

Wright Ahead

Head Wrightson news

August 1976

Capital Expenditure Projects Progressing

Work is well under way on two of the major projects included in the £3½m capital expenditure programme announced by the Chairman this year. Massey are busy installing a new ram borer in their heavy machining bay. The machine which cost in the region of £400,000 will enable them to machine the large castings, which can weigh up to 90 tonnes, for their forging press and hammer frames, work which previously had to be sub-contracted outside the Group.

Installation of the machine posed more than the usual set of problems for Ken Hodgkinson, plant engineer and Harry Boulton, chief electrical engineer. When preparing the foundations which are 12 feet deep and contain 476 tons of concrete the diggers fell foul of electricity DC supply lines dating back to the first world war. Also a section of the machining shop roof had to be cut out and rebuilt to accommodate the moving column of the borer. The early problems now resolved, installation is progressing smoothly and demonstrations by the supplier should commence on 9th August 1976.

Wrightstock new warehouse at Worsley is taking on a new look daily as cladding of the building and installation of equipment continues and Wrightstock who are at present conducting their business from Swinton expect to take up residence next month.

When complete the warehouse which is situated on a 4.2 acre site will provide a processing and stockholding service in bright bar steels, alloy bars, stainless steel fasteners, pipe fittings and flanges as well as providing the headquarters for the stockholding division.

The new site is on the west side of Manchester close to the East Lancs Road with easy access to the M62 motorway.

HW (Steelcast) have already made a start on the improvements planned at the Billingham and Thornaby foundries where civil work is in hand. This stage is nearing completion and it is anticipated that the first major items of equipment will be received during August and September at the Thornaby Foundry.



Progress photograph taken in July of the new Wrightstock warehouse at Worsley under construction. (Photo by courtesy of A Lancaster Britch & Associates, Chartered Architects).



B & S Massey's new ram borer machine being installed in their heavy machining bay.

Committee to meet

In the last issue of 'Wright Ahead' (May 1976) mention was made of an editorial committee for the purpose of improving the content matter of the company newspaper by exchanging views and ideas of people representing different areas of the company. The setting up of this committee is well under way and will meet after the summer holidays. Names of the committee members will be announced in the October issue. Please send your news/articles/photos for this issue by 24 September.

Bon Voyage...



Photograph shows part of the first shipment of HW (Ironcast) tunnel segments being loaded ready for despatch to Sao Paulo, Brazil. The complete load consisted of 2,125 castings (250 'rings').

The tunnel segments, which form part of an order for £2m, are being supplied to the Sao Paulo Metro (Companhia Do Metropolitana de Sao Paulo).

Another 164 'rings' will soon be on their way.

Record Production on Finnish Galvanising Line

Rautaruukki OY of Finland recently reached a new record on their galvanising line which was supplied by HWM in 1975. Because of extra export orders they ran the line for two weeks without a single break. They normally work a five day week in three shifts with a break for the weekend. We have learned from our agent in Finland that Rautaruukki were particularly pleased with the result.

Enquiries Expected

A well received slide and commentary presentation covering developments in Rotaform orbital forging since 1973 has already resulted in serious enquiries reaching B & S Massey from the USA.

The presentation was made by Massey's technical director, Geoff Wilson, and sales director, Terry Nunnington, at the Forging Industry of America forming equipment suppliers' symposium, Chicago.

Romanians want more Massey Presses

The Romanians have turned to B&S Massey again for new forging equipment for proposed extensions at their Potesti Forge. Orders have been won for two more forging presses (750 and 2000 tonnes) and a wide ram trimming press (150 tonnes).

This new order confirms the popularity of Massey forging equipment in this market for in 1971 the company supplied a 2500 tonnes forging press and seven wide ram trimming presses for the initial complex. Other machines sold to Romania since 1971 include a 300 mkg Girder form hammer, a 1000 mkg Rigby type forging hammer and 2,000 and 4,000 mkg double-acting die forging hammers.

