

# Wright Ahead

Head Wrightson news

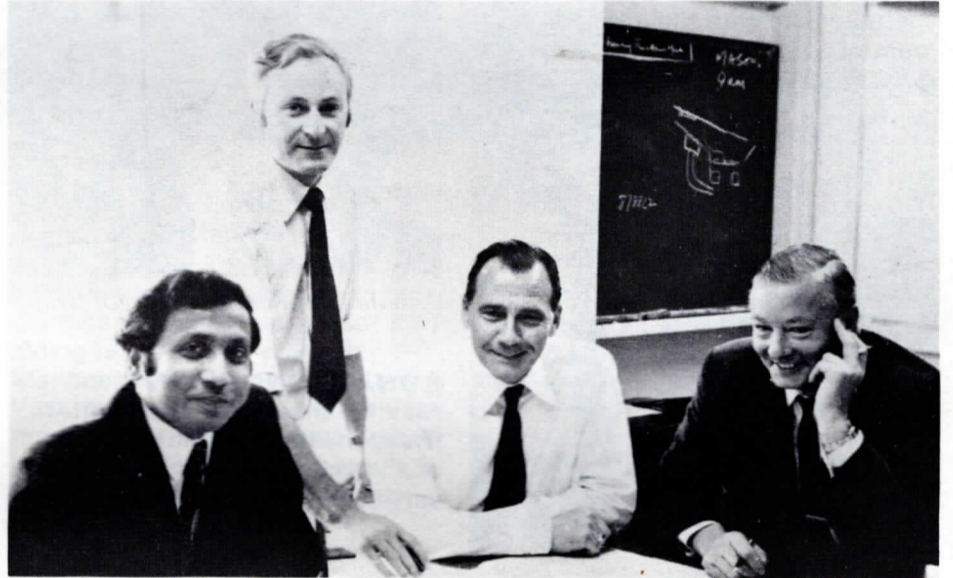
September 1975

## IRON FOUNDRY BACK IN BUSINESS Joint effort to gain order

A contract for tunnel segments worth £2m has given the HW Iron Foundry at Eaglescliffe a new lease of life. The foundry has re-opened after a 7 month temporary closure because of lack of work, and production of tunnel segments for an underground railway in Sao Paulo, Brazil commences in November. Awarded by the Sao Paulo Metro - Comphania Do Metropolitana de Sao Paulo - the contract is an extension to the £3m first stage successfully completed by HW in 1973.

The re-opening means that a number of staff who were temporarily employed in other parts of the Group have been transferred back to the foundry and recruitment for approx 80 foundry workers is already taking place.

Having had the sad task of winding down production of tunnel segments at the foundry last year, Director & General Manager, Albert Snaith, is pleased that a fresh start is being made and he looks optimistically towards the future of the foundry.



Left to right: Dilip Dasghose, with Gordon Wade, Charlie Corbidge and Don Thomas of HWPEL Thornaby.

Dilip Dasghose, all the way from HW India in Calcutta, got more than he bargained for when he visited HWPEL Thornaby during July. What started as a general fact finding visit on the subject of coal preparation and sinter plants turned out to be a serious discussion on the joint submission of a tender between HW India and HWPEL Thornaby for a complete skip winding plant at Ramgarh Coal

Washeries at Bihar, India. The enquiry came through shortly after Dilip's arrival at Thornaby. Dilip was, in fact, with the iron foundry for 7½ years before joining HW India where he now looks after the sales and development side of the company. We look forward to hearing more of HW India activities in "Wright Ahead".

## Pardor strengthens group

The works and office systems at Pardor Engineering have recently been rationalised to enable them to provide a more efficient service to their customers and to work more closely with other HW Companies. This has meant a lot of work for the HW people involved particularly Ian Ford of Grosvenor, Neil Darley, Management Accountant at Yarm, Tony Stainsby who is now with HW Foundries, John Myatt from the personnel dept, Yarm and Ken Patterson of HW Teesdale.

## I.L.A.F.A. 16

Over 500 businessmen, top executives and technicians from the Latin American iron ore mining and steelmaking world are meeting this month in Lima, Peru. The occasion is ILAFA 16 the annual congress of the Latin American Iron & Steel Institute. Head Wrightson will be represented by Neil Cherrett director and general manager of HWPEL Thornaby Division and Brian Buckroyd export director as part of our current sales effort in South America.

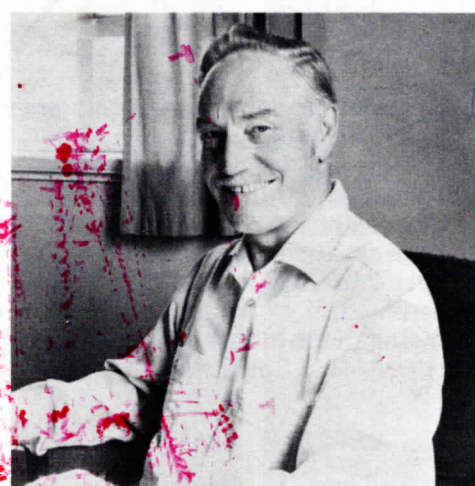
## Grosvenor's sales drive still in top gear

Grosvenor's trip to Holland last year to take part in Petrotech '74, the 1974 international exhibition of Petroleum Equipment Manufacturers, certainly paid dividends. They are currently boasting their largest order book ever, having recently won over £400,000 of orders against strong international competition for various forms of pressure vessels for the Oil and Petrochemical Industries. A large proportion of this work can be traced to their sales efforts at Petrotech '74.

Not content with past success and recognising the current problems of work from the domestic market they intend to repeat this next year, and are already making arrangements to exhibit at Petrotech '76.



Left to right: W D Harrison, (Foundry & Forging Divisional Managing Director), R Millman, (Assnt. Company Secretary) and C C Cowell (Director & General Manager of Villares Wrightson), outside Sao Paulo cathedral at the time the contract was secured. In front of the cathedral there stands a fully erected section of tunnel segments containing a mock metro train - a monument to HW!



