

Wright Ahead

Christmas 1964



THE HEAD WRIGHTSON HOUSE MAGAZINE



The Chairman's Message

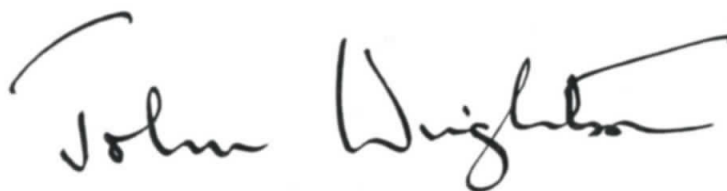
At the turn of the year I hope to be visiting our companies in South Africa.

As you may know we have two interests there. Firstly Head Wrightson & Company South Africa (Pty.) Limited which we started in Johannesburg in 1908 and which is now a designing and contracting company — similar to our home based contracting companies — and which we own 100%.

In 1946 we merged in a joint venture our own works at Benoni, Transvaal, with the old established business of Wright Boag of Johannesburg, to form Wright Boag & Head Wrightson (Pty.) Limited of which we own 45%. The works at Benoni now consist of machine shops, an iron foundry, wagon shop and smiths shop, employing over 450 Europeans and 750 natives.

Both companies are happily going from strength to strength.

It is appropriate therefore that I send to you from your colleagues in South Africa, many of whom stemmed from Tees-side, and from myself, best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.



Front Cover :

Michael, son of Ken Robinson Teesdale Erection Department.

Inside Front Cover :

Tommy Pearson, Slinger, Teesdale Heavy Plate Shop.

Inside Back Cover :

Ken Hamilton, Apprentice Dresser, Iron Foundry.

Back Cover :

Harold Berry, Research and Development Division.

Christmas comes but once a year

It has been said that there is nothing better than Christmas spent in the country and nothing worse than Christmas spent alone in a town, but many town-dwellers when the family get together enjoy themselves as much as country folk. But wherever it is spent Christmas is the time of family reunion. It is an interesting commentary on changing times that the motor car has made it possible to cut train and bus services to an absolute minimum on Christmas Day without causing public inconvenience and outcry. Indeed, the motor car has changed the pattern of Christmas in several ways. Country pubs that used to be almost deserted are full on Christmas morning, if the weather is fine, with people who have driven out from the towns to meet friends.

One of the great changes that has marked Christmas in recent years is the completely different type of present people give to one another. Toys, of course, for the children, and if the lead soldier has been replaced by a space-man's outfit or a sub-machine gun, teddy bears still maintain their popularity. The book and gift token was something almost unknown before the war; now keen gardeners give one another seed and plant tokens. The sales of power drills and other light mechanical hand-tools show a sharp rise at Christmas time. Slippers, pipes and books have receded in popularity in favour of garden tools, car gadgets and cleaning outfits. In one of his essays Quiller-Couch wrote:

'I have hung up the scythe in the barn and now I will sing its praises'.

Similar thoughts must run in the minds of those who have been given some really useful tool for Christmas.

The festive season automatically brings to mind food and drink. Our forbears used to eat and drink themselves into a stupor at Christmas; we eat much less and are more discriminating in what we drink. Because of the development of foreign travel more people drink table wines at Christmas, and there has been a sharp rise in the consumption of sherry and liqueurs.

And how much do we know about the history of turkeys? what we style the Norfolk turkey came originally from North America and the Cambridge turkey, which has a metallic sheen to its feathers, from South America. The first specimens were brought to Spain from Mexico and merchants introduced them to Greece, then part of the Turkish Empire. The Greeks promptly called the birds Turkeys, because they were so like their pompous clucking masters with their red fezzes. Before turkeys were introduced to England in 1540 the name was used here for guinea-fowl. Turkey is eaten on Christmas Day because on that day in 1620 the Pilgrim Fathers landed on Plymouth Rock in America, found masses of wild turkeys, which they killed and roasted for a thanksgiving meal.

Perhaps some time on Christmas Day we shall be able to find time to spare a thought for those who will spend the day on duty. The men in the light houses whose vigilance must not slacken, the staff of power stations and water works, the linesmen who may be called out at any time to repair a cable fault, the safety men all through industry, night watchmen, firemen at their post of duty, policemen on the beat, and thousands of miles away our kith and kin in the three services on watch in Malaysia, or keeping the peace in British Guiana and Cyprus.

Use your head

EVERYDAY SIGNS

1. B _ _ S _ _ _ = Bus Stop.
2. H A L T M A J O R R O A D A H A I D .
3. P O S T O F F I C E .
4. D A N G E R M E N A T W O R K .
5. P U B L I C T E L E P H O N E .
6. S T R E E T N O B + C C S .
7. N O P A R K I N G .
8. P L E A S E K E E P O F F T H E G R A S S .
9. N O E N T R Y .
10. C H I L D R E N C R O S S I N G .
11. N O S M O K I N G .
12. K E E P L E F T .
13. O N E W A Y S T R E E T .
14. R A I L W A Y S T A T I O N .

ANTS

All solutions end in ant

1. A wandering ant.
2. A floating ant.
3. A plentiful ant.
4. A needy ant.
5. A noisy ant.
6. A graceful ant.
7. An enormous ant.
8. A waiting ant.
9. A disinfecting ant.
10. A dunce-like ant.
11. A light giving ant.
12. A sweet smelling ant.
13. A helpful ant.
14. A wrathful ant.

PARTS OF THE HUMAN BODY

1. Ammunitions. ARMS
2. Receptacle. CHEST
3. Employees. HANDS
4. Shell fish. MUSCLE
5. Found in marble. VEINS
6. Extravagance. WAIST
7. Measurement. FOOT
8. Sacred building. TEMPLE
9. Scholars. PUPILS
10. Personal pronoun. EYE
11. Cover. LID.
12. Used to cross river. BRIDGE
13. Negatives. NOSE
14. Part of a hill. BROW

Answers on page 4.

Guess Again

Where are 1, 2, 3?



1

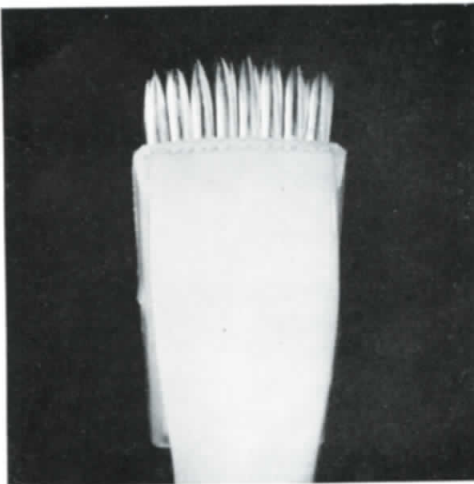


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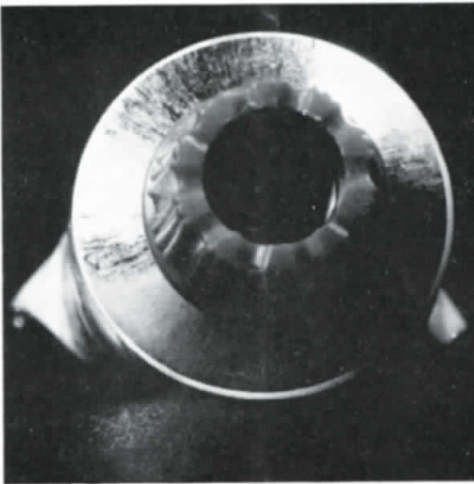


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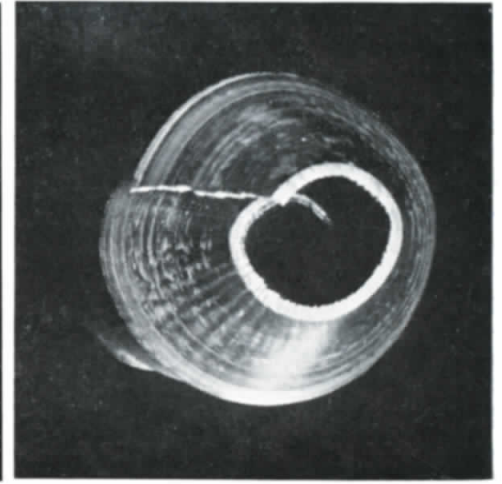
What are 4, 5, 6?