..... SO DOES THE UK

John Stokes and Sons Ltd have placed orders for two more Massey High Speed forging presses to augment their press forging line. Two 1300 tonnes forging presses are to be supplied at a cost of nearly £400,000 and includes equipping all their presses with the facility to use the new press load monitoring unit which has been designed by HW R & D for Massey. The forging line at this company already includes two Massey forging presses.

Appointments

HWPEL Thornaby

N Cherrett, Managing Director
(previously Director and General Manager)
R Millman, Commercial Director
R Milns, Export Sales Negotiator,
Iron & Steel

HWPEL London

R Z Barr, Managing Director
(previously Director and General Manager)

HW (Ironcast)

F Brown, Director
J V Henderson, Director

HW (Management)

D P Jowett, Director

HW Machine Co.

J Mason, Commercial Manager

HW Teesdale

W Fortune, Manufacturing Division
Accountant responsible for financial control of HW Teesdale, Grosvenor Steel and Pardor Engineering. He retains his position of Financial Director with HW Teesdale

R Brown, Chief Wages Clerk

A Layton (Mrs), responsible for travel arrangements

HW Stampings

C A Forbes, Quality Control Manager
R Platts, Systems Analyst
T Allan, Despatch Foreman

B & S Massey

Alan Wiseman, Print Room Manager



N Cherrett



R Z Barr



J V Henderson



W Fortune



J Mason



R Brown



C A Forbes



R Platts



R Milns



T Allan



A Wiseman

Brains of the Game



HW Stampings team: (L-R) Barry Evans, Bernard Köhn, Keith Nixon, Bowman Bradley.

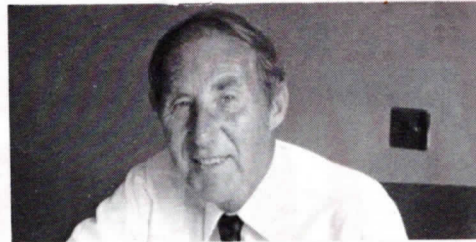
You could say that these four young Managers at HW Stampings are among some of the top brains in the North East.

Barry Evans (development engineer), Bowman Bradley (senior development engineer), Bernard Köhn (management trainee) and Keith Nixon (assistant management accountant) won a "Young Managers" competition organised for the first time in the North East by the British Institute of Management. In competition with 14 other

company teams including such "giants" as ICI, NEEB and Northumberland River Authority, the Stampings team took part in a Management Game being held at the IBM UK Research Centre at Peterlee. Each team "managed" an imaginary company based on a given set of figures and the winning team was the "company" with the greatest value of assets.

Needless to say the £50 prize was not re-invested but used to celebrate the occasion!

Brief Encounter



Norman Rutherford

In the past we have tried very hard through "Wright Ahead" to keep our overseas companies in South America, India, Spain and South Africa in touch with what is going on in the rest of the group, but it's not often that there's any feedback! So when a member of one of these companies comes to visit HW subsidiaries in England, he can be sure of a warm welcome quickly followed by a bombardment of questions! Such was the fate of Norman Rutherford from HW & Co South Africa who came over from Johannesburg at the end of June to visit HW Machine Co, Yarm, HWPEL and HW Teesdale.

The first time Norman went out to South Africa in the 1930's, Sir John Wrightson shook his hand saying "I'll see you in Johannesburg shortly". When Norman arrived after a 17 day voyage by ship, he found Sir John already waiting for him at Johannesburg, having travelled by aeroplane in 5 days! These days the flight lasts only 12 hours.

Joining HW South Africa from HW Teesdale 41 years ago, Norman is now responsible for the successful running of the company's operations and has a small, hardworking staff of approx. 20 to help him.

Gerry Aldis (Chief Engineer), Frank Harrison (Project Engineer) and Brian Taylor (Project Engineer) are some of the long service people in the company, most of them having associations with HW Companies in England.

Being a contracting company in the heart of the South African mining area, the HW team are kept busy with the procurement and progressing of orders. Recent contracts won include 11 — 250 ton treadwell torpedo cars, kilns and rotary dryer and ancillary gas cleaning equipment for a phosphate plant and a skinner roaster for roasting uranium. They have recently completed a re-coil and reclamation line for ISCOR which was designed and partly manufactured by The HW Machine Co. Although the Transvaal is in the sub tropical belt at an altitude of 5,800 ft., the weather is "delightful" with a dryish heat — excellent for golf players like Norman.

