ever invested in a machine tool within the Head Wrightson group. This machine and the money spent on it are a further example of the Company's confidence in the future of Britain as a whole and in the future of Head Wrightson in particular.

This new machine can mill flat surfaces 36 feet long by 11 feet wide and bore holes anywhere within this area with great accuracy. The movements of the machine, which are often required to be adjusted during the machining of a workpiece, can be controlled from a motorised pendant control box. This means that the operator can stand next to the cutting tool ready to adjust the speeds and feeds as soon as cutting conditions change.

Normally, in a workshop planned to machine large components separate machines such as planers, planomillers, vertical lathes and boring machines are installed. This means that workpieces have to be moved from machine to machine for each machining operation, a process which wastes time in setting the large workpieces up at each machine and also makes it difficult to ensure that each large machine is always fully loaded. Our new Innocenti machine is designed so that a large number of adaptors including a rotary worktable and a vertical turning arm can be fitted so that almost any conventional machining operation can be carried out on the one machine with one setting of the workpiece.

## H.W. Works Band

by Miss J. Mohammed (Personnel Dept.)

The Head Wrightson Works Band was first formed in 1946.

In 1952, Mr. Midgley, the present bandmaster, took over and began entering the band for contests. They have won five major awards and have been successful in the following contests :

February, 1953

Gained 1st place in the Durham Brass Band League 4th Section Grading Contest — promoted to 3rd Section.

February, 1954

Gained 1st place in the Durham Brass Band League 3rd Section Grading Contest — promoted to 2nd Section.

May, 1954

Runners-up in the "Daily Herald" Northern Area Championships, 2nd Section.

October, 1954

Competed in the "Daily Herald" National Finals in London.

February, 1955

Gained 2nd place in the Durham Brass Band League Grading Contest, 2nd Section — promoted to 1st Section. 1955, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60

Gained 5th, 3rd, 4th, 3rd, 4th, 2nd places respectively in the "Daily Herald" Northern Area Championships.

March, 1961

Won the "Daily Herald" Northern Area Championships and were promoted to the Championship Section.

The Band has also broadcast a number of times including "Stay till Seven", "Band Concerts" and "Northern Brass" in which they were successful both in 1962 and 1963 in winning their way through the first round of



this B.B.C. knock-out contest by beating first class championship bands.

The Head Wrightson Trombone Quartette, formed in 1958 and consisting of the Midgley family, (father, son, brother and brother-in-law) is also going from strength to strength. They have gained nine 1st prizes, 5 second, 7 third and two fourth prizes. They came third in the Durham Championships in 1958, second in the Durham Championships in 1959 and won the Championship in both 1960 and 1962. They were 2nd in the North of England Championships in 1960 and 3rd in 1961. In all these contests they were up against some of the well known brass band championship players.