Albert Snaith

Although he only joined the foundry 2 years ago, Albert has been with Head Wrightson for 35 years having started his career as an apprentice. During that time he was director and general manager of HW Stockton Ltd (otherwise known as The Stockton Forge) and production director at HW Teesdale for a short time.

Returning to the iron foundry after his brief spell with HW (Steelcast) Billingham during the close-down, John Jenkins again leads the commercial team as Commercial

(Cont. on Page 2)



(Cont. from Page 1)

Director. His 38 years service began in the commercial department at HW (Steelcast) Thornaby. Appointed a director at that foundry in 1965, he was transferred to the iron foundry in 1968 as commercial director.

Working closely with John Jenkins is Tony Stainsby, who returned to the foundry as Financial Controller after spending a few months at HW Teesdale as Management Accountant, Jan Baszynski, who becomes the company Buyer on commencement of production and Accountant Phil Appleby who spent 2 years with the iron foundry before the close-down.



John Jenkins (Left) and Tony Stainsby



Jan Baszynski Phil Appleby

Pamela Chapman, a commercial trainee, has also recently joined the foundry as secretary to Mr Jenkins.

Works staff include some people who remained at the foundry during the close down period and others who have returned from positions in other parts of the group.

\*

**MAURICE MURPHY** – Works Manager. Having served time as apprentice patternmaker, Maurice left HW in 1960 but rejoined in 1974 as assistant foundry manager.

\*

**TOMMY GELDART** – Foundry Superintendent (Responsible for supervising the making of castings and the fettling). 41 years service. Tommy started work at the Teesdale iron foundry in Sept 1934 and transferred to the iron foundry at Eaglescliffe in April 1936.

\*

**GEORGE PHILLIPS** – Foundry Foreman. 2 years as Sand Technician at the iron foundry before the temporary closedown.

\*

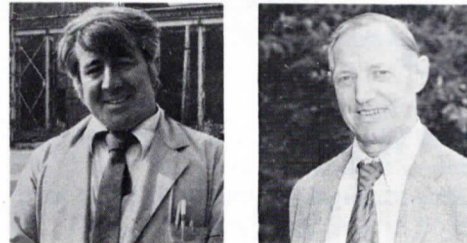
**LAURIE ROBINSON** – Machine Shop Superintendent (Responsible for machining of segments, ringbuilding etc.) Joined HW in July 1968.



Left to right: Laurie Robinson, George Phillips, Maurice Murphy, Ronald Snowden, Tommy Geldart.



Winnie Stephenson Trevor Briggs



Brian Matthews Dave French

**RONALD SNOWDEN** – Maintenance Superintendent (Responsible for maintenance of all plant machinery) 25 years service with the iron foundry.

\*

**JOHN HALL** – Melting Superintendent. John began work at the HW R & D Division in Jan. 1970 on the Quantovac Machine. He was transferred to the iron foundry in 1972.

\*

**BRIAN MATTHEWS** – Yard Foreman

(Responsible for all loading, servicing of machine shop etc. Total years service 18 with 3 years at iron foundry.

Also returning to the foundry are:

**TREVOR BRIGGS** – Chief Inspector

and

**DAVE FRENCH** – Timekeeper

## Keeping an eye on Safety

HW Teesdale have formed their own Health and Safety Committee in an effort to prevent accidents from happening throughout the company and their present safety campaign concerns "eye protection". The committee consists of Engineering Director, Brian Evans (Chairman), a Works representative, Jackie Hunter, and a Staff representative, D Crisp, who with the aid of posters, are trying to make people realise that "prevention is better than cure" and that eye accidents can be avoided by wearing safety spectacles whenever necessary. Although the present campaign concerns eye protection, the committee intend to cover all aspects of health and safety at work, so if you come across any safety at work posters – please take notice.

## Thinking alike



Lynne Harrison



Melanie Robinson

Two attractive young ladies with a great deal in common.

Lynne Harrison, Secretary to Alan Batty (Director & Sales Manager), and Melanie Robinson, Secretary to John Spence, Engineering Manager, both started their secretarial jobs at HW Machine Co on the same day and previously attended the same class at the Stockton & Billingham Tech. for their Private Secretary's Certificate Course.

Now they are both waiting anxiously for the results! Best of luck to both of you.

## South American Visitors



The Brazilian visitors (front) are accompanied to Teesside Airport on their day of departure by (Back L-R) Tony Ogg (Sales Director) Max Clark (Senior Sales Negotiator) and Arthur Harvey (Group Manager).

from Venezuela.....

Mr Julian Jatem, Head of the new steel investigation Centre which is currently being built for SIDOR (Siderurgica Del Orinoco) spent the afternoon of 7th August at our Research & Development Laboratories at Thornaby. He was in the UK to seek information to assist in setting up SIDOR's new Research Centre which will involve an expenditure of approx. £2.6m on equipment. He was particularly interested in R & D's expertise in supplying pilot plants for sintering and pelletising.

from Brazil.....

Senors Bartolemeu and Ubirajara of C.S.N. and Senor Lopes of C.O.S.I.P.A. visited us during the last week in August for discussions in connection with the new expansion programme of the Brazilian Steel industry. As well as touring our works they visited installations in this country and at SIDMAR in Belgium.



## Appointments

### HW (STEELCAST)

W H Wilson, Works Manager, Billingham Foundry.  
V Pescod, Assnt. Works Manager, Billingham Foundry.  
J Welsh, Assnt. Works Manager, Stockton Foundry.

### HW & CO

B Thewlis, Secretarial Assistant Secretarial/Legal Dept.  
P Hall, Trainee Programmer, Computer Department.  
L Tulip, Trainee Systems Analyst, Computer Department.  
K Lloyd, Senior Systems Analyst, Computer Department.  
H Shaw, Senior Programmer, Computer Department.

### HW STAMPINGS

T W Dodds, Purchasing Manager.  
D A Tosh, Works Engineer.  
J R Jeffries, Chief Wages Clerk.