By the time this article is in print Norman will be safely back in his own country. Although his visits are not very frequent we hope that contact can be maintained and look forward to hearing more about our friends in South Africa.

First Year Trainee Awards



Kevan Newlove (right) is the first heavy plate shop trainee to win the Mary Burton Trophy since it was presented to the company by Arthur Burton (left) 8 years ago.



The B & S Massey 'best student of the year' award at Openshaw Technical College went this year to a B & S Massey day release trainee fitter, William Seville, who was presented with a £5 prize.

The presentation of first year EITB and FITB certificates to HW trainees and the Mary Burton trophy to Kevan Newlove, the most promising trainee of the year was held on Tuesday 25 May. Being near to retirement, it was the last time Sir John Wrightson made these presentations as Chairman of the company.

At the end of the ceremony, surprise retirement gifts were presented to Sir John by Harry Soppet, Training Centre Manager, on behalf of the training centre staff and pupils. These

were an iron framed coffee table and a lamp stand, various parts of which had been made by different departments in the training centre.

An apprentice plater at HW Teesdale, Thornaby, Kevan Newlove is the first Heavy Plate Shop trainee to win the Mary Burton trophy since it was presented to the company 8 years ago by Arthur Burton in memory of his wife. Kevan went to school at Norton Comprehensive where he became senior school 100 and 200 metres running champion.

EITB Successes

Congratulations to two trainees, both from HW Teesdale M'bro Works, who have reached the required standard in their training and are now eligible to receive the EITB Certificate of Craftsmanship.

D Harrison, H25, Fitting Part 2
A. Pinder, J21, Mechanical Maintenance Part 2.

DEATHS

R Miles, 26/5/76, Ex-Chairman, HW & Co. Ltd
J Franklin, 28/6/76, HW & Co. (Ret.)
C E Tookey, 15/6/76, Renown Special Steels
M Green, 21/6/76, HW (Steelcast) Billingham (retired)
A W H Jesser, 27/6/76, HW (Steelcast) Thornaby
C Thomas, 7/6/76, HW (Steelcast) Thornaby

Retirements

50 YEARS

F Featham, Burner, HW (Steelcast) Stockton
 T G Lee, Chargehand Electrician, HW (Steelcast) Stockton
 F Ingledew, Chief Wages Clerk, HW Teesdale

41 YEARS

B Laws, Tool Room Operator, Machine Shop, HW Teesdale
 J Short, Shot Blaster, HW (Steelcast) Thornaby

33 YEARS

A Wilson, Labourer, HW (Steelcast) Stockton

30 YEARS

John Keenan, Crane Driver, HW (Steelcast) Thornaby
 Mary Wyatt, Clerk, B & S Massey

27 YEARS

R O Horsburgh, Storeman, HW (Steelcast) Billingham

23 YEARS

R Bennison, Stamp Shop Clerk, HW Stampings
 P R Slater, Inspector, HW Stampings
 R Smalles, Inspector, HW Teesdale

19 YEARS

E W Haggerstone, Moulder, HW (Steelcast) Billingham

17 YEARS

A J W Sheffield, Sales Office Administrator, HW Teesdale

15 YEARS

L Richmond, Blacksmith HW Stampings
 T Oliver, Estimator, HW Teesdale



T G Lee



A J W Sheffield



Jackie Hunter presented a wallet of notes to Bob Laws, Tool Room Operator at HW Teesdale who retired after 41 years.



A beautiful bouquet of flowers for Mrs Ingledew and a pair of binoculars and cheque for Ron Ingledew, Chief Wages Clerk at HW Teesdale who retired after 50 years service. Mr W. Fortune, Financial Director at HW Teesdale made the presentation.



The eel, with some of the trainees and their instructors.

For many years the Billingham Foundry of Steelcast has run and worked an electric truck which served as a push/pull moving hot metal ladles up to 50 tons within the foundry.

