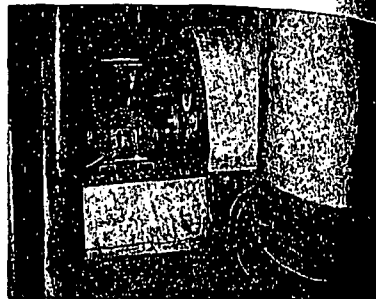


PRACTICAL IDEAS...here's the trading post for you



Blower Ups Production, Saves Over \$10,000 a Year

BEFORE INSTALLING a forced-draft blower system on four 125-hp. hot boilers, seven men were needed for a 24-hour working day. That was to operate a sawmill of 80,000-board-feet capacity per shift.

Three men worked each shift to stack wood slabs and hand-feed the wood furnaces. Seventh man banked and fed the fires during the graveyard shift.

In winter, under certain weather conditions, because mill is in a narrow val-

ley, there wasn't enough draft to burn the wet redwood. Redwood has a tendency to smother fires, causing lost production.

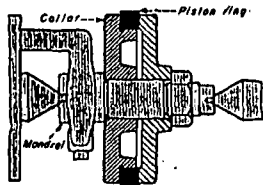
To help overcome this condition, we selected a tank for 300 lb of domestic heavy fuel and piped it to each boiler. Then we installed lines to carry steam to heat and blow fuel into furnace boxes. This system increased cost from \$800-1000 a mo, but did little good.

Then I got the idea of putting in a

forced-draft system. I used a 1/2-hp. electric motor from spare supply, and a blower from an idle plant. We bought dampers and elbows for a large 24-in. air-supply line. Cost was about \$200. I installed everything in about 60 days, during my spare time as operating engineer.

Since July 1951, we have saved over \$25,000 in labor alone. Production has increased as the men are on other jobs.

R. ULMER Klamath, Calif.

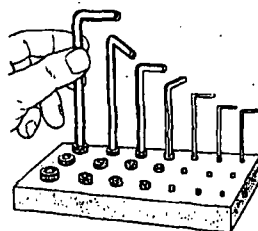


Piston Ring Holder

IN JULY 1952, *Piston Ring Manual*, device can be improved to hold split piston rings while turning to true circle.

Sketch shows clamping rig I made for this purpose. Split ring is collapsed into clamp while nut is only tight enough to keep ring from opening. Then nut is tightened. Since we make only a few rings down here (away from supply houses) during overhauls, clamp need hold only one at a time.

D. NEUBAUER Santiago, Chile

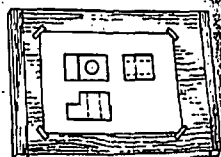


Allen Wrench-Set

HERE'S A HANDY service-bench block for headless Allen setscrews. Made of cast iron, it holds setscrew wrenches and some extra screws, sketch.

Holes in block are tapped to sizes most used in our work. With this holder, you can always find a wrench or a replacement screw in a hurry.

C. H. WILLEY Penacook, N. H.



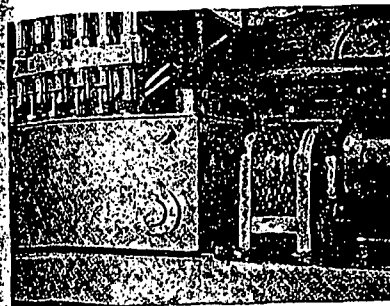
Scotch-Tape Your Drawing

ATTACH DRAWING PAPER to drawing board with scotch tape, as shown. Paper is held more securely. Square and triangles can be moved over drawing more easily. Also, paper is marked with holes and board's surface remains perfectly smooth, no matter where paper is placed on it.

T. THAIL Catonsville, Md.

Operating and maintenance short cuts

STEVE ELONKA, Associate Editor



Safe-Coupling Guard for Lubricator

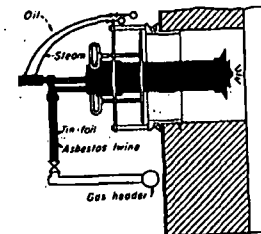
PHOTOGRAPHS GUARD I made for the lubricators on our radial engines. They are made so the coupling is completely visible. This enables operator to check its operation and condition.

Guards are needed because one time I had wrapped around coupling.

That was a hazard. We don't worry about that happening again as all couplings in this plant are protected.

Outer edge of guard is scrap-aluminum molding, folded so wire mesh used in plaster can be inserted, clamped together. Construction is sturdy.

M. J. HENZING Milaca, Minn.



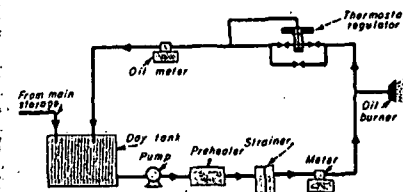
Protect Burner Hose

ANY ENGINEER, who has had rubber hose age prematurely or from radiant heat, can profit from a simple idea we tried.

Two boilers with both oil and gas burners, sketch, operated several months on gas fuel. One week after starting to burn oil, rubber gas-burner hose was badly cracked and charred on side next to furnace.

New hose were installed, but in several days there was noticeable burning. The hotter and more luminous oil flame impinged a beam of radiant heat on hose, enough to burn it. We wrapped hose with tin foil, held in place by a spiral of asbestos twine. This reflected heat so well that tin foil actually felt cool to the hand. After using it for more than a year we've had no further trouble from burning and charring.

J. R. MISKNEIMER Tulsa, Okla.



Regulator Assures Plenty of Hot Oil

WHEN OUR PLANT started up we had trouble with our bunker-C fuel oil getting cold at times. We burn oil only as a secondary fuel. Solution was a thermostat regulator in the return line to burner tank.

When temperature of oil drops to a fixed temperature setting on the regulator, regulator opens and circulates oil. When fixed temperature is reached, then regulator closes off. The cycle keeps repeating itself. Now we have hot oil all times, at right temperature.

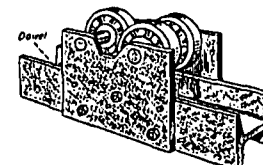
NOTE: Oil meter on return line can keep up with oil burner this way and with oil circulated.

B. D. RILEY Brunswick, Ga.

Good Advice

STOW your boiler-casing sealing compound, electrician's "gunk" (duct seal), friction tape and similar materials in a warm place. They'll always be soft and pliable, ready for instant use.

E. R. ECKERT New York, N. Y.



Old Ball Bearings Make Balance Set

WE SCRAPPED EQUIPMENT having good ball bearings, but saved these bearings and made them into a balance set for rotors. Our plant welder made sets, sketch. Medium- and small-size set shown have proved very useful for balancing all our auxiliary equipment.

J. A. SWANSON Princeton, N. C.

(Continued on page 132)