

Wright Ahead

Head Wrightson news

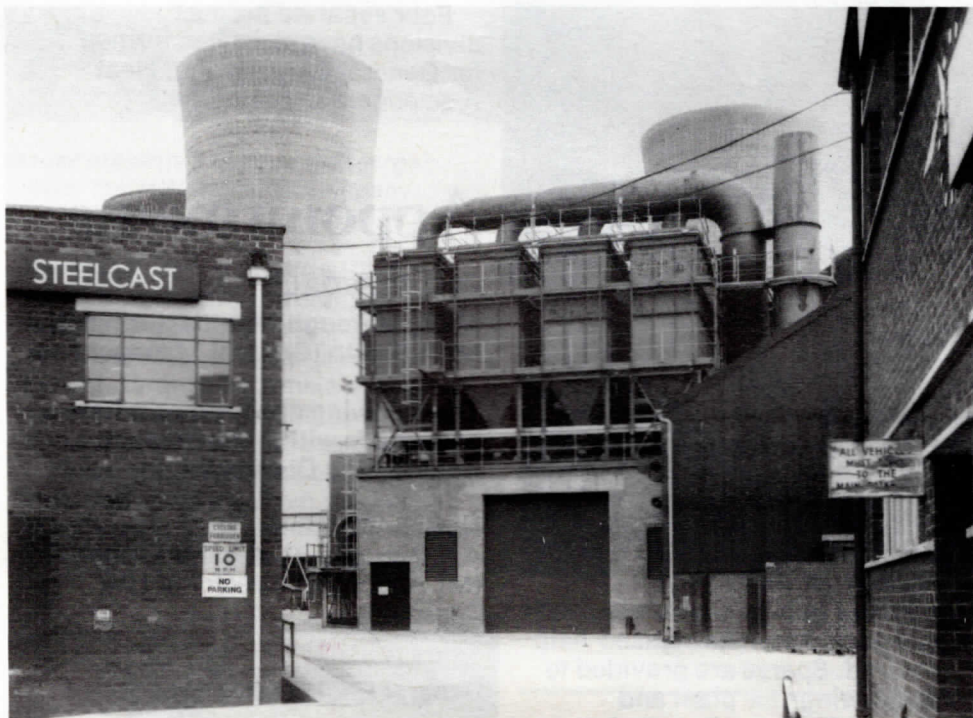
July 1977

Clean air contract saves BSC money

The British Steel Corporation's Scunthorpe Division has awarded a pollution control contract to the London Division of Head Wrightson Process Engineering Ltd for an electrostatic precipitator system covering the two E plant iron ore sinter strands.

The contract worth over £1,000,000 is for the supply, delivery and erection of two very large electrostatic precipitators - each designed to clean 480,000 actual cubic feet per minute of fume from the sinter strands to a standard that will render emission to the air almost invisible.

One reason for Head Wrightson being awarded the contract was the novel design solution for shortening plant down-time during installation by means of a temporary gas by-pass duct. This feature will save the British Steel Corporation several thousand pounds which would normally be lost in the event of a long break in sinter production. Completion is due in 18 months.



The bag filter gas cleaning unit designed by PEL London for the new 30 tonne electric arc furnace at HW [Steelcast] foundry at Billingham.

Gas cleaning for HW foundry

Last issue we reported on the official blowing-in of the new 30 tonne electric arc furnace at the HW (Steelcast) Billingham Foundry and some employees will perhaps know of the involvement of another HW company in this major investment programme.

The London Division of HW Process Engineering have designed and supplied the pollution control equipment for the furnace, a step towards making the foundry one of the cleanest internally and externally.

A fabric filter installation is linked to specially designed collection hoods above the furnace which capture the hot, fine iron oxide fume given off during steelmaking. The fume is cooled to acceptable temperatures by the hood also drawing in relatively cool air, the fume then travelling to the filters outside the building.

Stack emission on the foundry roof has been measured at 0.002 grains per cubic foot - in practice meaning completely invisible emission.

HWM share in £8½m Czech order

The joint efforts of Loewy-Robertson, the Poole based division of Davy-Loewy, and The Head Wrightson Machine Company have landed the largest capital plant contract to be placed in the UK by Czechoslovakia for many years. The £8½M contract signed by Loewy-Robertson with Skodaexport is for a new seamless steel tube plant to be installed at the Valcovny Trub A Zelezarny works in Chomutov, N.W. Czechoslovakia.