4



5



6

Try Paper and Pencil

DO YOU KNOW THESE LOCAL PLACE NAMES?

(We give you the first one)

1. Centre and 2,240 lbs. = Middleton.
2. Not short, not old and not light.
3. Stately home and Adam's home.
4. Moving quickly and part of an oil lamp.
5. Basis for soup and heavy weight.
6. An Englishman's home and 100 m.p.h.
7. Hour glasses "works" and finish.
8. Mighty, and succulent cured pig.
9. A very smart scholar.
10. High rank in church and not backward.
11. Condiment and running water.
12. Over from North river side.

PROVERBS

(Again, we show you how)

1. O.B.T.S. = Once bitten twice shy.
2. A.S.I.T.S.N.
3. T.M.C.S.T.B.
4. O.O.S.O.O.M.
5. B.L.T.N.
6. A.R.S.G.N.M.
7. A.A.A.D.K.T.D.A.
8. M.H.L.S.
9. M.H.M.L.W.
10. B.O.A.F.F.T.
11. B.C.B.C.
12. F.K.
13. A.W.P.N.B.
14. P.G.B.A.F.

Answers on page 4.

Personalities

New Appointments

HON. JOHN D. ECCLES

The Hon. John D. Eccles was appointed to the board of Head Wrightson & Company Limited, from 1st October, 1964, as a deputy managing director. He was also appointed to the boards of Head Wrightson Iron Foundries Limited and Head Wrightson Processes Limited.

Mr. Eccles joined Head Wrightson in 1955 and was appointed director of Head Wrightson Steel Foundries Limited in 1959. He became managing director of Head Wrightson Stockton Limited in 1963.

A. SNAITH

Mr. A. Snaith was appointed Director and General Manager of Head Wrightson Stockton Limited from 1st October, 1964.

Mr. Snaith joined Head Wrightson in 1940 as a craft apprentice and following his experience in the works and on outside erection contracts, he assisted in the introduction and setting up of the Planning Department of which he became Manager in 1955. He was appointed Works Manager in 1962, responsible for all activities connected with the works, the Planning Department and outside erection contracts.

T. O'CONNOR

Mr. T. O'Connor was appointed to the board of The Head Wrightson Machine Company Limited from 1st October, 1964.

Mr. O'Connor joined Head Wrightson in 1953 and was concerned mainly with iron and steelworks projects. He was Construction Manager for three years before going to India to control the company's activities there. After four years service he returned from India this year

to take up an appointment as Assistant General Manager of The Head Wrightson Machine Company Limited.

FRANK SHEPHERD, J.P.

Mr. Frank Shepherd, managing director of Head Wrightson Steel Foundries Limited was appointed to the board of Head Wrightson Iron Foundries Limited from 1st October, 1964.

T. M. WILSON, M.M.

Mr. T. M. Wilson was appointed to the board of Head Wrightson Iron & Steel Works Engineering Limited from 1st October, 1964.

Mr. Wilson joined Head Wrightson in 1947 after service with Dorman Long & Company Limited. For the last three years he has managed the ironworks plant department and has travelled very extensively in connection with iron and steelworks development schemes at home and overseas.

Mr. Wilson was awarded the Military Medal for services with the Royal Tank Regiment during the war.

J. JENKINS

Mr. J. Jenkins was appointed to the board of Head Wrightson Steel Foundries Limited from 1st October, 1964.

Except for his service with the Royal Navy during the war he has served the Steel Foundry since he first joined Head Wrightson in 1937 where latterly he has fulfilled the duties of Office Controller.

F. A. BATTY

Mr. F. A. Batty was appointed to the board of The Head Wrightson Machine Company Limited from 1st October, 1964.

Mr. Batty joined Head Wrightson in 1937 and throughout his period of service he has been engaged with steelworks plant. He became chief executive responsible for sales of steelworks plant in 1951 and in the course of his duties he has travelled very extensively throughout the world.

Answers to page 2

1. Bus Stop.	Vagrant.	Arms.
2. Halt Major Road Ahead.	Buoyant.	Chest.
3. Post Office.	Abundant.	Hands.
4. Danger Men At Work.	Want.	Muscles.
5. Public Telephone.	Batant.	Veins.
6. Stick No Bills.	Elegant.	Waist.
7. No Parking.	Elephant.	Foot.
8. Please Keep Off The Grass.	Attendant.	Temple.
9. No Entry.	Deodorant.	Pupils.
10. Children Crossing.	Ignorant.	Eye.
11. No Smoking.	Luminant.	Lid.
12. Keep Left.	Fragrant.	Bridge.
13. One Way Street.	Assistant.	Nose.
14. Railway Station.	Rant.	Brow.

Answers to page 3

1. Once bitten twice shy.	1. Unicorn Hotel, Stockton High Street.
2. A stitch in time saves nine.	2. Rail Notice, Mandale Road, Thornaby.
3. Too many cooks spoil the broth.	3. 'The Shakespeare' (Pub), Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough.
4. Out of sight, out of mind.	4. A Nail Brush.
5. Better late than never.	5. A Tube of Toothpaste.
6. A rolling stone gathers no moss.	6. An Aluminium Turning.
7. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.	
8. More haste less speed.	
9. Many hands make light work.	
10. Birds of a feather flock together.	
11. Beggars can't be choosers.	
12. Findings Keppings.	
13. A watched pot never boils.	
14. Pride goes before a fall.	
	1. Middleton.
	2. Longnewton.
	3. Castle Eden.
	4. Runswick.
	5. Stockton.
	6. Castleton.
	7. Sandstead.
	8. Greatham.
	9. Trimdon.
	10. Bishopon.
	11. Saltburn.
	12. South Bank.

Farewell -

Ship House

The new London Office at Elliot House, Allington Street, London, S.W.1. to which the London Office Staff and the Head Wrightson Export Company moved on the 27th September is now completely finished. The move from Ship House which was stage managed by Mr. Holland — who states that 'He has the ulcers to prove it' — went very smoothly but for difficulties over which he had no control; we shared the new accommodation with the carpenters and joiners for two weeks. However, in spite of these problems the staff settled in and work carried on as usual, accompanied by the whine of numerous power drills.