Known as the "electric eel", the vehicle after many years of heavy use in the arduous conditions finally reached the stage where much attention was required. This proved impossible in the circumstances, "They are no longer built and the original manufacturers were unable to help with spares" said Fred McLoughlin, Production & Development Director. "It seemed the 'eel' would be scrapped and that we would be involved in designing a replacement machine at considerable expense."

Eventually the story reached Harry Soppet, Training Centre Manager who offered to repair it, "not for thousands but as part of a practical exercise for trainees".

Work commenced in March this year after the "eel" arrived at Thornaby on a lorry. After stripping down, the bumps and bends were straightened, foundry grime and dirt removed and the vehicle shell cleaned and painted.

Two new 80 volt batteries were fitted as was a replacement windscreen and wipers, a basic fitting not originally installed. Any damaged mechanical parts were reconditioned or rebuilt from drawings prepared by trainees from the original damaged units. "Quite a difficult task," according to Chief Instructor, Jack Manning. The vehicle was then reassembled and tested and is now ready for work in its Head Wrightson colours.

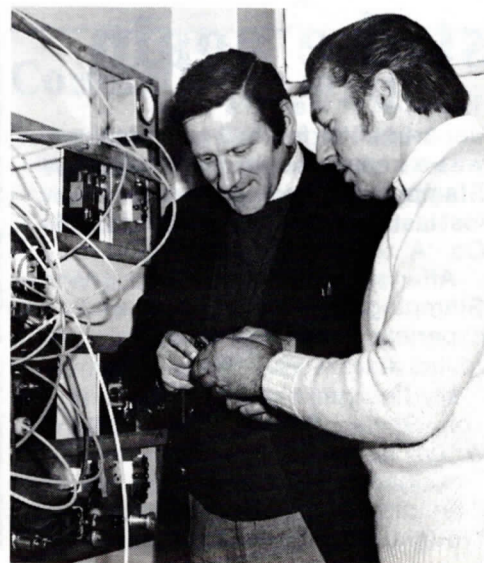
The project typifies the type of work done in the Training Centre "Practical use of the relevant skills of trainees for their own benefit and that of the company," says Harry with justifiable pride.

Very Nice in Nice

A workshop conference entitled "Steel Plant Converter Gas Collection and Handling" and based on the IRSID/CAFL gas collection process was held at the end of April in Nice on the Cote d'Azur, France. Representing Head Wrightson were seven people from HWPEL

Keeping up-to-date

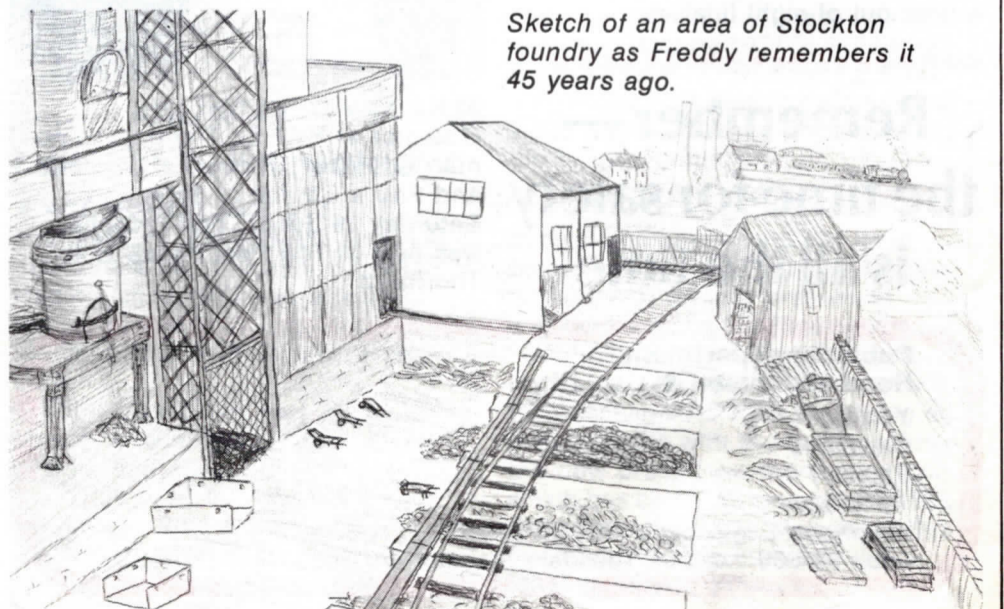
Gerry Clayson, section leader in the Drawing Office at B & S Massey attended a 3 day course on applied pneumatics organised by the Automation Centre at Manchester Polytechnic. This is part of the Massey policy of keeping employees up-to-date by taking advantage of training schemes in Manchester. Photograph shows Gerry (left) discussing an interesting feature with a fellow trainee.



