

# WOOD WORKS

Featured in this issue:

## **MATTUCHIO CONSTRUCTION CO.**

**Specializing in shaft excavation,  
this company relies on new Komatsu  
"tight-tail-swing" excavator**

(See article inside)



## MATTUCHIO CONSTRUCTION CO.

### These tunnel specialists have a “never-fail” attitude in an unpredictable business

Imagine going to work every day 100 feet or more below the ground. That's normal for Tom Mattuchio, President of Mattuchio Construction Company in Everett, Massachusetts.

Mattuchio Construction Company specializes in shaft excavation. Over the past 17 years, the company has done 10 tunnel projects in Massachusetts, some that were over 400 feet deep.

"I've probably done more deep shaft excavations than any other excavator in New England," Mattuchio said. "That's my niche. I enjoy the thrill of going deep into the ground."

#### Going deep

Mattuchio is currently working on a tunnel project in the city of Weymouth. His part of the project involves digging a shaft that's 30 by 40 by 240 feet deep, the widest-diameter tunnel he's dug to date. To dig in that tight space, Mattuchio is using a Komatsu PC228US-2 tight-tail-swing excavator. When ground conditions are good, operators can go 35 to 40 feet deep in one week.

In the shaft, the excavator operator loads the dirt into a scale pan. When the pan is full, it's hoisted up by a crane, then the material is dumped into a truck. About 350 yards of material is removed during each shift.

A slurry wall is poured, then the shaft is dug. Once the crew reaches 240 feet, the bottom will be opened on two sides so other equipment can be set up to drill and blast a 3,000-foot tunnel. That tunnel will run underneath a channel to a shipyard. From there, another 2.75 miles of tunnel will be constructed under the Atlantic Ocean to Nut Island.

Work on the shaft began in January. Mattuchio expects it will be completed in June. The job runs 24 hours a day, six days a week. Mattuchio himself spends a lot of time at the site operating the excavator and overseeing the project.

"It's important for me to be there because a lot of things could go wrong in the shaft," he said. "And down in the hole, we're dependent on the crane for service. When I'm there, I can stay on top of that and push the job along a little better."

#### Reputation for quality work

For a guy with a small business that includes only six employees, Mattuchio has become well-known for his expertise in shaft excavation. He has been hired by companies all over the country including England to do tunnel work. So far, all the jobs have been located in the Boston area. But he said he's willing to travel anywhere for the right project.

Most projects take about six months to complete.

In addition to shaft excavation work, Mattuchio Construction Company has a utility division. And as is his nature, Mattuchio doesn't shy away from taking on complicated jobs other companies turn down.

One such project involved an extensive utility relocation job in downtown Boston. Crews were

Tom Mattuchio, left, President of Mattuchio Construction Company, with Morgan Curran, Tunnel Supervisor, who Mattuchio says helped get his Everett, Massachusetts, shaft excavating business "in" the ground.





As part of a recent tunnel project in Weymouth, a Mattuchio operator works 80 feet below the surface with a Komatsu PC228US tight-tail-swing excavator.



digging around live 115-thousand-volt cables and fiber optic lines. The job was completed safely and without any damage to the nearby cables.

### Determined to succeed

Mattuchio says his company is successful because the words, "It can't be done," are not a part of his vocabulary. That "never-fail" attitude shouldn't be taken lightly from a man who's found himself trying to contain thousands of gallons of water that were pouring into a shaft.

"I've been in some pretty hairy situations," he admitted. "You never know what kind of ground conditions you'll run into. But I'm determined to make a hole go as deep as it needs to go, no matter what it takes."

### Key people

One person who Mattuchio credits for helping him get started in the tunnel business is Morgan Curran, Tunnel Supervisor, who is well-known in the construction industry. "Morgan taught me everything I know about this business," said Mattuchio. "Now he

refers me to general contractors because he knows I can do shaft excavations safely and efficiently."

