

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

(Name of Issuer)
Kankakee Bancorp Inc

(Title of Class of Securities)
Common Stock

(CUSIP Number)
602720104

NAME OF REPORTING PERSON
Private Capital Management, Inc.

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO.
59-2756929

MEMBER OF A GROUP?
(b) X

PLACE OF ORGANIZATION
Florida

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:
SOLE VOTING POWER 0
SHARED VOTING POWER 0
SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER 0
SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 294022

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON
294022

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY
OWNED
6.1%

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON
IA

NAME OF REPORTING PERSON
Bruce S. Sherman

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO.
###-##-####

MEMBER OF A GROUP?
(b) X

CITIZENSHIP
U.S. Citizen

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:
SOLE VOTING POWER 300
SHARED VOTING POWER 0
SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER 300
SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 312122

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON
312422

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES
(yes)

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY
OWNED
6.5%

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON
IN

NAME OF REPORTING PERSON
SPS Partners, L.P.

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO.
65-049634

MEMBER OF A GROUP?

(b) X

CITIZENSHIP

Delaware

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:

SOLE VOTING POWER 0
SHARED VOTING POWER 0
SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER 0
SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 18100

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

18100

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

(yes)

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY

OWNED

0.0%

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

IN

ITEMS 1 - 10 OF GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Item 1.

(a)Name of Issuer: Mine Safety Appliances Co.
(b)Address of Issuer: 121 Gamma Drive, RIDC Industrial Park,
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Item 2.

(a)Name of Person Filing: See Exhibit 1
(b)Address of Person Filing:3003 Tamiami Trail N., Naples, FL 34103
(c)Citizenship: See Exhibit 1
(d)Title of Class of Securities: Common Stock
(e)CUSIP Number: 602720104

Item 3.

The reporting person is filing as an Investment Adviser registered under section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

Item 4. Ownership

(a)Amount Beneficially Owned: See Exhibit 1
(b)Percent of Class: See Exhibit 1
(c)Number of Shares as to which such person has:
(i)sole power to vote or to direct the vote:
See Exhibit 1
(ii)shared power to vote or to direct the vote:
See Exhibit 1
(iii)sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:
See Exhibit 1
(iv)shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:
See Exhibit 1

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of Class:

N/A

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person: N/A

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company: N/A

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group: See Exhibit 1

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group:

N/A

Item 10. Certification:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purposes or effect.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: See Exhibit 2
Signature: See Exhibit 2
Name/Title: See Exhibit 2

Exhibit 1

Item 2.

- (a) Name of Person Filing
- 1) Private Capital Management, Inc.
 - 2) Bruce S. Sherman
 - 3) SPS Partners, L.P.

(c)Citizenship

- 1) Florida
- 2) U.S.
- 3) Delaware

Item 4.

(a) Amount Beneficially Owned

- 1) 294022
- 2) 312422
- 3) 18100

(b) Percent of Class

- 1) 6.1%
- 2) 6.5%
- 3) 0.0%

(c) Number of shares as to which such person has:

(i) sole power to vote or to direct the vote

- 1) 0
- 2) 300
- 3) 0

(ii) shared power to vote or to direct the vote

- 1) 0
- 2) 0
- 3) 0

(iii) sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of

- 1) 0
- 2) 0
- 3)

(iv) shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of

- 1) 294022
- 2) 312122
- 3) 18100

*Bruce S. Sherman is Chairman of Private Capital Management, Inc. ("PCM") and exercises shared dispositive power with respect to shares held by it on behalf of its clients. Mr. Sherman is also the Managing General Partner of SPS Partners, L.P. ("SPS") which acts as the Investment Advisor for the Entrepreneurial Value Fund, L.P. ("EVF"), and exercises shared dispositive with respect to those shares. Mr. Sherman disclaims the existence of a group.

Exhibit 2

Signature

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: February 15, 2000

Bruce S. Sherman
Chairman of Private Capital Management, Inc.

Bruce S. Sherman
Individually

Bruce S. Sherman
Managing General Partner of SPS Partners, L.P.