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### *Your E-Mail*

J.H. Fletcher & Co. appreciates you sending us E-mail and answering our web site survey. However, if you are sending in E-Mail requests, we ask that you provide us the following information: NAME, A FULL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS. PLEASE ADDRESS YOUR E-MAIL TO: dcooper@jhfletcher.com

# Last of the Great Engineers

## J. Robert Fletcher 1915-2009



J. Robert Fletcher 1915 – 2009

Bob Fletcher, founder of J. H. Fletcher & Co., died on Memorial Day at his home in Huntington, WV. He was the last of the great engineers involved in the mechanization of our nation's underground coal mines. After earning his degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois, he and his father J.H. (Jim) Fletcher formed an engineering and consulting company in Chicago in 1937. They worked extensively on new systems, in particular the development of off track supply haulage and mainline belt systems in the Midwest coal fields. In these early years he collaborated with industry legends Chief Aronson, Art Lee and John Boyd to transform underground safety and productivity.

In 1947 Bob and his brother Bill (1921 – 2008) moved to Huntington, WV to expand their reach into the Appalachian coal fields. With the advent of roof bolting in the post war period they purchased a

garage apartment and began manufacturing the first mobile roof control drills in 1950. Working closely with industry leaders such as Dave Zeeger, Adler Spotte, Buster Roberts and Woods Talman, the company earned a reputation for innovation and custom design flexibility by developing the first internal dust collection systems (1952), introducing the first dual head drills (1956) and the first machine mounted ATRS temporary roof support systems (1969). Over the course of his long career, Bob Fletcher's innovations saved the lives of literally thousands of miners. Of the dozens of manufacturing companies spawned by the mine mechanization of the mid 20th century, Fletcher is one of the few to survive and thrive as an independent entity. Control of the closely held company remains securely in the hands of the family. With son in law, Sam Duncan (CEO), son, Jim Fletcher (Vice Chairman) and grandsons, Rod (VP – Production) and Chris (Assistant Safety Director) Duncan, active in the business, J. H. Fletcher & Co. looks forward to continuing the legacy of its founder.

# Canopy Removal

J.H. Fletcher & Co. ships all machines with a drill canopy. J.H. Fletcher & Co.'s policy is that a drill canopy adds to the protection of the bolter operator. At any height this canopy can provide the roof bolt operators protection from roof falls. The removal of the canopy has been undertaken by some of our customers when the mine height is at or below 42". The removal of this device has been at the discretion of the customer, and is not recommended by Fletcher. If you choose to remove the canopy, there are some issues you need to check, for instance: there must still be a pad on the support post ; normally the pad should be the size of the support post. Second, the accumulator circuit must incorporate into the support post/drill circuit that you leave on the machine so that the support post can be pressurized against the roof.



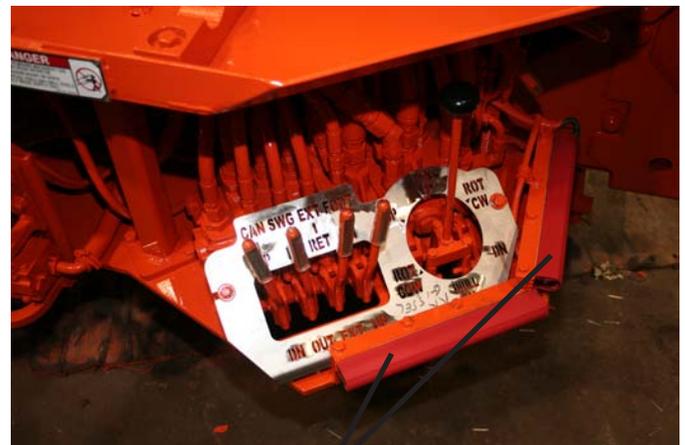
*NOTE: Canopies should never be pressurized against the roof. If you maintain the canopy on the machine, you must get an in lieu of —which requires the coal company to file a permit with MSHA. And lastly, if the operator continues to leave the canopy on the machine, Fletcher can help there. A variance with the Federal government will allow you to install a separate valve on the rear end of the boom. This valve allows the operator to swing the boom and raise and lower the canopy before he goes up to do drilling. This allows the operator to do his immediate set up first, and it still provides a way to raise or lower the canopy depending on roof conditions. If you are working without a*

*canopy, you may want to check the condition of your support post to see if it has an accumulator in the circuit. If you are unsure, please contact your Fletcher representative.*

## Maintenance Q&A

**Q** Are the tape switches, that disengage the electric motors, waterproof

**A** No, the tape switches are only water resistant. There are typically 4 tape switches on a Roof Ranger II roof bolter: one in the tram deck, one at the positioning controls and one on each boom arm. Each time the operator does the pre-operation checklist, the tape switches should be individually tested. For additional information about their location and proper inspection see the operators manual.