### GROSVENOR STEEL

T. Jewitt, Sales Manager.

## Modules Completed

Congratulations to the following trainees who have successfully completed their modules to the required standard:

G E Almond, HWT M'bro – H25 Fitting Part 2

D Andrew, HWT Thornaby – D1 Thick Plate Working Part 1

M Horne, HW Stampings – J22 Electrical Maintenance Part 2

K Hope, HW Stampings – J1 Mechanical Maintenance Part 1

M Horne and G E Almond are now eligible to receive the E.I.T.B. Certificate of Craftsmanship.

## Brains and Brawn

When it comes to exams and competitions the Thornaby foundry of HW (Steelcast) certainly has its fair share of successful candidates.

Two apprentices from the Pattern Shop were awarded Inst. of British Foundrymen certificates for winning a section of a pattern-making competition. Presented at the Queen's Hotel, Stockton, the certificates went to Stuart Morris and Ian Downs. Many people will remember Stuart (or "Stu" as he is known in the professional cycling world) from an article written about him in the spring 1972 edition of W/A.



Stuart Morris

Also at Thornaby foundry the Seal of Merit has been presented to moulder-coremaker, David Harris, by the Foundry Industry Training Committee Certificate – a certificate that is only awarded to those who have gained the City & Guilds final certificate and the Training Board's own Certificate of Craftsmanship. Congratulations to all three!



David Harris



W H Wilson



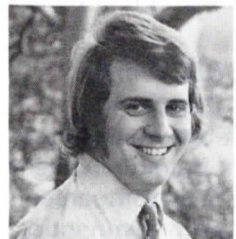
V Pescod



J Welsh



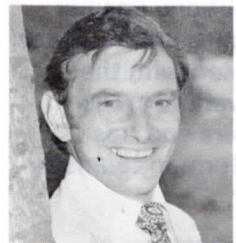
B Thewlis



P Hall



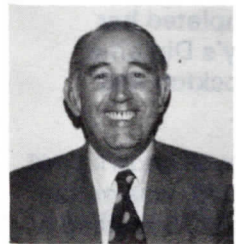
L Tulip



K Lloyd



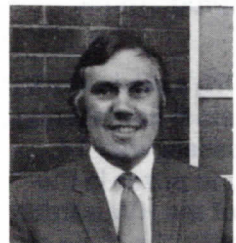
H Shaw



T W Dodds



D A Tosh



J R Jeffries



T J Jewitt



A restaurant in London or Manchester? Manchester – yes, but although it looks like a view of a first class restaurant it is, in fact, the recently renovated senior staff dining room at B & S Massey, Manchester.

Vast improvements have been made to all the dining and kitchen areas at Massey with the result that more and more people are using the senior staff and

Works/staff dining rooms than previously. The directors' dining room has also been improved and gives a very good impression to any visitors that may be invited to dine. Works Engineer, Mr Hodkinson, informs that the renovations have created a better atmosphere for those people using the dining rooms and plans are already in hand for further improvements.



The B & S Massey works/staff canteen showing part of the self-service counter

## Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Steve Coulter, Instructor at the HW Training Centre has only been with the company since September 1974 but already he is making it possible for some of his trainees to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme – a scheme which "is intended to help both the young and those people who take an interest in their welfare". The HW trainees who have already expressed interest in the scheme are K Jackson (swimming), G Glenn (art), P Dickinson (chess) and S Ladyman (fishing) and we look forward to hearing more about their activities. Steve, an experienced youth leader outside work, says that the scheme is open to girls as well as boys.

### DEATHS

Manny Boyd, 18/7/75, Maintenance Dept., HW Teesdale (Retired).

John Ross, 19/7/75, HW (Steelcast) Thornaby (Retired).

Raymond Chapman, HW Works Band.

William Caswell, 6/8/75, Inspector, HWPEL Thornaby.

Georgina Renton, 19/8/75, Production Control Dept., HW (Steelcast) Billingham.

Joseph Almond, 16/7/75, Pattern Shop, HW (Steelcast) Thornaby.

Clive Lamballe, 23/7/75, Inspector Engineer, HWPEL Thornaby.

William Lindsay, 15/8/75, Fitters Mate, HW Stampings.

Richard Smiles, 8/8/75, Wages Clerk, HW Stampings.

Francis Whitehead, 15/8/75, Machinist, Die Shop, HW Stampings.



## Retirements

### 57 YEARS

Charles Grounds, Storekeeper/Handyman, Training Centre, HW & Co.

### 48 YEARS

Thomas Hodgson, Dresser, HW (Steelcast) Thornaby.

### 47½ YEARS

Stan Lacy, Drawing Office, HW Teesdale



Stan Lacy

### 45 YEARS

Walter Robinson, First Hand Furnace Man, HW (Steelcast) Thornaby.

### 37 YEARS

Eric Bridges, Works Manager, HW (Steelcast) Billingham.



Eric Bridges

### 35 YEARS

J F Harding, Moulder, HW (Steelcast) Thornaby.

### 14 YEARS

Mrs E Wilde, Shipping Dept., B & S Massey.



Mr. Alan Howard, Commercial Director of B & S Massey presenting a retirement gift to Mrs. Edith Wilde.

## Two Heads are better than one



Lynn and Paul

Congratulations to Lynn Wilson, Secretary to Procurement Director, Peter Rooksby at HWPEL Thornaby and Paul Wennington, Plater at HW Teesdale Bridge Yard, on their marriage on 14th June at St Chads Church, Roseworth, Stockton.

Best wishes also to John Salmon, Chief Programmer of the Computer Dept. at HW & Co., Yarm, and Veronica Thomas, who were married at St. Mary's Church, Acklam on Friday 1 August.

## What's this then?

There's no prize for guessing the correct identity of this ancient implement but in our next issue we'll feature the winner with his or her answer plus some of the near misses. To help you out it would probably have been found in a kitchen.

Send your answers to The Editor, Publicity, Yarm.