Another person who has been valuable to Mattuchio is longtime employee Jim Gravellese. "Jim is my second in command and takes care of business when I'm out of town," Mattuchio said. "And he's an expert operator."

### Safety is constant priority

It goes without saying that Mattuchio and his employees are never far from disaster in this line of work. There's no room for safety errors when an excavator is being operated, or when 40,000 pounds of dirt are being hoisted over the heads of the crew in the hole.

For that reason, Mattuchio personally trains the employees who work in the shaft division. Weekly safety meetings are held and training films are shown frequently. And Mattuchio stresses constant communication among crew members at the site.

In these pictures, a crane is being used to lower the Komatsu PC228US-2 into the shaft.

A Kent AF22 hydraulic hammer attachment is used with the excavator to break through rock in the shaft.

Continued . . .

# Mattuchio specializes in deep shaft work

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Bob Rosa, left, C.N. Wood Sales Representative, with Tom Mattuchio, President of Mattuchio Construction Company.

Mattuchio is proud of the fact that there's never been an accident in his company's 17 years of operation. "I have over 1,500 feet of vertical shaft experience using Komatsu equipment," he said. "And I'm proud to say no one's been hurt on any of those jobs."

## Equipment fits space limits

Good operator visibility on the Komatsu tight-tail-swing excavator does help increase safety on the job, according to Mattuchio. And the compact size of the excavator works well where space is tight.

That's why Mattuchio selected the Komatsu PC228US-2 tight-tail-swing excavator from C.N. Wood in Burlington. The first job he used it on was the Weymouth tunnel project. When he showed up at the jobsite with the machine, some people were skeptical.



The operator on this Komatsu PC228US excavator from C.N. Wood in Burlington uses the bucket as well as a Kent KQT22F hammer, also from C.N. Wood, on the Weymouth tunnel project. By the end of the job, the shaft will be 30 x 40 x 240 feet deep.

"They looked at the excavator and asked me, 'Are you really going to put that machine in the hole?'" Mattuchio recalled. "I said, 'I certainly am.' Once they saw how powerful the excavator is and how much material it moved, the skepticism quickly disappeared."

Mattuchio says the ability of the PC228 to work almost entirely within its tracks is perfect for shaft excavation. And it withstands the wear and tear of operating 24 hours a day.

"Once other contractors see how tough this machine is, I think you're going to be seeing a lot of these excavators on a lot of jobsites," he said. "It also can take a large size attachment, which fits my needs, too."

The attachment used frequently on the Weymouth job is the Kent AF22 hydraulic hammer, also from C.N. Wood. Mattuchio says the 4,000-pound hammer can break through a three-foot area of rock in an hour and a half to two hours. His customers like that, too.

"The faster I can get to the bottom of the hole, the more money the general contractor saves," he said. "And I'm seriously considering purchasing the quick coupler from C.N. Wood to save more time when changing attachments."

Before Mattuchio purchased the Komatsu PC228 excavator, he relied on two Komatsu PC95 excavators to do tunnel work. He used the machines on a 400-foot shaft project in Framingham. Mattuchio says he was able to complete the job in four months, which is a record time for a hole that deep.

He still has one of the PC95 excavators in addition to a Komatsu PC300-6 excavator, which is used for utility work. "Komatsu makes an excellent product," he said. "And Komatsu and C.N. Wood stand behind their equipment."

## Exceptional service

Reliable service from the dealer is important to Mattuchio. That's why he likes working with Sales Representative Bob Rosa and Technical Service Representative Dan Jurvey at C.N. Wood.

"If I ever have a problem, I know I can count on Bob and Dan to take care of it quickly," he said. "C.N. Wood is a full-service company that takes excellent care of its customers."

Mattuchio also likes using Komatsu financing. "I just give Bob the paperwork and he takes care of the rest," he said. "Bob, C.N. Wood and Komatsu Financial make it easy to own equipment."