

WRIGHT AHEAD

THE HEAD-WRIGHTSON NEWS LETTER

Vol. 2

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No. 2



H. W. SALES CONFERENCE 1950

Vice Chairman's Letter

Visitors to Head Wrightson very often ask how we obtain orders for our many specialities. Many of you, too, must wonder how we build up a healthy order book.

How do we start to get orders? It is obvious that there are not a great number of individuals who are anxious to buy, say, a mud gun or a vermiculite exfoliator, an aluminium bridge or a floating caisson, a diisobutylene plant or a hundred thousand beer barrel bungs. We therefore have to know our customers and particularly those who are about to place an enquiry for the plant or equipment we make. This is the first essential of our sales campaign — information.

To enable us to get the information we require H.W. have appointed agents throughout the world and in Great Britain we have our sales offices in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Sheffield. The job of these representatives is to keep their ears open and report to us anything which may be of interest to H.W. This is all preparatory work and, over the teleprinter, through the post and by telegrams and cables, information is pouring into London or Thornaby which is carefully indexed and used by the commercial staffs.

The next stage is the receiving of actual enquiries. It can be realised that with the value of our total output running at several million pounds a year, the value of enquiries that we must receive should be considerably more. Our outside representatives follow up the specific enquiry and explain to the customer, how H.W. are placed to effect delivery, how the various departments of H.W. can be mutually helpful and how much the customer would gain by placing his order with H.W. so that there is no division of responsibility.

To enable the outside representatives to be fully aware of our growth and the improvement in our technique,

we have for many years summoned them from Great Britain and Europe to a conference held at Thornaby, which lasts approximately four days. At this conference the outside representatives are shown each of our Works, and the sales policy of the firm for the ensuing year is explained. Then each division or subsidiary company holds its own conference at which the general manager explains the successes of the previous year and outlines the target for the year to come. This is followed by discussion when the outside sales staff and the Works staff discuss ways of improving the service we give to our customers. The point of view of the customer and user of our equipment is presented by our outside sales staff and the practical or technical difficulties are explained by the Works staff. In this way we keep up to date. But the most important feature of the Sales Conference is the fact that outside representatives and the staff of each department at the Works have an opportunity of getting to know each other and working together as a team.

That is why in the early part of May each year you will find a large party of "visitors" inspecting the various works. They are not, in fact, "visitors", but are very much part of our team. It is largely on their efforts that a good order book depends, but it is on the efforts of each one of us in the firm that the order book may continue to be healthy by giving good service, good quality, good design and prompt delivery so that our customers come back to H.W. with further orders.

John Wrightson

BIRTHS

Congratulations to :—

- Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Bateman, (Maintenance), a son,
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Snaith, (Stockton Forge, Bridge
 Yard), a son. Will he be a template maker?
 Mr. & Mrs. T. Porteous, (Stockton Forge, Bridge Yard),
 a son.
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Hawcock, (Machine Shop), a daughter.
 Mr. & Mrs. "Jock" Mackenzie, (H. W. Machine Co.),
 a daughter.
 Mr. Ken. Moorhouse, (H. W. Machine Co.), a daughter.
 Mr. & Mrs. P. Steiner, (Maintenance), a son.

MARRIAGES

- Mr. Allen Rigg, (Machine Shop) to Miss Esme Renton,
 Mr. J. S. Chester, (H. W. Machine Co. D.O.) to Miss
 Joan Winship.
 Mr. G. E. Dyson, (H. W. Machine Co. D.O.) to Miss
 Joan Stephenson.
 Mr. G. Reynolds to Miss Marjorie Hadlett (both of
 H. W. Machine Co. D.O.)
 Mr. J. H. Johnson, H. W. Machine Co. D.O., to Miss
 Mildred Peacock.
 Mr. J. Brown (H.W. Machine Co.)

SILVER WEDDING

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. J. Williams (H.W.
 Machine Co.) on their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.
 Mr. Williams is the Division's genial welfare represent-
 ative on the Works Council.



MR. ALLEN RIGG AND MISS ESME RENTON

ENGAGEMENT

Mr. Vince Walker and Miss Brenda Campbell, both
 of Teesdale Machine Shop.

