

UPDATE

PORTAL CRANE SYSTEMS

P&H



Winter 1999

MORRIS
MATERIAL HANDLING™

Portal Crane Product Support: #1 Priority

Providing our customers with the best product support possible remains our #1 priority at Morris Material Handling. We continue to take steps to assure that our portal crane users have easy and quick access to P&H personnel and services on a 24-hour-per-day basis. The recent opening of a new wing at our Oak Creek headquarters has prompted

several P&H Portal Crane personnel relocations and reassignment of phone numbers and addresses. This new information is listed below to minimize the impact of these changes on you, our valued customer. We have also designated regional sales managers who will handle portal crane sales and modernizations within their regions. This should provide you with faster responses to your needs.

Please note these important names, numbers and addresses:

Dear P&H Portal Crane Customer:

This is the 27th issue of **Portal Crane Systems Update** which continues to represent another step in the P&H Morris commitment to serve our customers as effectively as possible.

In this and every issue of the **Update**, you will find useful crane service tips, user meeting reports, parts and crane modernization information and other items of interest to portal crane users, including log handling, lumber handling, scrap and steel handling, and container handling applications.

Update will also focus on how Morris Material Handling services are being expanded and shaped to meet the needs of your company.

We hope this sharing of knowledge and experience will help you in your efforts to manage your crane operation efficiently.

We welcome your comments and contributions. Please let us know about any topics you would like to see discussed. Also, we would be interested in learning about any service tips you may wish to share with others.

Sincerely,

Gary A. Otto
Sales Manager
Portal Cranes

Chuck Stoneman
Application Specialist
Portal Cranes

Parts

Janine Neumann, parts manager

800-633-1136 during business hours

414-486-6183 direct dial office

414-486-6192 Fax

414-571-0678 after hours emergency

Please have serial number/location of crane/part number/contact name, phone, fax, and address.

Service

Ted Barber, service manager

Birmingham, AL

Office 205-916-0000

24-Hour line 800-262-0331

Factory Technical Support/Warranty/ Return Authorizations

John M. Hughes, manager portal cranes

Office 414-570-2759

Rod Urquhardt, manager crane modernizations

Office 414-570-2730

Nu-Life Rebuilt Parts/Motor Rewinds

Mark Ubl, manager

Office 414-486-6179

Please pass this issue of **PORTAL CRANE SYSTEMS UPDATE** on to others on your staff who may benefit from the many helpful portal crane tips. If you would like us to add your name to our mailing list for this newsletter or send copies of our back issues, call Chuck Stoneman at (604) 294-5551 or Gary Otto at (414) 570-2750.

CPPA/TAPPI Portal Crane Users' Committee to Meet in Chattanooga, Tn.

The TAPPI-CPPA Portal Crane Users' Committee has chosen Chattanooga, TN as the 1999 site for their annual meeting to be held during the week of May 10th. Details on the agenda will be available very soon as this year's elected officers put the program together.

The Committee invites all woodyard managers, operators, maintenance personnel, and crane suppliers to attend the meeting. The meeting is a jointly sponsored technical committee on the operations and maintenance of portal cranes for wood handling applications.

The meeting will be hosted at the Hawthorne Suites, formerly known as the Airport Quality Inn. Phone number for reservations is 1-800-527-1133 or 423-893-7979. Mention the Committee by name for special room rates: Studio King \$69.95/King Suite \$79.95/DbI Suites \$89.95. Breakfast is included with the room. Meeting registration fee is \$150 per person. If you have any questions or have any ideas for the agenda, please contact one of the following Committee personnel:

John Peak, Chairman 912-263-8943
Ken Landry, Co-Chairman 306-953-1799
Tom Maron, Treasurer 803-353-7337
(Tom_Maron@ucamp.com)

Used Equipment for Sale

1. A 40-ton lifting beam with cable basket is available. Call for details if interested.
2. A pre-owned Heede 178-ft. span, 10-ton portal gantry crane is now available for purchase. It has one 32-ft. cantilever and 35 ft. of lift. It can be fitted with a 15-sq. ft. grapple and used to handle up to 7-ton log loads. Lumber handling or scrap handling is also an option.
3. Festoon System for sale/special low pricing! We have overstock on a complete flat cable festoon system for a portal crane with a wire length of 368ft. The system comes on a rack and is ready to go. Call Janine Neumann at 1-800-633-1136 in the portal parts group for more information.

Maintenance Tips

Remember: *If your maintenance tip is featured in the Portal Crane Systems Update with a photo, you will receive a portal crane jacket. Ideas only will earn a portal crane T-shirt.*

Submit your ideas to Gary Otto, and tell us your jacket or shirt size.