## Naval Chopper Lands on HWPEL Site

The afternoon of 30th July brought a little excitement into the lives of those HW people whose offices overlook the riverside at HWPEL & R & D Division at Thornaby, when a helicopter, belonging to the ship, HMS Bacchante, landed on HW territory.

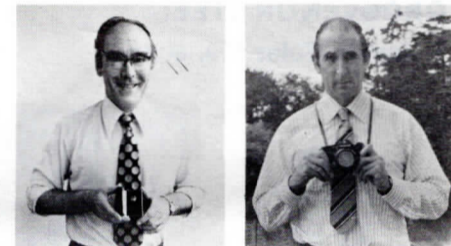
The display was not, however, for the benefit of HW employees but for the Stockton Sea Cadets who were invited by the Ship's Captain to look inside the "chopper" and watch its various manoeuvres. Having considered several possible landing areas, the strip of land belonging to HW was chosen and permission had been obtained from HW & Co.

Forming part of the ship's anti-submarine helicopter fleet, the "chopper" had landed after a flight from RAF Leeming where it had been undergoing repairs.

## Briefly . . .



CHARLES ELLIOTT, Works Manager at HW (Steelcast) Thornaby, has been appointed President of the local branch of the Institute of British Foundrymen which is at present celebrating its 50th year. Charles has been a council member of this institution since 1950.



Peter Harding Ron Hughes

Blood donor, PETER HARDING, from HW Teesdale received his gold badge in July for having donated 50 pints of blood. Peter was one of over 30 Cleveland blood donors presented with "golds" by the Mayor of Cleveland.

RON HUGHES, Project Manager at HWPEL Thornaby has won the "Beginner's Print of the Year" competition organised by the Teesside Photographic Society, with a colour photograph entitled "Clematis".

PETER CRAWFORD, Works Manager at HW (Steelcast) Stockton has just returned from a successful visit to Bavaria in West Germany where he accompanied the Billingham Forum gymnastics team as senior coach during 3 weeks of competitions against German gymnastics teams. Peter was very impressed with the hospitality received from the German organisers and has invited several German teams to Britain next year.

HELEN VINEY, Secretary at HWPEL Thornaby, has successfully completed her Private Secretary's Diploma course at the Stockton and Billingham Tech.

DOUG TALLEY, well known poet at HW Teesdale Ltd, was on the air on Monday 1/9/75 reading a selection of his poems on the Radio Cleveland programme "Diana at Large".

FRANK ADDISON, a piece work clerk of the Industrial Engineering Dept. at HW Teesdale won 14 first and 20 second prizes in the vegetable class of the HW garden produce and handicrafts show on Saturday 23/8/75.



Town Crier of Stockton

## OYEZ!

As part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the Darlington & Stockton Railway opening, a bell-ringing competition was held on 23rd July in order to find Stockton's new town crier. The competition was won by a Mr Ron Walker of Middlesbrough who was presented with £15 and, most important, a huge bell made by trainees at the HW Training Centre, Thornaby and suitably inscribed with the HW name.

Training Manager, Harry Soppet and Senior Mechanical Instructor, Les Kitchen were invited to take part in the parade to the John Walker Square where the competition was held and afterwards attended a luncheon party at the Town Hall.



## FIVE-A-SIDE FUN



"5-a-side" winners: (Back L-R) Derek Roberts, Ian Ford (Front L-R) Peter Lord, John Trueman, Peter Saville

Six teams from Grosvenor Steel works and staff took part in a 5-a-side football competition at the Ardwick Sports Centre, Manchester on 25 July. The competition was based on two leagues, each league consisting of 3 teams, the winner of each league playing in the final.

All teams were evenly matched and some good football was witnessed by the supporters in attendance. The winning team consisted of: E I Ford, Managing Director, D Roberts, Works Supervisor, P Saville, Draughtsman, P Lord, Slinger, J Trueman, Plater. Trophies were presented to the winners and runners up. In embarrassment, the



"Knock-out" winners: (L-R) Henry Heppenstall, Derek Flint, John Lloyd

Managing Director has now retired!

The employees of Grosvenor Steel have now expressed interest in playing other members of the Group on either a 5-a-side basis or a conventional game of football!

### KNOCK-OUT

The finals of the Grosvenor Steel 1975 Knock-Out competitions were held at the Adamson-Hatchell Social Club on 4 July and the evening ended with a buffet/disco.

Winners of the finals were:  
Darts – D Flint, Welder  
Dominoes – H Heppenstall, Buyer  
Cribbage – J Lloyd, Welder

## Staff Guild on the Hunt



Winners of the treasure hunt: (Left to Right) Brian Shaw, (R & D) his wife and two friends.

On June 26 the Guild held a Car Treasure Hunt, which now seems to be a popular annual event, despite the much increased cost of motoring. Almost 50 people took part as drivers, navigators or simply to add to arguments as to whether a left or right turn would have been more appropriate where the driver went straight on! After about 27 miles of motoring on a beautiful evening everyone eventually arrived at the Wainstones Hotel at Great Broughton, to partake of food and drink.

The winning entry, for the second year running, with a 100% score sheet was from Brian Shaw of R & D. Second was George Cooper of HWT. Also for the second year running, Arthur Vernon won the booby prize. Arthur denies the rumours that it is a deliberate

policy to lose in order to win a prize!

B. Hope, President



Barry Hope, President of the Senior Staff Guild, organised "the hunt" aided by his wife, Sheila.

## HWM Social Review

From D B Sharp

On 7 July a group of our members invaded the Eston Recreation Ground Golf course to take part in our annual miniature golf competition. John Bewley completed the 18 hole course in 69 to be declared the winner.

Our annual tennis competition took place on the 16 July at Ropner Park, Stockton and resulted in an exciting final between Warren Douglas and John Dale with John eventually winning by 8 games to 6.

Once a year our committee organise a long distance walk for our members. Having in the past done the Lyke Wake Walk on a number of occasions, the Three Peaks of Yorkshire, and the White Rose Walk, we decided this year to try something new and so inaugurated the West Cleveland Circular.

