



The Thyssen Drift

President's Message

Well, another winter is out of the way and I can now look forward to our few days of summer over the next 4 months.

Also, another board meeting is out of the way. Thanks to all who contributed to a successful visit. The board is generally pleased with the progress the company has made, as am I. We still have a few hurdles to get over yet, but all are working diligently toward this.

Work in Canada has been a bit slow year to date and we are all keen to increase our workload in Canada. The winning of the Pingston project was a welcome shot in the arm. Whilst Canada may have been slow, the U.S. has provided us with plenty to keep the wheels turning.

I am very pleased with the application and dedication of our hardworking staff and employees in the States.

There have been a few additions and promotions this year, all of which have contributed positively to our success.

The additions of Dave Watkinson and Colin Wilson have addressed two areas of weakness that existed in estimating and raise boring respectively. These guys seem to have settled in OK and are contributing in a positive manner. Colin has even managed to extract some funds out of me in his pursuit for TMCC to become the "Premiere raiseboring contractor in the Americas".

With respect to promotions, **Jim Haines** has been promoted to Vice President Finance, **Bob Kelly** to Equipment Manager, **Gord Reed** to Area Manager Canadian Operations, **Ray Demyen** to Shop Manager and **Kim Holgate** to Assistant to the Equipment Manager.

Good to see these personnel grasping their opportunities and making the most of them.

The company Mantra this year and probably from hereon in is "Safety - Quality - Cost". As a business we need to be recognized for being more than just another contractor, we need to be recognized for what we are and what we do.

On the safety front I am continually enthused by the tremendous strides we are making. As a company at the time of this writing, we have completed over 7 months LTA free equating to over 500,000 man-hours LTA free – a tremendous effort by all. I know we can go all year so let's remain vigilant, **keep safety in mind as our constant companion** and never accept anything but the best.

The quality of our work and people is always encouraging to me and our clients recognize this.

We need to remain focused very much still on our costs. Our business has changed from a volume driven organization to a cost driven one. Every person's contribution, as small or large as it may be to the bottom line, will hasten our recovery to becoming the strong, vibrant company we all want to be a part of.

Until next time, take care and remember in life: "It's not the destination that counts but the voyage along the way."

Barry Upton

Administration/Human Resources

Hi Everyone! We've survived another Saskatchewan winter and it's finally getting warm outside.

Over the last few months while we have been trying to keep warm and staying indoors we have made a few changes in the administration department at Head Office.

Debbie Hubich has taken over the Payroll Department and has done an outstanding job of getting this department running smoothly. Debbie is dedicated to ensuring our employees are paid on time and accurately, and puts in 110% effort to achieve this. Debbie is implementing checks to ensure that all earnings and deductions are accurate.

Vivian Fortman is now a dedicated Secretary to tender preparation and administrative duties for the Finance and Administration department. Vivian is also supervising the Receptionist.

Judy Schwartz has accepted the position of Receptionist and is also responsible for all employee travel arrangements including: flight arrangements, hotel bookings, car rentals, etc.

Debbie Schaffer has returned from maternity leave into a new position as Administrative Assistant. Debbie will be administrating the Canadian and USA benefit plans. This will be a very challenging position as the careful administration of these plans is essential to ensure our employees are covered for the benefits they have chosen. Carmen is especially happy that Debbie has accepted this new position to take a load off her desk. Debbie will report to Carmen

and she will assist Debbie with the administration of the plans.

Bob Kelly was promoted to Fleet Manager and is busy settling in and setting up the Asset Listing, which is no small feat. Congratulations and the best of luck to Bob.

Bob's promotion triggered some other promotions and changes in jobs. **Ray Demyen** was promoted to Shop Manager and **Dwayne Metz** to Shop Foreman. **Kim Holgate** accepted the position of Assistant to the Fleet Manager. Good luck to all of these individuals in their new challenges.

The Admin department developed a Site Procedures manual to assist the sites and Head Office with day-to-day operations. A draft copy of the procedures was sent to the sites for feedback. The finished product will be put on Outlook in the near future.

In April 2001 we closed the Sandy, Utah office and brought the administration from that office to the Regina Office. We are happy to report that so far everything is going well and you can once again see Carmen's desk and floor in her office.

As well, since the last Drift edition, we have been busy evaluating prospective carriers for TMCC's group RRSP plan, negotiating a new carrier for TMCC's U.S. workers' comp., finalizing our new general insurance policies, and will soon be evaluating more favorable options for TMCC's Canadian group health plan.

