The 2006 National Coal Show in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was a success! Many commented about the “quality” of the attendees. This show was changed from a bi-annual to an annual event. This year offered more paper/technical sessions than in the past. Next year the show is expected to display more heavy underground equipment. This show has always been one of our favorites.

Gary Fair with ARO Mining Products commented that he was starting a Frank Hyden Fan Club. I guess he’s been reading a lot about Frank in our post-show coverage and feels it is a necessary evil. Seriously though, we see Frank with Sandvik Mining & Construction at all the shows and truly enjoy our conversations. His travels in both the United States and overseas equips him with many interesting stories from the industry. We were talking about times back in the 1970s, before fax machines, computers, and cell phones. Somehow the job still got done “back in the day.” Frank started out as an engineer when all drawings were done by hand.

Don Halulko with CBP Engineering visited the show and recalled an event from 1978 when he drove to Charleston, WV from Pennsylvania, in order to get his ad copy to Al Skinner by deadline. Back then when deadline was close and a customer wanted an ad in, e-mail was not an option. It was a drive to Charleston. The layout of CPM for the printer was all done with a back lite board, carefully pasting the copy and ads onto a page with blue lines to provide the straightest layout possible. One had to envision and carefully plan each page, as a small change meant going back to the “pasting board.”

Keeping with the Pittsburgh 2006 All Star theme, FSC had some fun with their own All Star’s when the sales staff teamed up with a few All Star Vendors in the booth. The vendors included, AEARO, CONTROL, CONOCOPHILLIPS, GORO (Cobra America LLC), HILTI, STANLEY WORKS, and FAIRMONT RUBBER PRODUCTS. Attendees were greeted at the booth and handed an “All Star Line-up” card which included the vendors list. The attendee would then visit each vendor booth to review or demo the various products offered. An FSC representative would be on hand to “ticket punch” the “star” that related to that particular vendor. When the attendee completed the visit to all seven vendors he returned to the FSC booth with the punched card in hand and was able to enter the daily grand prize drawing.

Michael “out of” Sites with Convenience Products was enjoying a busy show. They have a busy show schedule this year promoting the Mine Block Morter, a high strength construction adhesive, which is now available. This innovative solution provides an air-sealing bond between concrete blocks in underground coal mine ventilation stoppings. The show display showcased a ‘hands on’ look at this new product.
Curiosity got the best of us when we approached the Strata Products booth. Lester Tupper was standing at the entrance of the Emergency Refuge Chamber with rumbling laughter coming from inside. Everyone was enjoying a sit down visit as this chamber provided a roomy feeling. Strata received some great feedback at the show for its Emergency Refuge Chamber. These chambers are used extensively in mines in Australia, Chile, and Mexico. This is one of the many technically-advanced products Strata offers. CPM featured a detailed product profile article in the June issue; a must read article for anyone in the coal mining industry.

Strata Products USA
Rob Thomas, Tom Barczak, Steve Tadolini, Lester Tupper, and Dale Keene

Tom Bailey of Huesker and Jeanine Rainone

Jeanine Rainone stopped by CPM’s booth and had a chance to network with Tom Bailey of Huesker. FORCE (Families for Coal). FORCE is a grassroots Pennsylvania organization representing coal and coal related companies, employees, and families. Their mission is to be a strong, unified voice in support of Pennsylvanians whose livelihoods depend upon coal. FORCE is holding the annual “Hurricane Classic” golf outing on Wednesday September 20th, at Cedarbrook Golf Course in Belle Vernon, PA. For more information call, 724-684-8051 or E-mail: info@families4coal.com.

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In addition to a full staff, MICON had the whole family participating at its booth. Blair Lamb was recently promoted to general manager, and Jay Popovich is enjoying some summer assistance from his son Josh Popovich who is on break from the University of Nevada Las Vegas. We’ve heard a lot about Jay’s wife Doni over the years and had the opportunity to finally meet her. She’s everything they talked about, and more. What a wonderful lady! They’re having an extremely busy year with many new and exciting plans for the future. You’ll be hearing more about MICON in upcoming issues of CPM.