This was duly completed on Saturday 14 June 1975 when the following eight walkers completed the 26 mile route in approx. 11 hours; J Dale, R Olley, D B Sharp, G Struthers, S Woolard, J Wordsworth along with Misses M Ritchie and J Alton.

The work of Mr A Christison who drove the support vehicle throughout the day was much appreciated.

The second Photographic competition in the series towards the O'Connor cup was held in July, when the subject was Industrial. The winning print was taken at Middlesbrough Docks by John Stalker.

Future events being organised for September include a river trip, a visit to the Forum Theatre to see Dad's Army and a visit to Cameron's Brewery.

## £10 Surprise



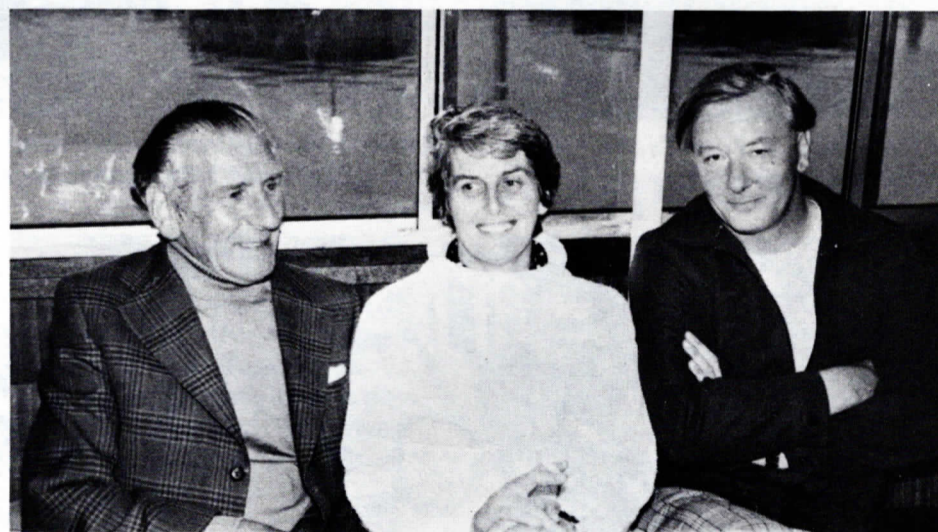
Colin Metcalfe

Experienced as he is in his job as motor fitter at the HW garage, Colin Metcalfe still likes to keep up his studies and has recently proved to himself that all the hard work he puts in during spare time is really worth it. As a participant of the Technician's Correspondence Course, organised by British Leyland's Austin Morris Service Training School, Colin was surprised to find that he'd won £10 for submitting one of the best papers during the month of June. Encouragement indeed! Colin, who has been at Head Wrightson for 14 years is in his 3rd year of study with the Training School.

### REMEMBER!

Please send in your news and articles for the November issue of Wright Ahead by 31 October.

## A night on the river



Left to right: John Willis, Eva Coulson, and Don Thomas – organisers of the HWPEL Social committee river trip.

Cleveland's latest tourist attraction comes in the form of a cruise down the River Tees in a pleasure boat known as the "Captain Cook" and one of the first party of people to embark on this recently renovated boat came from HWPEL Thornaby. Forever thinking of new and exciting things to organise for their members, the HWPEL social committee decided that a trip of this kind would be both educational and entertaining and so after a lot of hard work on the part of Don Thomas, Eva Coulson, John Keir, Gordon Sinclair and Neil Cherret, the trip took place on a misty evening in July.

Leaving its berth near to the Transporter Bridge at Middlesbrough, the boat cruised up the river to Newport Bridge, turned, and went down the river as far as Seal Sands. The captain of the ship gave a running commentary during the whole of the journey and for those who found the sea breezes a little too nippy, there was a bar in the lower deck! It was a very enjoyable trip.



# SPORTS SPECIAL



HWM team: (Back L-R) Martin Lockney, Keith Dobson, Warren Douglas, Norman King, Geoff Unthank, Colin Clark. (Front L-R) Arthur Davison, Brian Westacott, Alan Christison (Capt.) John Boyle, Ian Black.

## Just one wicket in hand

HW Machine Company met HW Stockton Steelcast in the final of the inter-departmental cricket competition at Teesdale Park on Thursday July 17.

In the final of this competition each team bowls a maximum of 25 overs, with each individual bowler being allowed a maximum of 7 overs.

The weather on the night was fairly good and Stockton Steelcast, having won the toss, elected to bat first, obviously hoping that the weather (and in particular the light) might deteriorate.

Having lost one or two of their star men with only a few runs on the board, Steelcast struggled to a score of 64 runs inside the allotted 25 overs. HW Machine Co looked to be chasing an easy target as their opening batsmen made a steady start.

Stockton Steelcast were not to be outdone, however, and some fine bowling by Haggerstone and Co brought this game to a nail-biting finish before Machine Co ran out winners with a score of 65-9, just one wicket in hand.



Fred White & Tom Taylor - M'bro Works supporters.



Scorer, Michael Bradley Jnr. - son of HW (Steelcast) Stockton team captain.



HW (Steelcast) Stockton foundry supporters: (Back L-R) Dennis Britton, Stan Davies, Joe Davies, Graham Rex, Ronald Hudson. (Front L-R) Howard Britton, Spike Chaney.

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Left to right: Jack Harris, Derek Branson (skip) John Buxton and Richard Moore.

## BRAVE ATTEMPT BY HW BOWLS CHAMPS

Three members of the bowls team that won the Yorkshire County Bowls final at Zetland Park, Redcar, on Sunday 27 July and subsequently got through to the All English Championships at Worthing during August, happen to work at Head Wrightson.

Derek Branson (skip), estimator, and Jack Harris, cost accountant, are both from HW Machine Co., while John Buxton is a grinder at HW (Steelcast) Stockton. The fourth member of the team,

Richard Moore, does not work for Head Wrightson.

Unfortunately the team were beaten by Hampshire at Worthing but nevertheless thoroughly enjoyed their match.

