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Monthly Bulletin

HERITAGE WALKS ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Mr. W. J. DIXON
DIAMOND JUBILEE OF SERVICE

It has been decided to devote the August Bulletin
entirely to an account of the Celebrations held to
commemorate the completion of sixty years of
service by

Mr. William J. Dixon, our Chairman
and Managing Director.

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DIAMOND JUBILEE

In June this year, our Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. William J. Dixon, completed his 60th year of service with the Company and it was decided that it would be appropriate to celebrate this memorable occasion on Gala Day, Saturday 25th June, as of all our annual functions this is the one which is perhaps closest to Mr. Dixon's heart.

Much has already been said and written about his wonderful career and this is so well known to all members of our organisation that we do not propose to dwell on it here but will instead concentrate on an account of the celebrations with a good deal of pictorial aid.

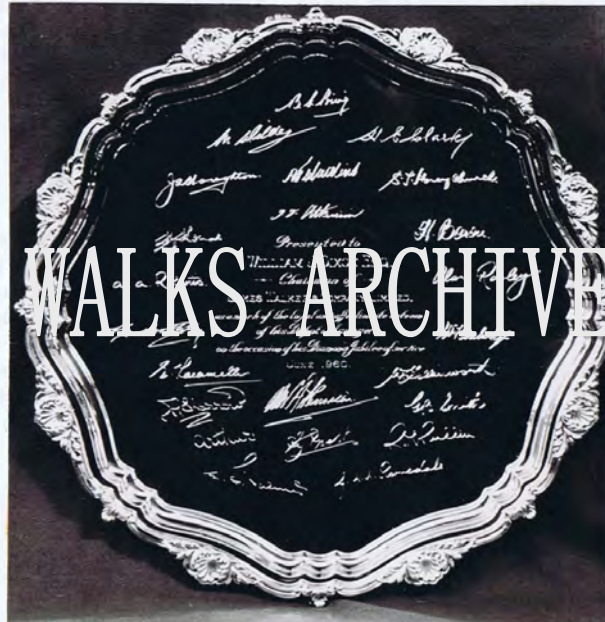
Invitations to attend this function were sent to all U. K. Depot Managers and their wives, also to other Depot personnel with ten years service or more. The result was that what must have been the greatest gathering of all time of Walker personnel assembled to pay tribute to Mr. Dixon and to demonstrate the affection and esteem in which he is held by all who serve under him.

Many congratulatory telegrams were received by Mr. Dixon from his friends in all parts of the world.

As will be appreciated the celebrations were preceded by many months of careful and painstaking planning and preparation, most of it quite unbeknown to Mr. Dixon. The celebrations actually started on the eve of Gala Day, for on Friday 24th June a cocktail party, to which all Depot Managers and Senior Head Office officials were invited, was held in the Board Room which was tastefully decorated for the occasion. The proceedings were largely informal but every guest was presented individually to Mr. Dixon who had a few words with each one.

The highlight of the evening, which followed an introductory speech by Mr. Strong, was the presentation to Mr. Dixon of a beautiful silver tray. This was the gift of the Depot Managers and was inscribed with the signatures of every one of them. Mr. P. J. Prest of Hull, our oldest Depot Manager, was chosen to make this presentation which he did with an appropriate and very well received speech.

During the evening it became known that it was Mrs. Dixon's birthday and Mr. Dixon was given a bouquet which he was asked to take home and hand to her with the congratulations and very best wishes of the assembled company.



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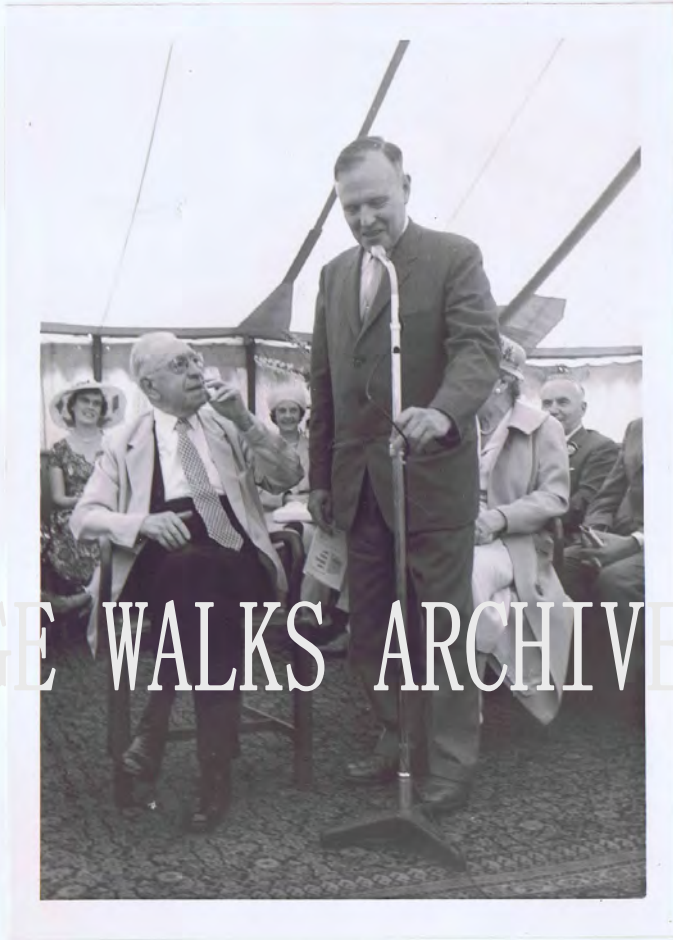
**Presentation of the Depot Managers' Gift
by Mr. P. J. Prest.**

