



bradley News

Friday, December 8, 1972

You Can't Beat a Machine

Two kinds of machines, power presses and circular saws, are running a close race for the dishonor of being the champion "finger taker-offers." It's a battle all the way. It looks now, though, as if saws might win. The increasing use of poorly guarded saws for home workshops is giving them a big boost.

There is one fact that everyone who works on any machine that cuts, or shapes, or forms anything, should always keep in the front of his mind. That fact is that the machine needs only *one bite*. One bite and off goes a hand or some fingers, off in a flash, a fraction of second. Such can be the case with a punch press, for example.

You're probably thinking that a punch press can't hurt you if you don't put your hand under the ram. That's right, of course. And you'd probably add, "on the downstroke." That's not altogether right. If the power is locked off and the setup is such that the ram can't come down of its own weight, it's O.K. But unless you're sure, *positively sure*, that the ram can't descend, you're terribly wrong to put your hand under it, regardless of whether its position is upstroke or downstroke.

The big danger in thinking of the upstroke as safe is that it tempts one to reach in at that time. Particularly if a piece gets a little out of position or jams. That ram works fast. If your timing is just a trifle off, if you're just a little slow in getting that hand out of there—*Bang*. Another hand is smashed. We've got another cripple. Another guy has lost part of his future. So has his family, his kids, if he has any. That's bad business, very bad.

The punch press is only one type of equipment that workers might try to beat. It goes back to the fact that people don't like to make mistakes. If they see that they have fed a piece into a machine crooked, it's almost natural to try to grab and straighten it before the part is ruined. Perhaps they can, with a quick grab. The catch, though, is that no person ever lived or ever will live who can do it *all* the time without missing. Nobody has muscles

and nerves and control that never miss. Anyone who tries to beat a machine's action is making about the worst of all bets. It's his hand, and all that it means to him, against what? A fraction of a second? A fraction of a cent?

This holds true for all kinds of mechanical actions—running rips, turning actions, shearing actions, or the many kinds of mechanical movement. We see them everywhere both on or off the job. If someone were to bait a rat trap with a dollar bill and ask one of you to pick out the buck before the trap snapped, you'd tell him to go jump in the lake. You know what a rap on the fingers you'd be almost sure to get when the trap snapped shut.

It wouldn't be worth a dollar to risk the pain that would result. Only a fool would gamble that he could get out of the danger area before the trap closed.

Yet the same guy who would turn you down cold on that rat trap proposition might take a chance on adjusting or oiling a machine while it's running, or pick a piece out before the press closes, or place his hands very close to the point of operation.

There are a number of important things to remember in working around powered machinery. Never try to oil or adjust the equipment while it is in motion. If you are going to make

adjustments which will require you to place your hands or other parts of your body in a danger area, be sure the switch is off and tagged or locked out, so that no one else can start the machine.

Don't remove a guard unless the machine is completely shut down, tagged out, or locked out, and be sure the guard is replaced before you start it up again. Many operations that require hand feeding near a danger area use special feeding devices to keep the hands in the clear. For example, men operating power saws use pusher sticks and press operators are often furnished soft metal pliers or tongs. If the job requires such handling equipment, use it. Don't have to be reminded to use it or claim that it's clumsy or hard to use. If you can figure out some other handling device that is better than the one we are now using, let's talk it over. Since you're around the machine more than anyone else, you should know more about its peculiarities and how to get around them than anyone else.

Of course, wearing loose clothing, neckties, rings or other objects that could catch on a moving part is not good sense around a machine. We've got to admit that we can't beat a machine. Let's not give it a running start.

NSC's FIVE MINUTE SAFETY
TALK SERIES—BOOK 7 NO. 23

STOP, LOOK, AND LOCK OUT





OLD TIMER OF THE WEEK

One of the friendliest and most popular people in the Bradley Division, DONALD P. RAYMOND, is this week's honored employee. Like so many of our non-Irish employees he was born on St. Patrick's Day, forty-one years ago, which accounts for his middle initial. After working at Splear Bros. greenhouse for five years, DON came to work at Bradley on April 29, 1952 as a sweeper. His entire career has been spent in the same department and for the last seven years his job has been Automatic Floor Sweeper.

DON and his wife GARNETTE have been married 18 years and have no children. They live at 305 Albert Blvd. with his mother-in-law.

This great little Old Timer likes to watch television and work around the house. He used to like to take trips, but not any more. He has enjoyed working at Bradley and especially likes the people even though he takes a lot of good natured ribbing. He feels very fortunate to have worked for the four fine bosses: BUD HAYS, VERN WILLIAMS, FORREST BARRIBALL and DICK LANEY.

Congratulations to DENNIS D/35 and SHEILA PRINCE on the birth of their fourth child, a boy DENNIS JR. born November 27.

MR. KENNETH H. SEITZ, Mgr. of OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturing) Product Sales, submits the following copy which should be of interest to all our employees:

Production on the new line of Roper Industrial Engines is scheduled to begin about the first of January. A part of Ropers promotion of these new products will be a bi-monthly new letters that will be mailed to a select prospect lists. Because we believe you may be interested in this new venture, we will include copies of these new letters along with your regular weekly letter as they are available. The first of these will be included with next weeks mailing.

We extend sincere sympathy to the family of Retiree JIM EBY who passed away last week.

IT HAPPENS ON MONDAYS "BOWLING THAT IS" BY HAROLD SIEFERT

I guess you'd have to say things are looking up, especially after Monday nite. No less than 14 series over 500 were rolled and eight 200 games. They say big things come in "little" packages and a guy by the name of BOBBY SHOFF proved it Monday night. BOBBY not only came up with a nice 586 series but took over high game actual with a big 247 game. Nice going BOB. The Forgers team did a little "bombing", sorry, I should say bowling, you can get into trouble using that word anymore. They "only" had a 3052 series for the night and that will be hard to beat anytime. Four members of that team had over 500.

Needless to say, the Forgers took 4 points with that big series from Assembly, the Welders kept pace taking four from the Machine Shop. Stores took three points from Tool Room, and the pace setting Truckers were "held" to a split for the night with the Cutting-In team.

Other good games and series were BOB SHOFF 247-586, KENDALL 528, SIEFERT 205-507, FORBES 507, GRAF 211, STUMP 516, GERACI 510, ESSINGTON 534, GABE KEROUAC 216-572, OVNICH 513, LEO RICHA 511, BROWN 531, WASETIS 217-550, and BUD MENARD 205-213-575.

I know all the fellas in the league want to take their hats off to LOUIE RICHA, who gave it the old college try, but has been forced by ill health to put away the old bowling ball. We all wish him well, and I hope he knows he'll be missed. Good luck LOUIE.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Retiree MANLEY "PETE" THADEN and his wife ESSIE will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, Dec. 17 at the Kankakee Labor Temple. PETE hopes all his old friends will show up, at 2 P.M.

FOR SALE: Like new, Men's Hockey Skates Size 7 Mens figure skates size 11. Call 933-7171.

FOR SALE: Yamaha Mini Endura Motorcycle. Like new. \$225. Call 932-0363.

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