Static Stepless Users

A recent incident has brought up an interesting fact about the reactors used in the P&H Static Stepless controls on dozens of P&H portal cranes and 1000's of P&H overhead bridge cranes. If a failure of the reactor occurs in a single phase, usually the result of external physical damage, the motion can be operated temporarily with an equivalent resistor in the AC and DC circuits. Of course the phases will not be balanced, but the motor will run to keep production moving while the reactor is repaired or a replacement is manufactured. As an example, a 300 HP application turned out to require an AC resistance of 0.0084 Ohm at motor secondary current rating and a DC resistance of 5.7 Ohm rated at 5 Amps. Several users have reported that this temporary fix has saved countless downtime hours. Also note that secondary reactors are very long term parts delivery items and are not usually kept on the shelf. They are custom made for your motor design. Each wound rotor motor on your crane has three (3) of these devices connected to the motor secondary leads. Careful periodic inspection of the attachment leads and the fasteners holding them in place will prolong the life of these rugged devices.

Variable Frequency Drive Users

For owners of cranes with Variable Frequency type drives, please note that the capacitors used in the DC rectifier section of the inverter are life limited devices and will require replacement over time. An exact lifespan is difficult to predict, but as your drives get past their 10th birthday, you may want to prepare for replacement. Lead time can be long for replacements from the suppliers, as VF drive technology changes nearly as fast as computers do. Replacement capacitors also need to be precharged.

You may also want to look into modernization of your VF drives with the latest technology. As support for the older drives becomes more difficult and costly, this alternative may be attractive. There are many advantages to having the newer designed drives. Let a P&H control specialist review your needs and show you your options for the future.

Storm Brake Update

P&H Dynamic Storm Brakes can not only protect you from physical damage to your crane in high wind conditions, but they can boost productivity and assist your maintenance personnel. If you are a current owner and have a success story concerning your storm brakes or if you have made any improvements to your system, P&H asks for your input for a feature story in the next issue. Contributors will be rewarded for their efforts!

Additional Maintenance Tips

Philippe Whissel from Grant Forest Products in Timmins, Ontario offered many valuable tips. Here are just a few:

- **Problem:** Storm brake release limit switch freezing up. **Solution:** Replace mechanical switch with an inductive proximity and all problems went away. Had to mount a small relay in the JB and use one contact for the series circuit between all the brakes.
- **Problem:** Microswitches for gantry brake position on diagnostics system breaking and causing false faults. **Solution:** Took out of circuit and established a PM program to stay ahead of brake problems.

1998 P&H Portal Crane User Meeting

The Sept. '98 P&H User Meeting was once again a total success, based upon the evaluation forms and direct responses from the mill representatives in attendance. These meetings not only benefit the users, but also P&H personnel.

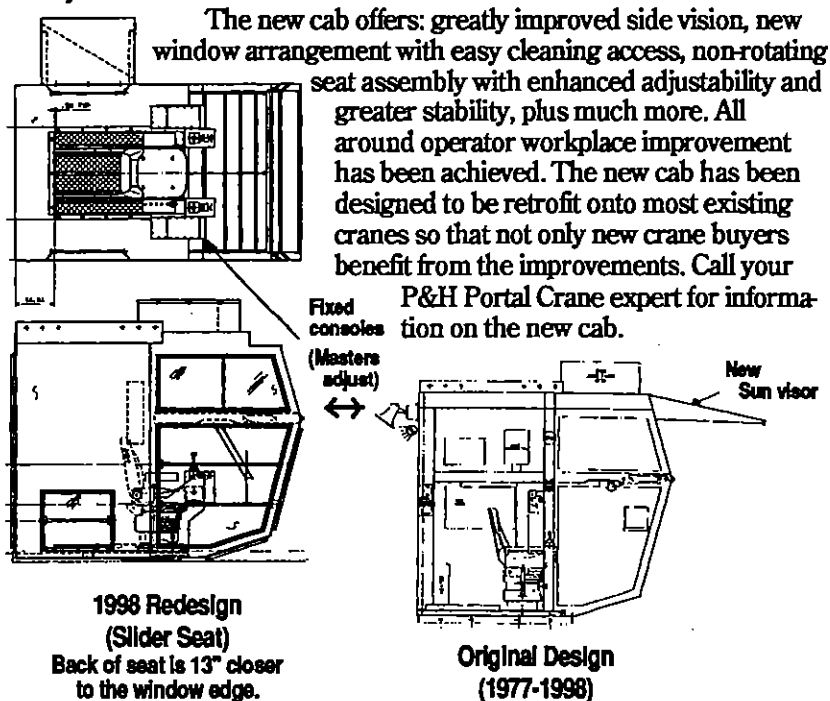
The 1999 meeting is being planned now and will be hosted in Birmingham, Al. by our local Morris Material Handling Center. Watch for more details in the next *Update*.