SICK LIST

The H. W. Machine Co., Middlesbrough, offer best
 wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr. Herbert Masterman
 who has been in North Ormesby Hospital for some
 weeks.

Ken Gale, (H. W. Machine Co.) has gone into the
 hills for rest and fresh air. We are looking after his
 young lady and his motor bike during his absence.

We are pleased to report from Stockton Forge that
 Mr. Frank Wilson (Bridge Yard), who has been in
 hospital is now making a speedy recovery.

DEATHS

Condolences to the relatives of Mr. Edgar Chambers
 (Teesdale Steel Foundry). Edgar was well-known to all
 in the Foundry and had worked there for almost thirty
 years.

To the widow and family of Mr Jimmy Wilson (Tees-
 dale Steel Foundry).

To the widow and family of Mr. W. Pease (Teesdale
 Steel Foundry).

To the widow and family of Mr. G. Cooper (Tees-
 dale Iron Foundry).

"THE MOVING FINGER WRITES—"

It is with great regret that we record the death of
 that veteran fitter-craftsman—Richard Young, para-
 doxically known as "Old Dick" who passed away on
 2nd May in his 80th year. It will be remembered that
 he retired from the H. W. Machine Co. on 30th
 September, 1948 and afterwards complained that he had
 done so too soon! He was that "rara avis" among
 present day mechanics, an ambidexter—could use
 hammer and chisel with either hand with equal facility.
 He also had long associations with Dixon's Shipyard
 and won respect from one and all. A bachelor he had
 no known relatives.

WORKS BAND

The Brass Band Season has again come to life for
 the summer or outdoor season and whilst we still have
 a good and enthusiastic bunch of lads, we could do
 with a few more players, in particular, Solo Cornets,
 Tenor Trombone and Baritone and if any one is
 interested to "join", every encouragement will be
 given them. The Band practices are held as usual in
 the Band Room on Wednesdays at 7-0 p.m. and Sunday
 mornings at 10-30 a.m.

Our engagements already fulfilled are Ropner Park,
 afternoon and evening on Easter Monday and the St.
 John's Ambulance inspection at Bedale on Sunday, 14th
 May. We have also led the procession of both the
 Stockton and Thornaby mayors to church on the 4th
 and 11th June respectively.

Our other engagements are :—

- Saturday, 24th June—Great Ayton British Legion Gala.
 Sunday, 25th June—Thornaby Village. 7-0 p.m.
 Sunday, 9th July—Albert Park, M'bro. 7-0 p.m.
 Saturday, 22nd July—Durham Gala.
 Sunday, 23rd July—Stewart's Park, M'bro 6-30 p.m.
 Saturday, 29th July—Stockton Show.
 Monday, 7th August (Bank Holiday) Thornaby Village
 Show.

We expect several more engagements but final dates
 are not yet accepted.

SPORTING NEWS



BACHELORS

**A GRAND FOOTBALL MATCH
BACHELORS - 3 v MARRIED MEN - 1**

On Friday evening the 28th April, a "dense" crowd saw a team of bachelors defeat a team of married men by three goals to one. Both teams were chosen from the Staff of the Machine Company and the line-up was as follows —

BACHELORS.

Ken Goodison; Bernard Knaggs, Harry Foster; Peter Llewellyn (Capt), Harry Allison, Wilf Gartry; Earle Lilley, Jack Harris, Gordon Surtees, Peter Johnson, Bob Russell ;

MARRIED MEN.

Ray Johnson; Stan Marshall, Jim Chesser; Norman Bashford, John Chester, Ernie Jopling; Johnny Grantham (Capt.), Jock Laing, Len Davies, John Macdonald, Bob Evans;

REFEREE (unbiased)

Mr. R. W. H. Collins,

(Middlesbrough and Cleveland Harriers).

Of the bachelors, all except two (Llewellyn and Lilley) play football regularly throughout the season, whilst of the married men only two (Chester and Laing) play regularly.

The star-studded bachelors were inclined to play as individuals instead of as a team and this definitely spoilt many of their opportunities. They kept good control of the ball and their first two goals were well deserved.

The married men played grand football, especially Laing and Macdonald in the forward line and Chester in defence. Some of their team work was good to see, and it was a pity that they tired early in the second half.