Carmen is looking forward to visiting all the sites in June to do the "Safety Perception Survey". This is a survey that all our

employees are asked to complete to give us their Perception of how TMCC is doing with Safety. Head Office and the Regina Shop have had several lunch hour BBQ's to raise money for different charities. So far this year we had BBQ's for the Regina General Hospital Neo-Natal Unit, Regina Humane Society, Crohn's and Colitis Society and this month will be Cops for Cancer. Everyone throws in \$5.00 and brings a salad or condiments, we have raffles and 50-50 draws, and an all round good time.

Positive attitude and employee morale are important components to a healthy organization. The lunch hour BBQ's are one way that we are trying to improve the atmosphere in Regina. A month ago we decided to go to Laser Quest and play a couple of games after work and then go out for a couple of cool ones and pizza. It was a blast and we are planning another one as well as a bowling evening.

New Faces

A big WELCOME goes out to Colin Wilson who joined the staff at Head Office in January as the Manager of Raiseboring and Mark Ahlborn and John Baz-Dresch who joined the ranks at the East Boulder project as Project Engineers.

After Work

TMCC would again like to remind all our employees to be responsible by not driving if you have been drinking; we all owe this consideration to our families and friends. **Remember "Keep Safety**

Information Systems

Here in the computer systems department, it's been quite hectic in recent months. I have had the daunting task of converting our email system from Lotus Notes to Microsoft Exchange. I must say that the switchover went relatively smoothly and had only very minor hiccups along the way.

In the 3 1/2 years since I've been here, our email, internet, and entire computer network has come a long way. Originally, we had a single UNIX machine in my office that had Internet access, and anyone who wanted to check his or her email had to come up here and physically use this one machine. Internet access was restricted to those individual computers that had a dial-up account with Sympatico or AOL.

Not long after I started, I decided to roll out the email application (Eudora at the time) to user's desktops so they could access their email at their own computer. But this was not without its own problems. The email system would bog down with large messages, sometimes messages were in a format that people couldn't read and users still had no Internet access.

The next big step was to get Internet access to all the users desktops. This occurred, but more problems arose. The first being that no more than 2 or 3 people could use the web at the same time because of our bandwidth problem. We were only running on a single 56K Modem through the UNIX machine and this is slow to begin with. And I also encountered a strange problem where I couldn't get the sites on the Internet because

of the way our network was originally set up.

Not long after this we changed systems again. We upgraded all of our computers to Office 2000 from Office 95, and with this we decided to switch from Eudora for our internet email to Outlook 2000. This worked pretty well, but now people were using email more than ever. We still had Lotus Notes for our internal email in the office, but were using Outlook for emailing through the internet, meaning that people had to use two programs at all times.



This is me in my spare time...

Then about a year and a half ago, I found myself on my own here in the company, when I became the sole IT guru. Now it was time to do things my way...

My first order of business was to get some decent internet access for everybody. I scrapped our UNIX system, and signed up for an ISDN connection with UUNet Canada, one of the biggest ISP's in North America. The service is great, and this finally gave us decent speed to surf the web, and with it, the ability of the sites to get access to the internet.

Once this was set up and working, I set out to stop using two systems for our email. After some setbacks, I was able to set up Lotus Notes to be used for both internal and external mail. And the sites finally had full internet capabilities with web browsing and now email.

But our Lotus Notes system was becoming dated, didn't handle the internet standards for email well and version 5 had just been released, so I decided to make the switch to the new version. This went relatively well, and with it, I was able to configure things so that remote users could now access their email through the internet.

Version 5 was a nice upgrade, but it had its own share of problems too, mostly just usability issues, and the biggest problem was that it didn't mesh well with our other programs which are mostly Microsoft. So, I came to the conclusion that it would be best for this company to use a product that was 100% compatible with the rest of the programs we are using on a day-to-day basis. Hence, the latest change I made was the switch to Microsoft Exchange.

Our email is now fast, efficient, complies with all internet standards, inter-operates with the rest of our office applications, is easier to manage, set up, configure, and most of all – use...

As with anything with computers, change is inevitable, and change *will* happen – it's only a matter of time. You can either fight it, or embrace it – I choose to embrace it...

Friend or Foe? You Decide...

Bill and Ted, two regular guys with families, enjoyed working together, they had been mining together for close to five years and had become quite good friends. Their kids played on the same ball team. They enjoyed fishing and hunting together. They were partners.

One Monday morning after getting ready for work Ted noticed that Bill had a hang over. Ted knew that Bill liked to drink on his weekend off and sometimes did not quite get it out of his system until he got back to work. Typically Monday was slack and Bill could rest up and start pitching in later in the morning when he was feeling better. That's what partners do.