Jay Popovich (huh? Popovich? Italian? – the name descends from Old Russia) was telling us about a new Italian Restaurant that recently opened up in Beechview, PA called Lunardi’s. With the mention of fried bologna sandwiches, we knew it must have authentic Italian food. These sandwiches are an Italian favorite from way back, and we don’t know of any restaurant that offers them on a menu. Our inquisitive minds led us on the short drive Friday evening. The music had Ernie up and dancing the Tarantella to one of his favorites, Luna Mezzo Mare. Along with fried bologna and hot peppers, we enjoyed some terrific spaghetti and meatballs. This is one of Pittsburgh’s newest best kept secrets offering up a menu that keeps you wanting to go back to try another interesting item. Their slogan on the Web site is “Chi trova un amico, trova un tesoro” which translates to, “He who finds a friend, finds a treasure.” Not only did we find a new friend in the owner Timmi Lunardi, but a great treasure of Italian cuisine. If you live in Pittsburgh or are traveling to the area visit their Web site, www.lunardis.biz for a menu brief or directions. Or feel free to call Timmi at 412/531-1594. He and his family will welcome you with open arms.

Lee Supply went all out for its hospitality event. A magician named Lance Laska from Lake Worth, Florida was brought in for entertainment. Lance received great reviews, people continued to rave about him the next day at the show. We ran into an old friend John Steffenino with Tensar while at the party. Lee Supply and Tensar are working on a new product to replace eight gage steel wire roof mats and should be ready for sale in October. John, his wife Martha, daughter Isabella who is now three, and their dog Ted recently relocated to Greensburg, PA.

CPM will be traveling to and exhibiting at more great shows this year. Don’t miss the CoalGen Show in Cincinnati in August, the Coal Quality Show in October in Lexington. The Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce is holding a Bluefield Coal Symposium this year with a focus on Mine Safety, Mining Legislation and Training, September 27-29. A limited number of exhibit space is available. For more information visit www.bluefield-chamber.com, or call Debbie Maynard at 304/327-7184. This event is in addition to the Bluefield Coal Show held every other year. The 2007 Bluefield Coal Show is scheduled for September 12-14. Don’t forget to sign up early for this show. It fills up fast! Debbie Maynard will be happy to assist you for either show.
"A.L. Lee received numerous favorable comments and leads for its newest offerings to the coal mining industry – with its partner, ChemBio Shelter Inc., details of an emergency mine shelter was provided in addition to a new Highwall Mining System which featured a thin seam continuous miner and an innovative conveyor. Ultimate Mining Systems, as the new company is known, will provide the equipment that can mine coal previously thought impossible to recover.

"Mine personnel acknowledged that the ChemBio Shelter appears to be the only device that will meet the requirements of the Mine Safety Task Force.

"While many potential customers expressed interest in the new Highwall Mining System," one mine manager visited the display each of the three days to learn as much as he could and concluded that this technology was the answer to recovering his coal in Eastern Pennsylvania.

"For A.L. Lee and ChemBio, the show was a winner."

"The METHANE BUSTER people, Gary, Nancy and Jake (not in photo) had a good time at the Coal Show. We renewed old friendships, made new friends and shared in valuable information exchange. The show provided a good opportunity for KSD Enterprises to promote the METHANE BUSTER gas mover. We are anxious to have a spot at future shows."
“At the National Coal Show, we received positive comments from existing customers about the Fault Wizard along with a good mix of mine operators who have realized that the Fault Wizard can save them a tremendous amount of time and money.

This show allows the users to see how easy it is to use in finding cable faults, including pinpointing exactly where the problem is with the Fault Wizard’s automated arc-reflection technology (AART) developed by IUP. At shows where the product can be demonstrated, we can show our easy to read displays and how they give distances to the fault location and then show the customers the Cycle Thump mode (the only compact unit on the market to have this feature).

With hundreds of Fault Wizard’s in use by mining operations around the world, and electrical equipment becoming so important to the mine’s operation, fast power restoration is critical. It was an excellent opportunity to meet new and old customers at this show.”