THE GOALS.

JACK HARRIS (Bachelors) after 8 mins. A beautiful header into the net from a well placed corner by Bob Russell.

LEN DAVIES equalised for the married men after 12 mins.

BOB. RUSSELL (Bachelors) crashed the ball in from the left wing after 30 mins. play.

WILF GARTRY (Bachelors) after 65 mins. A lob from 25 yards out which Ray Johnson just failed to reach.

TAILPIECE.

At the end of the game Mr. Gowthorp presented a handsome Nuptial Trophy (Honi Soit Qui Mal y Pense) to the captain of the losing team (Johnny Grantham).

Later a crowd of about thirty (players and spectators) gathered in the Coronation Hotel in search of warmth, ale and merriment.



BENEDICTS

BOWLS NOTES

Once again the bowling season is with us and whilst the present weather is too good to be true, there is once again the danger of having to close or restrict play on a number of greens.

Our green is not so affected as once again the Works Fire Brigade has assisted our groundsman by almost emptying the beck and giving the green, three or four good floodings. Our best thanks are due to them, particularly to Billy Wallace, Machine Shop, who has looked after the pump.

We have made quite a decent start in our league fixtures, having more wins than losses. Once again we are rather ambitious, having entered a further League, the North Yorkshire E.B.A. This is in addition to a team in the Tees-side Bowls League, the South Durham and North Yorkshire Works Bowls League, and a team in both sections 'C' and 'D' of the Cleveland and South Durham League, i.e. 5 teams in all.

On Whit Sunday, 28th May, the Bowls Club Travelling Section held their annual outing. This year it was decided that we should visit the Lake District. The weather was once again kind to us and after a 7 o'clock start, we went to Leyburn for breakfast, to Bowness-on-Windermere for lunch, then round the lakes to Keswick for high tea. We then wound our way home via Brough, where we had dinner and finally a final hour in "Barney" arriving home about midnight after a tiring but most enjoyable day. The thanks of all should go to the organising Committee, especially, Walter Bartaby for the splendid arrangements made.

The interdepartmental competition is now under "starters orders" and in the preliminary matches, Stockton Steel Foundry 'A' (last year's winners) beat Egglecliffe Foundry. Middlesbrough have to meet Teesdale D.O. and McKee Division Teesdale Bridge Yard 'A'.

The first round matches are:—

- M'bro Works or Teesdale D.O. v Stockton Steel 'A'
- McKee or Teesdale Bridge Y. 'A' v Stockton Steel 'B'
- Pattern Shop v Teesdale Steel Foundry
- Forge Machine Shop v Stockton Steel
- Forge D.O. v Teesdale Iron Foundry
- Forge Bridge Yard v Maintenance
- Egglecliffe 'A' v Teesdale Bridge Yard 'B'
- Machine Shop v Heat Exchanger.

Dates are to be arranged for these matches.

This year we have at last fought our way into the 2nd Round of the Marshall Shield, having defeated Albert Park, quite a creditable performance, but perhaps long overdue.

Bowls (continued)

We are still short of one or two good bowls players to strengthen all sections. Anyone interested is asked to contact a member of the Committee.

Our groundsman again obtained a credit, this time from Mr. L. P. Trevitt, who presented the prizes following the Teeside League Rink Competition on Saturday, 10th June.

Our honours list is further enhanced by the selection of our President and Club Steward, Mr. Bob Ormston, who played a good game for Yorkshire No. 2 District v Scottish Tourists.

Yorkshire won handsomely.

TENNIS SECTION

The Tennis Section held its Annual General Meeting in April, when a new Committee was elected and season's activities outlined.

It was hoped that with additional court accommodation, it would be possible to organise some competitive matches with local clubs and tournaments. Unfortunately, weather conditions and court repairs have limited the club's activities and many planned competitions had to be cancelled or postponed.

With a promise of finer weather, it is fully expected that the best part of the programme will be completed.

One of the outstanding events of the season has now been completed—the Miles Cup for Men's Singles. This was won by Mr. Bert Robson of Forgings Department, who was last year's runner-up. Some very good tennis was seen in the earlier rounds.

