

Winter 2001

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THE CHAMPION CHRONICLE

The CP2000:

A Collaborative Effort Results in an Innovative Product

Two years ago at the ICUEE show, the latest OK Champion cable puller, the CP2000, made its debut. Built as a half-scale prototype capable of pulling light cable in the 8,000-lb. range, the CP2000 is ideal for pulling fiber optic and light communication and power distribution cable. However, more than a productive pulling unit, the true innovation behind the CP2000 lies in its pulling frame, which is mounted on a rotating device with hydraulic cylinders and features an Adams CD winch at the top. This unique setup enables the CP2000 to access hard-to-reach manholes with the greatest of ease.



Bob Erwin, President of Richmond Hill, Ontario-based Amac Equipment Limited, gave some background on the development of the new unit.

He explained how Expertech Network Installation an Amac client wanted a cable pulling vehicle similar to the OK Champion Cable Scrapper they owned, but needed a feature that would enable the unit to pull and place cable from a position other than directly over the manhole cover.

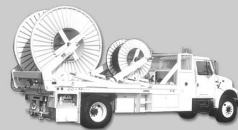
Turning to OK Champion, Paul Knoerzer suggested a solution for Expertech and built a prototype to test the unit for effectiveness before full-scale production.

OK Champion demonstrated the new unit and, in a collaborative effort between OK Champion, Amac, and Expertech, improvements were suggested and, subsequently, made.

The CP2000 has a number of features that

TOPPS in Reel Loader Safety

In the last issue of *The Champion Chronicle*, we introduced



TOPPS an acronym that stands for Training, Operation, Positioning, Protection, and Standardization.

In this issue, we've applied the TOPPS program to help you gain a greater understanding, proper operation, and safe operating practices for OK Champion reel loaders.

Trainig

At our OK Champion testing site, your equipment operators will have the opportunity to practice the skills for safe and efficient reel loader operation.

Operation

When it comes to safe reel loader use, always consider the following safety practices. First, if your vehicle is equipped with stabilizer jacks, lower the jacks before operating the reel loader. Then, insert pins or collars on the spindle bars before transferring reels or paying out cable, ensuring that you disengage the spindle bar latches before transferring reels.

Positioning

successfully meets clients needs, including:

- Due to its compact size, the CP2000 can go on a small cab/chassis, which makes it very maneuverable, especially in downtown areas.
- The pulling frame allows great flexibility in setup; it has pitch and yaw cylinders that allow cable to be installed in ducts that are not directly under the manhole.
- It has extended reach to work in very deep vaults.

There are many more advantages to the CP2000. For more information on this innovative new unit, contact OK Champion today.

UPCOMING SHOWS

OK Champion will be highlighting its equipment at the upcoming National Truck Equipment Association (NTEA) show from March 5-8, 2002, in Orlando, Florida. For more information about the show and the particular products that will be on-site, contact the main office at 800-431-9192.

Do not operate the reel loader or payout cable when the vehicle is on a sidehill.

Protection

Keep the reel loader deck clear of material that could jam or damage the reel loader mechanisms. Most importantly, make sure all personnel are clear of reels and the vehicle before moving reels, reel arms, or the vehicle!

Standardization

No matter which OK Champion product line you use, always follow the principles outlined in TOPPS for consistent, safe operating practices. Check with the safety representative in your company for additional personal protection or safe operating practices.

Spotlight on OK Champion Dealer, Commercial Body Corporation

San Antonio, Texas-based Commercial Body Corporation (CBC) has been carrying the OK Champion line of power rodders and rodder-pullers for the past three years, covering the Texas and New Mexico territory.


When it comes to OK Champion products, I know that the quality, innovation, and productivity is there for my customers, said Kent Grist, CBC Vice President of Sales. And just as CBC has been meeting the needs of utility, telecommunications, and water companies since 1935, OK Champion's dedication to the highest quality and service standards is an excellent complement to CBC's business philosophy and work ethic.

OK CHAMPION HONORED WITH ENTREPRENEURIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

At a luncheon held on October 20, 2001, members of the Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Center honored OK Champion's Pete Knoerzer, Chairman; Paul Knoerzer, President; Harvey Reed, Vice President; and Kate Knoerzer, Assistant Treasurer-Secretary with the Small Business Person of the Year Award.

Nominated by Amy L. Kezy, Assistant Vice President, Commercial Loan Officer, Mercantile National Bank, OK Champion was recognized for its innovation, quality, and success in the underground cable industry, as well as its ongoing support for local charities and organizations.

Jim Morton Promoted to Sales Coordinator



Jim Morton, an OK Champion employee for the past 17 years, certainly knows his way around the OK Champion shop. Originally hired as a full-time machine operator in 1984, Jim's job functions moved into welding for the machine shop and assembly shop. In 1994, he went back to the machine shop as a Machine Shop Coordinator, where he was in charge of coordinating and scheduling jobs through this department. In 1998, he was promoted to the Second Shift Supervisor, and in 2000, he was moved to Production Supervisor for the day shift.

In his new position as an Inside Sales Coordinator, Jim interacts with customers on a daily basis, accepting all part order calls, assisting customers with equipment operation, and interfacing directly with OK Champion's engineering team to gain the insight and knowledge to respond to customers' needs in an informative and timely manner.