The Head Wrightson Machine Company are to provide an Assel mill and associated equipment valued at approx. £4M. An Assel mill produces small and medium diameter tubes with extremely close wall and diameter tolerances. The finished tube also has a good internal and external finish which makes it ideal for production of bearing casings.

HWM have supplied three such mills to Tube Investments Ltd and it is estimated that almost all small bearing cases manufactured in the UK are from tube produced on an HW Assel mill.

Production from the new Czechoslovakian plant is scheduled to start in late 1979.

On the mark

Grosvenor Steel Fabrications have completed and delivered on time to BSC Hunterston, two reduction furnaces which were designed by Korf Direct Reduction Ltd. The plate thicknesses of these fabrications ranged from 15 to 20 mm and the furnaces, each weighing 180 tonnes were trial assembled stage by stage before being delivered to site.

The work was completed in approx. 12 months from design to delivery.

Chinese visit the works



Chinese party on tour of HW Teesdale workshops.

Those employees who work at our Thornaby site will have perhaps seen the visitors from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China who came as part of a goodwill visit to the North of England.

The five strong party led by their Charge d' Affaires Mr Chu Chi-yuan walked through Teesdale's workshops after a reception lunch and explanatory talks on the activities of PEL and HWT. They then moved on to Process Engineering for a tour of the drawing offices and examination of a scale model of the coal preparation plant PEL are building for the National Coal Board at Dinnington Colliery. Officials from the Sino-British Trade Council which organised the visit were also present as were several from the North of England Development Council.



All together

A gathering of the clans! This group suddenly found themselves together at the office of HW de Venezuela in Caracas [L-R] CVS Raju, Project Engineer HW De Venezuela, Gordon Sinclair, Director of HWPEL Thornaby Gifford Moody the Davy International representative in Venezuela and Reg Furphy, Sales and Proposals Manager of the Heat Exchanger Division of HW Teesdale.

New appointment

Mr John Eccles has been appointed a Director of Ransome Hoffmann Pollard Ltd effective from 1st August 1977 and will succeed Sir William Barlow as Chairman of the Company on 1st October 1977.

Mr Eccles remains a Director of Davy International Ltd., Managing Director of Head Wrightson, and Chairman of Davy Ashmore International and Davy-Loewy.



The spares sales team:- [L-R] Maurice McGarvey, Jack Hauxwell, John Summerbell, Steve Wilson and Howard Moore.

Spare a thought.....

People contacting HWPEL Thornaby have only to mention the word 'spare' and they are automatically put through to the department that cares about spares. The two people most likely to answer the call are sales engineers Howard Moore and Maurice McGarvey - both long service people at Head Wrightson who joined the Spares department together three years ago. Since that time the turnover of spares sold has trebled with the department now processing about 600 enquiries a year producing 450 orders for items ranging in value from 25p to £50,000.

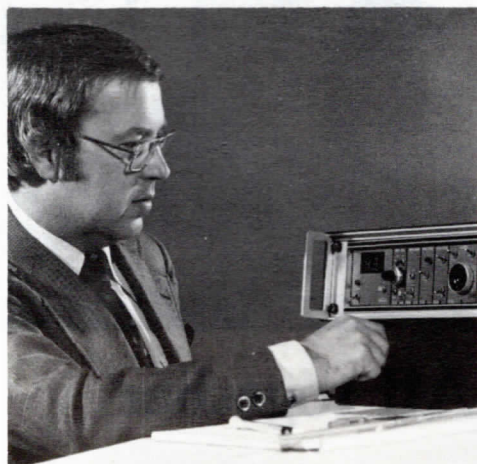
Now in his 38th year of service, Maurice started his career at The Stockton Forge in 1940 as an apprentice and joined the HW Teesdale Planning department when the Forge closed down. Three years ago he was appointed a sales engineer in the HWPEL spares department. Howard joined the HW apprentice school 24 years ago, moving on to the Stockton steel foundry as an apprentice electrician. He later became an electrical draughtsman, working on site a great deal mainly in connection with gas cleaning equipment. He moved into sales and worked on air pollution equipment before he joined the spares department in 1974.

Whilst Howard and Maurice spend most of their time out of the office visiting clients and obtaining new orders for spares, the paperwork is handled by Jack Hauxwell with Steve Wilson as engineering adviser. Jack has been with HWPEL for 5 years and HW Teesdale for 35 years, whilst Steve has 45 years service with Head Wrightson. The Spares stores, which is situated close to the river Tees is looked after by another long standing member of the company, John Summerbell.