In the week commencing 17th July, 1950 the Ladies' Doubles, Mixed Doubles, and Gents' Doubles events will be played off. Some well contested games are expected.

Several of the club's members competed in the Albert Park tournament and there are also several entries for the Col. Kitching Cup tournament which is to be held on the Littleboy courts and is sponsored by Thornaby Borough.

**GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
of one of H.Ws Pensioners**

Mr. Richard Howe, who was a moulder in the Iron Foundry at Head Wrightson for 47 years before his retirement 6 years ago, celebrated his Golden Wedding on Monday, 24th April, 1950. He was married in 1900 at St. Patrick's Church by Monsignor Canon Shannon.

Mr. Howe and his wife are both 71 years' of age and are in excellent health.

Mr. Howe called in the Personnel Department the other day and gave us details of some of the outstanding events of his life.

He thinks he has a record where foremen are concerned, having served under so many. Messrs Stirling, Hardwick, Coulson, Willis, Redfern, Robert Willis, Scott, Bussy, Holligon, Alf. Holligon and Greenwell were among the names he recalled.

Mr. Howe has seven children and 11 grandchildren. Many of his relatives are employed in our organisation and Howe must be one of the names which can be regarded as having a strong family meaning to the firm.

At one time he was a keen footballer and played for Thornaby Town. He missed the semi-final of the English Amateur Cup because he was a victim of small pox.

He says he worked terrifically hard during his years' of employment but never felt any the worse for it. He often takes a turn round the Iron Foundry and is amazed at the improvements which have been made.

Mr. Howe recalled the time when beer was 3d. a pint and said he always enjoyed a drink but was never the worse for it.

In spite of his age, Mr. Howe felt that it was his duty to carry on through the war years but the day peace was declared he finished work.

We wish him and his wife every good wish for continued health and future happiness.

EDITOR'S POST BAG**From South Africa.**

"To the Editor,

I have just received the March issue of the Head-Wrightson News Letter "*Wright Ahead*" and would like you to know how much I appreciate this very welcome little magazine.

The news and interesting works items are a source of great pleasure to me, as they recall memories of the many friends I made among the personnel of the works and offices, during my 30 years in the Teesdale General Office.

Although only 2½ years have passed since I came to this sunny land of South Africa, names of many acquaintances have slipped my memory and on noticing particular names mentioned, it gives me quite a thrill to remember how and when I spoke to them last.

Apart from the pleasure I receive from this source, I get quite a lot of amusement from some of those very pithy remarks such as "Which Senior Official of the Forgings Dept. is the 'Bubble Gum' Champion of Redcar"—I have my own ideas who this may be, I wonder if I am right?

Also in your columns, the Obituary Notices, have given me quite a few shocks when I read the names of those who have passed on.

I think I can lay claim to be one of your most ardent readers, having filed all copies from No. 1 and it is not unusual for me to peruse the file at any odd moment.

In conclusion let me thank you, and all who work on the News letter for a splendid piece of work, and through your columns, I should like to be remembered to all friends and acquaintances throughout the Head-Wrightson's organization.

Yours sincerely,
(s) E. Taylor."

From U.S.A.

My dear sir :

On my desk is a copy of your March, 1950 issue of *Wright Ahead*. Yours is among the first house organs to come to my attention on behalf of an English firm. I have no way of knowing whether this happens to be a new endeavour with you, or whether the No. 1, Vol. 2, indicates that you have been turning out a Head-Wrightson news letter for some period of time.

Regardless of the age of your publication, I simply want to take this occasion to tell you that I consider it a very worthy effort on behalf of your firm. What's more, I think it does a great deal in mail distribution to make the folks who deal with you and the folks you deal with better acquainted with each other. It serves as sort of a third party in making us better friends.

Here in the United States we have found house publications of this sort very fruitful and very beneficial, I for one would like to add my cheers to the chorus of congratulations which must have come your way over the period of publication.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely yours,
SALEM ENGINEERING COMPANY
(s) Sam Keener
President

DIVISIONAL NEWS

ENGINEERING DIVISION

Machine Shop.