Thornaby and R & D Division — Tony Ogg, Ray Ayres, George Wrightson, Ken Hutchinson, John Strickland, Prof. Young and Max Clarke.

On the 2nd and 3rd day, the conference was joined by users and prospective users of the IRSID/CAFL process from Romania, Canada, India, France, UK, Australia, Italy, Spain and America. On behalf of Head Wrightson and their UK users, papers were presented by Ray Ayres, George Wright and Mr A. Pengelly of British Steel Corporation.

The workshop closed with a visit to the new Steelworks at Fos-sur-Mer near Marseille to see a B.O.S. plant in operation together with the IRSID/CAFL gas collection process in operation at the converter.



The Good Old Days

Before he retired, Freddy Featham made a few interesting sketches of the Stockton steel foundry as he remembers it during the 1930's and jotted down a few words about the activities of the foundry at that time. This will make interesting reading for other retired members of the foundry as well as the friends and colleagues that Freddy left behind.

"The drawing shown below gives a glimpse of what the Stockton steel



Now retired, Freddy spends as much time as he likes at the easel.

foundry was like over forty five years ago.

The entire sand plant was the 'pug' mill and all the sand was wheeled in from the sand sheds by two barrow lads. The mill man mixed the various sands (green sand, facing sands and core sands) in the mill and the barrow lads had to wheel it into the moulding shop and core floor. To get to the core floor was a bit rough as they had to take it round the back of the turnace. If the slag was being blown off, the lads had to take the other route over scrap pits using long thin planks. If a barrow made a dodgy run on the planks, the lad let go and it went over into the scrap pit. He would then have to climb down, take his barrow up on the lift and back to the pug mill to get it filled up again. He also got a ticking off by the mill man!

Different sands and practically all other materials were brought into the foundry by railway wagons and all were unloaded by hand.

The first time the turnace squad made one hundred tons of steel in one week, two Union Jacks were run up on the top of the foundry and the turnace squad was taken into the Moor Hotel and treated to a pint of beer each by the then Mr John Wrightson.

The fettling yard was all open in those days and workers in the yard had a healthy looking tan but the winters in the yard were rough. The fettlers had to put their hammers on the fires to thaw them out because they frequently froze up!"

Sketch of an area of Stockton foundry as Freddy remembers it 45 years ago.

SOCIAL SCENE

Teesdale Hall lives again

So successful was the Spring Dance in Teesdale Hall, Thornaby on 13 May that HW Teesdale social committee are planning to use the same venue for forthcoming events.

It was the first dance held in Teesdale Hall for many years attended by approximately 250 people including many 'long service' employees who remarked on the friendly atmosphere which reminded them of the days when Frank Shepherd used to organise dances there over 20 years ago.

Future events at Teesdale Hall include:—

- 10/9/76 Buffet Dance.
- 29/10/76 Hallowe'en Dance.
- 19/11/76 Social Evening
- 18/12/76 Childrens Christmas Party.

A Christmas dinner dance will be held on 17/12/76 in the Billingham Arms Hotel.

Julie gets 1st prize



Brightening the page is Julie Barnett from HW Machine Co. who won the Miss Redcar Albion 1976 beauty contest recently. Julie, a Clerk/Copy Typist was presented with a shield, a box of chocs and £3. It is the first time that she has entered such a competition and was selected the winner out of eight finalists.