“The National Coal Show brought Beitzel Corporation new opportunities, both in customers and products. The Beitzel Corporation family is proud to announce that we have entered into an agreement in principle with Becker Electronics as its United States representative. Becker manufactures UHF and VHF leaky feeder systems that have been installed around the world. These systems have been tested and proven second to none in communications in a U.S. longwall mine.

“This year’s coal show allowed current and potential customers to review our existing products as well as new products which now include Becker’s communications systems. The synergy created by this partnership will allow Becker and Beitzel to assume a place of leadership in underground communications.”

“CAB had a wide variety of safety products on display at the National Coal Show. The CAB Lifeline, which was first introduced to the mining industry 21 years ago, generated a lot of interest at the show. Its original rope Lifeline was the first commercially available Lifeline on the market and has exceeded the new fire resistant standards since the 1990s.

“The new CAB Aircraft Cable Lifeline generated a lot of interest at the show because of its high strength and durability in case of mine fires, explosions or rock falls. This new product has been selling well and is patent pending. CAB had other interesting new products including Padded Self Rescuer Bags for protecting and carrying extra self-rescuer units and CAB Rescue Tag Lines.”

“Fairmont Supply Company has become an official Parts Distributor for Brookville Equipment Corporation.

Look for product announcements in upcoming issues of Coal People!”
American Mine Research  
Chris Adkins and Roger Lee

“We were very excited about the attendance and the response we received not only on our new “Smart CO Sensor”, but also our Ethernet System and CB-PRO. Overall, the show seemed to attract a lot of quality people who were very interested in our new technology. This show seemed to bring in not only the local people from PA, but some of our customers from Alabama, Virginia and West Virginia dropped by to see our new products. We also received interest from some International Companies as well. In this market we are very excited about the opportunities that are presented to us daily. We look forward to the next show and hope the market continues to grow.”

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Steve McIntyre, Larry Lester, Greg Hinshaw, Bill Ellis, and Ben Hardman

CONSPEC Controls  
Rob Albinger with CONSPEC Controls, Eric Guthrie and Rick Bray with Beitzel
“Priority Wire & Cable enjoyed meeting customers from both the distribution and mine level. To be able to put faces with names and actually meet folks face to face is very important in our industry. We also are very excited with all of the “new customer” opportunities that we met at the show.

Thumbs up from the wire and cable folks at Priority Wire & Cable.”

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- Type SOOW
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www.prioritywire.com
“The show was surprisingly well attended.”
– Ken Dunn, sales manager

“The new products we are venturing into were very well received by customers and potential customers.”
– Mike Yates, project manager

“This being the first time the National Coal Show was a standalone trade show, we were pleasantly pleased with the quality of attendees.”
– Paul Campbell, president

Laurel Products, Inc.
Ed Coates and Wes Demonde

This was Laurel Products first time exhibiting at the National Coal. Laurel has historically sold its novel A-100 dust suppressant to the bentonite clay industry. Recently a major cement company requested to trial A-100 to reduce the permissible exposure limits in the manufacturing plant with MSHA overseeing the trial and testing. Laurel quickly realized that dust is a problem throughout the mining industry and that led them to the National Coal Show.

“There were several opportunities to network with potential clients and distributors. It also provided us with information on how we may create safer surroundings for the coal industry. It makes us proud to know that we can help protect the interests of businesses as well as the welfare of their employees.”

“Our time at the show was a great success and we are committed to the continued health and safety of these harmful environments.”
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“We were pleased to see the truly “International Flavor” of the Pittsburgh National Coal Show.
“We found useful contacts with other exhibitors.”

Duraline, LLC, Ed Kriscunas and David Redding

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United Industrial Supply and Koehler Lighting Products
Harry Dushac with United Industrial Supply, Paul Kish with Koehler Lighting Products, and Seldon Johnson with United Ind. Supply

Richwood Industries

Swanson Industries

Frank Dulin (center facing camera), vice president of Swanson Industries, Frank Griffin (left), Jim Gandy (right), and Sharon Turner (far right)

Swanson Industries

Kennametal Inc.

Scott Rife, Bill Smith, Kirby Owens, and Tom Bobik

Kennametal Inc.