

Rain Outback

by L&M Australia's own Terry Gilchrist

The storm clouds gather overhead and Mother Nature sends the rains
Then weaves her spell of magic, and redecorates the plains.
The sky has changing colors that range from grey to black
And the water, a ribbon of silver, as it lays along a track.

As the rain keeps on falling, and the earth can drink no more
The wildlife becomes unsettled; they have seen big rains before
As creeks and rivers are swollen and become a widening flood and
The land becomes impassable as it turns to deep red mud.

With the water comes the bird life, so many different breeds
Some that play a vital part, in scattering round the seeds
But as the water soaks away, and the sun warms the ground
Tiny plants soon spring up, and flowers in bloom abound.

You may see many shades of green that contrast with the land
The varied colors of the rocks or the redness of the sand
Yet all of nature's wonders and everything from birth
Are dependent on the water, the lifeblood of the earth.



There will always be death and taxes; however, death doesn't get worse every year.

Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand.

Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.



The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.



It is frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.

An optimist thinks this is the best possible world. A pessimist fears this is true.

L&M AND encóres

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COLOSSAL EARTHMOVERS II

The Famous Terex Titan (Model 33-19) was a favorite of ours, mostly because we were at the American Mining Congress Exhibition (now MINExpo) in Las Vegas in October, 1974, when it was unveiled. Note that our radiators were not on the truck at first, but we eventually replaced the cheap radiators and we are on it now.

The Terex Titan, at 350-tons capacity, held the title of the world's biggest truck for 25 years until 1999, when its capacity was exceeded by units from Caterpillar® and Liebherr. The only 33-19 built has now finished its working days and stands preserved in the town of Sparwood, British Columbia, Canada, just a short distance from where it spent most of its working life.

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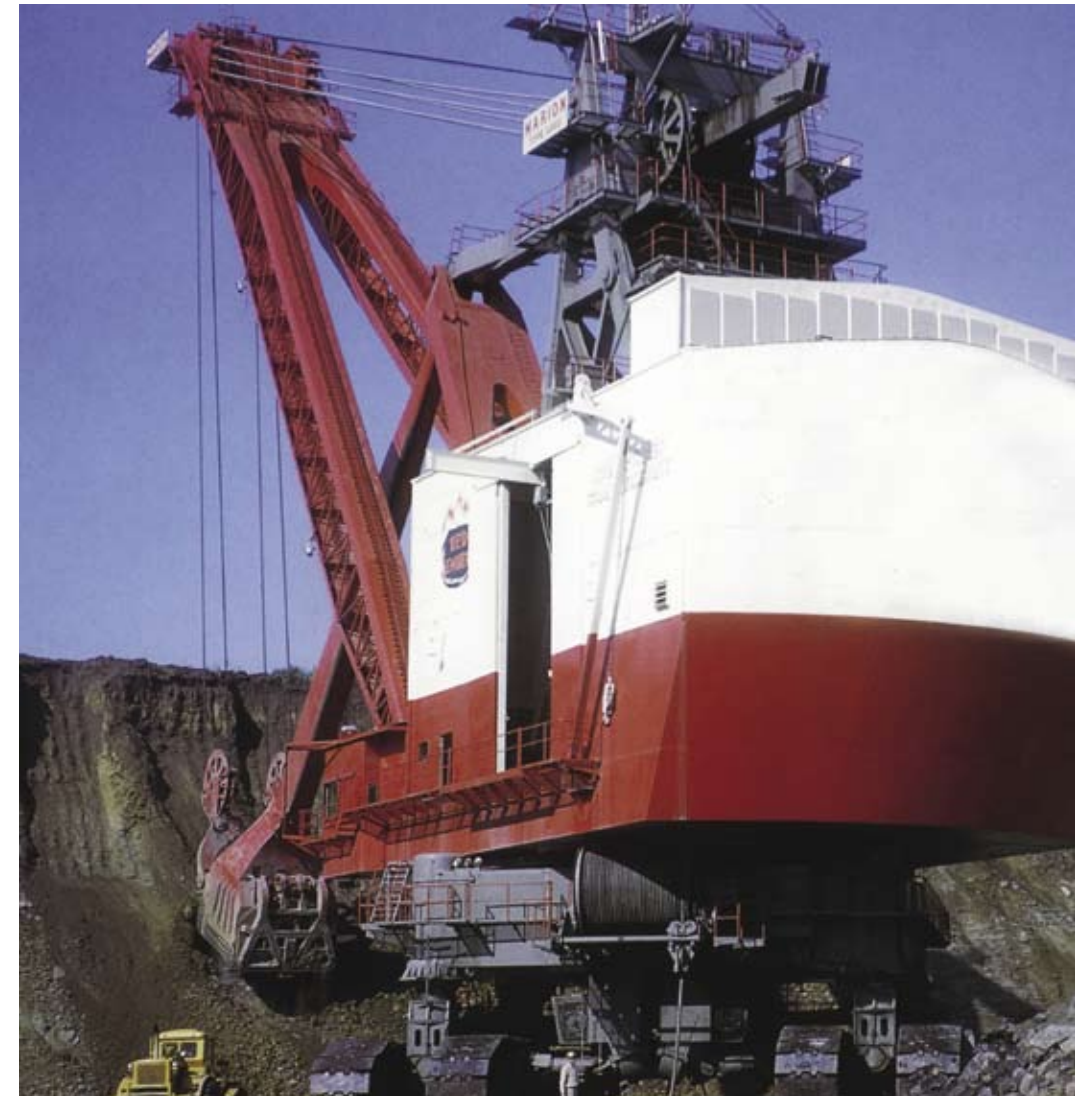
Again, we lift all of the following from the book, *Colossal Earthmovers*, by Keith Haddock