The nostalgia that one felt for Ship House was soon forgotten as the obvious advantages of all being on one floor became apparent. The Export Company occupy the major part of the premises and facilities for them to communicate with overseas markets have been made easier with the installation of an international telex system, operated as efficiently as ever by Miss Betty Mynott.

All the offices are linked by an intercommunication network which has the unusual advantage of allowing the person called to answer from any point in the room. All the visitors are now received in a well-appointed lounge close to the entrance and a conference room is available which can be booked in advance through Mr. Holland's secretary. The staff offices are constructed from the latest form of partitioning which is attractively faced in pale grey vinyl each office being centrally heated and fitted with white fibre glass curtains.



Allington Street is situated close by Victoria Station and is convenient for all forms of public transport.

Many will miss the pageantry of the guards regiments forming up on Wellington Barracks to take over guard duty at Buckingham Palace, but surely none will regret not having to climb five flights of stairs as at Ship House.

Now that 'London Office' has moved to Elliot House, a few of our staff, will recall that H.W.P. was born in Ship House early 1942 and with the assistance of a small number of staff seconded to us from 'Tees-side' the foundation of the Company was formed, and after being in residence for five years the Company moved to its present address in Baltic Street.

The Victoria Line

Progress on London's new tube appears to be moving at a steady pace underground and all over London curious structures appear almost overnight which indicate where boring is taking place. These are often located in the most unusual places and the oddest of these must surely be Princes Street, London S.W.1. where the front of a small house has been removed to gain entry to the tunnel running beneath.

A crane positioned on an exterior platform erected across the face of the house lifts segments from lorries and lowers them through the front of the building. Segments produced at Egglecliffe Foundry have been seen to enter through the front of this house, which is close by the new London Office at Elliot House.

THE SPECIAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DIVISION OF THE HEAD WRIGHTSON MACHINE COMPANY

As Head Wrightson products have become more complex the need for correspondingly complex electrical equipment to control the machines has increased. This equipment has always been purchased from the electrical industry and has been increasing in value from year to year.

Last year it was decided to set up a small manufacturing organisation to design and assemble control panels for our products.

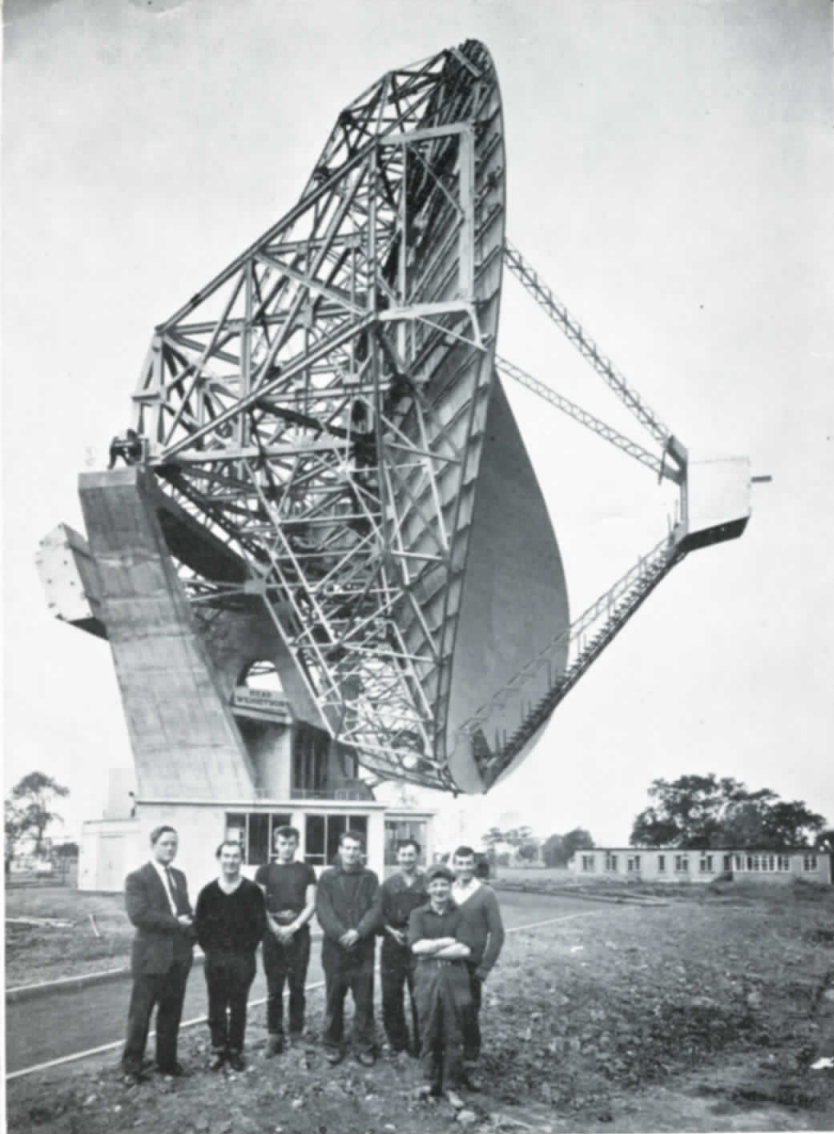
To establish the division physically a building 100 ft. x 30 ft. originally used as a store was taken over and converted into a workshop. A small part of an adjoining office was partitioned off to act as temporary office accommodation. The division started last October with the appointment of a Manager, Mr. B. V. Wren, B.Sc., A.M.I.Mech.E. Mr. Wren has grown up with the Machine Company having started as an apprentice in 1947.

Control and instrument panels have been supplied to Durgapur India, Ford Motor Company and Round Oak Steelworks, via H.W.I.S.W.E.L.

The control panels and desks for two drawbenches for Spain have been built for H.W.M. The photograph shows Michael Storey, a final year apprentice, working on one of the drawbench panels.

Work during the later part of 1964 is concentrated on relay racks and static switching units for the fully automated Colliery at Bevercotes which is being engineered by H.W. Minerals and the Control Section of R. & D.

A further development of the Special Electrical Engineering Division has been the establishment of a section to design and install power cabling, industrial lighting schemes and instrumentation schemes. This is a venture into the electrical contracting field which again is an extension of the activities of Head Wrightson.