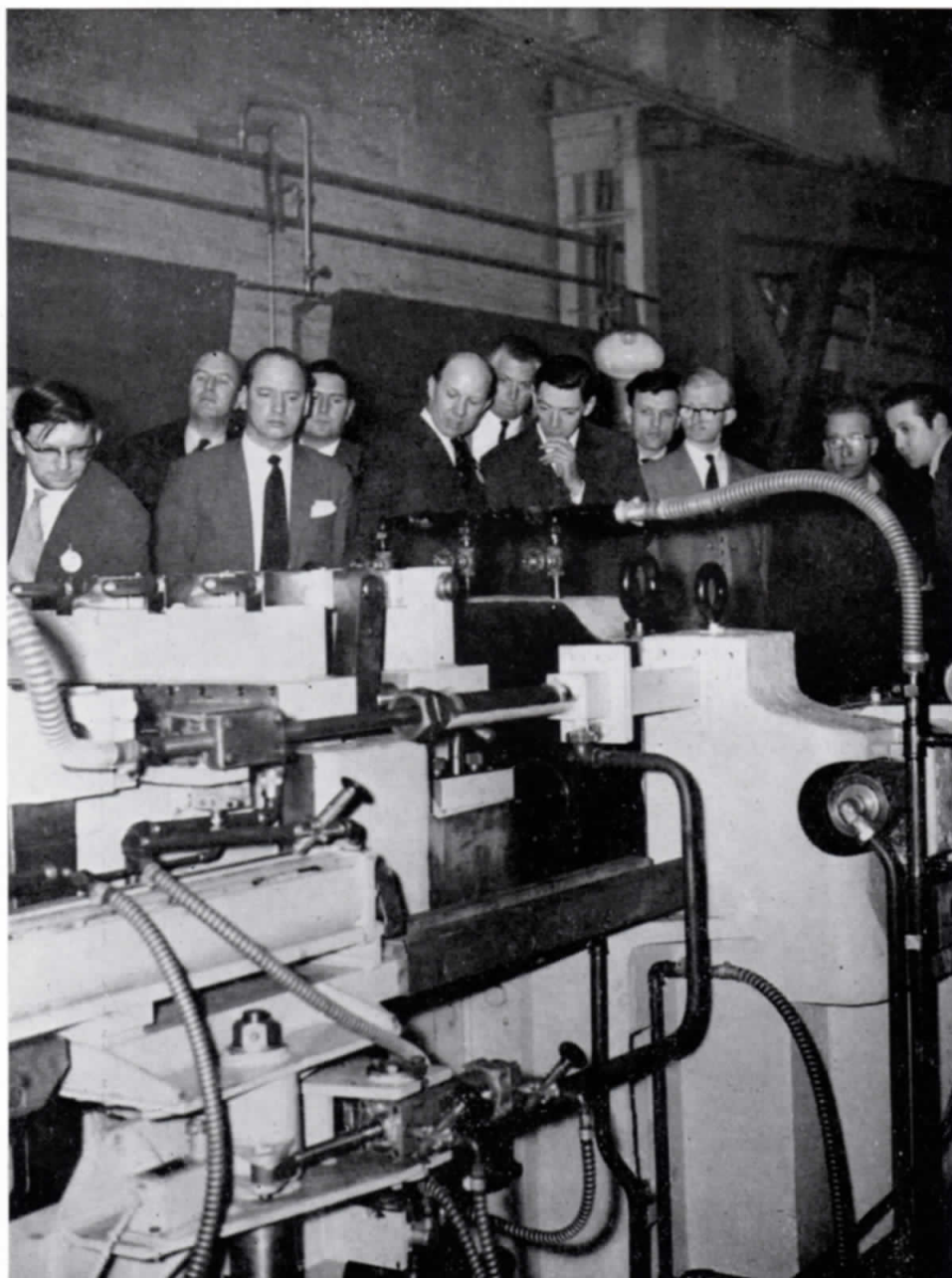
## Drawbench Demonstration

The Head Wrightson Machine Company of Middlesbrough recently demonstrated a 100,000 lbs. pull Bar

Drawbench to the representatives of a number of interested firms.

The Bench is semi-automatic and incorporates a number of special features which include a push pointer of the latest design and air operated skid arms fitted with air operated pushers for positive discharge of the bars from the Bench. The machine, which is to be supplied to Australia Consolidated Industries Limited in Melbourne is capable of producing bright drawn bars up to 4½" diameter and 40 ft. long. It is readily adapted from single to triple draw when handling small diameters.

The Drawbench was demonstrated to Cogland Bright Steels Ltd., Vauxhall Motors Ltd., Thomas Bolton & Sons Ltd., Darwin Bright Steels Ltd., Govan Shafting, Halesowen, and Kirkstall Engineering as well as representatives from The Trade Delegation of the U.S.S.R. in Great Britain and The Ministry of Foreign Trade, Moscow.