Regarding the HW interdepartmental bowls competition, the 3 rink team event was won by HWPEL Thornaby who beat M'bro Works of HW Teesdale 68-30.

## Darts

Watch the notice boards for details of the forthcoming inter departmental darts competitions.

## Autumn Dance

A buffet dance is being held on Friday 10th October for all office and works staff of HW (Steelcast) Ltd at the St George Hotel, Teesside Airport.

## "Bob Sturges" at Bedale

With the HW golf knock-out competition drawing to a close (results to be published in next W/A), Charlie Moore, Secretary of the HW golf section, has fixed the Bob Sturges inter-company competition for 18 October at Bedale Golf course. Charlie also hopes to round up all golf "rabbits" within HW with a view to organising some sort of competition next spring.

## Talent Spotting

The HW Social Club are hoping to meet Tubeman's of Darlington at Thornaby Village Social Club in November in an inter-club talent competition. If you have talent as a singer, musician, comedian, etc. why not join in the fun? Contact Sam Ferguson, Concert Secretary, HW Maintenance Dept. Ext. 333.

As from October this year, the HW Social Club are holding a monthly draw with such prizes as portable TV's, stereos etc.

For parties, celebrations, meetings - why not use the lounge at the back of the HW Social Club.

Book early for Christmas.

Are you having  
your wages paid  
through your  
Bank or Giro  
Account?  
If not - Why not?

ASK FOR DETAILS FROM  
YOUR WAGES OFFICE.



# Wright Ahead

Celebrating 150 Years of Railway History 1825 – 1975



THE WORLD'S FIRST PUBLIC PASSENGER STEAM RAILWAY TRAIN RAN FROM SHILDON TO STOCKTON VIA DARLINGTON ON TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 1825 PULLED BY GEORGE STEPHENSON'S RENOWNED "LOCOMOTION NO 1".

Thomas Meynell Esq. of the Friarage, Yarm was Chairman of the Stockton and Darlington Railway Company. He presided over the decision to found the railway; laid the first rail; and performed the opening ceremony on that historic September day in 1825. The S & DR achievement left its mark on Great Britain and indeed the world. For the railway undoubtedly sowed the seeds of industrial Cleveland (as we know it today) and the beginning of the worldwide Transport Revolution.

The photograph above shows the house as it probably was when the Meynell family were in residence. It is reproduced from a painting by H Moore in 1850. The Friarage, now the Headquarter office of Head Wrightson & Co Ltd was built around 1770 – 1775 on the site of a Dominican Friary by Thomas Meynell's father Edward.

HW readers may be interested to know of the further past affinity of Mr Thomas Meynell with Head Wrightson by the fact that Teesdale Works site was, early in the 19th century owned partly by Thomas Meynell and partly by Lord Rokeby.

## The birth of the Railway Scheme

The first mention of a railway was in 1810 at a grand banquet in Stockton Town Hall to mark the opening of the Mandale Cut in the River Tees. The suggestion was primarily to benefit the port of Stockton by the export of coal in competition with the Tyne.

Following numerous meetings of merchants and bankers of Stockton, Darlington and Yarm it was the meeting, Chaired by Mr Thomas Meynell, in the George & Dragon Hotel, Yarm, on 12 February 1820 which is historically recorded as "The Promoters Meeting of the Stockton and Darlington Railway".

The major shareholder of the new Company was Mr Edward Pease, a prominent Quaker and manufacturer of Darlington. Other influential Darlington backers were Mr Jonathan Backhouse a banker and Mr Francis Mayburn a solicitor. It was Mr Mayburn who with Mr Leonard Raisbeck (Recorder of Stockton) steered the Company through the tremendous legal and Parliamentary legislation necessary for the railway scheme.

The railway was originally envisaged as a colliery tramroad on a very large scale, with the waggons being drawn by horses. At the time, George Stephenson of Wylam on Tyne and others were already running steam powered locomotives on rails in the Northumberland and Durham coalfields. In 1821, Mr Stephenson was engaged by the S & DR to prepare an engineers report and survey for the proposed railway scheme, but the decision to use steam locos came later. Indeed, it was after the work was proceeding on the clearing and levelling of the railway line that the Promoters decided that the trains would be drawn by locomotives instead of horses. A factory

was established at Newcastle in which George Stephenson, Edward Pease and Thomas Richardson were partners, and two locomotives were ordered for the S & D Railway.

Work on the railway commenced in 1822 and on Thursday 23 May Thomas Meynell laid the first rails at Stockton, amidst great jubilation by the local populace. It has been stated that in placing these rails 4 feet 8 inches apart he practically determined the standard gauge of Great Britain, and the principal railways of the World.

Although at the opening ceremony Mr Stephenson's "Locomotion No 1" ran over the single line track drawing the now famous train of passenger coaches and coal waggons of an estimated 90 tons at a maximum speed of 12 mph, the Company for some years were doubtful of the success of steam traction. Their doubts must have been quite grave when in 1828 "Locomotion No 1" blew up. It was however repaired and even survived to run in the Centenary Procession of 1925.

Until 1834 only goods traffic on the S & DR was hauled by steam power, passengers travelled on horsedrawn rail coaches. It was Timothy Hackworth's engine "Royal George" built in 1827 for the S & DR which really pointed the efficiency, power and superiority of the steam engine.

