

MID-AMERICA COMMERCE & INDUSTRY®

November, 2011



Photos, Top, L-R: J.C. Plastics' Tracy & Judy Runnels. Parts produced at J.C. Plastics. C&R Mfg.'s Ron Wosel speaking at imX in Las Vegas. Bottom L-R: Gerding Enterprises' Matt Gerding with a part machined on a new Haas VF-2 SSYT VMC. An automated production cell at Ferguson Production. Natoma Corp.'s Dave Larson & Mitch Hempler with a new Feeler HV-800 VMC.

Plastics Issue:

J.C. Plastics, Independence, MO, Prepares For 25th Anniversary and Continues Improvements

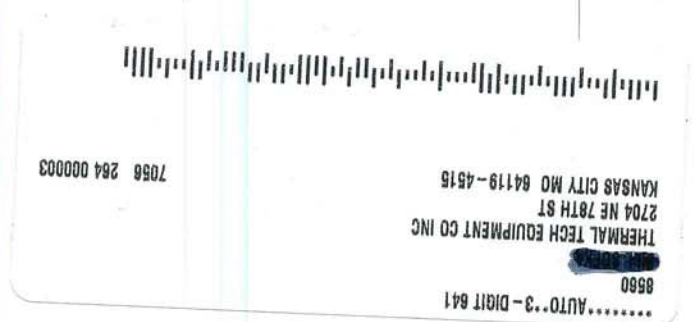
Regal Plastic Supply Continues To Lead The Way

Ferguson Production, McPherson, KS, Continues To Improve With Robotics & Automation

C&R Mfg., Shawnee, KS, Named "Top 10 Shop"

Natoma Corp., Norton, KS, Installs New Feeler VMC

Gerding Enterprises, Dittmer, MO, Installs Haas VF-2 SSYT Vertical Machining Center
Wichita Industrial Trade Show (WITS) Photos



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McPherson, Kansas

Ferguson Production Continues To Improve Operations With Robotics and Automated Equipment

Ferguson Production, Inc., McPherson, Kansas, continues to fine-tune its operation with robotics and other automated equipment.

The 37-year-old custom plastic injection molder has 34 molding machines (up to 1500-ton capacity) and can handle shot sizes up to 362 oz.

Automation is everywhere in Ferguson Production's facility. There is a robot on almost every machine and conveyors and secondary automation are standard. This includes gas-assisted operations, centralized material handling systems and a climate-controlled facility. Many of the molding machines in the plant are "all electric" which are more precise and use about one third of the electricity of regular molding machines.

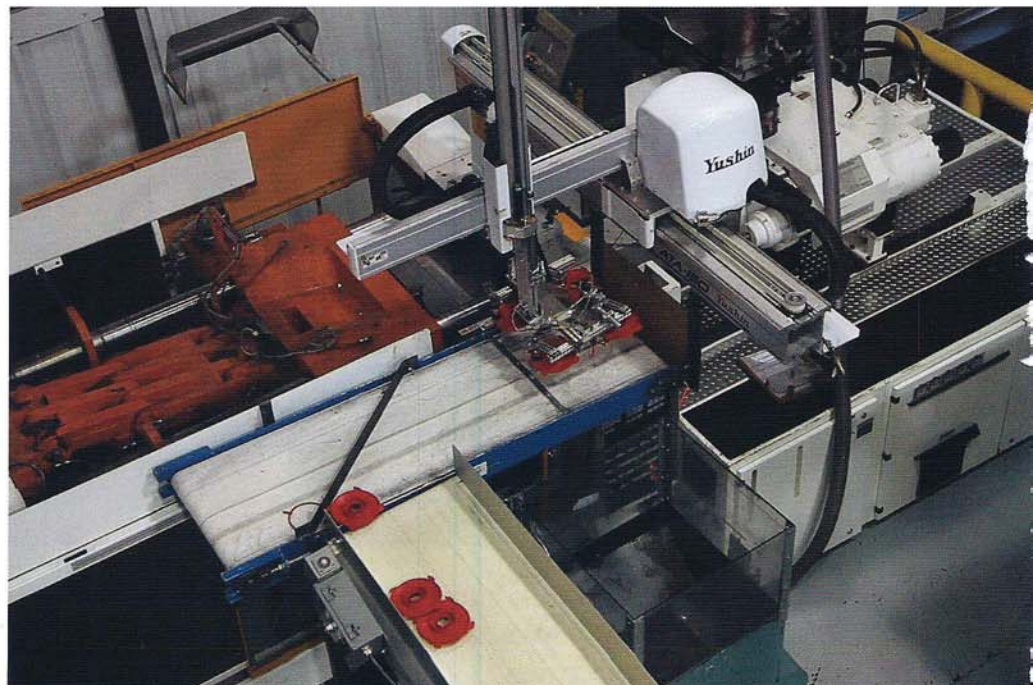
The most recent automation application at the company is a cell that produces bird feeders. The cell handles several functions including molding, transferring/positioning parts and assembling the feeders with only minimal labor required.

Scott Ferguson, VP and son of the founder noted, "Being a custom molder means lots of short runs, so finding a piece of technology or practice that we can apply across several projects is the challenge."

People are still the most important component at Ferguson Production. Norlan Ferguson explains that "the only



Above: An three-machine automated production cell at Ferguson Production.



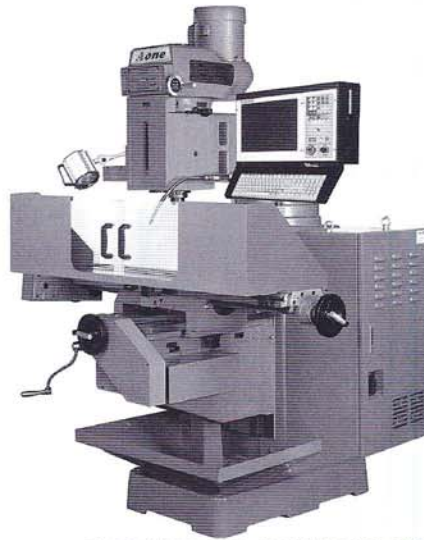
Above: An overhead view of an automated production cell at Ferguson Production.

thing more powerful than having the latest technology is putting that technology in the hands of a seasoned veteran." The company has many seasoned veterans. The company's 140 crew includes many seasoned veterans. "We stay focused on what we do... custom injection molding," noted Scott Ferguson. "We strive to be the most technically complete injection molder in our industry. We want to be a one-stop operation for our customers. This includes assembly, packaging and direct shipping to the end user. We take care of our customers."

Ferguson Production can be contacted at: (620) 241-2400; Fax: (620) 241-2084; 2130 Industrial Drive, McPherson, Kansas 67460; info@fergusonproduction.com; www.fergusonproduction.com.



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