Spares are always in demand as long as plants built either by HWPEL or other HW associated subsidiaries continue to function and the spares team make sure that their clients - British Steel, the National Coal Board, Local Authorities to name but a few - are well satisfied. They firmly believe in giving a personal

service and both Howard and Maurice travel up to 30,000 miles a year in order to visit clients regularly or to help on site at short notice when specialised help is required. Spares are provided to detail drawings for plant and equipment built and installed as long ago as 1939 many by associated companies since closed down. In addition to all the travelling, Howard and Maurice keep an eye on all orders that are processed through the department from the moment an enquiry comes in to the time that the spares are delivered. There are often occasions when they put spares in the boot of the car and deliver them personally! Although only a small team, the spares department at HWPEL boast a successful and profitable record which can only be the result of the hard work, drive and enthusiasm of each member. Unlike the spare parts supplied to customers, they would be difficult to replace.

R&D aids Massey



The above photograph shows Derek Watson of R & D Experimental Mechanics Dept. checking a forging press peak load monitoring instrument.

This instrument indicates and records forging loads generated between the dies during the

New divisional structure for HWT

From the 1st July the internal organisation of HW Teesdale took on a new look with the creation of a new divisional structure.

The Middlesbrough and Thornaby works now operate as separate manufacturing divisions each with its own general manager.

Four separate product divisions have also been formed for General Engineering, Heat Exchangers, Nuclear, and

Rotary and Mobile Equipment. These divisions have no manufacturing facilities and each has its own general manager who is responsible to the managing director Mr R J Edwards.

This reorganisation will put the product divisions in a better position to obtain more specialised engineering both from Davy and other companies and is confidently expected to reflect an increased workload for the two manufacturing divisions.

Some of the appointments made to date by these changes are given below.

Appointments

HW TEESDALE

Middlesbrough Manufacturing Div.
Mr A Snaith, General Manager

The following appointments have been made within the Product Engineering Divisions:-

Nuclear Division

A F G Austin, General Manager (Mr Austin is a director of HW Teesdale)

General Engineering Division

G Burns, General Manager (Mr Burns is a director of HW Teesdale)
J McKinnon, Operations Manager
F M Seaman, Sales and Proposals Manager

Heat Exchanger Division

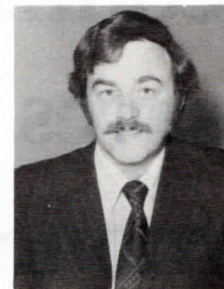
B Evans, General Manager (Mr Evans is a director of HW Teesdale)
R Childs, Operations Manager
W L Distin, Process Design Manager
R R Furphy, Sales and Proposals Manager

Rotary Equipment and Mobile Equipment Division

R W Wright, General Manager (Mr Wright is a director of HW Teesdale)
J E K Pattison, Operations Manager
J W Smith, Process Design Manager
B Preece, Sales and Proposals Manager



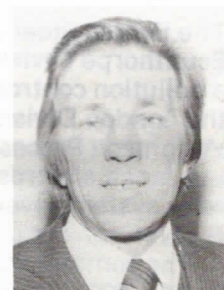
A Snaith



G Burns



J McKinnon



F M Seaman



B Evans



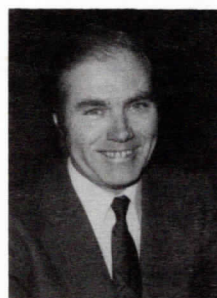
R Childs



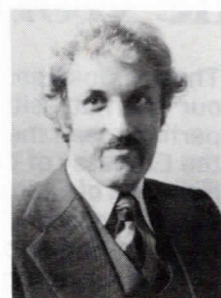
W L Distin



R R Furphy



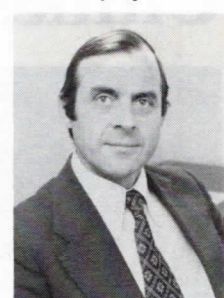
R W Wright



J E K Pattison



J W Smith



B Preece

operation of forging machinery and provides a visual warning of any damaging overloads on dies and machine. Consequently it is easier to obtain consistency in forging production.

The equipment was designed by HW R & D Division working in conjunction with Massey following extensive stress analysis of Massey press frames and was first featured at the Machine Tool Exhibition last year.

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Copy required
by 31st August.

Retirement Presentations



Peter Llewellyn, Director and General Manager presents a cheque to George and Marjorie Reynolds on their retirement from the HW Machine Company.