Stripping shovels are the true giants of the mobile machine world. These huge machines include the 15,000-ton “Captain” shovel, the heaviest piece of equipment ever to move under its own power on land. Only the largest ships on the ocean have a greater moveable mass than these monster machines.

The largest stripping shovels are found in surface coal mines; smaller sizes were also located in limestone and ironstone quarries. Stripping shovels work the same way as the cable shovels described in chapter six, but they have longer booms and don’t deposit their load onto another vehicle. Regular shovels load haulage trucks, which carry the material away. However, the gigantic proportions of the stripping shovel with its longer boom allow it to dig from a high face, swing around, and pile the material clear on the working area. In surface mines these machines dig long strips or cuts and cast the material into the adjacent cut from which the coal has already been removed. It’s similar to large-scale plowing of a field where the furrow being cut is turned over into the adjacent furrow. After the shovel has passed through, bulldozers level the piles of spoil, scrapers replace the subsoil and topsoil, and the land is then put back to productive use.

Large stripping shovels are mounted on eight crawler trucks arranged in pairs, one pair at each corner of the lower frame. Each two-crawler assembly is attached to a large vertical hydraulic cylinder for leveling the machine, an important feature when negotiating uneven ground. The leveling is usually done automatically; a pendulum system directs the hydraulic fluid to and from the four cylinders to keep the machine on an even keel. The front and rear crawler assemblies are steered independently by horizontal hydraulic rams.

Alex Chisholm



From the floor of a mine, the Marion 5860 is truly an impressive sight. This giant stripping shovel has a working weight of 10,150,000 pounds and features a 180-foot boom that carries an 80-cubic-yard bucket. The giant bucket’s inside dimensions are 11 feet high; 12 feet, 6 inches deep; and 14 feet wide.

In addition to *Colossal Earthmovers*, Mr. Haddock has written four other books on heavy equipment: *Bucyrus: Making the Earth Move for 125 Years*; *Giant Earthmovers: An Illustrated History*; *The Earthmover Encyclopedia: The Complete Guide to Heavy Equipment of the World*, and a fifth book coming out fall of 2008. All of his books can be found at motorbooks.com.

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