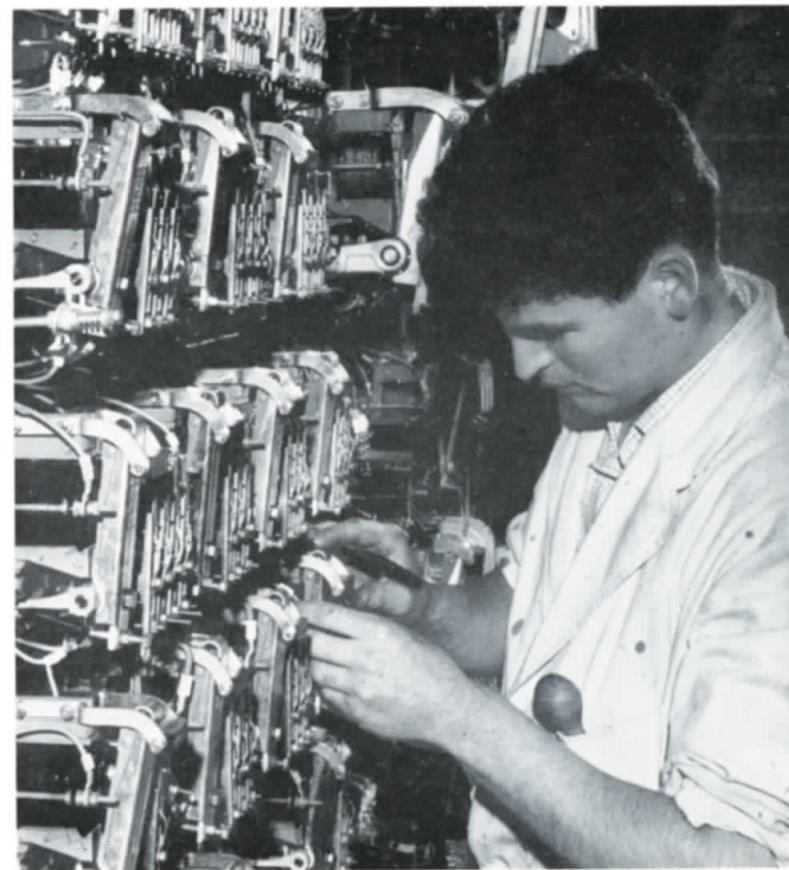


D. A. Cartwright — Site Engineer — Paddy Gehan, Brian Blake, Bill Kelly, John Lacy, Bunny Morris, Colin Williams who remained on site until Head Wrightson Teesdale Limited handed over the Jodrell Bank telescope which they helped to build — a feat of engineering accuracy produced under difficult conditions

SCOTSMAN'S PARADISE

Whisky, 60,000 gallons a day, this is the out-put of a distillery in the Scottish Highlands at which Head Wrightson Processes of Yarm are busy installing an effluent treatment plant. The distillery which is situated sixteen miles south of Inverness at an elevation of over 1,000 feet produces only fine Scotch whisky most of which is sold to blenders. The effluent is unsuitable for discharging into rivers so after purification it is mixed with cooling water and discharged direct into the local burn which is a tributary of the Findhorn, a river well known for its excellent fishing.

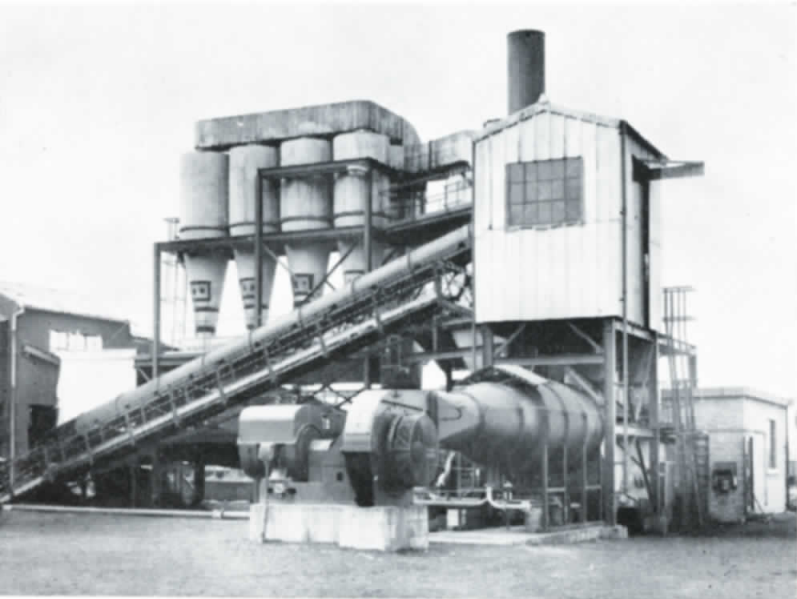
H.W.P. are also building effluent treatment plants for Chrysler Cummins Limited, at their new Darlington Engineering Works, for Cadbury Brothers Limited at their Confectionery Works, for Stevenson & Son Limited at their Moygashel Mills in Northern Ireland where their famous fabrics are produced as well as an effluent treatment plant for a famous potato crisp manufacturer.



A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH

Already exporting iron and steelmaking plants to Sweden, Spain, Italy, South Africa, India and Australia, Head Wrightson Iron & Steel Works Engineering Limited have now extended their export activities to include Canada through the receipt of an order for a 12 ft. wide iron ore sintering machine from Arthur G. McKee & Company Limited who are engineering a major installation for The Algoma Steel Corporation Limited.

The new Head Wrightson equipment will be designed and manufactured in the works at Thornaby-on-Tees, Yorks. It will be delivered by the summer of 1965 and installed at Wawa, Ontario.



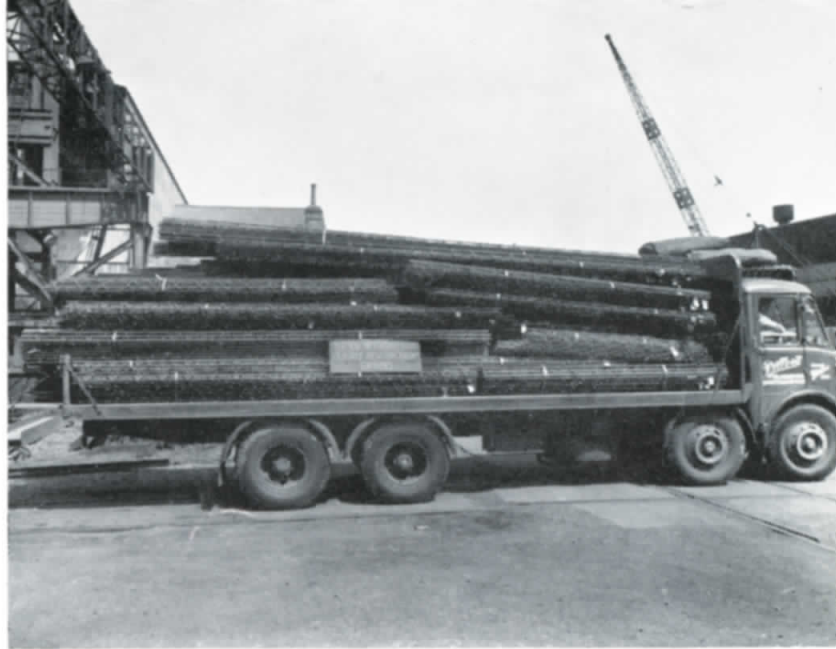
A fluidized bed dryer designed and constructed at Fishburn Colliery for the National Coal Board by H.W. M.E.L. for drying 85 tons per hour of washed small coal in preparation for use in coke ovens

KEEPING THE KETTLE BOILING

The Machine Company has had a run of interesting and important orders in recent months including a complete processing section of a continuous electrolytic tinning line for producing tin plate in strip form for The Steel Company of Wales. The line will run at 1,500 feet per minute and will therefore be one of the fastest lines operating in the world.

Additionally they have secured a contract for a tube making plant for Spain. This will be a complete mill for the production of seamless copper and copper alloy tubing which will incorporate a new design of multi strand cold tube rolling mill arranged to process three tubes at a time and in one pass will carry out the reduction in size which would require several passes in conventional tube drawing machines. Included in the plant will be annealing facilities, cut-to-length and re-coiling equipment and all ancillary handling tables and conveyors.

Yet another contract for Spain involves the supply of two drawbenches for the high speed production of light alloy seamless tubing up to 15 metres in length. These machines will have pulling capacities of 10 tons and 30 tons respectively and will be of the very latest semi-automatic design suitable for one man operation.

