

Whitney

METAL FABRICATION NEWS

Portables Help Put Skyline Steel On Every Wisconsin Sky Line

Structural steel fabricating is "alive and well" at Skyline Steel, Inc., strategically located in Arlington, Wisconsin. Skyline Steel was the first company to settle in Arlington's new 355 acre industrial park. This young progressive company chose Arlington because of its location with easy access to the interstate highway system, and for its friendly, hometown atmosphere and good work ethic.



A Model 771 Web Press is held in a table fixture for punching clip angles. The press can be easily removed for use as a portable.



A jib crane and spring are used to bring the Model 791 Web Press to the beam for efficient punching.

Rod Everson, vice president, comments, "We've met a lot of nice people here and one of the things we stressed was that we were interested in hiring local help. In the beginning it was a little difficult because people didn't know who we were or what we did. As time went on, word spread and people began stopping in. We've hired several local people without having to advertise."

Eighty Years of Experience

Skyline Steel was founded in 2000 by Bill Haupt, Rod Everson and Jerry Raflik. Haupt serves as president, Everson as vice president and Raflik as vice president and secretary. The founders have nearly 80 years combined experience in structural steel fabricating. Their leadership directs a staff of highly trained office and shop employees providing complete detailing and fabricating services.

Detailing

Skyline Steel provides in-house detailing for customers. They prepare steel erection plans and shop drawings for fabrication using a specialized software package which runs off AutoCAD. Quality shop drawings are highly important.

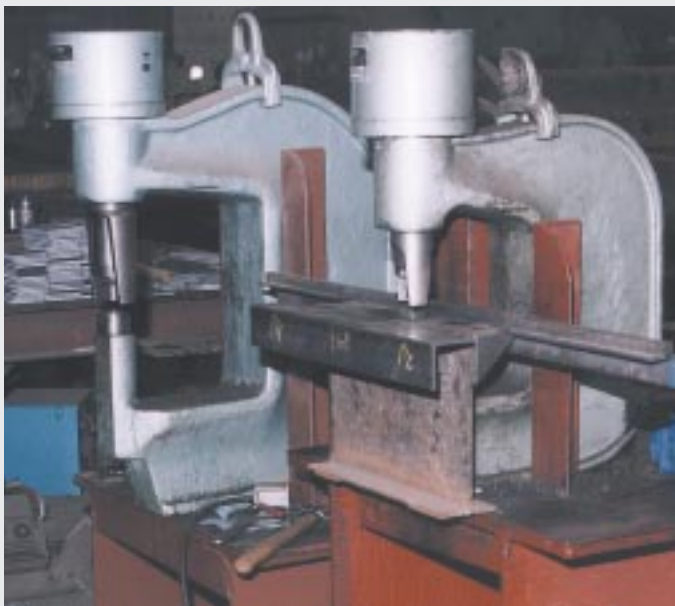
Fabricating Operations

The fabricating operation is located in a facility with three 60' x 240' bays. Overhead cranes facilitate easy movement of structural components. One bay is used for miscellaneous steel fabricating such as stairs and railings, as well as heavy plate flame cutting. The other two bays are dedicated to heavy structural fabricating, material preparation and painting.

Equipment includes a large 3/4" x 12' hydraulic shear, press brake, saws, ironworker, welders and W.A. Whitney Hydraulic Portable Presses. Skyline uses their own trucks to ship completed materials to the jobsite.



Ann Bonin, Structural Steel Detailer at Skyline Steel, generates high quality detail drawings for structural components using a specialized software package.



Presses can be used as stationary punches for clip angles and small flat steel parts.

Punching Advantages

Punching holes plays a major roll in Skyline's fabrication process and the Whitney Presses are at the center of their hole producing operation. "As we develop we want to do more and more punching," says Everson. "Hole punching is

faster than mag drilling and the accuracy is better. Once the punch locates and comes down on the material it doesn't crawl like a drill. Plus, you can't drill slotted holes!"

Paul Huerth, a group leader and portable press operator, estimates that he completes a job in one third the time when he punches rather than drills.

An added punching benefit according to Everson is lower tooling costs. "Punches and dies are less expensive and longer lasting than drill bits."

Whitney Systems

Skyline Steel operates two Whitney punching systems. One includes a 730 Flange Press and 10 HP Power Unit and is used in their miscellaneous fabrication area for punching lighter materials.

The second system is used in their heavy structural area for punching beams, clip angles and various flat stock components. This system consists of two web presses—a 70 ton and a 90 ton—operating from a common power unit.

A jib crane and suspension spring position the presses to the hole locations in the beams. The suspension spring allows the press to be moved easily to pick up layout points. The presses move to the work rather than moving the work to the presses. This reduces material handling and fabricating costs.

Committed to Growth and Service

Skyline, still a young company, looks for methods of reducing costs and increasing efficiency and profits. Each member of the team is committed to growth and service to benefit their employees, customers and community. ♦

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