Portal Crane Ergonomics Update: Improving the Health and Safety of the Crane Operator's Workplace

The operator's cab has long been the topic of discussions at user meetings. Major issues usually surface like access, visibility, seat quality, arm supports, master controllers, wind speed indicators, sun shields, window cleaning access, and on goes the list. We have also addressed health issues such as sore backs, sore necks, wrist and elbow complaints, access to an incapacitated operator, and safe emergency egress.

Up until now, we have taken small steps to address each item as they came to our attention. Now, P&H has taken a major step forward with a complete reanalysis of the portal crane cab and surroundings. The result is a new, improved cab with a long list of changes to enhance operator safety and comfort.



20 Years of Portal Crane Operation

Mr. Tom Ezell, of Gurdon, Arkansas, recently retired from International Paper Company after a 20 year career as their portal crane operator. Tom started with the company in 1979 as they were starting up their new Heede/P&H portal crane, and he stayed with the crane through his retirement in January. Very few portal crane operators can boast of that many years of experience!

P&H/Morris Material Handling congratulates Tom on his retirement.

Crane Gets Major Overhaul

The 1979 Heede/P&H portal crane at International Paper's Springhill Louisiana Wood Products Mill recently received a major overhaul of nearly every system on board the crane. The crane was stripped down to the bare girder, legs and sill beams, and then completely rebuilt with new gantry drives, control house, cable reel, transformer, maintenance hoist, elevator overhaul, trolley, cab, color TV monitor, DC hoist package, diagnostic system, PLC-modem controls, plus much more. The installation by P&H crews was completed in late 1998 and the crane is reported to be performing as promised.

The upgrade also included operator and maintenance personnel training on the new systems for a total project turnkey supply. This scope of work can be completed for much less than the cost of a new crane and can offer like new crane performance. If you own an older portal crane, you too can improve your performance and uptime with a P&H portal crane modernization. Call for more information.



Tired of having parts sourcing problems for your crane because the original equipment manufacturer closed its doors or can't meet your requirements? ALLPARTS is the answer for you! Call us today for more information at (414) 486-6179.

Upcoming Events

MOTAG South August 11-13

MOTAG South will hold its summer 1999 session in Atlanta, Georgia. The meeting opens with a social hour on Wednesday evening and generally has attendance over 100.

MOTAG is short for "Millyard Operators" Technical Advancement Group." You can register at the meeting. Call Gary Otto if you need more information, or go directly to the Renaissance Concourse Hotel by the Atlanta Airport. An information flyer is also available to explain group benefits.

9th Annual P&H Portal Crane Users' Meeting Set for September 8-10, 1999 in Birmingham, Al.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 1999 P&H Portal Crane User meeting to be hosted by BCH and Morris Material Handling. Plans are under way and details to follow.

TAPPI/CPPA Portal Crane Users' Meeting Week of May 10, 1999

The 1999 committee meeting will be held in Chattanooga, Tn. Details on the meeting are featured in a separate article in this issue.

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Training Update

Advanced Operator Training

P&H/Morris continues to provide advanced operator training for all types of log handling cranes. References are available to confirm the outstanding value of this unique product support service. Contact **Chuck Stoneman** to find out how advanced operator training can enhance your woodyard operations.

P&H Institute Training Keeps You Running "On Track"

Week-long electrical maintenance classes can be delivered at your facility or at the Institute's lab-equipped facility in Milwaukee on these upcoming dates:

Static Stepless Classroom: April 19, 1999 July 19, 1999	Smartorque® Classroom/Lab: August 9, 1999
Static Stepless Lab: April 26, 1999 July 26, 1999	Smartorque® DTC April 6-9, 1999 Sept. 7-10, 1999
Smartorque® V Adjustable Frequency: June 14, 1999 Sept. 20, 1999	Overhead Crane Mech. Maint.: May 10, 1999 Sept. 12, 1999

Call the P&H Institute at (414) 821-4017 for more information or for a 1999 course catalog.

Previous Issues

We can also send complete sets of all back issues of the *Update* to any users who are added to our mailing list. If you want, please call Gary Otto at (414) 570-2750 or 800-933-2313.

We encourage you to keep all of your issues in a binder for future reference.

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