

Minster Presses Built for the Long Run

At the Johnson Manufacturing Company in Urbana, Ohio, the employees joke that the only person who has been around as long as "that Minster Press" is Lowell Rhodes. But even with 43 years on the job, Rhodes has to take a back seat to the Minster No. 6 OBI Press, which was already 15 years-old when he began working for the company.

Sold in 1928, the Minster No. 6 Press is an example of Minster's commitment to quality, exhibited through durability and versatility.

The Johnson Manufacturing Company, a division of Q3 JMC, engages in a wide range of high tech metal-to-product applications for a variety of industries. In the stamping room, the Minster No. 6 press still maintains a prominent spot on the floor where it is currently used to stamp parts for air tanks.

"It has been a remarkable utility press, Rhodes said. "It's so handy we've stuck about everything on there, and it does a good job."

How many parts have come off that Minster press in the 58 years it has been in use?

"It's hard to say exactly...but it's several million for sure." Rhodes said, "and that's without any major problems."

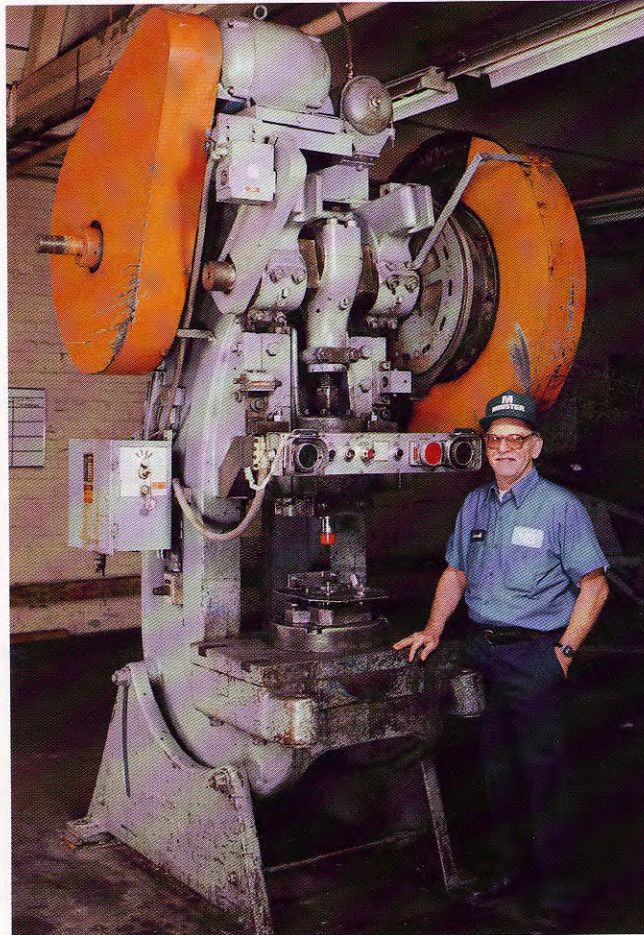
Established in 1902, Johnson Manufacturing was at one time a major supplier of tinware to railroad companies throughout the midwest. The Minster No. 6 press was originally used to stamp parts for oil cans, coal buckets, lanterns and other items used by railroad companies.

And as technology advanced, the Minster press did not outlive its usefulness. The press has been updated to meet safety regulations and in 1983 was fitted with a new clutch.

"That's really a trouble-free press, Maintenance Supervisor Leonard Holbrook said. "Grease it once a month, keep the oil cup full and it's ready to run whenever we need it."

"It's an exceptionally well built press when you consider we've had it that long without any major problems," Maintenance Manager Don Randall said. "And I can tell you that press has taken its fair share of abuse and then some."

The Minster Machine Company, currently celebrating its 100th Anniversary, has been manufacturing metal forming presses since 1926. In the past 60 years very few Minster



Lowell Rhodes stands beside the Minster No. 6 OBI press, which was sold in 1928, and is still in use at the Johnson Manufacturing Company.

presses have outlived their usefulness, a glowing testimony to the quality of the machines.

Since 1926 Minster has sold over 29,000 presses and Bob Stueve, Manager of Minster's Service Department, estimates that the percentage of Minster presses still in use is in "the high 90s."

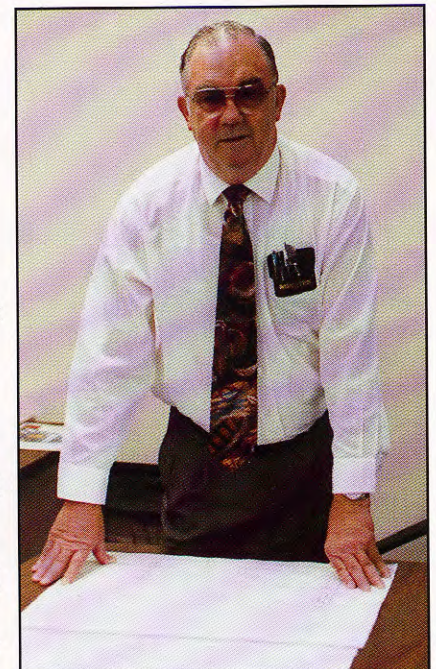
"It's hard to say for certain," said Stueve, a 34-year veteran of Minster's Service Department. "We get a lot of calls on old presses, mostly from people looking to purchase a used press. And our servicemen frequently come across the older press models still being used in the field."

Minster has a tradition of backing up its equipment with exceptional service. And that service does not end after 20, 40 or 60 years. Minster keeps detailed records on every press it has ever built, including blueprints, all records of service performed by Minster and sales information when the re-sale was reported to Minster.

And when you purchase a Minster press, you'll never need to worry about the availability of replacement parts.

"We stock standard wear items for most every standard press we've ever built, except for Key clutch parts." Stueve said.

From the high quality of the original construction to a dedicated service organization, The Minster Machine Company is committed to providing its customers with equipment that simply will last a lifetime and beyond.



Service Dept. Manager Bob Stueve reviews a parts print.