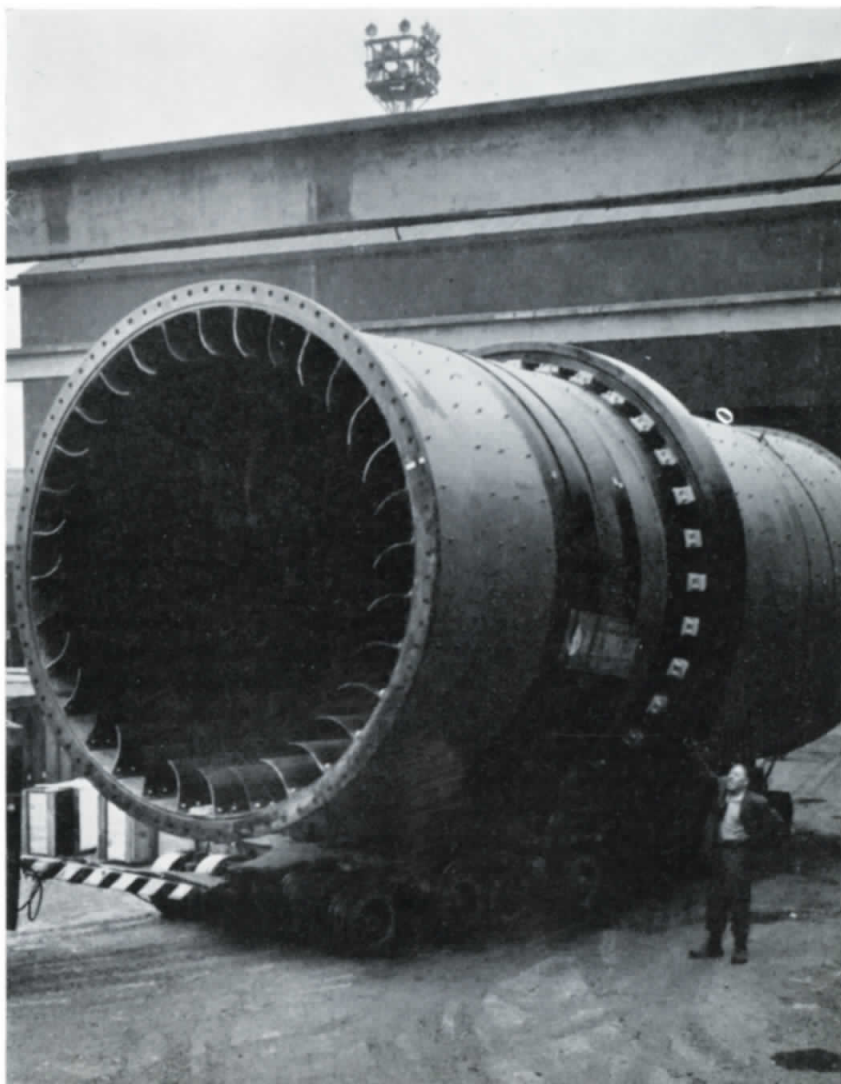


TO THE SUNNY SOUTH

The largest single load to date, over 18 tons, or 3 miles in total length, of Filigree girders leaving Teesdale Works for our concessionaire in Southampton. These girders will reinforce Filigree floors in flats, hotels, supermarkets, etc., on the south coast

GROW MORE CAMPAIGN

Leaving Head Wrightson Stockton Limited works: One section of a 14 ft. 0 in. diameter by 112 ft. 0 in. long shell for a compound fertilizer dryer, made for the Agricultural Division of Imperial Chemical Industries Limited





The Girls with Golden Voices

1. Mrs. Sylvia Blackburn, Teesdale.
2. Miss Marlene Earley, Teesdale.
3. Mrs. Clare Dawson, Stockton Forge.
4. Mrs. Maureen Wilkinson, Teesdale.
5. Mrs. Pamela Iceton, Teesdale.
6. Mrs. Doreen Ferguson, Stockton Forge.
7. Miss Barbara Shepherd, Machine Co.
8. Mrs. Patricia Earnshaw, Machine Co.
9. Miss Linda Hobson, Stockton Steel.
10. Mrs. Thelma Thomas, M.E.L., Sheffield.
11. Mrs. Marcelle Beasley (left), Processes, London.
11. Mrs. Joan Penn (right), Processes, London.
12. Mrs. Eileen Sinclair, Elliot House, London.
13. Miss Irene Hatton, Processes, Yarm.
14. Miss Irene Bell, Stampings Ltd.
15. Miss Barbara Green, Egglecliffe.



10



11



12



13



14



15

Readers Write



Left to right: Mr. W. Lander, Mr. D. Atkinson, Mr. C. Fletcher, Mr. Peter Wrightson and Mr. J. W. Crosby

Project Kiruna 26

The pelletising plant which H.W.I.S.W.E.L. are constructing at Kiruna for LKAB is to produce a minimum of 1,500,000 tons of iron ore pellets per year. It is situated on the west side of the large iron ore mountain of Kiirunavaara. The Head Wrightson plant is a part of the extensive and complex development for mineral treatment planned by LKAB.

Our plant is housed in two structural buildings, the Machine House and the Balling House which, due to the arctic conditions, are clad with double skinned aluminium sheeting with a three inch thick mineral wool insulation between.

Incoming concentrates are fed from the Filter House into the Balling House passing by conveyor into six storage bins and thence to six balling drums. Green pellets from the drums pass by conveyor to the 8 ft. wide x 28 ft. windbox pelletising machine.

The Filter House constructed by LKAB is situated under the Balling House and is an example of the most modern technique in concrete construction under arctic conditions. Due to this climatic condition the necessity of maintaining a strict erection timetable is of unusual importance in the general co-ordination.

Over 1,200 tons of equipment has been shipped over from the U.K. to the ports of Narvik in Norway and Stockholm in Sweden and thence by rail to Kiruna. The majority of the equipment has been shipped to Narvik, which is about 100 miles from Kiruna, Stockholm being about 900 miles from Kiruna was used for the heavier and larger pieces.

Over 3,000 tons of structural steel, platework and mechanicals are being fabricated by our Swedish sub-contractors and all electrics and installations are likewise being supplied in Sweden.

The whole of the erection and installation is being carried out by Swedish sub-contractors under our supervision.

It is interesting to note that site erection is based on a five day week, nine hours per day giving a total forty five hours per week and it is difficult to get labour to exceed these hours. Here again however the conditions, especially over the long arctic winter, are of an extreme nature and entirely different from any other previous contract which we have handled.

The city of Kiruna has a population of 27,000. It claims to be the worlds largest city and is an administrative area over 5,000 square miles. It is dominated by the 'Iron Mountain' (Kiirunavaara) and has grown up since iron ore mining started at the turn of this century. The city is situated 100 miles north of the Arctic Circle in the Land of the Midnight Sun which gives 24 hours of daylight per day from Mid-May until the end of June. Winter starts during October and continues until May with temperatures as low as -30°C and with practically no daylight during December and the early part of January. The living conditions are extremely up to date and comfortable. Central heating, insulation and air conditioning are all taken for granted throughout Sweden. Due to the dry atmosphere the intense cold is quite bearable and even gives a feeling of exhilaration providing one is properly clad in fur hat, fur lined coat and boots.

