

Variety of washers and parts produced by Washers, Inc. on Minster Piece-Maker presses.

Two of the three Minster P2-200-48, 200 ton capacity Piece-Maker presses now being used for high speed production of parts ranging from small washers to brackets weighing over 2 lbs.

Washers, Inc.

found their own kind of quality in Minster presses.

Every month Washers, Inc., Livonia, Michigan, produces millions of special high carbon steel washers for the automotive industry. In addition to every conceivable size and type of washer, the company makes larger transmission parts, spring hangers, brackets, suspension retainers, etc. About 65% of their production goes direct to the "big four" for use in cars and trucks, with the balance being shipped to other automotive suppliers who make washer-bolt assemblies. The company has 35 metal-forming presses of all types ranging from 3 to 300 ton capacity and processes about 1800 tons of steel a month.

Quality control is a top priority of the people at Washers, Inc. To assure compliance with their own high standards they operate a fully equipped quality control and test department. The company designs, builds and maintains its own dies.

Before 1976 is over, Washers, Inc. will start up four new Minster Piece-Maker® high speed automatic production presses as they replace equipment to upgrade their stamping operations to heavier tonnage production of larger parts. The firm already has three Minster 200 ton Piece-Maker presses in operation and their performance has led to the orders for the new 200 ton and three 100 ton presses.

FIRST MINSTER PRESSES BOUGHT ON REPUTATION

Washers, Inc. purchased their first Minster Piece-Maker press four years ago. William W. McKetrick, General Manager explained. "We knew the Minster reputation for being the top quality press in the industry. We wanted a new 200 ton press and we looked at a lot of them. Some of our people had previous experience with Minsters. We talked to other Minster press users and they gave them a good recommendation."

Asked if the Minster presses had lived up to expectations, McKetrick replied, "Speed is the name of the game. Minster presses are worth some extra cost

because we can run 100,000 to 200,000 hits between die grinds. In our business quality control is essential. We make only first grade parts here and the Minsters give us the accuracy we need."

Bruno Marchi, Plant Manager says, "It's a tremendous press. The accuracy of the slide guiding is the thing. We get an extra 10,000 hits between die grinds, even when running slightly off-center loading. The press is easier to use. You can set it up faster and get more production . . . more parts per shift and better tool life."

He continued, "We have a minimum of problems with them. There's very little downtime. The new Minster presses coming in soon will give us much more flexibility in our production. We'll get quicker start-ups on new parts . . . use bigger dies because of the larger die areas."

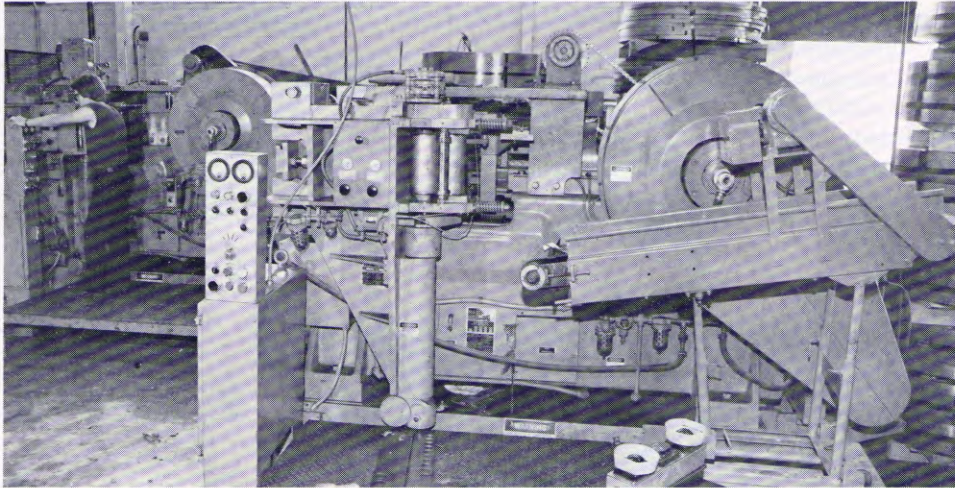


John Kantgias Vice-President, left, George Strumbos, President, center, and William McKettrick, General Manager review some of the parts which the firm supplies to the automotive industry.

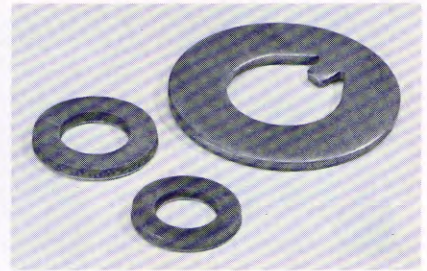
Two Minster No. 7 horizontal presses stamp flat washers from high carbon steel at 200 to 300 spm. depending on size, parts are run 2, 4, 8 or 10 out per stroke.



Cecil Combs, Foreman left, and Bruno Marchi, Plant Manager inspect progressive die strip being run in a Minster Piece-Maker press.



Flat washers like these are stamped in the Minster Horizontal presses.



Washers, Inc.

is one of five affiliated companies owned by George Strumbos and John Kantgias, two congenial and dynamic gentlemen who are extremely well-experienced in every facet of this die and stamping business.

In 1960 the two were sales representatives selling parts and materials to the automotive industry. They chose to go into the washer stamping business together. Purchasing a tiny plant, with a few old presses, on Detroit's lower east side, they started out doing practically all the work themselves. They lugged material, ran presses, typed invoices, etc. Through hard work, concentrated sales effort, some dedicated employees and quality products, the small firm grew at a steady



Modern plant of Washers, Inc. built in 1969, is currently being enlarged to handle volume of business; more presses and larger material inventory areas.

pace. They built the company into one of the largest in their specialized business and moved into a 40,000 sq. ft. plant in 1969.

Today the fast-growing facility is staffed by more than 100 enthusiastic people

who produce well over a half billion parts a year. Among the secrets of success of Washers, Inc. is their emphasis on quality control, the use of fine equipment and a policy of putting profits back into the company.