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such as “Oil Prices Bound to Soar” were typical. Industries were experiencing shortages of supplies and rising prices. The lack of wire rope had become so acute that drilling and production of petroleum products were threatened.

Legend has it that a group of men were playing poker at the Tulsa Club, in the basement of the Tulsa Elks Club. One of the players was Henry Black who was lamenting that he had no wire rope to sell. He suggested that they supply the money and he would build them a rope mill. Black became the catalyst for the oil men who gathered later

to determine the course of action. They purchased approximately 12.5 acres of land on the east bank of the Blue River in Kansas City, Missouri, and on May 17, 1917, Black Steel & Wire Company became a reality.

In 1927 a new management team reorganized the company as Union Wire Rope. After the War, Union was still strong in the oil fields, but they began to seek other types of business. This led to the development of shovel and drag hoist ropes for the mining industry, which played a large part in Union’s continued, steady growth.

In 1958 Armco Steel acquired the assets of the Union Wire Rope Corporation, and in 1988 Union was acquired by WireCo WorldGroup, making WireCo the largest wire rope manufacturer in the United States.

Today, Union remains an industry leader in oil and gas, mining, crane and general-purpose ropes with technical support unmatched in the industry. The Union Cut-Off Program, which is designed to calculate, log and track the service life of Union drill lines is recognized by contractors around the world as the best in the industry.

Union Wire Rope – A century of wire rope excellence in design, manu-

facturing and technical support.

For more information: www.wireco-worldgroup.com.

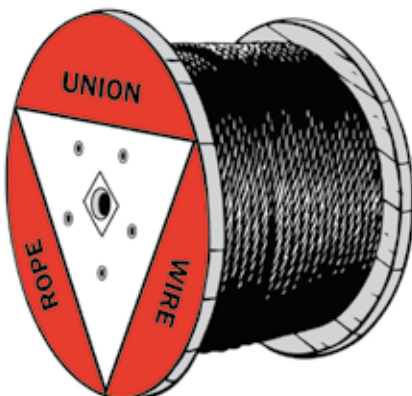
Fagioli uses Hydra-Side HT500 to replace pipe bending machine

Houston, Texas-based Fagioli Inc. used its 500-ton capacity Hydra-Slide HT500 heavy track hydraulic skidding system and other rigging equipment to remove a 230,000-lb. pipe bending machine and replace it with a spare system.

Fagioli accepted a scope of work to remove the existing machine from a pit, slide it to a loading area, load it onto a hydraulic trailer and repeat the operation in reverse with another pipe bender that was kept in storage for replacement purposes. Both systems were identical in weight and measured 18 ft. x 10 ft. x 8 ft.

Fellow Texas company, Cowboy’s Services Inc. (CSI), a Wallisville-based heavy haulage specialist, won the contract for transportation of the machines and sub-contracted Fagioli to execute the replacement operation. All parties combined over three days of planning and a further three days to complete successful installation in the upgraded

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