63 YEARS

Marjorie and George Reynolds of The Head Wrightson Machine Company retired together at the end of May this year after completing 63 years service between them. Marjorie's 34 years service started in 1942 when she joined the company as a print room operator. She was then known as Marjorie Hadlett. She was appointed a drawing office clerk in 1948,

the same year as George Reynolds started work with the company as a weight calculator. They married in 1950 and after a 3 year training period, George became a draughtsman in 1958. He retired as a senior draughtsman after 29 years service. Presentations to the couple included a cheque from the HW Machine Co Staff and Benevolent Fund and a cut glass crystal vase.

41 YEARS

A presentation was made by Dr C Rounthwaite of the Research and Development division to Alfred Nossiter, who retired from the works services department at R & D after forty one years service at Head Wrightson.

Alfred joined R & D in 1959 after sixteen years at The Head Wrightson Machine Co and five years at Colliery Engineering. He was presented with a Russell Hobbs 'teasmade' and some LP records.

36 YEARS

Allan Stoddart, Manufacturing Director of HW Teesdale created much merriment at his retirement presentation held at the end of June by recounting some of the memories of his early days with the company. These started in 1941 when he was employed as an apprentice fitter and turner at a time when the company was busily engaged in the manufacture of bomb casings. Two years later he obtained a position in the drawing office where he worked for 20 years in general engineering and on the more specialist designs of dock and harbour equipment. Appointed Technical Manager of the newly formed process plant division in 1953, Planning Manager in 1965 and Works Manager in 1970. He was appointed a director in 1973. During his 'farewell' speech, Allan said that he had always been happy at Head Wrightson - the responsibility had been there for anyone who wanted it!

A model heat exchanger made by the tool room was presented to Allan by friends and colleagues in the works.



Dr C Rounthwaite [left] and Alfred Nossiter



On his retirement, Allan Stoddart was presented with this model heat exchanger made especially for him by colleagues in the workshops at HW Teesdale.

26 YEARS

During her 26 years service as secretary/personal assistant at the London Office of HW & CO Ltd Margaret Folliard has worked for three Chairmen - Richard Miles, Sir John Wrightson and John Eccles. At her retirement presentation held at The Friarage Yarm, Sir John described Margaret as a family friend and a loyal and conscientious worker who was

always willing to help anyone at any time.

He praised her sympathetic qualities in dealing with people and her ability to cope with any situation. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Margaret by Lady Wrightson. Margaret's choice of retirement gift was highly original - she has ordered herself a Raleigh fold-away bicycle.



Margaret Folliard [centre] with Sir John Wrightson [left], John Eccles [right] and some of the people who attended her presentation.

Troglodyte - and all that!

If someone said "underground" you'd probably think of London and its tube trains; when Roy Shambrook who lives in London hears the word, he thinks of mines, caves, potholes and tunnels. Roy, 37, an accountant with PEL's London Division spends weekends, holidays, in fact any free time in underground activities, and, if he's not actually down something, somewhere, he'll be burrowing into archives researching a future trip at the Institute of Mining and Minerals or at the office of the Duchy of Cornwall. His visits so far have taken him to Ireland, the Pyrenees and of course all over Britain.

As a boy, Roy lived very near to copper mine workings and later he was employed as an accountant by a Cornish mine, dealing in the financial aspects of the industry. All this increased his interest to the point where he is currently a member of the Trevithick Society, the Northern Mines' Research Society, the Cornish Chamber of Mines, The Plymouth Mining and Mineral Club and the Cornish Mining Development Association. Roy now wants to form a caving club in London and is looking for members.

Over the years Roy has built up a collection of some 400 "finds" including such semi-precious minerals as tourmaline and topaz and ores of gold, silver and uranium. Other discoveries in old workings are traditional miners' headwear (complete with candle), an ancient brass bound compass, a ledger dated 1866, lots of boots discarded over the years by mine-workers and also a lode (vein) of cassiterite (tin ore) which has attracted commercial interest.

Roy's activity is almost full time and when he's not involved physically on surveying a mine site he's writing a treatise on the history of Cornish mining from 1830 to 1920. When completed he estimates it will run to 60,000 words with 150 illustrations covering the economics, technology and location of the industry. He's also building a geiger counter with a friend.

Any employees interested in going underground would do well to join a society or club so as to learn the best and safest manner - old mine workings can be dangerous as can caves and potholes. A recognised society is the best access, and also the wisest insurance!