Ted wasn't without his own problems; his wife had been giving him grief about getting things done around the house. His oldest daughter was dating some goof ball that he didn't particularly like and this weekend he had worked around the house and was feeling tired.

Now on days when Bill was hung over Ted would talk to the supervisor so that the supervisor wouldn't smell the alcohol coming from Bill. You know, keep him out of trouble. That's what partners do!

When he got the line up he went over and told Bill that they needed to gather up some gear to do some rehab ground support in that crappy heading that nobody else want to work in. The supervisor told them they needed that area done before their cross shift came in and that he would be down to see them later.

So off they go, Bill weaving ever so slightly, safety glasses dangling around his neck on a string, looking

like a kid with his mittens tied on so he won't lose them. Ted thought about telling him to put them on as it was required when you were anywhere in the mine, but didn't want to get into an argument. Bill sometimes got grumpy when the alcohol lost its magic touch.

They gathered up the gear, loaded up the jeep and away they went. Actually Ted gathered the gear and Bill "rested his eyes" in the front seat of the jeep. Bill napped the 20 minutes that it took to get to the job, with his hard hat on his lap, head bobbing and weaving and Ted pushing Bill up right in his seat as he navigated around the mine. That's what partners do!



*Jay Smith enjoying an Hors
D'Ouvre with a pleasant
Chardonnay*

Once they arrived, Ted got to work hooking up the hoses, setting up the bolts with plates, preparing the resin and about 30 minutes later he had everything ready to start bolting. The area was in poor shape. Bill felt like crap and was just starting to move around. Ted squirted some water on Bill. Bill very half-heartedly started moving to the work area.

"What do you mean 'we forgot a scaling bar'", screamed Bill. "I had nothing to do with loading the jeep, it's your problem not mine"

"OK! I forgot to throw one onto the jeep." Ted said sheepishly. With all that is going on at home & Bill, Ted's mind wasn't on the job.

"Well you go get one and I will start bolting. Now hurry back." Bill said with a hint of exasperation in his voice. Looking for a soft muck pile to rest in.

"Bull****! You can't start bolting until we scale - you know that! So you go get the scaling bar." Ted said a little annoyed at his partner for not helping.

"Don't you worry about me, just hurry the **** up and get that scaling bar". Bill's hangover could always be judged by how bitchy he got.

Ted stuck his tail between his legs and sped off in the jeep, not even bothering to pick up the wheel chocks.

Ted, driving in haste on a part of the drift that he had been on a hundred times, started thinking about that hairy ape of a boyfriend his daughter is seeing, how grumpy Bill was going to be all day and leaving him behind knowing full well that he would start bolting even though he didn't scale the area. Ted didn't see the flat bed trailer that was parked on the side of the drift. The mechanical department had left it there when they were radioed to another part of the mine.

When Ted saw the trailer it was too late, he pulled hard left, hit the rear of the trailer which acted like a ramp and sent the jeep's front end up and into the back of the drift as

it slowly rolled onto its side in mid air, wheels spinning, engine racing, smashing into the ground and up against the wall on its roof.

Meanwhile Bill was getting tired of waiting and started on bolting, safety glasses dangling around his neck as they always are, cursing his partner for not remembering to bring a scaling bar. Bill grabbed hold of the jackleg, put in the 4' steel, dropped the steel retainer into place with a thud, lined up, extended his leg, found his mark and hit the throttle.

As if in slow motion, Bill could see the bit shatter and the sliver that was headed straight for him. The pain in his eye was much like he had heard described in safety

meetings. It was sharp, intense, and agonizing. The more he rubbed his eye the more it hurt, he could barely stand it. Damn it, where the hell was Ted!

Ted was dead, neck broken from the accident. Bill was found hours later whimpering in pain, he ended up losing his eye and was asked to tell Ted's family that he wasn't coming home, because that's what partners do.

Could this tragedy have been avoided? Who could have stopped all this from happening? Ted? Bill? The Supervisor? At what point should have it been stopped?

It is important that we watch out for each other. As a friend, co-

worker, or partner it is important that we take the time to teach, coach and correct each other in the workplace whenever you see a risky situation develop. "What you allow, you APPROVE" takes on a completely new meaning after reading this story. Your moment of intervention will prevent a lifetime of sorrow and hardship.

Sometimes it may mean having to stress a friendship, other times it means you can keep a friendship.

The people and events are fictional, but are very familiar... that's the scary part.

Be Safe and enjoy the summer,

Safety Dave

Regina Shop

A lot has changed here since the last publication of the drift. With one exception - the wind - it has been a cold and windy spring.