For diversions Kiruna offers during the winter months ski-ing, skating, ice hockey and fishing in the lakes through a hole drilled in the ice — in short all the winter sports. Summertime offers fishing in the rivers and lakes and walking through the beautiful nearby mountains, apart from tennis and the usual summer sports.

The town has one main hotel, two departmental stores, three cinemas, public library, a modern public swimming bath with restaurant, a very modern town hall, and a most interesting church designed on the lines of a Lapp dwelling.

One thing missing in Sweden is the English pub which incidentally is the envy of many Swedes. The only place where one can buy liquor, apart from in a restaurant accompanying a meal, is from one establishment in each town. This is similar to the English off-licence and has a habit of closing at an awkward time.

Our small English community have already adapted themselves to the conditions and different way of life here in Kiruna, helped in no small way by the kindness and hospitality of our Swedish friends in LKAB.

Stocktonian Statistics

by THOS. H. CUMMINS, Teesdale Bridge Yard

As the historian of Stockton I read with interest the note in the summer issue of 'Wright Ahead' which said that Altham's shop is the only one storied shop in the High Street. This is not so: Wolseys quaint old shop with the bow windows in Regency style is unique and it has only one storey.

Several misconceptions persist about Stockton. Stockton High Street is not the widest in England; that honour belongs to Marlborough in Wiltshire. Stockton and Darlington are usually accorded the glory of being the birthplace of public railways; a plaque on the wall of the George and Dragon Inn at Yarm states that Yarm was the actual birthplace, also, on its initial journey, Locomotion No. 1 ran from Shildon to Stockton and not from Darlington.

Stockton's Georgian Theatre, which was built in 1766 in the Green Dragon Yard, is the oldest Georgian Theatre in the north; Richmond's theatre, sometimes quoted as the oldest, was not built until 1788.

The first potatoes in the north were grown at Portrack in 1736.

The first tomatoes in the north were grown at Fewsters in 1839.

The first waterproof boot polish, 'The Stockton Waterproof' was made in Bright Street in 1910 and the first round rubber heels 'Hixopads' were manufactured in Stockton. 'Globe Liquid Metal Polish', the first of its kind, was made by Raimes of Stockton.

The first north countryman to become Lord Mayor of London was Brass Crosby, who was born in Stockton in 1725 and who became Lord Mayor in 1770. He won the fight which enables the press to take down speeches verbatim in the House of Commons so today we can consult 'Hansard' to get an accurate record of Parliamentary debates.

The oldest shop in Stockton is No. 9 Finkle Street which was built in 1700 from the stone formerly used for Stockton Castle. This building became the home of Edmund Harvey in 1763 who founded the Sunday Schools in this shop, which were generally believed to be founded by Robert Raikes. Edmund Harvey also proposed the cut in the river but this was not carried out until 1809.



No. 9 Finkle Street, Stockton-on-Tees

Xmas Eve

by D. R. TALLET, Teesdale

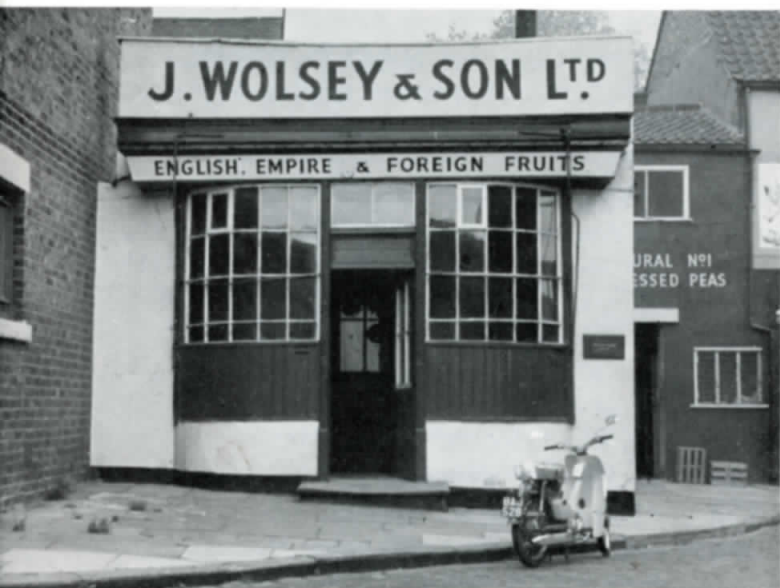
In biting wind and freezing cold
Stand watchers, as in days of old,
But these, they herald no new King
Muffled, alert, guns a-sling,
Listening for each foot-fall
These — "Watchers of the Berlin Wall".

Beyond the lights and rifle-fire
Nearer, nearer to the wire
Close to the earth, a family crawls
Nearer and nearer to the walls
Freedom is their one desire!

For them too "No room at the Inn"
A small child whimpers, cold and thin
So this then is now considered "Crime"
Their hatred of the new Regime.

Freedom lies so near ahead
One false move and they'll be dead
Escapes to the West take care
There's dogs and danger everywhere.

This then is my Christmas prayer
Men of goodwill everywhere
Work unceasingly for all
Ensuring no man has to "Crawl"
Vanquished by the Berlin Wall.





Readers Write on

shoots a cluster of flower heads, varying from tea-plate to dinner-plate size. They continue in bloom well into July.

How did these plants originate? Apparently not through any experiments of a crazy scientist, as they have been growing on the river banks as long as anyone can recall. We understand that they only grow in one other place in England, and that is on the banks of the River Avon at Bristol. As Yarm was at one time the port of the Tees, it is thought that in both cases seeds were brought from abroad in the cargoes of ships, took root and flourished.

The 1964 crop of Tryffids has been an unusually fine one. Heights of 12 ft. or more have been quite common, (the average is usually about 6 or 8 ft.), and the plantations have definitely increased in size. We have never seen the plants actually move about, as they did in the film, but we suspect that they do so under cover of darkness, as they appeared to encroach closer and closer on the buildings as the summer progressed. People whose windows looked on to the weeds kept them fastened, being afraid that leafy tendrils might twine in and snatch someone out feet first.

Up to now the plants have always died off in late summer and lain dormant until the next year, but who knows, one day they may refuse to do this, and may spread themselves over the whole village. The red roof tops of Yarm will be submerged in a sea of green leaves and waving white flower heads, and the Day of the Tryffids will have come to pass.

The Tryffids of Yarm

by S. CROSS, H.W. Processes, Yarm

This photograph was not taken in a tropical jungle, neither is it a trick one. J. G. Taylor, our photographer, discovered this young lady, Miss June Pilbeam of H.W.P. Yarm Costs Department, in the Friarage precincts at Yarm, North Yorkshire.

The background is provided by some of the giant weeds which flourish in luxuriant plantations along the banks of the River Tees at Yarm during the summer months. Botanically, these are greatly enlarged versions of the hedgerow plant which is known as cow parsley, fool's parsley, bad man's oatmeal or Queen Anne's lace, according to which part of England you happen to inhabit. However, the pet name which the Friarage staff have for these plants is "Tryffids", as we are convinced that they are related to the sinister plants in the horror film, "The Day of the Tryffids", which took over the running of the world.

