

Minster, a Reliable Solution for A.J. Rose

In 1976, the A.J. Rose Manufacturing Company needed a new press, but what The Minster Machine Company offered was a solution.

Production of stamped water pump hubs began at A.J. Rose in the early 1960's using hand-fed, single point, gap presses. When volume and quality requirements increased, three single point straight side presses equipped with transfers were implemented. With very poor tool life and frequent press failure, it became apparent that this was not the answer and something had to be done.

"At the time, we were interested in more than just replicating the existing technology," says A.J. Rose President, David Pritchard. "That's when we began talking to the people at Minster. Dick Fortman at Minster and Joe Zimmerman from Methods Machinery put together some ideas that would really help us solve some of our problems."



As a result, A.J. Rose purchased its first Minster press - an E2 250 ton transfer

press featuring a patented Minster Die-Namic quick die change system.

"Capable of operating at over 100 strokes per minute with quick die change capability, it proved to be one of the most successful technology implementations we've ever had," Pritchard said. "Over the years we have implemented technology improvements in press and process controls, but to this day, I don't know anything we can do to make the basic system much better."

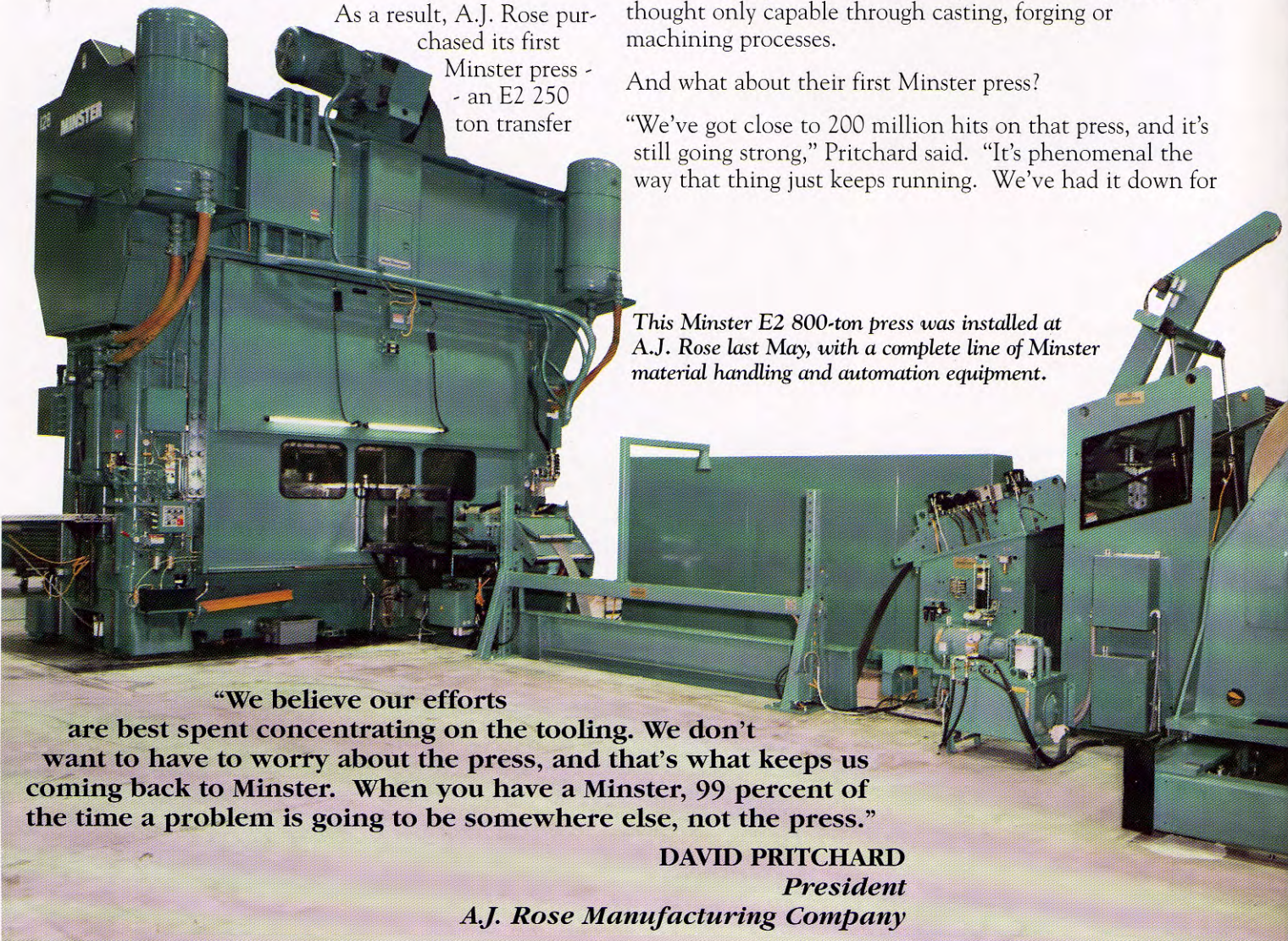
Twenty years and 11 brand new Minster presses later, A.J. Rose Manufacturing has built a reputation in the contract stamping industry as a producer of "Best in the World" quality. Last spring the company held a grand opening for its sophisticated new corporate office and stamping facility in Avon, Ohio.