Summer Wedding

Congratulations to John Ross, Coremaker at HW (Steelcast) Stockton foundry, who was married on Saturday 25 June at St. Hilda's of Whitby Church, Grangetown.

John's bride, Susan Bell, is a machinist at Danimac, Middlesbrough.

Good wishes to both from all at Stockton foundry.



Stern frames for Steelcast

An export order for steel castings which previously had been made in Germany and Norway has been won by HW (Steelcast). They are to make sternframe castings valued at about £100,000 for three ships

being built by a West German shipyard. This is just one of a number of new markets in which Steelcast have recently been successful and a good delivery performance on this contract could well result in further work from the same shipyard. The castings will be made at Billingham and are due for delivery in late 1977 and 1978.



A reception held by Grosvenor Steel Fabrications Ltd at Verreys Restaurant in Regent Street, London was attended by many people from the petrochemical construction industry. In the above photo (left) Grosvenor's general manager Ron Wetton talks to the managing director of Lurgi (UK) Ltd., Mr A Cherry and Mr W Shillitoe, Manager of Inspection and Exped., Kellogg International

*In "Wright Ahead" my name did show
As the Girl at Stampings, who says
"Hellow"*

*The thrill of this did not last long
My name was spelt all 'orribly' 'rong
I understand the Editor's plight
He must ensure that everything's
"Wright"*

*I'm terribly sorry to have to trouble you
But the name Costello has no 'W'*

Veg & craft show

The Annual Head Wrightson Garden produce and handicraft show will be held in the HW Social Club, Teesdale Park, Acklam Road Thornaby on Saturday 27 August 1977.

Entries are open to all employees of the Head Wrightson organisation and their families.

Full information and schedule of entries available from your divisional council representative.

show secretary : John B A Suttill
HWT Estimating Dept
TR 'phone no 474

(See next issue of Wright Ahead for full account of this show.)

SPORTS

CRICKET

The inter-departmental Cricket Final (25 overs) will be held on Friday 5 August at the Head Wrightson Social Club cricket ground at Thornaby.

GOLF

The annual management Golf Competition for the Richard Miles Trophy will be held on Thursday 1 September, 1977 at Dinsdale Spa Golf Club, Nr. Darlington.

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Jubilations

HWPEL at Thornaby celebrated the Silver Jubilee with two dances, one organised by the social section committee and the other by management.

The social section buffet dance was held on 2 June at the new RAFA premises, Stockton. This was attended by 70 staff and the Jubilee spirit was certainly captured with decor, bunting, prizes, novelties and the evening's programme further emphasised the theme. Everyone agreed that the entertainment had been most enjoyable with the typical gay and friendly atmosphere now associated with all PEL social activities pervading throughout the evening.

On 16 June, the Marton Hotel & Country Club was the venue for the Silver Jubilee "knees-up" organised by management - another most enjoyable and entertaining evening which included "The Millionaires" comedy group and a special double act by Barbra and Jayne, the switchboard ladies. The raffling of a bottle of whisky resulted in £30 for the Jubilee Fund Charity and all staff members were presented with a pair of 'Jubilee' goblets.



Jayne Thomas [left] and Barbara McConnell, both switchboard operators, entertaining the HWPEL staff at the Silver Jubilee Management dance.

Thornaby - site of North's first cotton mill

Bill Hutchinson, works engineering director at Yarm recently took part in a programme on Radio Cleveland entitled 'Talk of Many Things' which deals with topics of historical interest in Cleveland. The subject? The North of England's first cotton mill. Bill has provided the following notes which we thought were of interest.

"It is probably not widely known that the building which over the years has been referred to in HW Teesdale Works, Thornaby, as 'The Factory', and which was used during two world wars for the manufacture of mines and sinkers, bombs and other munitions, was at one time the first cotton mill in the North of England.

This fact came to light after the building had been almost completely destroyed by fire in March 1949. A vaulted foundation stone from the mill was discovered when new foundations were being prepared to extend the machine shop over the burnt out site.

The vault was broken into from the back and was found to contain

Whether their raw material was cotton, flax or jute, or whether or not respectively they bought in cotton, linen or canvas for making up into marketable goods is anybody's guess, but reasonably sound theory is that the mill was ultimately involved in canvas manufactured from jute and ships' sails were made from the canvas.

From an old print which depicts the mill and is dated 1868 some thirty years after the mill was built, it can be seen that the present site of HW Teesdale's Bridge Yard shops was then common to the river and tides. It can therefore be readily accepted that the river was tidal up to the mill building before reclamation of the land with spoil from the Iron Foundries.

