

Harley McClung of Metalcraft Talks to Coal Miner Exchange



Harley McClung

Bill Reid: *Harley McClung, Owner and President of Metalcraft, is talking to us today. Harley, tell us please about the history of your company?*

Harley McClung: In 1984, along with two partners, I purchased the Fenwick Plant from ITT Corporation and we formed Metalcraft Mining Equipment Rebuilders, Inc. Later, I bought out my partners and I have been operating Metalcraft for many years. With the help of God and a great team of employees, the company grew. That growth and success enabled us to add a second and larger facility just outside of Summersville, WV.

Bill Reid: **What products and services does Metalcraft provide?**

Harley McClung: The company has the capability to perform complete remanufacturing of most all types of underground mining equipment but at the same time we are small enough to give each customer's needs individualized and personal attention, which is of course vital in this tough industry that we operate in. We primarily serve the coal mining industry, which is what we know best. The company provides complete remanufacture, recondition and repair of underground mining equipment for both room & pillar and longwall operations. Metalcraft also does custom metal fabrication for the timber and other industries.

Bill Reid: *Is there a particular focus at present?*

Harley McClung: Our focus is still primarily servicing the coal mining industry. We are remanufacturing such items as roof bolters, continuous haulage, feeders, shuttle cars, belt drives and continuous miners. We also remanufacture scoops, coal haulers, coal drills, and personnel carriers. Longwall mining is also an important part of our work including reconditioning line pans, head and tail drives and belt tail pieces. The company is also pursuing work in other directions approaching doors of opportunity with open mindedness and flexibility.

Bill Reid: *In our travels around the coalfields we are seeing signs of an uptick in the coal market and greater optimism. Are you seeing that?*

Harley McClung: Yes, thankfully, we are very pleased to have called back employees and are hiring new ones. Both met coal and steam coal prices are strengthening and there is an air of excitement in the industry once again with smiles returning to peoples' faces at last.

Bill Reid: *As we conclude this interview, how do you see the future of coal and the future of Metalcraft?*

Harley McClung: It remains to be seen what the new government will do to help the coal industry but promises have been made and we are certainly encouraged by that. Also, the price of natural gas has risen above \$3.75/MMBtu and coal is competitive once again. We are also expecting a cold winter and that will help coal. In the longer term, obviously the coal industry is not going to be as large as it has been in years past but we are very much encouraged by recent events. Coal will continue to play its part in the energy mix for a long time to come and Metalcraft will also be here proudly serving our customers in the way that they have come to expect from us. So I am much more optimistic about the future!

Bill Reid: *Well, thank you very much for talking to us.*

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