Design Features of the Draw Bench being described to visitors during the demonstration



# People in the News

## BIRTHS

### H.W. Teesdale Ltd.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Hagan — a daughter.

### H.W. Processes Ltd., London.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Hancock — a son.

### H.W. Processes Ltd., Yarm.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Beddow, (Cost Control)—a daughter, Alison.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Chapman (D.O.) — a daughter, Susan Carol.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Mason (formerly June Mason of Purchasing) — a son, Stephen.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Walker (former caretakers) — a son, Simon.

Mr. and Mrs. Williamson (formerly Joan Riddell, Typist) — a son.

### H.W. Iron & Steel Works Eng. Ltd.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Moodie — a son, Paul David.

### H.W. Stampings Ltd.

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Dunne (formerly Miss K. Fox and secretary to Mr. George Jones, Managing Director) — a son.

### H.W. Iron Foundries Ltd.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Wyatt (Cost Office) — a daughter, Allison Jane.

### H.W. Machine Co. Ltd.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Gartry — a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Jopling — a son.

Mr. and Mrs. I. Atkinson — a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Mellor — a son.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Frankland (Fab. Shop) — a son.

### H.W. Stockton Ltd.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Lewis (Drawing Office)—a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Shinner (Erection) — a daughter, Julie Ann.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Blakey (Chief Cost Clerk) — a daughter, Gillian.

## ENGAGEMENTS

### H.W. Stampings Ltd.

Miss Joyce Arnell (Sales Dept.) to Mr. Peter Bennett.

Mr. John Alexander (Drawing Office) to Miss Joan Avril Noble.

Mr. David Day (Metallurgist) to Miss Valerie Simpson.

### H.W. Processes Ltd., Yarm.

Miss Valerie Eden (Typist) to Mr. Robin Bolsover.

### H.W. Iron & Steel Works Eng. Ltd.

Mr. H. Wood (D.O.) to Miss Joyce Heslop.

Mr. K. Clennett (D.O.) to Miss Sheila Kelly.

### H.W. Machine Co. Ltd.

Mr. M. Bonson (Electrical Department) to Miss J. Bastiman (General Office).

### H.W. Stockton Ltd.

Miss Shiela Simpson (Planning Dept.) to

Mr. K. Graham of Ferryhill.

## MARRIAGES

### H.W. Iron & Steel Works Eng. Ltd.

Mr. A. Kidd (D.O.) to Miss B. Goodrum.

Mr. D. Galloway (D.O.) to Miss Patricia J. Sugitt.

Miss S. V. Guest (Tracer) to Mr. T. Broderick.

Miss P. Franklin (Reception) to Mr. D'Ambrosio.

Mr. D. McKinley (Project Manager, Australia) to Miss Margaret Wass.

### H.W. Processes Ltd., London.

Mr. Bob Mills (Engineering Dept.) to Miss Jenny Welch.

### H.W. Minerals Eng. Ltd.

Miss Margaret Simpson (Typist) to Mr. M. Poston.

Miss Jo Chapman (Typist) to Mr. J. Topliss.

Miss Judith Kemp (Filing) to Mr. D. Wilson.

### H.W. Stampings Ltd.

Mr. Robert White (Planning Dept.) to Miss Mairi Macdonald.



Mr. Colin Claydon (Draughtsman — Works' Engineer's Office) to Miss Ann Redshaw (above).

Mr. Tony Allen (Die Shop) to Miss Olwyn Taylerson.

### H.W. Iron Foundries Ltd.

Miss M. Innocent (Laboratory) to Mr. Alan Taylor (R & D, Teesdale).

Mr. M. Conroy (Maintenance Fitter) to Miss P. Gourley.

### H.W. Stockton Ltd.

Mr. Keith Hallanby (Draughtsman) to Miss Pauline Hill.

### H.W. Machine Co. Ltd.

Miss M. Dent-Smith (Typist) to Mr. E. Beeforth.

## DEATHS

### H.W. Iron Foundries Ltd.

Mr. B. Sexton (Metal Yard).

### H.W. Machine Co. Ltd.

Mr. G. Henderson.

### H.W. Iron & Steel Works Eng. Ltd.

Mr. E. Ruddock.