The painting of our Department is now completed and is a vast improvement, too. Old timers cannot help but contrast the present shop with the old white-washed walled one they used to have to work in, green and aluminium are the two main colours with the cranes and jib-work painted red.

In conjunction with the McKee Division, we are still busy on steelworks plant. A start has just been made on another sintering plant. Anybody who saw the last one in operation, or the photos in the press, will be aware of the amount of work which goes into one. The latest type of ladle to come into the shop is one of the smaller type — 120 tons.

The shop management, to say nothing of the fitters of the Goodman squad, are pleased that two Brosius guns, a Pedestal and a Coleman type, have recently been despatched. These guns are for steel works plant and not some Atomic Age weapon of war.

It nearly happened! but once again we had to be content with being runners up in the football competition. There's always next year. If we can hire a ground it is our intention to join a League. R. "Punker" Graham is our latest to go on the injured list—he broke an ankle playing for the Works team. We all hope he is soon fit and back with us.

Bill Bright, a member of our Shop team, signed amateur forms last week for Hull City.

PRESENTATION TO MR. T. HALL, PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

On Friday, 2nd June, 1950, Mr. Sturges presented a Barometer to Mr. Thomas Hall on behalf of his many friends at Teesdale. Mr. Hall has been appointed Works Manager at Middlesbrough Works.

Mr. Sturges spoke of Mr. Hall's excellent work in the Engineering Division and wished him every success in his new job. He said that he hoped the appointment would be the means of obtaining better prices.

Mr. Hall replied, saying that whilst he was looking forward to his new job he regretted very much leaving his old acquaintances at Teesdale.

BRIDGE YARD

"A Burning Question"—How did "Ali" miss the bus at Leeds and were his plates hot when he arrived home after the long walk. He should now enter for H.W. Sports.

The matrimonial Agency in the Alloy Shop is having a slack time, but according to rumour one of the eligible bachelors is whispering sweet nothings in quiet corners.

Light Alloy Shop Briefs.

The largest part of our production at the moment is for the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company for whom we are making a 300 ft. x 150 ft. Building and we are pleased that our Light Alloy Products are now finding their way overseas, in this instance, to Iran.

Another interesting contract has come our way recently, the repairing of an Alloy Jib built in America twenty years ago.

Turning now to Shop Personnel, we are glad that Jack Burton, who had a nasty accident to his finger, and at one time looked like having to part with the end of it, has now been informed that the chances are very much in favour of his being able to keep it after all.

George Mellanby is again down with "sinus" and we all wish him a speedy recovery. Our own singing Saw Setter, "Tot" Sheldon has thrown in his lot with the Stockton Forge Male Voice Choir, mixing alloy with steel, we hope there's no "corrosion."

We sympathise with "Al." Harburn, who was confident of a Tees-side League Football Championship Medal, but its now "All Heartburn" for "Heads" lost the decider.

We know that our Storekeeper, Alex. Yourievsky, backed the first classic winner, his closest friend tells us that he backed every horse in the race, now we know why he was so sure.

* * *

STEEL FOUNDRY DIVISION

There have been considerable alterations made in the yard during the last month or two. A new gantry has been erected and new cranes installed which are a great improvement. Many of this Division's employees can remember when the yard was an open space where football and cricket were played.

Congratulations to the Steel Foundry Football team on winning the Interdepartmental Football Cup for the second year in succession. The final was a very interesting match against the Machine Shop, when the Foundry won by 6 goals to 0. During the whole of the competition the team scored 35 goals and had only 4 goals scored against them. Holmes and Allison were top scorers with 9 goals each.

Mr. Don. Atkinson and other officials of the foundry were present at the match and the former handed over the Cup to the Steel Foundry Football Team captain, Mr. D. Allison, and miniature cups to each of the players.

The Division would like to offer its congratulations to the Machine Shop on their excellent sporting spirit in defeat.

* * *

STOCKTON FORGE



NEW DRAWING OFFICE—STOCKTON FORGE

Mr. Snowden and Mr. Sowerby, Works Foremen at Stockton Forge, visited the B.I.F. at Birmingham and were greatly impressed by what they saw. Of particular interest to them were the various types of "Vibrator" screens, which were similar to those produced at their own works but, of course, not quite so good.