I would like to thank the people who selected me for the shop manager position and the rest for supporting me in my new job. I would also like to congratulate Dwayne on his appointment to shop foreman and Tim on his completion of his apprenticeship.

Change can also bring about more changes. Todd Bull & Bob MacSorley have left the company for the bright lights, and we wish them the very best. The Regina Shop once had a crew of 15 people that has eroded away to just 6 including myself. The strong will survive!

I would like to bring you up to speed with what has been happening around here the last couple of months. The first week in April the place looked like a

Truck Stop with the demobilization of the Cold Lake Project and the mobilization of the Pingston Project. We debated putting in traffic lights, as one truck was unloading another was being loaded.

The weather conditions were not very favorable for the crew in the first part of April. They had to fight off the giant snowflakes of an April storm.

Dale recently turned a Toro 151 scoop into a hot rod with an engine transplant. The scoop had a 78 horsepower engine and the replacement is a 140 horsepower version. The Pingston crew seems to enjoy that.

Watch out for the MSHA ratings for Diesel engines, as several of the old standby engines no longer qualify. Before we purchase a new piece of gear, check with Safety Dave or someone to see if the

engine in question qualifies for the US.

May brought a whole new flavor of work for our little crew at the Regina Shop. Has anyone heard the word asset management? We had a barrel of laughs looking for assets that have fallen in battle; it kind of reminds me of editing my sock drawer at home.

Lately, Tom and Earl have found their way into the dark caverns of #1 storage shed. Some of the stuff is so old it still has the AMC Harrison numbers. Whoever questioned the saying "it was built to last"?

Congratulations to the Cluff Lake crew on one-year no LTA.

On behalf of the Regina Shop we look forward to assisting the job sites wherever we can.

Have a safe productive year!!

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Raise Boring

This is the first time I have had the pleasure to write in “The Thyssen Drift”. Of course, I was given a deadline of about 20 minutes to get the copy done... There is nothing like a little pressure to get results.

Since taking on the raise boring business in January, we have been working steadily at a number of goals. First and foremost is to consolidate our equipment fleet in Regina and ensure all the drills are ready for field work on short notice. With drill string and accessories stored in various provinces, and equipment in various states of readiness, this is critical to ensure we can mobilize quickly and have the equipment that makes us competitive in the market.

With the support of Barry, we have ordered new drill string for our RBM7SP rigs to ensure we have the tools to do the job... In addition, we have just finished upgrading the 25-year-old DC drive controls for one of our two Robbins’ RBM7SP drills. Without such modifications, the drills are vulnerable to failure due to lack of spare parts. The second drill (currently in Brazil) will also be upgraded when there is a break in the action at CVRD. You have to laugh when you see these old electronic control boards with resistors the size of coffee cups compared to the microchips of today.

We are also in the design stage of modifying our Robbins 61R to make it shorter and more powerful. This will allow it to compete very effectively in the small to medium size hole market in Canada.

Work on Hand

Currently we have 3 projects on the go. In Brazil we are continuing to ream 3-meter diameter raises averaging about 100 meters per month of completed raise. Mike Johnston is now living there semi-permanently taking the occasional break. The Brazilian crews are trained to the point where they can effectively manage the job for short durations. Mike deserves a tremendous credit for keeping this job running smoothly.



Do you know what this man is doing?

At Noranda’s Brunswick Mine, Al Turtle and Dale Harwood have been busy pulling new casing up into worn out paste fill boreholes using the small SBM 003 drill – also called “Stuie”. This was the only drill available in North America that would fit the requirements of the client for this job. Word is “leaking” out about how well this project is going and we are hoping that this will translate into similar business elsewhere.

Through the MTM Joint Venture, we continue to supply manpower to Cameco’s McArthur River Project for training of their new operators. A total of four men continue to work there on a two week in / two week out rotation. We believe this will continue for several more months.

Upcoming Work

There are several projects on the horizon. First we are expecting to get a commitment from CVRD for additional raise boring work over and above our current contract – although there may be a delay of a few months.

Secondly, we will be mobilizing one of our RBM7SP drills to the Pingston Project in October for a 1,500 foot raise bore hole.

Third, the 61R will be going to Stillwater’s East Boulder Project in mid-June for some 2.4 meter diameter raising.

In addition, we continue to actively seek additional work with several thousand feet of work either tendered on or in the process of being tendered.

There is no question that with a little hard work, we can easily make Thyssen the premiere raiseboring contractor in the Americas. While we have to start small and remain focused on getting the equipment we have into the field, there is tremendous room for growth. When you consider through our joint venture capabilities we have access to equipment that no one else has in North America, we can easily take the market by storm. When other contractors in the business that do

Alimak work see our pricing and say “Wow, we can’t touch that...”, you know we are on the right track!