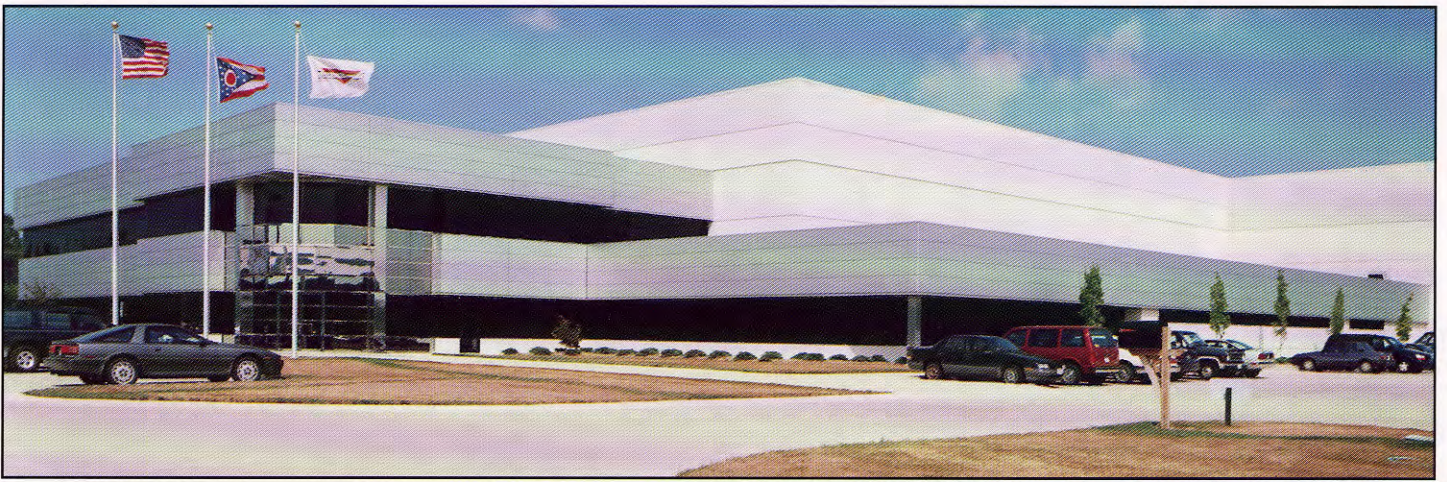
Founded in 1922, A.J. Rose Manufacturing also operates a 100,000 square foot stamping facility in nearby Cleveland. Together the two facilities produce some of the most intricate stamped parts in the industry, which were previously thought only capable through casting, forging or machining processes.

And what about their first Minster press?

"We've got close to 200 million hits on that press, and it's still going strong," Pritchard said. "It's phenomenal the way that thing just keeps running. We've had it down for

This Minster E2 800-ton press was installed at A.J. Rose last May, with a complete line of Minster material handling and automation equipment.





The A.J. Rose Manufacturing Company held a grand opening ceremony for its new corporate offices and manufacturing facility in Avon, Ohio last March.

some normal maintenance issues, but we've never had a major component fail.

"That 250-ton ton press has proved to be a reliable machine and a system as a whole," Pritchard continued. "The quick change system was just what we needed and the tolerances we could hold were outstanding. The part quality took a dramatic leap. That was the first machine that we recognized the advantage of getting into more of a system approach."

Today A.J. Rose utilizes Minster's sophisticated material handling and automation equipment with many of its systems.