**Remember —
the time for safety
is all the time**

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Squash

The HWPEL Social Section Committee has investigated the possibility of arranging a squash competition for HWPEL personnel. It has been decided that this activity will proceed and entries are already pouring in for this years tournament. It is anticipated that the competition will be an annual affair with suitable trophies being awarded to the finalists.

In an effort to cater for PEL personnel and their children a country ramble is in the final stages of planning. This will be followed by another outdoor activity before the committee switches its attention to the Autumn/Winter season of entertainment.



CONGRATULATIONS to two recently married couples:



BRIAN BROWN, Assistant Accountant at Headquarters, Yarm and his wife Elizabeth who works in the Computer Dept. at I.C.I. They were married in the Holy Rosary Church at Billingham on Saturday 1 May. The reception was held at The Swan Hotel.



JANE TANDY, Switchboard Operator at HWPEL Thornaby, who married Robert Thomas at St. Peter and Paul's Church at Stainton on Saturday 19 June. Their reception was held at The Post House Hotel, Thornaby.

Cool as a . . .



One of the cucumbers measured 13"

Calling all market gardeners! Did you know that the finest cucumbers can be grown inside a foundry?

A cucumber seed planted in a pot and placed on the heated floor of the sand lab. at Thornaby foundry has matured into a plant which, at the time of writing, has produced 7 delicious cucumbers one of which has grown to 13 inches in length. The plant is kept in a sunny position on the window ledge, tended daily by Harry Baloch, sand plant operator.

Fed daily on 2 pints water mixed with a thimbleful of liquid manure, the cucumbers have grown approx 1½ inches in length each day. During the very warm weather, Harry even goes into the lab at weekends to keep the plant watered. According to those people who were lucky enough to taste one of these cucumbers, they have a very nice flavour.

Needless to say, the suggestion that the foundry ought to produce cucumbers instead of castings was very coolly received!

SPORTS PARADE



Good sporting fun. This was the general feeling of the ladies and gents at HW Machine Co. who faced each other over a football during a friendly 5-a-side match at Thornaby Pavilion during the month of May. Photo: (Back L-R), Frank McCullough, Keith Dobson, Mike Benjamin, Alan Kidner, Jack Wordsworth, Norman King, Arthur Davison. (Front L-R), Pam Blackburn, Gill Harling, Julie Barnett, Jen Moody, Olwen Willis.

Stampings strike again

The final of the 1976 inter-departmental football competition was a keenly fought match with HW Stampings regaining the trophy they lost last year. They beat HW Machine Co. 'A' team 7-2.

After a very even first half, HW Stampings' greater strength and experience started to show and all round team work produced some really fine goals with Phil Ross (4), Tony Boylan, Barry Murray and Tony Wright being the scorers. Throughout the competition, HW Stampings solid team performances brought them deserved success.

Cont'd from 'Retirements' p.5



Jimmy Milne

Having retired twice already in his lifetime, Jimmy Milne of HWPEL London plans to take up another job in Canada after he and his wife have emigrated. Jimmy retired first from Chemical Construction G.B. Ltd and joined HWPEL London as Inspector/Expeditor. His seven years with the company involved him in projects from Southwire, Cuajone, Invergordon and C.A.P. Now, at 72 years of age and retired from HWPEL London, he is looking forward to his new job and future in Canada. Best of luck, Jimmy, and a happy 3rd retirement (?).



Gala Farewell for Sir John



More than 500 people representing all sections of Head Wrightson including works councils and social committees as well as management gathered together in the grounds of the Friarage on 22nd May at a garden party to say "farewell" to Sir John Wrightson on his retirement. Sir John, who was presented with a woodworking lathe by Personnel Director, Joe Doran on behalf of the management and with a colour television set by Shop Steward Jackie Hunter on behalf of the employees, had been Chairman since 1960 and his retirement marked 150 years of continuous service by grandfather, father and son. The occasion provided a memorable experience for all those who attended and the weather was excellent. We all wish Sir John a happy retirement.



