

Fletcher

Product
Newsletter



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

May 1996

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Fletcher MRS Systems The Next Generation

Since 1989 when we shipped our first Mobile Roof Support System, we have been constantly improving it's design.

Comparison between the Fletcher MRS Machines of today and those first produced exhibit a vast improvement in maintainability, reliability and versatility.

Today's units are modular in design, allowing for changes in overall operating height ranges. Also, the current units feature a horizontal axis cable reel and spooler (the same proven design used on our roof drills).

The plow has been designed to house the cable reel as well as the starter box. A large door in the front of the plow allows ready access to the starter.

Just recently we shipped a set of units to Australia. These machines featured canopy tilt and a 800 ton (optional) load rating (600 ton standard). These units also incorporated 75 HP (optional) electric motors (50 HP standard) allowing a 25 foot per minute increase in tram speed.

Now provided as standard equipment is the Structured Mining Remote Radio System. This system offers numerous advantages:

- * Transmitter is smaller with a self contained antenna and long life rechargeable battery.
- * Receiver is smaller, allowing more room for other components in the starter box.

For long moves, two of the machines can be operated by radio remote while the other two can be operated by a hard wire remote system, allowing all four machines to be moved at once.

In the near future we plan changes in the electrical system allowing for the elimination of the relays and solenoid pilot valve bank by driving the main control valve bank directly from the radio receiver.

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Larry Howe Named Marketing Manager for MRS Product Line

Effective the first of this year, Larry Howe joined Fletcher as Manager of Marketing for our MRS Product Line.



Larry Howe

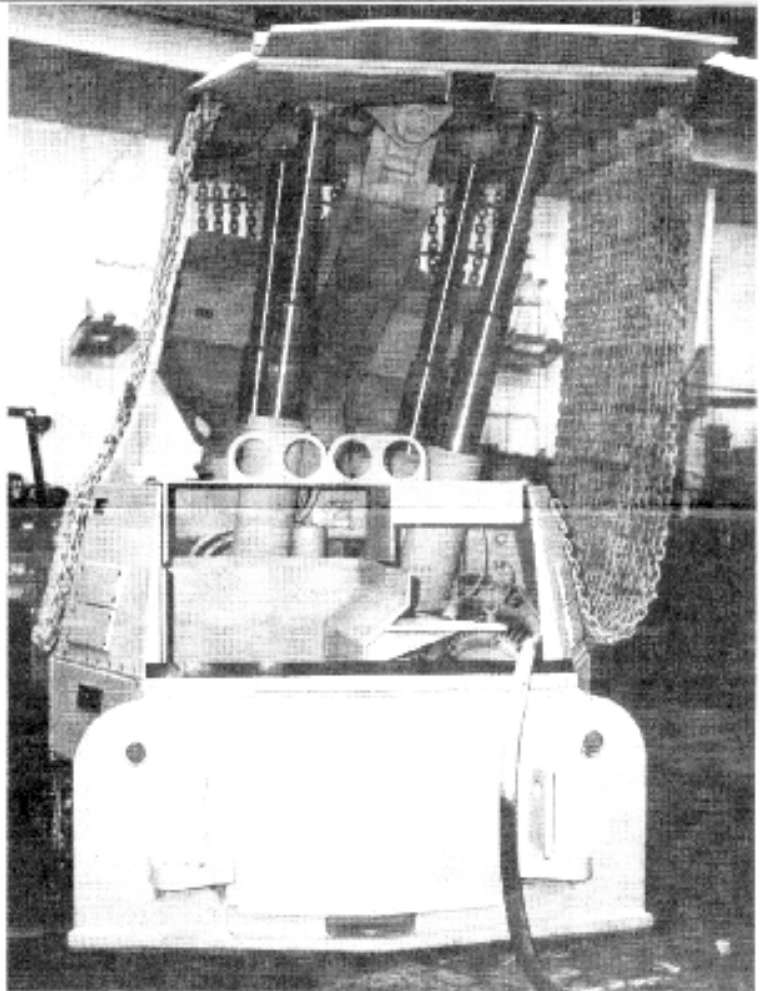
Larry is no stranger to the utilization of Mobile Roof Supports in pillar mining. He was president of Donaldson Mining (Kanawha County, WV), the first American mining company to use mobile roof supports in pillar mining.

If you have any questions about using Fletcher's MRS System in pillar mining please

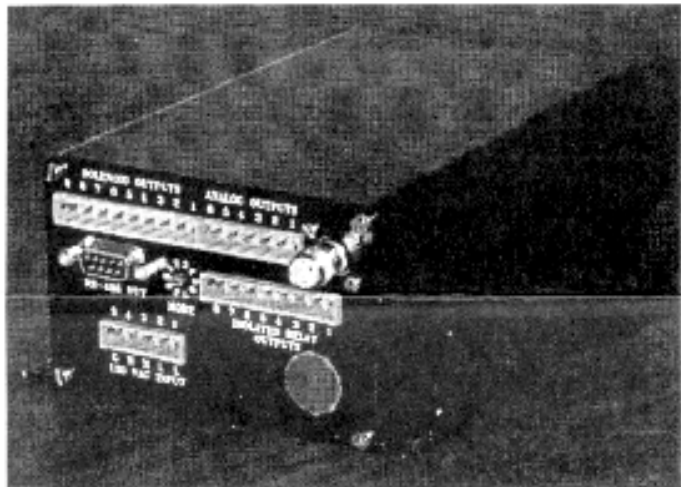
...The Next Generation (continued from Page 1)



