

# Fletcher

Product  
Newsletter



J. H. Fletcher & Co.    Huntington, West Virginia

September 1997

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**J. H. Fletcher & Co.** began in 1937 designing and selling specialized mining equipment. Sixty years later we are still going strong, manufacturing a line of roof bolters unmatched by any other company in the industry.

The employees of J. H. Fletcher & Co. celebrated 60 years of business this past July with a company picnic and a day of recreation with friends and family.

The entertainment was provided by Magician John Slicer and country music performer Paul Overstreet. The evening concluded with a drawing for various door prizes.

Sixty years of success would not have been possible without our customers. We thank you for your continued support.



Employees and their families  
enjoy the entertainment

## Deep Socket Drillhead

The drillhead is the hardest working component on a Fletcher Roof Bolter. Because of this; lubrication, maintenance and service will be required on the drillhead more than any other part of the bolter.

The gearbox contains oil that lubricates the gear, pinion, thrust bearing, roller bearing and lower mechanical seal.

The oil level should be checked every shift and the oil changed every week. The upper seals should be greased

every shift. This is done through the fittings in the drillhead cover or flinger.

Check the maintenance manual for your machine for the proper types of oil and grease.

If your drillhead needs to be rebuilt, J. H. Fletcher & Co. offers this service.

Contact your Fletcher sales or service representative for more information on drillhead rebuilding services.





## Maintenance Tip

# Washing Equipment

Regular cleaning and washing down of underground equipment is necessary to remove oil, grease and coal dust which can create a fire hazard. However, problems can occur from washing down the machine.

Although the various electrical enclosures (electric motor, lights, starter box, etc.) are permissible - they are not waterproof. During operation the electric motors, lights and starter box will generate heat. If cold water is sprayed onto these components while they are still hot the air inside will be cooled which will create a vacuum that can draw water inside the component.



**Do not direct high pressure spray to the base of the shaft**

Electric motors suffer the greatest damage. Water is drawn in around the shaft and into the bearings, corrosion and bearing failure soon follow. To prevent this problem, always allow the machine to cool before washing.

## Change in RR-II Valve Bank

The original design of the RR-II Dual Boom Roof Drill Offset Boom utilized a Commercial valve bank for operation of the feed and rotation functions while a Gresen valve bank was used for the canopy, foot, extend and swing functions.

Although the Gresen valve bank performed adequately, the relatively small valve spools and control handle assemblies associated with this valve bank were felt to be a maintenance problem by some customers.

To eliminate these spool and handle assembly problems we decided to replace the Gresen valve bank with a Commercial valve bank which was integrated

with the existing Commercial valve bank that controlled the drill feed and rotation.

Besides eliminating the spool and handle maintenance problems, this change also eliminated some of the hosing required in this area of the machine.

This change can be made to existing RR-II machines in the field. If you would like additional information please contact your local Fletcher sales or service representative or our Service Department (304) 525-7811



**Right Hand Boom**  
Gresen Valve



**Left Hand Boom**  
Commercial Valve

Safety  
Notice

# ANSUL Cartridges

Safety  
Notice

Throughout the coal mining industry, gas (carbon dioxide or nitrogen) cartridges are utilized to activate the dry chemicals in fire extinguisher systems. To operate J. H. Fletcher & Co. fire extinguisher systems on our bolters, a nitrogen filled gas cartridge is discharged, usually at the operator's station. This system, if maintained properly, will extinguish a fire located on your equipment. However, the internal seal that prevents the nitrogen from escaping from the ANSUL cartridges could rupture unintentionally, without warning, if they are not installed or stored properly. This accidental activation (rupture) could result in serious injury or death. Therefore, J. H. Fletcher & Co. is reminding our customers that these cartridges are under extreme pressure and that care should be taken at all times during the installation and storage of these pressurized vessels.

J. H. Fletcher & Co. advises you to take steps to ensure all cartridges are stored separately; shipping caps are replaced on the cartridges when they are not attached to the fire extinguisher systems; and that no cartridge is stored at or near a high heat source (direct sunlight, welding, etc.). We advise you to reevaluate the use and storage policy in your shop and take immediate steps to ensure your employees are aware of and trained on the dangers of these small but highly pressurized cartridges. To assist you in your efforts to train your employees, ANSUL has provided J. H. Fletcher & Co. specific information (February 29, 1984, Section III System Components, Technical Bulletin Number 31 and Technical Bulletin Number 34).

J. H. Fletcher & Co. will supply you with a free copy of these ANSUL documents. Just call David P. Cooper at (304) 525-7811 (Ext. 240). Once you receive this information and develop your own safety message on this subject, please share this information with all affected employees, including your shop employees and the warehouse clerks. We

believe educating your employees on this matter could prevent serious injury or death when employees are handling pressurized vessel cartridges.

*David Cooper is the Risk Manager  
for J. H. Fletcher & Co.*



*ANSUL Cartridge*



## New Employee

Lannie Robinson recently joined J. H. Fletcher & Co. as Service Representative for Southern West Virginia. Lannie came to Fletcher after being employed for four years with Elk

Run Coal Co. Before that he was with Valley Camp Coal Co. for fifteen years.

Lannie resides in Charleston, WV with his wife and two children. In addition to going to youth soccer games Lannie enjoys distance running.

We feel Lannie will be a valuable asset for J. H. Fletcher & Co. as well as our customers.

*Lannie can be reached by calling  
304-525-7811 EXT 426*

## Information Bulletin No. 70

J. H. Fletcher & Co. has been informed of two accidents that have occurred on RRII roof bolters when the machine unintentionally trammed forward resulting in injuries to the operators.

The major contributing factor leading to these accidents was that one of the tram levers was partially stuck in the ON position when the machine's hydraulic systems were energized. The machine moved forward without any activation of a tram lever by the operator. These incidents were caused by a lever that was sticking and would not spring back to neutral as originally designed.

To prevent such an occurrence, J. H. Fletcher & Co. is sending our customers literature on this subject. If you have not received your **free** packet, **Bulletin No. 70**, we recommend you call the Risk Management Department, so that we can send you one today.

The information contained in this newsletter has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, and the editors have exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy. However, J. H. Fletcher & Co. does not guarantee that contents of this publication are correct and statements attributed to other sources do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of J. H. Fletcher & Co.

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J. H. Fletcher & Co.

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