One can visualise the keen "sail salesman" sitting, complete with telescope, in the look out nest on the top of the mill, which can also be seen in the print, and, on seeing a prospective sailing ship customer coming up the river, he was quickly down to ground level, unhooked his boat from the side of



an engraved copper plaque commemorating the laying of the foundation stone of the mill on 13th May 1839. Apart from the plaque two plates were also discovered. Unfortunately, these had been accidentally broken by a pneumatic drill, but all the pieces were found and the plates were repaired by the British Museum. These items are now kept in a display case in the management dining room at Thornaby.

The face of the stone has still not been exposed having been covered up many years previously when the level of Hanover Street was raised in order to lay a railway line across it.

Lancastrians would no doubt have many good reasons why the operation of a cotton mill in our part of the north of England would be impractical. They may even argue that they are in the north of England and were making cotton long before our mill was built in 1839. Nevertheless, there must have been good reason in 1839 to declare it to be the first cotton mill in the north of England.

the mill and rowed off downstream to meet the prospective customer. There is still evidence of a boat mooring ring having existed on the end wall of the building.

It is interesting to note that the foundation stone was laid by William Skinner Esq., assisted by William Skinner the younger. One can assume that they were at that time the local bankers. Possibly Skinner Street, Stockton was named after them. Up to a few years ago a Skinner £1 bank note was framed and hanging on the wall at the Pot and Glass Inn at Egglecliffe village.

William Smith is mentioned on the plaque. He owned the local pottery and presumably put the plates into the foundation stone. Pottery Street still exists in Thornaby, but in those days no doubt was known as South Stockton. A further name mentioned on the plaque is of John Wilkinson. He was the Mayor of Stockton at that time and reference will be found to this on coping stone on the end of the Shambles building in Stockton High Street."

Delivery with a difference!



Congratulations to Alan Bennett of Grosvenor Steel Fabrications, who, with the assistance of a neighbour, delivered his own wife's baby - a boy weighing 6 lbs 20 oz. - at 2.50 a.m. on 25 June. It all happened

pretty quickly and when asked to comment on his experience Alan said "First time - last time I hope!" He recovered himself with a game of football that afternoon!



The Queen comes to Cleveland



No doubt there were plenty of Head Wrightson people amongst the tens of thousands of Clevelanders who thronged the streets to catch a glimpse of the Queen and Prince Phillip as they toured through the areas of Middles-

brough, Hartlepool, Stockton and Thornaby on Thursday 14 July. For those of you who missed the excitement we have pleasure in publishing this photograph of the Queen, seen talking to some of the crowd on one of her 'walk abouts'.

25 years ago...



We thought it might be interesting to see what kind of events and activities were recorded in "Wright Ahead" twenty five years ago, so with true nostalgia we pulled out of the file a copy of the July 1952 issue. The following extracts may jog a few memories of those of you who were with the company twenty five years ago:-

1. CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR'S LETTER

"My Friends, The Central Office of Information has recently issued a booklet called "Where We Stand This Year", an official account of the prospect for 1952."

Its main feature is that unless we can pay for what we want, we shall get less.

This is so obvious that it does not need a booklet price fourpence to explain it.

It says that we have to import; all our petrol, rubber, and cotton; four fifths of our timber and wool; half our iron-ore and food.

We are not paying for them by exports, so we are dipping into our reserves. Our reserves are, or were, disappearing in consequence. Last year, half our reserves disappeared in six months

2. VISIT TO LONDON LEONARDO DA VINCI EXHIBITION

"It was fifty five very tired but very happy apprentices that climbed aboard the 11 a.m. train from King's Cross congratulating themselves on signing on with such a firm as Head Wrightsons'.

What have we apprentices gained in knowledge from the trip? We have come to know each other much better and so our work as a team will improve. We have learnt much of the working methods of the Head Wrightson Organisation. We have seen the works of a man whom we can set up as an example of what we want to become, try to emulate his foresight and hard work

3. DIVISIONAL NEWS

Engineering Division I.D.O. (Teesdale)

"As a result of a youthful wager, the latest hardship inflicted on the D.O is the introduction of that tonsorial nightmare "the crew cut" and the sage old members watched with mixed amusement and horror when Master Don Barker appeared with his hair as neat as a coconut mat"

4. H.W. DRAMATIC SOCIETY

"A meeting of about thirty enthusiastic people in February resulted in the formation of the Head Wrightson Dramatic Society under the Chairmanship of Mr. Frank Shepherd"

After the inaugural meeting, Reg Williams of the McKee Division, set to work with fourteen of the members in rehearsing "When we are Married" a Yorkshire comedy by J.B. Priestley.."

