

# World's Largest Earth Mover in Use at Mines

**By REYNOLDS KNIGHT**  
A famous German car manufacturer suggests that people "think small," but just about every one else says, "think big."

As evidence that a great many planners, designers and engineers have been thinking "big," an excavating monster that weighs about 15,000 tons that has been called the largest self-propelled earth mover now is in operation. It's made to move 300 tons of earth and rock each time the bucket digs in.

The super scooper was designed to strip two coal seams at the same time, even though the seams may be separated by many feet of dirt. The vehicle made in Marion, Ohio is expected to be in service more than 80 per cent of the time, turning out enough coal each day to

fill approximately 160 railroad cars. Final assembly of the unit was made at a strip coal mine near Percy, Ill., where it will be operating.

**CRAFTSMANSHIP** — The skilled hands of craftsmen are still needed in this age of the machine, and on occasion the craftsmen create things of beauty which they themselves never see. Each year at this time, members of the Cincinnati Association for the Blind assemble handsome glass stoppers for holiday decanters of Schenley Reserve blended whiskey and I. W. Harper Bourbon.

Approximately one million of these "closures" have been assembled this year, according to Norman Kravitz, the packaging coordinator for these products, who pointed out that the contract is

"strictly a business proposition and not charity."

"As you watch these skilled workers," he continued, "it is difficult to believe that they are blind. Their hands nimbly select four different parts and quickly force them together in a hand press."

The speed with which the people adapt themselves to an assembly job is a tribute to the workers, and also to the supervisors who continually work with them to develop new assembly techniques so that the Association can provide more job opportunities, Kravitz said.

**BITS O' BUSINESS** — "Fastest" passenger train in North America now runs between Montreal and Toronto at average speed of more than 67 miles per hour for 335 miles. One automobile company offers 113 colors on its 1966

cars. Tests are being made of jellied jet fuel as a means of reducing fire hazards in airplane crashes. Next year's sales of the metal-working industry — which includes autos, machinery, tools, and all plants that produce metal or make products wholly or partly of metal — may rise 7.3 per cent to a new record high of \$234 billion. Look for supersonic 1450-m.p.h. passenger plane, built by British and French firms, to be in service in early 1968.

**PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAM** — Industry and government have been urged to join a "concerted and conscious program" for increased productivity by a leading business executive. James H. Binger, board chairman of Honeywell, Inc., called on government to provide tax in-

centives as an additional stimulus to industry and suggested that industry step up the pace by modernizing plant and methods to produce more goods at lower cost.

Only in this way can we shut the door on inflation, remain competitive with the rest of the world, and provide the society for which we are all striving," he said. At the recent dedication of Honeywell's new \$10-million facility in Fort Washington, Pa., where there are more than 3,500 employees, he called industrial instrumentation "the tools of automation."

"Instrumentation has made possible many of the products that we accept as household names," he continued, "and has enabled industry to turn them out in the volumes and in the consistent high levels of quality necessary to meet today's requirements."

**SCIENCE NEWS** — Famous Scotland Yard is testing to find out whether human hair may be an even better weapon than fingerprints to track down criminals. Hairs are placed in a nuclear reactor and made radioactive, so that minute parts of elements can be traced. New Zealand scientists are experimenting with cigarette filters for removing polonium, a radioactive metal that may be a possible cause of lung cancer. Research balloons costing as much as \$30,000 each are now being recovered by means of two parachutes in tandem. Formerly, the balloons were destroyed after releasing their scientific payloads. Russian scientists are hoping to drill nine miles through the earth's crust. A U.S. project involved drilling through 6.6 miles into the ocean floor.

**THINGS TO COME** — New tool that is said to be capable of riveting together almost any materials usually found around homes and workshops. Typewriter with a touch that has been lightened by more than an ounce, may reduce a heavy-duty typist's work by 70,000 ounces a day. New tape rule that has one blank edge where pencil marks can be made to indicate measurements. Spherical casters that are said to be easier on carpeting when furniture is shifted. Speed gauge for small power or sail boats that can be dipped over the side of the boat to indicate speeds of up to 35 miles per hour. An air pump that is driven by an automobile battery through the cigarette lighter outlet can be used with air mattresses, toys, rubber boats and inner tubes.

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