

letters

A New Source of Old Data Sheets
USD used to publish handy design aids for metal deck as advertisements in *Modern Steel Construction*. They disappeared from the Internet after the company was bought out, and now I can't find any good references beyond the scope of typical deck catalogs. Is there any way I can get the old USD ads from previous issues of *MSC*?

—Alex Bonnar,
McNamara/Salvia, Inc., Boston

Shortly after *MSC* started accepting paid advertising, in 1982, Nicholas J. Bouras Co. began running a series of ads that provided data regarding the various aspects of the steel deck products that they produced. It was identified by the name of United Steel Deck, which was simply the trade name they used for that product line.

The USD data sheets were numbered sequentially, but they sometimes circled

back, republishing a prior data sheet. We don't have a comprehensive compilation. However in recently going over all the old issues, I saw that in 1995 they had gotten to No. 20 in the deck data series.

Earlier this year we had all of the earlier issues of *MSC* scanned and all are now available as PDF files in the archives section of the *MSC* website at www.modernsteel.com/backissues.

At least in the early years, the USD Data Sheets generally were within the first few pages of the magazine, so it would be possible to go issue by issue starting with 1982 and collect them. That's not quite as daunting a project as it first sounds, because at that time there were just four issues per year. However the company continued its data sheet series through the 1987-1990 period where *MSC* went to six times a year and beyond, when it became a monthly magazine.