Silver Jubilee Medal



The following four people at Head Wrightson were awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee medal:-



1. SIR JOHN WRIGHTSON, ex-Chairman



2. ALAN BATTY, Director, The Head Wrightson Machine Co.



3. JACKIE HUNTER, Shop Steward Head Wrightson Teesdale.



4. BRIAN BUCKROYD, Export Director, HW & Co. Ltd. London.

A tankard toast for Jubilee starters

A special "Wright Ahead" silver jubilee presentation has been made to four people who started work with Head Wrightson during the week that H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II succeeded to the throne in June 1952. Messrs. Bill Adams (HWPEL), Bryan Johnston (HWPEL), Ernest Horton (HW Machine Co) and Harold Walton (HW Teesdale) were each presented with a pewter tankard engraved with the following words:-
 "Presented to by 'Wright Ahead' to mark 25 years service with Head Wrightson on the occasion of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, June 1977". 25 years holds a lot of memories for each of these four people:-

mending a puncture on his bike which almost made him late for work that morning! There were very few car owners in those days and bicycle sheds were of more importance than car parking facilities. Starting on 4 June 1952 Ernie spent 2 years as a works inspector and 6 years in estimating before joining the contracts department in 1960. He is now Senior Sales Engineer in charge of the Spares Department. Since 1962 his work in spares sales has taken him far and wide including a two month trip to South Africa in connection with the ISCOR galvanising line. Whilst talking to Ernie the memories started flooding back and he recalls that on the same



(L-R) Bryan Johnston, Ernie Horton, Harold Walton and Bill Adams.

At the time of the coronation in 1953 the present Chairman of HWPEL, Bill Adams, was working as a resident site engineer at the Appleby Frodingham steelworks seraphim project at Scunthorpe. "There were no street parties for me" says Bill, who joined the Head Wrightson McKee Division as a civil engineer in June 1952 from Stewart and Lloyds at Corby. "My aim in those days was to make as much money as possible.

As for many other young men of that time, the war interrupted Bill's career and he was 27 before he started earning any real money. His determination to succeed soon won him a series of promotions. In 1954 he was appointed construction manager of the McKee Division, responsible for the running of UK sites, and in 1955 he was asked to go to India in order to negotiate a price for the Durgapur blast furnaces contract which was won by Head Wrightson as part of the Iscor Consortium a year or so later. On his return after 5 years, Bill was appointed assistant general manager of Head Wrightson Iron and Steelworks Ltd but he still spent much of his time out in India working on new contracts. In 1968, now General Manager, Bill was appointed a main board director and became Managing Director of HWISEL - later to be known as HW Process Eng Ltd. He became Chairman of HWPEL in 1974.

Most people know of Bill Adams' great love for playing golf but how he first got interested in the sport is a story in itself. "I didn't play until I met the woman I wanted to marry who happened to be a good golf player. The only way I could impress her golf loving family was to learn how to play golf myself!" As in most things, Bill succeeded in winning his lady and after 29 years of marriage they are still playing golf happily together. Bill has recently resurrected the company's Richard Miles management Trophy golf match which was originally started in 1950. Bill won the trophy himself in 1956 and was sent shortly afterwards back to India!

Looking back 25 years ago, Ernie Horton has one clear memory of his first day at the HW Machine Co Ltd - that of having to spend the lunch break

day that King George VI died, there was an important cup-tie between the Boro and Doncaster. "They were defeated 4-1" says Ernie who took his wife Anne to see the match. "It was the only time my wife had been to a football match and she's never been since!"

Soon after starting at HW Machine Co., Ernie was persuaded to join a small choir that had been formed by Dick Blakey, Personnel Manager at the time. When this folded up Ernie and another colleague joined what is now one of the most successful and well known choirs in the country - the Teesside Apollo Male Voice Choir - which has performed all over the world. Singing and travelling with the choir takes up most of Ernie's spare time but it is an interest which he thoroughly enjoys. What with business trips and touring with the choir there have been years when he has spent a lot of time away from home. Luckily Anne is a very understanding wife!.

