



Ditch Witch

INDUSTRY INNOVATOR



Top-of-the-line Ditch Witch trenchers now has 65 hp and boasts both main- and service-line capabilities. Unit trenches to depths of 7 feet, widths of 24 inches at speeds up to 2000 feet per hour; will lift self off ground. New earth saw, pictured at top of page, is making a cut thru reinforced concrete.

Ditch Witch—a division of Charles Machine Works at Perry, Okla.—is putting some innovative equipment on the market which promises to revolutionize some aspects of the industry.

Long a maker of small trenching equipment, and later of vibratory plow units, the company has just introduced the revolutionary earth saw, a unit which literally saws its way through most anything including 8-inch reinforced concrete pavement. This market innovation follows the recently developed roto witch, a unit which fits most of the Ditch Witch line of power trenchers and permits continuous trenching under streets, sidewalks and similar surface obstructions. The trenchers themselves vary from the largest unit, a 65 hp unit to a small 25 hp self-propelled vibratory plow unit for laying cable and irrigation lines.

President of the company, Edwin Malzahn, speaking to the trade press at a special demonstration of the new line recently at Chicago, said that the first trenching equipment was built 23 years ago. The company, he said, experienced some lean years of growth but that last

year (based on US Department of Commerce data) manufactured and sold 50% of all such equipment. The present plant at Perry covers nine acres.

Product lines besides the aforementioned include a full line of attachments for most power units which include backhoes and front-end loaders. Several multi-use models will handle a combination of trencher, vibratory plow, backhoe, front-end loader, and the roto witch. The larger power unit also utilizes the earth saw as an accessory.

The units are being used more and more for uses other than industrial. Tree care companies and nurserymen in the Chicago area are using some of the small trenchers for digging tree balls and for root pruning prior to digging. Nurserymen, especially, find the smallest trencher, a non-riding handle bar model, especially adaptable to narrow rows when root pruning and digging ornamentals.

The Ditch Witch line is sold through company dealers in every state of the union, and in Canada, Europe, South America, and Australia.



Press tent at Chicago Ditch Witch product showing. Editors see one of combo series in action. These units in various sizes do five different trenching operations, without changing or adding attachments. Combo trenches, backfills, does vibratory plowing, backhoeing, and boring.



Edwin Malzahn, president of Charles Machine Works, Inc., right, discusses VP 12 unit with Warren (Doc) Jordan, president of Jordan-Kumler advertising agency at Oklahoma City. The 25 hp unit which lays both cable and irrigation lines has plow on front, and is built to fit the normal lawn gate.



On hand for Ditch Witch press showing was Art Erlinger, left, president of Wisconsin Motor, Milwaukee. Visiting with Erlinger is Bud Hollingsworth of Ditch Witch. Wisconsin Motor's engines prevail on this line of equipment.

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