

DOHERTY STEEL: A Family Affair



Left to Right: Dennis Doherty, President; Lisa Stephen, Controller; Chase Doherty, General Manager; Chance Coherty, Shop Foreman

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CUSTOMER NAME: Doherty Steel

INDUSTRY: Commercial and industrial structural steel fabrication and erection

LOCATION: Paola, Kansas, USA

CHALLENGE: Needing to replace outdated punching and drilling lines

SOLUTION: Installed the Advantage-2 drill line and the PeddiWriter layout marking machine

RESULTS: The speed of the Advantage-2 and the PeddiWriter increased production and accuracy while reducing man hours on projects

In 1959, James Doherty established what would later become Doherty Steel in his parent's garage. Just as many fabricators, James' early work in ornamental iron led him into the structural steel business. Today James' son Dennis (president) and daughter Lisa (controller) manage the firm, with Dennis' sons Chance (shop foreman) and Chase (general manager) climbing the corporate ladder.

As a family business, Doherty steel has been passed down through the generations with each leaving something unique. James started the business, then Dennis and his sister introduced the first automated systems to the firm as it grew. Under Dennis and Lisa's leadership, the firm has developed an impressive repertoire of commercial and industrial projects. Noteworthy tasks such as the renovation of the University of Kansas' Allen Fieldhouse Basketball Arena (home of the Jayhawks), the renovation and expansion of Arrowhead Stadium (home of the Kansas City Chiefs NFL football team) and building of Kaufman Stadium (home of the Kansas City Royals MLB baseball team) prove that Doherty Steel has long been a major player in the marketplace.

The question is, "how does a family business such as Doherty Steel continue to succeed?" The answer lies in the contributions of the next generation. Working closely with their father Dennis, Chase and Chance have used their ambition, and understanding of modern technology to



The Peddinghaus Advantage-2 drill line uses high speed carbide tooling, and has replaced a punch line, and older drill line at Doherty Steel.



The PeddiWriter automatically applies an array of information to structural profiles, including weld symbols



First in line for production, the PeddiWriter at Doherty Steel has proven to increase efficiency and the quality of work.

put Doherty Steel onto a whole new level.

A Fresh Take on the Family Business

Doherty has long relied upon CNC equipment to maintain their production. Their 120,000 square foot (11,000 square meter) production facility in Paola-KS is staffed by an average workforce of 40 shop employees, and can move some serious material. Never resting on their laurels, the team at Doherty knew there were better machines out there than their existing punching and drilling lines.

Chance sums up the scenario best, “The punching was getting out of date and we were doing bigger things. We were growing and I saw what the newest machines from Peddinghaus could do. Once you put a pencil to paper everything makes even more sense. Replacing our older drill and punch was one thing but the PeddiWriter was no question in my mind.”

Dennis affirms Chance’s statement, “Chance showed us the PeddiWriter and at first I wasn’t real excited about it. You know, I’m old school but Chance pushed us and we came up with the fact that we couldn’t live without that particular machine.”

A New Partnership with Peddinghaus

Doherty steel replaced their existing drilling and cutting machines with a new shade of green, and some serious Peddinghaus productivity. Immediately the difference was apparent.”The PeddiWriter has probably cut on average 3-4 man hours per guy out of our production,” stated Chase, “Beams that used to take one and a half hours to lay out now take eight to ten minutes. Right now we have it add the piece mark, saw cut mark, stiffener locations with individual piece marks, and weld symbols for the individual pieces.”

Chance recalls his first production run with the PeddiWriter, “A while ago we did a project that had a column about 35’ (11 meters) long, and I think it was a W14×90, so it was a bigger column. I had physically laid it out and it took maybe an hour or hour and a half at most. Once we had the machine in I knew I wanted to run that piece first. The machine did it in 8 minutes. That is exactly what we wanted it to do.”

Beyond the PeddiWriter, Dennis attests to the difference that the new PCD-1100/3C (Advantage-2) drill line has made in their production. “Compared to our old drill and punch lines the new drill is just amazing, this thing eats steel. The drill is outrunning everything including our two saws in the machine bay. I don’t know what else to say, it’s just fast and



Peddinghaus Corp Bradley, IL

accurate.”

Doherty Steel Does with it Takes

The team at Doherty stays ahead of the competition by never settling for the status quo. As Chase and Chance continue to be more involved in the business, Dennis knows his firm will continue to lead, “You know, I hate to say it but I am getting a little older and the boys, are really good with the latest software and machines that come out these days. What I have always told them is that you have to always be looking ahead at where you should be. I think Peddinghaus has done a really good job at coming out with products that fabricators really need, and listening to the feedback that they’ve gotten from users. We’ve had a lot of the competitors’ equipment and I really truly feel that is the difference. It’s no different than our business; it’s about taking care of the customer, and I think that’s Peddinghaus’ top priority.”

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PRODUCT LIST:

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