One first becomes aware of these plants during the late spring, when almost overnight bushes of enormous leaves appear growing from a hairy stem, which exude a rather unpleasant liquid. They grow at a rate which is almost visible, and then in mid June buds resembling young cabbages appear on the ends of the stems. One after another these burst with an audible pop, and out

Russian Tour

by Mr. S. PALLISTER, H.W. Teesdale D.O.

Our party of twenty six people made the long journey to Moscow by the cross-channel and overland rail route — quite an experience in itself.

On arrival we spent one night in a suburban hotel, before moving to another more conveniently situated, close to the Bolshoi Theatre, and only about five minutes walk from Red Square, one of the first places visited.

The chief building is the Kremlin; a very varied collection of buildings within high encircling walls and towers. It started life as a wooden fortress in the 12th century, but the oldest buildings remaining today are the three cathedrals, built about 300 years later during the reign of Ivan the Great. Their golden "onion" domes are visible from many parts of the city. The Kremlin palaces now serve as museums and government offices, and nearby is the recently completed Palace of Congresses, the meeting place of the Supreme Soviet and other important bodies.

In Red Square itself stands the Lenin Mausoleum, with its huge queues waiting to file through to see the founder

of scientific communism and the leading figure of the 1917 revolution. As foreign visitors, we were spared the long wait, and ushered to the front of the queue. Two other well known buildings flanking the square are St. Basil's Cathedral, and 'Gums', the large department store.

During our stay we had a number of conducted tours, visiting the University, the Tretyakov Art Gallery, an exhibition of Soviet Economic Achievements, new housing developments, and many other points of interest. In our travels we also used the Underground, one of the showpieces of Moscow, with individually designed stations and elaborate decoration.

Incidentally, we had a guide during the whole of our stay, and conducted tours were laid on for our benefit. However, there was no compulsion to go on any particular visit, and individuals were free to wander at will. Nothing was organised in the evenings, and this allowed time for going where ones particular interests led. Gorki Recreation Park was one attraction, and shopping was also possible in the evenings. The shops always seemed to be doing a roaring trade, but, some commodities seemed in short supply and others were very expensive. For example, a man's suit costs the equivalent of about £40 and a pair of lady's shoes about £10.

After five days in Moscow, the party travelled by overnight sleeper to Leningrad, the former capital on the Gulf of Finland, founded by Peter the Great in 1703. Peter was an advocate of westernisation, and modelled his city on the French style of the period. This tradition has been maintained, and a very beautiful city has resulted, with long straight streets, vast squares and parks, and many noble buildings. Much of Leningrad (formerly St. Petersburg) is built on islands at the mouth of the Neva river, and as a consequence the city is often termed 'The Venice of the North'.

After a rather hectic tour, the return journey by sea from Leningrad was a very restful change. We travelled in the Soviet vessel 'Baltika', and had short stops at Helsinki and Gothenburg.

Much is heard and read about Russia, and it was therefore interesting to see what things were like at first hand. Our visit was relatively short and confined to the two major cities, but the general impression gained was that the majority of people were tolerably well dressed and appeared to have a reasonable living standard. The general atmosphere and sense of well-being of the ordinary people must have changed considerably for the better since the end of the Stalin era, and the days of fear and mistrust seem to have gone.

One would have to be an extreme cynic to deny the progress made since the last war, and particularly under the Krushchev regime. One of the tangible signs of this is the vast amount of new housing in the form of flats, often rather drab, but no doubt representing a great improvement on previous conditions for many people.

Although at present admitting a standard of living below that in the west, it is claimed that this will be reversed a decade hence. Time alone will show whether this can be achieved.



Miss Jean Randall and Mr. George Dickson

As one of Head Wrightson policies is to encourage sport, the company recently presented two perpetual trophies to Thornaby Amateur Swimming Club for the individual Medley Championships of the Club.

The competition for these impressive trophies was held in Thornaby's annual swimming gala on October 8th, 1964, and the successful swimmers were Miss Jean Randall and Mr. George Dickson.

Many of the club's junior members are connected with Head Wrightson through family ties.

Head Wrightson Social and Athletic Club

THE MOTOR CLUB AT M.E.L.

The Motor Club at M.E.L. flourishes and it is encouraging to see that several of our younger members are actively keen.

The Sheffield Vulcan night rally was well supported. George Pickin and Gerald Gibson finished well up despite frolics in the farmyard at midnight! For the winter we put cars behind and go for Scalex model racing — armchair Grand Prix.



Mr. R. H. Sturges, president of Head Wrightson Social and Athletic Club — Golf Section, presenting the R. H. Sturges trophy to the winners of the inter-company golf competition — Mr. T. H. Hall and Mr. A. Vernon of Head Wrightson Teesdale

Head Wrightson Social and Athletic Club

GOLF

We are pleased to report that the membership of the section has increased from forty four members in March of this year to the present total of sixty five members. This is very gratifying and we hope that the section continues to flourish and increase its membership at this rate.

The committee extend a very warm welcome to Head Wrightson Iron Foundries Limited who have lately intimated that they now have some employees interested in participating in our activities. We look forward to electing a representative for this company at our next annual general meeting.

The annual Stroke Play Competition was recently held in conjunction with the Inter-Company Trophy being played over 18 holes at Dinsdale Golf Club. Forty five players played in the Tournament with the following results:—

Annual Stroke Play Competition for the H.W. Challenge Cup

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------|
| 1st | Mr. T. H. Hall (H.W. Teesdale) | 84—21=63 |
| 2nd | Mr. I. McDowell (H.W. R & D Div.) | 78—11=67 |
| 3rd | Mr. A. Vernon, Jnr. (H.W. Teesdale) | 90—22=68 |
| | Best Gross Score, Mr. M. Corner (H.W. Stockton) | 77 |

Inter-Company Trophy

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 1st | H.W. Teesdale (T. H. Hall, A. Vernon, Jnr.) | 131 |
| 2nd | H.W. R & D Div. (I. McDowell, M. Hipkins) | 137 |
| 3rd | H.W. Processes (C. Moore, R. Peacock) | 138 |

The singles Matchplay Championship was played throughout the summer months with thirty six players taking part. The event was won by Mr. M. Hipkins (R & D Div.) who beat Mr. N. Smith (Steel Foundries) 4 and 2 in the final. It should be an encouragement to our lady members to note that the only lady participating in this event (Mrs. J. Brown, H.W.I.S.W.E.L.) managed to survive up to the 3rd round where she was only beaten, 3 and 1 on an away course by the eventual winner. Congratulations on a good effort Mrs. Brown!

The two matches played in the 1964 season against other companies had the following results:—

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| Skinningrove Iron Company Ltd. | —5. | H.W. —5. |
| H.W. | —5. | Furness Shipbuilding Company Ltd. |
| | | —2. |

Next year we hope to increase the number of matches played with other companies to give even more of our members a chance to represent Head Wrightson at these very friendly events.

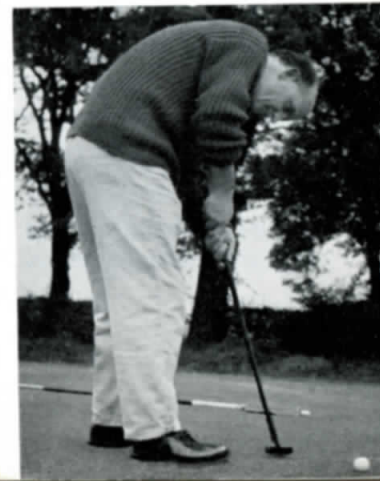
During the winter months the section will remain active by holding a series of 4 film sessions showing recent professional tournaments as well as instructional films by some of the better known professionals. Details of these film sessions will appear on the company notice boards some two weeks before each show.