## The founding of Industrial Cleveland

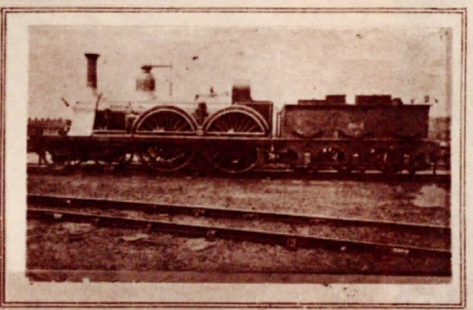
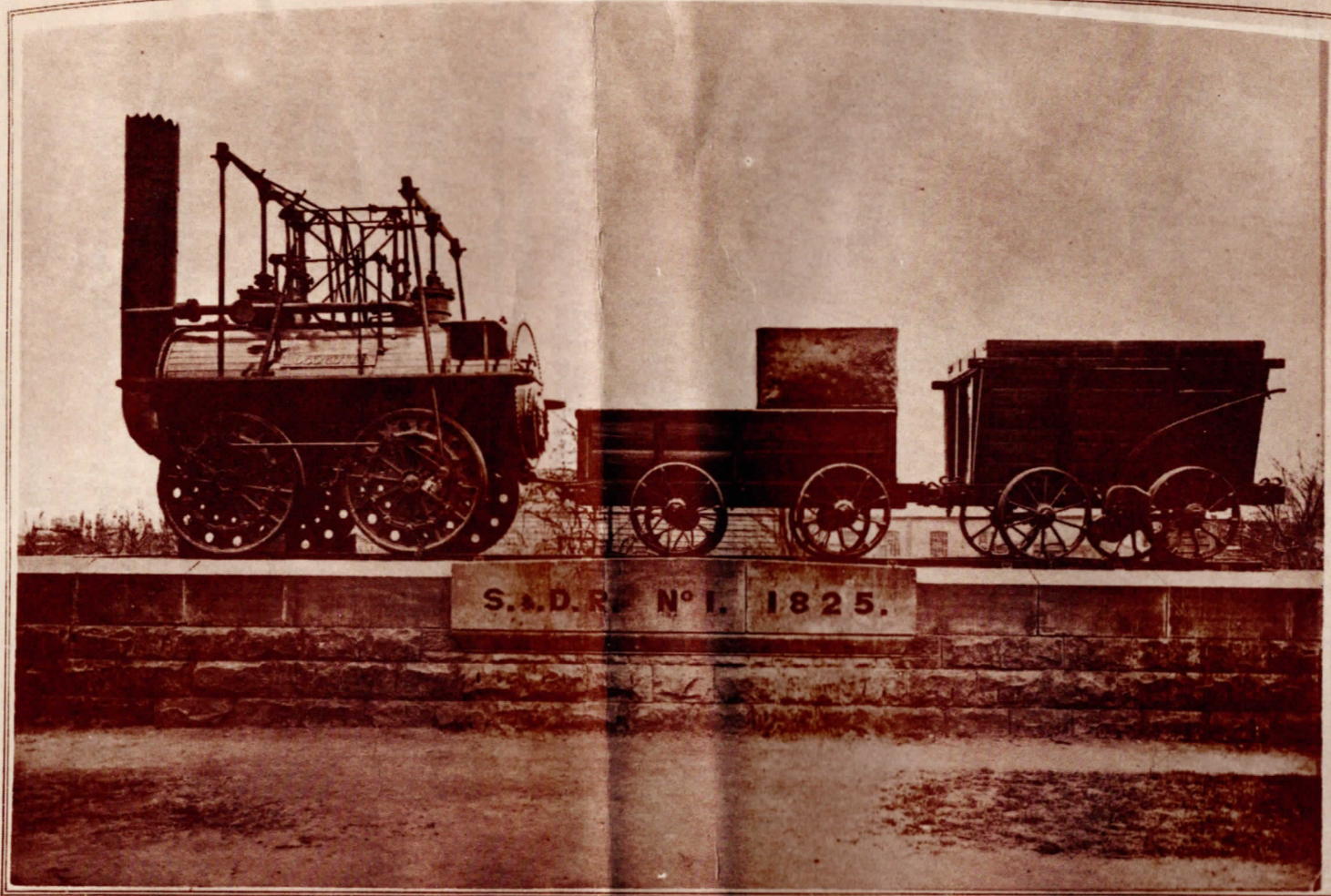
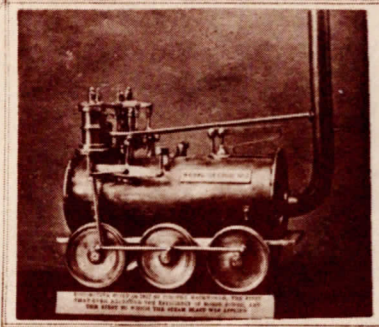
The Stockton coal staithes flourished and the shipping trade grew phenomenally, soon a million tons of coal had left the Tees. The price of coal in Stockton dramatically fell from 18/- to 8/6d per ton and the jubilant merchants of Stockton planned further improvements to the tortuous 15 mile river channel from Stockton to the sea.

But the controlling financial backers of Darlington had other ideas – why stop half way at Stockton – why not build the coal staithes further down river and extend the railway accordingly. Bitter protests from the Stockton and Yarm gentlemen were of no avail and plans were formulated to extend the railway to the tiny hamlet of Middlesbrough. The instigator of the move was Joseph Pease, Edward's son, who in 1828, with other associates bought Middlesbrough Farm and 400 acres of adjacent land. The decision to move from Stockton to Middlesbrough brought the resignation of the Company Chairman Mr Thomas Meynell and also of Mr Leonard Raisbeck of Stockton.

Middlesbrough was thus born, the later discovery of Cleveland iron ore (in 1850) created the next stage – the great iron age. The foundations of modern Cleveland were being prepared for the major new (and as yet unknown) enterprises that lay ahead – hence the sesquicentennial celebrations.

*Our souvenir presentation overleaf is a reproduction of the Pioneers of the First Public Railway. It is indeed from the HW family album, for the glass plate negative has been in the possession of the Print Room of HW Teesdale at Thornaby since time immemorial and a complete mystery as to how, why or when it came to be there.*





Stockton & Darlington  
**Railway.**  
The Company's  
**COACH**

CALL THE  
**EXPERIMENT,**

Which commenced Travelling on MONDAY, the 10th of OCTOBER, 1825, will continue to run from Darlington to Stockton, and from Stockton to Darlington every Day, (Sunday's excepted) setting off from the DEPOT at each place, at the times specified as under. (c&c.)