**Tape Switch**

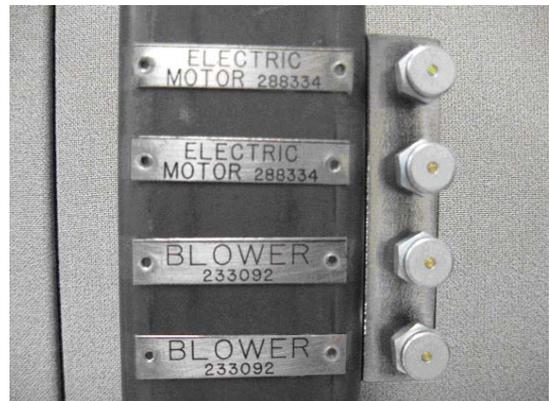
# Fletcher Rib Drills

In the past, J.H. Fletcher & Co. has mounted rib drills on a few customer's bolters. MSHA requires (CFR 75.1710) that the drill operator be covered by a canopy and dust collection for the drill on permissible electric face equipment. There can be an exception granted by the MSHA District Manager for specific mine applications. For J.H. Fletcher & Co. to accept a new order for one of these drills, the mine must furnish a copy of written notification from the MSHA District Manager to the mine that the drill can be operated safely and in compliance with MSHA without a rib drill operator canopy and/or a rib drill dust collection system. Also, the customer understands that they must inform J.H. Fletcher & Co. of any change in condition relevant to the granting of exception or the sale or transfer of the machine or any other cause for reevaluation.



# New Grease Specifications On Fletcher Equipment

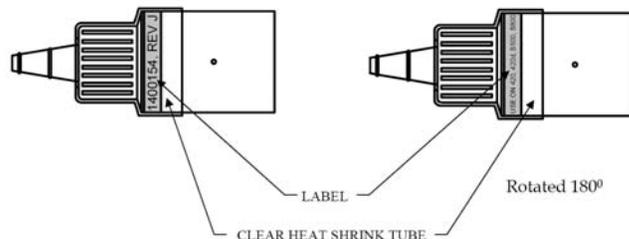
J.H. Fletcher & Co. specifies and recommends that Shell Lubricants be used in all Fletcher equipment. Recently, the grease used in the Reliance Electric Motor bearings became obsolete, as well as the grease normally used on the machine chassis. The current approved chassis grease is **SHELL RETINAX LX 2**. The current electric motor grease is **SHELL STAMINA RLS2** which is also approved for use in the blower bearings. J.H. Fletcher & Co. is changing the grease fittings of the blower to the same fittings always used on the electric motor. To ensure there is no mixture of the grease on the machine, we are changing the grease fittings so that there is one fitting for the electric motors and blowers and a separate fitting for the chassis and booms (see photo). We advise you to start changing your machine over when you have time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Phil Summerfield in our Quality Assurance Department.



# MSHA Program Notice

A program notice has recently been sent out by MSHA regarding General Monitors Machine Mounted Methane Monitoring Systems. This Program Information Bulletin (P07-27) is to inform the mining community of a retrofit program for the calibration cup for the General Monitors Machine Mounted Methane Monitoring Systems listed in the bulletin. In addition, General Monitors added a verification ("bump test") to the calibration procedure to ensure the unit is properly calibrated.

J.H. Fletcher & Co. has checked our records and found that we have installed the affected Methane Monitor on some machines. We are therefore reminding you once again, to review this important retrofit notice. MSHA has notified underground mine operators through this bulletin, however, if you have not received this important bulletin or have questions regarding the methane detector on your roof bolter, please call us.



## Employee News



J. H. Fletcher & Co. mourns the loss of one of their own. Bob Ellis passed away on May 27th, 2009. Bob was born in 1954 in Ashland, Ky and after spending time serving in the United States Air Force was employed for 30 years with

J. H. Fletcher & Co. as the MIS Director. His smile and kindness will be sadly missed by all those who worked with Bob.

J. H. Fletcher & Co. on the Web:

[www.jhfletcher.com](http://www.jhfletcher.com)

Now Available On-Line:

Literature, Newsletters, Bulletins, Published Papers

## Document Clarification

With each new or modernized machine, J. H. Fletcher & Co. provides the following documents: **Operator's Manual** (one on the machine and 6 copies), **Service Manual** (one laminated and one paper), and **Parts Book** (one laminated and one paper). All of these documents are also provided on a CD. If your machine is delivered without any of these documents please contact our Parts Books department at 304.525.7811 extension 269.



J. H. Fletcher & Co. has registered "Fletcher"® as a registered trademark, giving the company a specific identification for its products. When you see the trademarked name on your new or rebuilt parts, you can have confidence you are receiving genuine OEM components.

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