Bryan Johnston of HWPEL Thornaby has vivid memories of the coronation in 1953 because he was actually in the streets of London at the time! Aged 18, he had hitch-hiked down with a friend two days before the procession and was reported in the "Evening Gazette" as being "among those who spent the night stretched out in blankets on the pavement in The Mall." Being Bryan's first visit to London, the occasion certainly made a deep impression on him.



Bryan Johnston (right) on hike 25 years ago!

He recalls that 1st June 1952 was also the day the world first received the news that Everest had been conquered for the first time - an event which was of particular interest to him because of his own love for mountaineering. That year in fact, during an outward bound mountain school expedition in the Lake District, he had the pleasure of meeting and climbing alongside the Everest team. So great was his love for this outdoor sport that at the age of 20, Bryan and another HW colleague, Les Askey, embarked on a continental holiday which included hitchhiking across Europe and climbing in the Alps.

Married with three children Bryan's climbing days are long since past but he is now an active member of the T.A.V.R. having been appointed Commander of D company in the Cleveland County Army Cadet Force in 1974. He and his wife represented the army at the unveiling ceremony of a brass plaque outside Stockton Town Hall by the Queen when she visited Cleveland on Thursday 14 July.

Bryan has come a long way since joining the drawing office of the HW McKee Division in 1952. After 2 years in the proposals department and several long stays at the Head Wrightson Australia office helping to prepare bids for contracts he returned to the UK and in 1970 was Project Manager for the Corby No 6 sinter plant contract. In 1972 he was appointed Manager of the agglomeration process group and in 1975 made his first trip to Villares Wrightson in Brazil to assist with the preparation of sinter plant tenders. At present, Bryan and the VW team are preparing a bid for the No 4 CSN sinter plant contract.

Our fourth 'Silver Jubilee starter' is Harold Walton who, having served his apprenticeship at Ashmore Benson and Pease at Stockton, joined Head Wrightson as an electric welder. Now working in the Bridge Yard at HW Teesdale, Harold remembers that coronation day for him and his friend was spent down at South Gare fishing in the pouring rain! "We got soaked said Harold "and decided to go into Redcar for a pint at the Pot and Lobster. It was there that we heard the news about Everest.

Fish were of great interest to Harold in those days and at one time he had twelve tanks of different kinds of tropical fish, some of them quite rare. One species, the Peacock-eyed Cichlid, required feeding with 24 sticklebacks and 2 oz minced meat a day! "My wife saw to the meat and I used to send my two lads, Michael and Harold out to the beck to catch the sticklebacks" said Harold who won various competitions throughout the area and was awarded a Water Life Diploma at Hartlepool. Alas! the fish are now gone and Harold and his wife Marjorie now have only one budgie to feed.

Harold remembers the time when a Prime Minister of the same name, Harold McMillan, visited the works at a time when they were building huge atomic reactors. When he asked how many of these were being turned out some bright spark answered jokingly "Oh! about three a day". Those were the days!

Having moved to a new house at Fairfield less than a year ago, Harold and Marjorie have plenty to do with decorating and keeping their attractive garden tidy. They are both fond of music - particularly Greek music which reminds them of happy holidays spent in that country.

Incidentally, their eldest son Michael, also works at HW Teesdale as a rafter. It's a long time since he caught those sticklebacks.

Coronation spoons

To commemorate the occasion of the coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, the Head Wrightson Employee's Council presented a book token to each child of their members whilst the chairman and directors of the company presented each child with a silver spoon.

(Photo 1) shows one of these spoons which was presented to Ken, the son of Mr and Mrs Joe Lamb. Joe, who is now Transport Manager of Head Wrightson, can be seen on (Photo 2) holding his son after the presentation had been made by Mr and Mrs Richard Miles.

(Photo 3) shows two children who received spoons on behalf of the members of the machine shop.

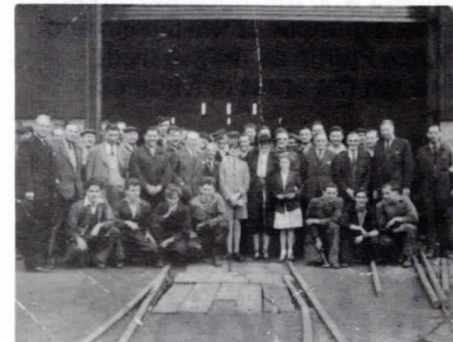
Too big for spoons but nevertheless keen to celebrate the coronation was this group of smiling faces (Photo 4) belonging to Mr L Houghton, steel buyer at HW Stampings at the time and three members of his staff.



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