

# KAIZEN KORNER

**Gerry Strange** was the lead person on a Continuous Improvement Kaizen at Mark Metals. Recently, the solution the team put together has been put into use. Following is some of the background and a few pictures of what can happen when a team with a challenge puts their heads together to meet a common goal.



*(Before)*



*(After)*

## **PRODUCTION/SAFETY IMPROVEMENT**

### **Q. What was the purpose of the kaizen?**

**A.** The inspection process of the round forgings at Mark Metals was done using horses. The setup had a lot of pinch points for both the operator and inspector and they used cardboard pieces to try to steady the bars. We wanted a way to avoid risk of injury and it motivated us to be proactive.

### **Q. Tell me about the team that worked on this project.**

**A.** It consisted of **Don Peck, John Maillie, Mel Millisock, Jason Burnett, Dave Page** and me. We also interviewed **Hector Plaza**, the operator, and **Josh Lewis**, the inspector, for their input. We met once a month for four or five months right at the site where the work was done. We watched the process and that is how we got the ideas. As a team, we were really on the same page with what needed to be done and we kicked a lot of ideas around.

### **Q. How does the new system work?**

**A.** The new system is a roller bearing system that uses three horses instead of one to handle the different sized forgings. The shorter bars are better held on two horses closer together and the third horse is used for extra long forgings. The roller bearing system also has breaks so that the operator or inspector can roll the forging and then put on a break to inspect the pieces in a certain position.

### **Q. Who worked on the fabricated fix?**

**A.** Dave Page was the person in the group that put the design together after the team decided what needed to be done. He also did the cost analysis on putting the piece together. Don Peck was especially instrumental in the design of the roller bearing assembly. He had some very good ideas and actually did the machining on the assemblies, too. Everyone was conscientious about doing in the best way and also how to do it in the most economical way, too.

### **Q. How will the new method be audited?**

**A.** Well, we want to make sure there are no more accidents, first of all, because we think we ironed out all the safety issues. And then we need to track production on the new system to see if we get increased production of the forgings like we think we should.

***Thanks to Gerry and the Continuous Improvement Team for this innovative "fix" that will go a long way in making our company safer and more productive.***

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