"The equipment is fast, accurate, durable and the people at Minster work with us to configure the equipment to a specific need," Pritchard said.

Equipped with standard eccentric crankshafts, E2 straight side presses make up the majority of A.J. Rose's Minster line.

"Because of shock, we had been replacing cranks on the other brand of presses pretty regularly until we started buying Minsters," Pritchard said. "Those presses totally sold us on the concept of an eccentric shaft."

"The overall rigidity of the presses is substantial and the level of up-time you get with a Minster is outstanding," he continued. "Minster presses don't yet take care of themselves but they're getting close."

Pritchard has also been impressed with the level of service his company gets from Minster.

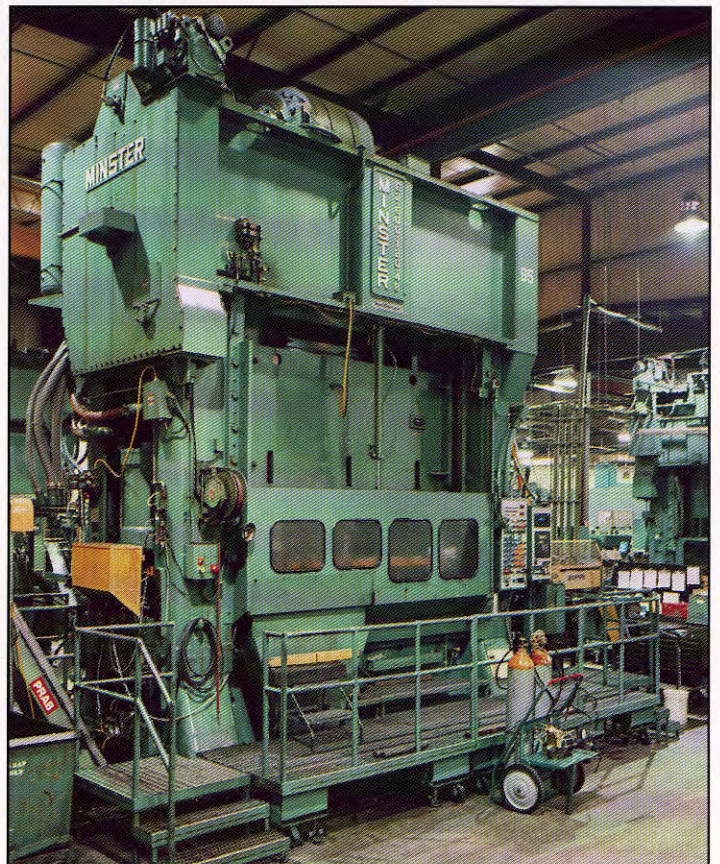
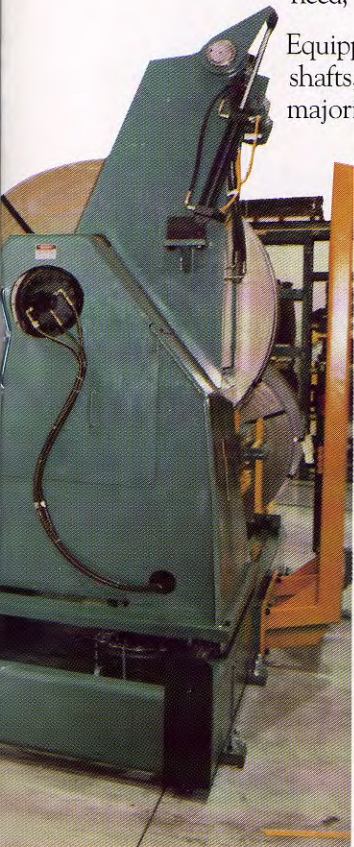
"Minster has a tremendous amount of expertise, and they are willing to share it with you," he said.

"Anytime we have a question, the service group at Minster responds.

Our technicians have also benefitted from some of the excellent training programs Minster conducts."

But for Pritchard the strongest selling point of a Minster press is peace of mind.

"We believe our efforts are best spent concentrating on the tooling. We don't want to have to worry about the press, and that's what keeps us coming back to Minster," Pritchard said. "When you have a Minster, 99 percent of the time a problem is going to be somewhere else, not the press."



Minster E2 presses like this 600-ton press perform sophisticated transfer applications at the A.J. Rose manufacturing facility in Cleveland, Ohio.