They had a warm welcome from the Lowmoor Iron Company's representative, who had on display a "Humble Hook" made at Stockton Forge.

They thought that the carpet weaving machine stole the show. Never have they seen so many moving parts with such perfect timing. They feel that the designer did a job and a half and achieved something next door to human.

Mechanical handling was another thing which impressed them very much—particularly some of the small electric runabout waggons which they will bear in mind for future shop planning.

After their visit to the Fair, they moved on to the Birmingham Gas Works, where Stockton Forge are assembling their second set of purifiers. The first set which was erected a year ago is now in production. They report that they look an excellent job and a credit to the men who worked on them.

Football—Congratulations to Stockton Forge Juniors on winning the Interdepartmental Football trophy for the second year running. Keep it up, lads and make it the Hat-trick next year.

The result of the final match was :—

Stockton Forge Juniors 4
(J. Thomas 2, H. Neal, R. McGrother)
Middlesbrough Works Juniors 0



H. McLURE (App School) wins Junior 100 yds
(Photo by N. Daily Mail and Billingham Press)

H. W. MACHINE CO.

Holland from the visitor's view.

By George Henderson

My recent trip to Holland to instal a "25,000 lb. automatic triple pull push-pointing tube drawbench" was rather exciting and quite a change to travelling around this country. After quite a hectic trip via Harwich and the Hook of Holland, my train arrived at Leiden on the Sunday morning, where I was met by the Works Engineer, who gave me my first meal in the Netherlands—HAM AND EGGS

On my arrival at the Dutch Copper Works, Leiderdorp, where the machine was to be installed, I was introduced to everyone by the Managing Director. This made me feel at home right from the start.

The machine was installed and I enjoyed every minute of it working with three Dutchmen who could not understand my requests for spanner, spirit level etc. We got laughs together trying to understand one another.

On completion, the drawbench was put through its many tests, and I am pleased to say that it was a job well done.

Putting it into production was simplicity itself, due to the good workmanship put in by the fellows who built it



WHAT MR. HENDERSON SAW IN HOLLAND

The people I met were all very good to me, and helped me in every possible way, even with my shopping, and the things that impressed me most were—the never ending canals with the constant stream of of highly coloured barges, spotlessly clean. The wooden clogs which are left outside when the wearer enters a building—the hawkers' barrows with dogs harnessed underneath to pull them along and the many bridges one has to cross to get anywhere.

The number of people who smoke big, fat cigars is phenomenal as is the amount of food displayed in the shops which is not rationed.

Donald Atkinson has emigrated to Australia, and we understand he has already changed his job and is settling down.

It is hoped that his arrival will not affect adversely the good relations between the Commonwealth and the Mother Country—Any way—Best of luck!, Don.

McKEE DIVISION

Since the appearance of the last issue of *Wright Ahead*, the staff of the Division has increased by five members making a total of 57 in all.

Mr. J. P. Irwin of the Arthur G. McKee Co. has now returned from the United States for another sojourn with the Division. All members of the staff welcome him back and hope that he and Mrs. Irwin will have an enjoyable stay over here. Pres's distinctive "automobile" caused quite a stir when it first arrived at the Works, and we are glad to note that the Ministry of Fuel and Power has smiled kindly upon it and now Pres and his wife will have an opportunity of seeing some of our more remote English beauty spots

Just in time for the recent Sales Conference the blast furnace clay gun, designed by the Division for the Skinninggrove Iron Co. was completed in the Machine Shop, and could be seen operating under its own power—the first clay gun actually to run in our shops.

Personal.

The Division wishes to express its most sincere condolence to Mr. Frank Harrison on the loss of his father.

Mr. John Harrison is now back with the Division after six months of illness and convalescence. John is now looking very fit and has put on quiet a lot of weight. All are pleased to see him back.

GREENHOUSES

It is seldom that our employees have the opportunity of seeing one of the Company's products on show so they will be pleased to note that at the Stockton and District Agricultural and Horticultural Show on 29th July next our aluminium alloy greenhouse will be on exhibition.