Colin Wilson

East Boulder Project

The East Boulder Project has been gathering steam since the beginning of the year. April 9th saw the point where advance rates converged with, and surpassed, footage scheduled for this year. Over 2,700 meters (9,000 feet) of advance have been recorded since January 1st, and major infrastructure activities are complete, or nearing completion. With regard to ground support alone, 179 kilometers (111 miles) of rock bolts have been installed, securing 5 hectares (12.5 acres) of screen since the start of the project. That’s a lot of iron! Manpower has doubled since last year, from 84 to 167 personnel while incident rates remain low and no LTA’s were recorded for this year. Thyssen’s role onsite during

this quarter has expanded to include concrete and construction work for the client.

Major events during this period include the commissioning of the shotcrete silo and the installation of the West Footwall Lateral Drift rail haulage. Construction of the East Boulder Portal main fan bulkhead, designed to house two 746 kW (1,000 hp) and one 560 kW (750 hp) fans, was completed. Infrastructure activities at major completion include the main mine electrical substation, and the emulsion, stick powder, and cap magazines – all boasting ground support, screen, shotcrete and concrete floor slab installed.

Moran Mining & Tunnelling has been engaged as our sub-contractor for raise development and have recently completed and turned over to the client an ore and waste pass, each 90 meters (295 feet) high, as well as one of four 65 meter (220 feet) sand plant silos. Moran is also active in development of chute preps and open vent raises.

Although Stillwater Mining Company has pulled back or delayed a few of their bid items, the East Boulder Project continues to grow and change in scope and the East Boulder Project crew anticipates a long tenure onsite.

Mark Ahlborn

Nye Project

Nye keeps truckin’ on. Yes we lost the stoping contract, but hey we got it back again. Just in time to keep the guys we were going to demob because we had finished the East Side development.

Up til now we have completed over 118,000 tons in stoping and 29,000 ft. of drifting this project. With over 225,000 hours with no LTA’s, I’d say this is a pretty good achievement by all, thanks all.

Otherwise, nothing much new, we are approximately 3,000 ft. from the end of the current contract, and are waiting to see if there will be any more work offered in the near future.

The weather is good. The snow is gone apart from the mountaintops, and the river is up and full o’ fish. We might have a bad summer though as the weather people are predicting dry conditions again.



A hose bulkhead fitted to a drill jumbo

Last year the camp and mine site managed to reach stage 5 alert,

ready to evacuate the whole area. With the Spring melt looking way less than last year in volume they may be right.

We did have some of our guys down in Arizona for a while carrying out some rehab work at the BHP San Manuel mine (Copper). That went very well, no accidents or incidents and we got a good name for ourselves there. Hard to imagine working in that heat all the time especially when you’ve been used to the northern parts of Saskatchewan and the N.W.T., but we can all dream!

Since my last photographic effort, which was so mockingly applauded by our tech guru in Regina, I have tried to take a few more.

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The shot above is one of the inventions made on site by the mechanic and drift dudes, it's a hose bulkhead fitted to a drill jumbo. One of these gizmo's allowed one jumbo to go 6 weeks

without a boom hose change. All hoses are the same length and are carried on a special rack at the back of the jumbo. The beauty of the system is that the hose is quick to replace when it does break and the hoses tend not to drag on the sill or

walls, reducing damage even further. The bulkhead also allows quick identification of the ends and the ends are very accessible. That's all folks... Have a good summer, and take it easy on your time off.

Andy Saltis

Those Canadian Sites

In Revelstoke they're having some fun
As fun as it is without the sun
Digging holes in the hill
The water soon will fill
They'll be covered with mud when they get done

Pat and Chris they both run the show
Digging holes in the hill there below
Pat sorts out his troubles
And Chris he just bubbles
Pingston's front line for go, go, go, go

With Rick and the boys up at Cluff
They work hard all day taking no guff
Till Judy gets huffed
And they all get cuffed
But still all the same they get stuff

Close calls they have come and then gone
But Cluff safety is still number one
Safe one complete year
You'll get clipped on the ear
If you dare have an accident mon

In potash there's Cal, Frank and Ray
Maybe we'll get some work there someday
It's feast or it's famine
Right now it's like gamblin
Guess that's why the mob is there hey

J.D, Glenn, and Dave they did toil
Sinking shaft for Imperial Oil
They dug with a grin
Then filled it back in
And soon after, gas prices started to boil

The Straitjacket Kid reporting on Canadian Stuff (Gord Reed)

Look us up....

www.thyssenmining.com

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