The annual Gala on the following day provided all the usual attractions plus two rather special ones in a spectacular Aero-Acrobatic act and the "Pride of Murray" Pipe Band, but all of these were naturally somewhat overshadowed by the main event scheduled for 3.30 p.m. - the presentation to Mr. W. J. Dixon. This took place in a giant marquee which had been obtained specially for the occasion as a precaution against bad weather (fortunately the weather was fine) and which comfortably held the crowd of some 2,000 people who had gathered to do honour to our Chairman.

The proceedings were opened by Mr. R. W. Strong who outlined Mr. Dixon's career and commented on all his qualities of leadership and sympathy in times of sickness and distress. Mr. Strong was followed by Mr. L. Reed, Works Manager, who presented Mr. Dixon with a portable television set to which everyone of his employees had made a personal contribution. The final presentation was made by Mr. L. W. Cheeseman. This was in the form of a handsome red leather-bound volume which was entirely hand-written and hand-made by a craftsman. Mr. Cheeseman explained that this book plotted the course of Mr. Dixon's career. It included brief histories of each of our U. K. Depots and of our associated companies at home and overseas, together with photographs of their premises and staffs, and highlighted particular events in Mr. Dixon's career that had made Company history. It also contained a record of greetings and good wishes from all members of the world wide Walker organisation. A number of blank pages had been provided to record further achievements of Mr. Dixon.

In a characteristic reply Mr. Dixon generously acknowledged that his success could not have been achieved without the help of others and this he had received from all members of the organisation from the top to the bottom. The theme of Mr. Dixon's speech was that much of his success was due to his gift for picking out the right man for the right job. He went on to say that it had always been his aim to do his best for every worker and to see that his workpeople received justice before they even asked for it.

The proceedings were concluded in time honoured fashion by Mrs. W. J. Dixon presenting prizes to the winners of the various competitions and in making the Gala Day draw, in which it is pleasing to record several of our Depot friends were successful. Thus ended an occasion which so far is unique in the history of our Company and which will long remain in the memories of all those privileged to be present.



Opening remarks from
Mr. R. W. Strong, Assistant Managing Director.

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**Presentation of Portable Television Set by
Mr. L. Reed, Works Manager, on behalf
of all employees.**



**Mr. L. W. Cheeseman presenting the Volume
recording Mr. Dixon's life and contribution to
the Company.**

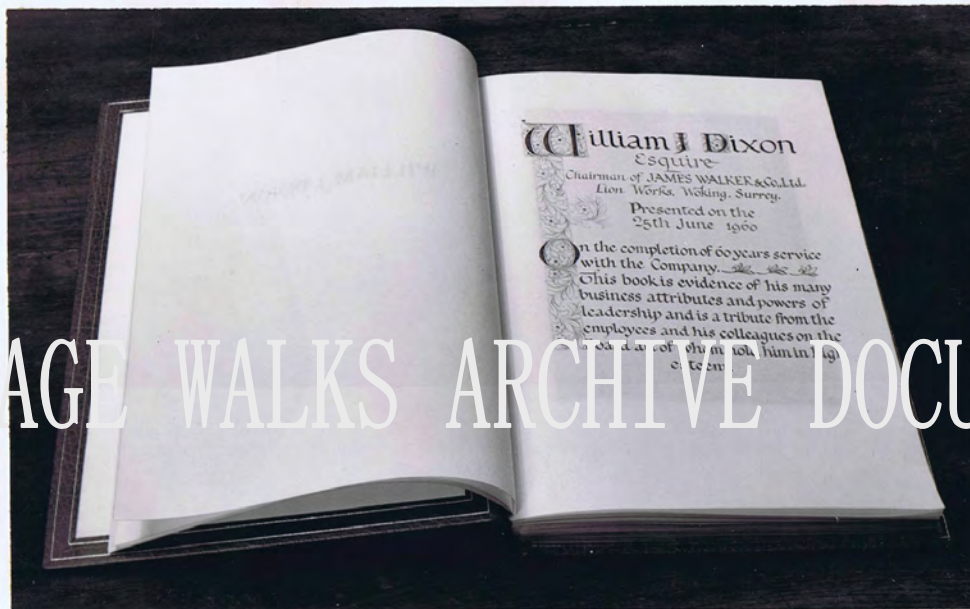
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The Volume comprising 150 hand-made parchment leaves bound in red levant morocco, fully tooled in gold and illuminated by Mr. F. G. Marshall of Banstead, Surrey, who is a craftsman of considerable repute.

CONGRATULATIONS!



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