**ON MONDAY,**  
From Stockton at half past 7 in the Morning, and will reach Darlington about half past 9; the Coach will set off from the latter place on its return at 3 in the Afternoon, and reach Stockton about 5.

**TUESDAY,**  
From Stockton at 3 in the Afternoon, and will reach Darlington about 5.

*On the following Days, viz—*  
**WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY,**  
From Darlington at half past 7 in the Morning, and will reach Stockton about half past 9; the Coach will set off from the latter place on its return at 3 in the Afternoon, and reach Darlington about 5.

**SATURDAY,**  
From Darlington at 1 in the Afternoon, and will reach Stockton about 3.

Passengers to pay 1s. each, and will be allowed a Package of not exceeding 10lb. all above that weight to pay at the rate of 2d. per Stone extra. Carriage of small Parcels 3d. each. The Company will not be accountable for Parcels of above £5 Value, unless paid for as such.

Mr RICHARD PICKERSGILL at his Office in Commercial Street, Darlington; and Mr TULLY at Stockton, will for the present receive any Parcels and Book Passengers.

THE  
**STOCKTON & DARLINGTON  
RAILWAY COMPANY**  
Werrby gibe Statiz,

*THE FORMAL OPENING of this RAILWAY will take place on the 10th inst., as announced in the public Papers. The Proprietors will assemble at the Proprietors' House, situated between the "Barracks" and the "New Bridge" at Darlington, at 11 o'clock, and, after receiving their respective invitations, will then set off from the Depot of the Darlington Railway Station, at 1 o'clock, in the following Order:—*

1. The Company's Locomotive Engine.
2. The Engineer's Train, with Water and Coal.
3. Six Waggon, laden with Coal, Woodchips, &c.
4. The Contractor, and other Passengers, in the Coach belonging to the Company.
5. Six Waggons, with Rails reserved for the Company.
6. Fourteen Waggons, for the Carriage of Workmen and other.

*THE STAFFS of all others to proceed to STOCKTON.*

1. Six Waggon, laden with Coal, to have the Engines at the Darlington Station.
2. Six Waggons, drawn by Horse, for Workmen and other.
3. Six Waggon.
4. Six Waggon.
5. Six Waggon.

The Company's Workmen to have the Permission of Darlington, and set off at the Place at one o'clock; carrying their own Tools and spades with them, and for the same Companies will be provided, on their return at Darlington.

Tickets will be given to the Workmen who are to stop at Darlington, specifying the Mode of Employment.

The Contractors, and each of the Necessary and Sundry, as may be named in this Notice, will be present at 11 o'clock, at the Town-Hall, Darlington; and if any of them are unable to attend, they must send a written Deputation in writing for their Representatives, to meet from the Contractor's House three o'clock at Darlington.

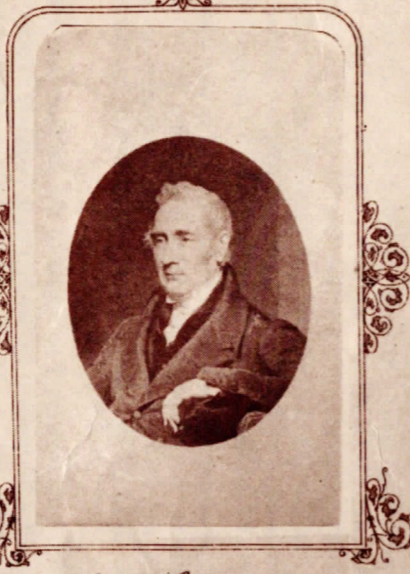
The Contractor will be the Opportunity of applying on all their Workmen that are to be employed on the Railway, and on the 10th inst., at the Place of their Meeting.

The Contractors give this PUBLIC NOTICE, that all Persons who shall ride upon, or by the side of, the Railway, on the 10th inst., will be liable to Prosecution by the Act of Parliament passed relative to this Railway.

By Order of the Board of Directors,  
Richard Pickersgill, Secy.

**THE FIRST ENGINE EMPLOYED ON A PUBLIC RAILWAY.**

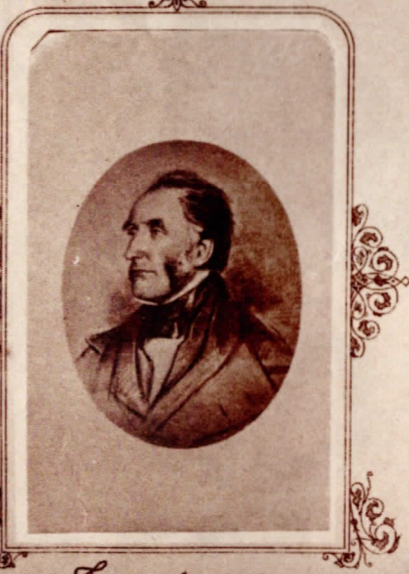
It was built by George Stephenson in 1825 and was driven on the Stockton and Darlington Railway until 1858 and is now placed on a Pedestal in front of the Darlington Station.



*Geo Stephenson*

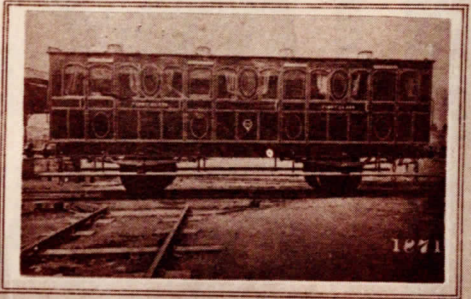
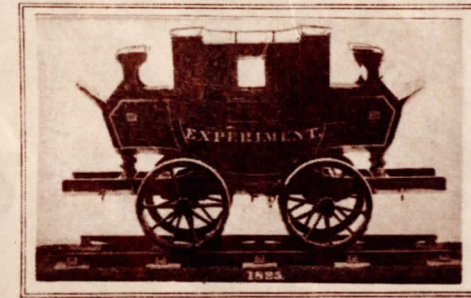


*Edward Pease*



*Jos Newbun*

**PIONEERS OF FIRST PUBLIC RAILWAY.**



Registered May 1868