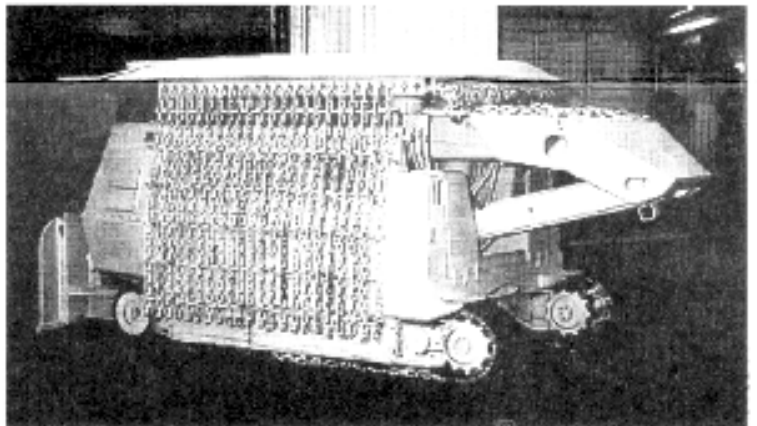
Structured Mining System Remote Radio Transmitter with internal antenna and long-life rechargeable battery.



Unit shipped to Australia which featured side to side canopy tilt, 100 HP electric motor and 800 ton load rating.



Structured Mining System Remote Radio Receiver



MRS equipped with new heavy duty chain curtains

If you would like more information on our Mobile Roof Supports please contact Larry Howe, Manager c/

Maintenance Shift

MISUSE OF THE PLATFORM LIFT

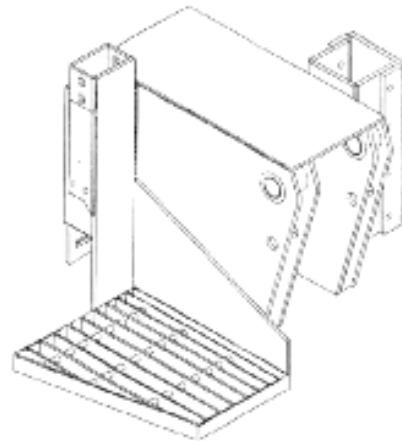
J.H. Fletcher & Co. wishes to inform you of one potentially serious accident that has occurred on an independent platform lift HDDR roof bolter. This accident occurred when a previously damaged driller's platform had been welded to the platform lift housing at the mine site, and the weld apparently failed at the platform to platform lift housing attachment. It is believed that the welding had been required because the operators had left the platform lowered to the floor during tramming and cracked the plate connecting the platform to the platform lift housing.

Therefore, J.H. Fletcher & Co. is requesting that all owners of HDDR roof bolters, particularly those with independent platform lift arrangements, check regularly to ensure that the lifting mechanism has not been compromised by this type of misuse. If you have an independent platform lift as shown on the drawing, check the platform attachment.

J.H. Fletcher & Co. feels if there is need to lower the platform to the floor, or swing the boom with the platform close to the ground, the operator should be trained to lift the platform before repositioning the machine. Misusing the product could jeopardize the attachment of the platform to the boom or affect the lifting capabilities of the platform.

To prevent serious injury or death, J.H. Fletcher & Co. requests that all HDDR owners check the platform lifts to ensure they are working properly, and to make this part of the machine maintenance program. The accident occurred on a platform lift; however, we are encouraging all customers who own these drills to evaluate the condition of their equipment.

If you have any questions, or need field assistance, please call our Risk Management Department at (304) 525-7811.



EXAMPLE OF INDEPENDENT PLATFORM LIFT MODEL HDDR ROOF BOLTER INVOLVED IN ACCIDENT

ROCKER PADS

Many Fletcher Roof Drills have manually positioned ATRS roof support pads (also referred to as rocker pads). To make sure the ATRS system is in compliance these roof support pads, along with their associated components, must be examined on a regular basis.



TYPICAL ATRS ROOF SUPPORT PAD (ROCKER PAD)

First the roof support pad (or rocker pad) must not be bent or broken. A bent pad will not contact the roof properly. Also, if the top of the pad is bent down this means that the metal has yielded and will no longer provide full design strength. Therefore, it must be replaced immediately.

Next make sure the pads are installed correctly. The maximum spacing between the inside ends of the rocker pads

Also, the pins must not be bent or broken.

Finally, the pins must be retained in the rocker pad assembly with a cotter pin which meets the original equipment manufacturer's (OEM) specifications. Check your parts book for the correct part number or call your Fletcher service representative or an authorized Fletcher parts distributor in your area.



CORRECT METHOD OF RETAINING ROCKER PAD PIN WITH COTTER PIN



VIDEO CATALOG AVAILABLE

Fletcher currently has available, free of charge, a variety of training programs on video tape (VHS Format).

These tapes cover the areas of *TRAINING SUPPLEMENTS, OPERATOR TRAINING, MAINTENANCE TRAINING* and *INFORMATIONAL*.

To obtain a copy of our Video Catalog please contact our Risk Management Department between 8 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday at (304) 525-7811 Extension 240 or 281.

WANTED: IDEAS OF FUTURE ARTICLES

If you have an idea for an article that you would like to see us cover in the Fletcher Product Newsletter, please let us know.

Our first priority is safety; however articles on maintenance, new products and general interest are also included for publication.

Please send your ideas to: J.H. Fletcher & Co., Box 2187, Huntington, West Virginia 25722-2187, attention Dave Cooper, Risk Manager.

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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FREE SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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