Any person, male or female, employed by the Company who wishes to join or obtain details of the section and its functions, should contact the committee representative of their Company.



Michael Corner,
Head Wrightson
Stockton

Douglas
Merryweather,
H.W.I.S.W.E.L.



Personal



Mr. and Mrs. Humble



Mr. and Mrs. Matthews



Mr. and Mrs. Graham



Mr. and Mrs. Dunning

Head Wrightson employees send greetings and best wishes to all their colleagues throughout the world and a special 'Get Well Soon' message to those unfortunate enough to be on the sick list at Christmas time.

BIRTHS — CONGRATULATIONS

H.W. Teesdale Limited

Mr. and Mrs. John Hope — a son, Michael John.

H.W. Processes, Yarm.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Caine — a son, Nigel Bruce.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Franklin — a daughter, Valerie.

H.W. Processes, London

Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Martin — a son, Christopher David.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Wieliczko — a daughter, Margaret Anne.

H.W. Machine Company Limited.

Mr. and Mrs. F. White — a son, Trevor.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Butters — a son, Kevin.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Garratt — a son, Stewart.

Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Baker — a son, Steven.

MARRIAGES — BEST WISHES

H.W. Teesdale Limited

Mr. W. Dunning (Purchasing Dept.) to Miss Olwyn Reeve (Purchasing Dept.)

Mr. B. Bridgewater (Bridge Yard) to Miss K. Ayre.

Mr. K. Wright (Bridge Yard) to Miss T. Etherington.

Mr. H. Fox (Bridge Yard) to Miss V. Cox.

Mr. B. Wheatley (Bridge Yard) to Miss D. Dannelly.

Mr. R. Humble (Bridge Yard) to Miss B. Young.

Mr. A. Simcox (Bridge Yard) to Miss K. Broadbent.

Mr. J. Huttley (Bridge Yard) to Miss B. A. Sidgwick.

H.W. Stockton Limited

Miss Sheila Simpson (Planning Dept.) to Mr. Keith Graham.

Mr. Ken Spence (Drawing Office) to Miss Marie Patricia Dobson.

H.W. Processes, Yarm

Mr. Peter Lee (Oldbury Site) to Miss Tessa Parking.

H.W. Processes, London

Miss L. Long to Mr. T. Stone.

H.W.M.E.L. Sheffield

Mr. P. Nelson (Drawing Office) to Miss M. Hill (Tracer).

Mr. A. E. Maskery (Drawing Office) to Miss J. Wilson.

H.W. Stampings Limited

Miss Stella Forster (Sales Typist) to Mr. Alan Graham.

Miss Jean Harper (Drawing Office) to Mr. Brian Matthews (Estimating Dept.).

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

RUBY WEDDING — CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. and Mrs. H. Walker on their Ruby Wedding.

DEATHS — SYMPATHY

H.W. Teesdale Limited

Mr. S. Muir.

Mr. I. Sanderson.

Mr. J. Bainbridge.

H.W. Machine Company Limited

Mr. J. Iddison.



Steve Brown of the Steel Foundry at Thornaby celebrated his birthday on 26th October with flowers and greetings from his mates accompanied by a birthday cake, the principle ingredient of which he discovered was sand. Whether they sang for him or not, it is obvious 'He's a jolly good fellow'.

Bits and Pieces

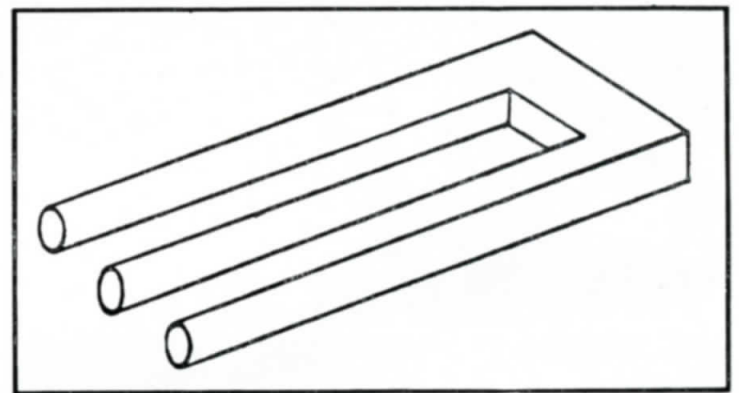
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Social Committee at Yarm are planning a further outing to Newcastle to see the Black and White Minstrel Show, while the seasonal activities of the staff dance and the children's Christmas party will be held as usual.

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. R. H. Middleton of the Metallurgical Department of the Research and Development Division has just been awarded the second prize in a national competition organised by 'Steel Times' for his paper entitled 'Continuous Casting of Steel'. He is now attending a course leading to the associateship of the Institute of Metallurgists.

£500 REWARD



One contributor, who carefully remained anonymous, offers £500 reward for anyone who can suggest a method of mass producing the article shown in this drawing and who at the same time can suggest a use for the article.

NO MORE JUNKIES!

A doctor writing in 'Medical Officer' claimed to have cured his life-long habit of nail-biting simply by having his front teeth out, a revolution in therapy which surely brings new hope to addicts everywhere. A nifty bit of hemstitching, say, would solve the smoker's problems, a couple of corneal grafts would put paid to telly-worship, and a while-u-wait laryngectomy would cure the bingomaniac for good and all. Come to think of it, why not just short-circuit the whole business by strangling junkies at birth?—Punch.

H.W. STAMPINGS LIMITED

Upon his retirement after 50 years service with the company a wallet of notes was presented to Mr. Thomas Piper, Wages Department on behalf of the management, staff and workmen, by Mr. Frank Brown, director and general manager.

H.W. STOCKTON LIMITED

Frank Jackson (Drawing Office) — After a lifetime's service Frank has at last decided that he has earned a welcome rest. We are informed that he has now moved out of the district and gone to live at Netherton, near Huddersfield. We wish him many happy years of retirement.

H.W. PROCESSES LIMITED, YARM

GHOST HUNT

As the history of the Friarage goes back for hundreds of years, it is only natural that it should be haunted. Recently our ghost appeared to have acquired a voice. At intervals, a most weird wail has echoed round the building. It started in a low pitch, and then rose to a crescendo which chilled the blood, as in all good ghost stories. It was suggested that we call in the Society for Psychic Research to investigate, but in the end all we needed was a plumber. The culprit was a water pipe.

H.W. TEESDALE LIMITED

Mr. Featherstone of Head Wrightson Teesdale, Shipping Department, paid a tribute to the many virtues and capabilities portrayed by Miss Helena G. Eden during her 23 years with the Company when she retired recently. Miss Eden thanked all who contributed to the 'Magi-coal' fire and flowers which were presented to her.

H.W. STAMPINGS LIMITED

Mr. A. Muir, assistant general manager presented Mrs. Muriel Robinson, Purchasing Department with gifts from the management and staff, when she left the company after 16 years service at Stampings.