SIR JOHN WRIGHTSON
unveils the memorial plaque at Ropner Home.
"by courtesy of The Northern Echo"

ROPNER HOME MEMORIAL PLAQUE

For many years our Workmen's Committees have been associated with the work of the Ropner Convalescent Home and have been represented on their Administrative Committee.

During all this period our workers have continued to contribute to the work of this Institution, and very readily agreed to put in a special effort when it was found that a great deal of extension work was required for which there was no other aid than voluntary subscription.

Gifts were made by the Firm and Welfare Committees on behalf of the work people and special efforts were organised until finally a sum of almost £550 was raised. This was handed over to the Governors of the Home for the improvements which had for so long been necessary. There were many who worked really hard to raise this magnificent sum but special mention should be made to our Representatives on the Ropner Home Committee, Messrs. Mavrogianes and Ison.

Up to the time of handing over this money there had been no memorial to those of our fellow workers who had given their lives during the last War and it was agreed that the improvement in the facilities of the home would be the best memorial we could have. A tablet was prepared which read "This Tablet commemorates the contribution which the Workers of Head Wrightson & Co. Ltd. made to the extension work of this Home as a Memorial to their Comrades who gave their lives in the Second World War—1939—1945," and on Saturday, 27th May, 1950 many of our workpeople and their wives went to the Ropner Home to see Sir John unveil the plaque. The tablet is now in the main entrance Hall and the ceremony was also witnessed by the members of the Governing Body. Sincere appreciation was expressed to the workpeople of Head Wrightsons for their efforts on behalf of the Home.



Members of Head Wrightson Welfare Committee with Sir John Wrightson at the ceremony at Ropner Home.
"by courtesy of The Northern Echo"

OLD AGE PENSIONERS' OUTING

On Saturday, 15th July, the Welfare Section of the Works Council organised an outing for our old age pensioners to Whitley Bay. Many of them took their wives, and three bus loads set off at 10-0 a.m.

Some of the Committee members and two nurses went along to make sure that they were properly taken care of and we are pleased to report that everything went off splendidly and our guests had a most enjoyable day by the sea. All were full of praise for the high quality of the lunch and tea.

Thus the Head Wrightson Employees' Council carries on the tradition built up by the former Welfare Committee.

HEAD WRIGHTSON EMPLOYEES' COUNCIL

At the request of some of the Divisions it has been decided to give a short summary of the work done by the different Divisional Councils and the benefits which are available to members.

As most of us are aware, our employees contribute a sum of 7d. per week to this scheme. This includes 2d. per week per head which goes to Manor House Hospital where treatment is available for all male employees on the recommendation of their doctor. Another 1d. per week goes to the Ropner Convalescent Home where employees or their wives may stay when convalescing after illness.

Despite the increased benefits now being paid under National Insurance, most of our employees continue to pay contributions into Sick Clubs etc. and as a special assistance in their time of need part of the contributions of the Works Council Fund is set aside so that an extra two pounds can be paid when a member is absent from work through illness or accident, for a period exceeding six weeks. This payment can be made twice in any one financial year on the production of a medical certificate. A small death benefit payment of three pounds is also paid.

Where there is hardship of any kind, members should apply to their Council representative who will submit their case to a Divisional Works Council for a decision, on the help which can be given.

5th ANNUAL SPORTS MEETING

Our 5th Annual Sports meeting was held on Saturday, 1st July and a crowd of some 2,000 had a most enjoyable day watching some very fine foot and cycling races. In the latter there were some thrills and spills but fortunately only one competitor had to be taken to hospital. We were fortunate in having several Championship events, including the Northumberland & Durham 4 x 440 yds. Relay, the highlight of this being the winning by a neck of Elswick Harriers from Stockton Harriers. The events which were confined to our own employees did not bring as many competitors as we should have wished, but those who did run gave the crowd value for its money.

The Managers' Trophy was won this year by the Apprentice School, who gained more points than any other Department even though all their entries were confined to the Junior Sections.

A great deal of hard work goes into the organising of an event such as this, and much credit is due to the Groundsman and Committee, led by Mr. C. H. Soppet, for this really first class sports meeting.

We were pleased to have Mrs. Richard Miles with us to present the prizes, supported by Mr. Miles and Sir John and Lady Wrightson.



