

Day 3: Duo Lift Manufacturing

I started off the day meeting David Hellbusch, CHS graduate, son of owner, Jim Hellbusch. Duo Lift was started by Jim's dad, Art in 1943. I've known Jim since I moved to Columbus in 1989. He is very proactive in the educational system. He has been on many committees and advisory boards for CHS. Jim is also someone who did a lot for the Higgins Memorial, we are very thankful for his contributions.

Next met Travis Frauendorfer, another Columbus High graduate who is the supervisor for equipment such as irrigation pipe trailers, custom-built and commercial trailers. Travis does many things throughout his day as a supervisor. He answers many questions on his radio and is very knowledgeable.

I spent a lot of time in the fabrication shop watching Michael teach a new co-worker about rigging and sawing huge I-Beams. I found it very interesting to go through the manual about cutting I-Beams. It showed all kinds of professional photographs on how the saw should be cutting and what causes a saw to fail.

Next I went to the machine tool room. I met Greg, a long time machinist who graduated from CCC Platte. He was boring out and honing cylinders so a 2 inch diameter pin would fit in them.



Dana Wessel, a 1986 CHS graduate was running a Milltronics machine which is the same brand as we run at CHS.

Dana and Tracy

There are interesting little circles on getting technical help here in Columbus. Duane Ohlrich and Pat Schmitz (Schmitty) names always come up if people want solutions for problems that occur. I have found the same to be true at Columbus High School when I have issues; I call on them as well. It is always a pleasant experience to work with these two. I now know why there are so many Milltronics in this town.

The rest of the afternoon I watched supervisor, Blaine Heinz, CHS graduate, work with robotic welders and CHS grad and former wrestler of mine, Lee Shimek. We had a big bird's nest of wire on robot 1 and I told them that I thought things like that only happened at Columbus High School!



Pictured: Tracy Dodson and Lee Shimek

I was impressed by the amount of inventory it took to build all the projects Duo Lift needed to build with. I was amazed at the number of axles, tires, and steel. I had a brief moment with owner and CHS grad Jim Hellbusch, and talked about other manufacturers who have also commented on Duo Lift's inventory, diverse trailers and processes they do.

We learn about inventory in our Linkages class. Students must pass this section of the curriculum with an 80% or better. Jim was on the committee that helped us create this curriculum and I think he really wanted passing to be 100%, now I know why!

Looking forward to tomorrow!