H. W. PERSONALITIES No. 7
MR. HARRY PARSONS, MACHINE SHOP

Mr. Harry Parsons, Toolroom Foreman at Teesdale, commenced work in the factory forty-five years ago as an apprentice.

There were only three shops in use in the building at that time. The present Die Shop was then the Pattern Shop, and the old fitting shop was where the present tool room is. The floor above was the Block Shop which was employed almost entirely on the manufacture of Moore's Patent Pulley Blocks of all sizes, capable of lifting weights from half to ten tons. The Machine Shop was only about a quarter of its present size.

After completing his apprenticeship, Mr. Parsons travelled about for four years to gain experience and then returned to this firm where he has now completed forty-one years' service. In 1922 he became foreman in the Tool Room but in 1925 the Tool Room closed owing to depression and he became Shift Chargehand in the Machine Shop until 6th January, 1936 when the Tool Room re-opened and he became Foreman again.

Mr. Parsons was Treasurer of the first Works Welfare Committee when Mr. Fred Shepherd (our present Personnel Manager's father) was the Secretary. He was also the first Chairman of the Athletic Association. In those days we had nothing but a field. To raise some funds, Mr. Parsons obtained permission from the then Works Manager, Mr. Gore, to hold a meeting in the works to ascertain whether the men would be willing to contribute a $\frac{1}{4}$ d per week, and this was the beginning of the Athletic Association. He believes there are only two of the original committee alive.

The results of their enthusiasm still flourish to-day.

THOMAS TIBBETT, aged 15 years.

MY FIRST WEEK IN HEAD WRIGHTSONS

One Monday, I commenced at Head Wrightsons' Training School with the other chosen apprentices. Mr. Soppet welcomed us and introduced Mr. Summers. We were divided into four groups, and given a lecture by Mr. Soppet on works regulations in general, and details of H. W. Organisation.

Tuesday, we went for a survey of the Company's plants. We visited Seaton Carew H.W. Stampings situated in the country, therefore an excellent place for expansion. In the main shop, friction lift and board hammers were used, to make steel and alloy forgings, mostly for motor car manufacturers. There were also lathes, boring, shaping and screwthread machines, used in the making of Dye blocks, and maintenance repairs.

At Stockton Forge we were shown a Dewaxing machine, which takes impurities out of petrol, a Ball Mill, which converts gold ore into dust; also planing machines and shearers. Castings made in the H. W. Foundries, from Forge made patterns, are sent to the Assembly Shop, and later despatched to the buyer as complete plant.

We visited H. W. Steel Foundries Ltd. and were escorted to the Foundry, where manganese and special alloy steel castings are made. We were allowed to look into the Trapenas Converter and Cupolas, and saw a cast.

At Egglecliffe Foundry, we saw the Moulding Shop, where railway chairs, iron castings and slag ladles are made, the latter having priority. This foundry is in the process of being modernised with new buildings and plant and first class facilities for the workers.

At the H. W. Machine Company, Middlesbrough we saw a Draw Bench, which lengthens tubes and bars. In the Machine Shop roller levellers and numerous other machines are made. The lathes are on one side of the building and grinders on the other. A shorterizing machine spurts flame and water on rollers to harden them. After an interesting visit around this very modern works, which has a grand Pattern Shop, we were told that it was the best place; which incidentally, every manager and craftsman also said of their own respective works.

The following day we were examined by Drs. Hunter & Manners, the certifying surgeons. Mr. Soppet gave us further talks on the jobs we were going to the following day, and also the history and future of H.W.

My first day of manual work with H.W. commenced in the Teesdale Bridge Yard. Mr. Shaw placed me with Mr. Bell and Mr. Holliday, template makers. Both gentlemen took great pains in showing me how to mark templates, and subsequently I was allowed to assist them in marking plates.

The last day of the week was spent in receiving further instruction, and later in the day we attended P.T. at Teesdale Park, with Mr. Rickleton, who introduced us to Mr. Monk, the Park groundsman, who gave us a talk on the correct manner of using the equipment and stating: "Ask and ye shall receive."

My chief impression was the size of H.W. organisation, its variety of products, the installation of modern machinery in each department, and the hospitality of managers and workers alike, which augurs well for my future.