The Meter Setter

The First Meter Setter

While celebrating the 125th anniversary of our founding, we have searched our archives and discovered fascinating treasures from throughout the years. Several finds have reminded us of our rich history and have allowed us to connect our past to the present.

In August of 1949, the first "Meter Setter" was published as "The Meter Setter with a Nose for News". Originally intended to be produced in tandem with "The Bull of the Woods" cartoon and short stories by John Ford, the Meter Setter showcased new products and solutions for our customers. Today, the Meter Setter is distributed monthly and features waterworks related news including product releases, insights into the culture of Ford Meter Box, and periodic updates to the consumer.

In the first Meter Setter, John L. Ford described a product Ford had created to assist a customer with a retrofit application. Requiring a new solution, Ford created a special nut to be used on coupling bodies already in service. From the beginning, custom solutions



This sheet is the first of a series of similar messages which we plan to send out occasionally with our cartoon folders. They will tell about some of the solutions we have worked out to answer unusual problems in meter setting and testing which have arisen in various water works. Naturally every message can't give helpful information to every reader but we hope most of them will be interesting and that they will indicate the kind of service we can render.

Two or three years ago a large water company in California with several plants wanted to standardize their domestic meters to the 5/8x3/\mu^n size. They had some 2000 standard 5/8m meters and settings to change over and planned to solder adapter rings on the meters but didn't know how to change over the settings. They wrote to us to ask if we could furnish special Resetters to connect between old 1/2m couplings and hold 5/8x3/\mu^m meters.

The difficulty with the Resetter idea was that the meter box was too shallow to permit raising the meter. Then we considered making special couplings with 1/2" male threads and meter nuts with threads for 5/8%3/4" meters. This would have called for an exact match of male thread size with the old couplings to be removed so that the new couplings would screw in tight and still give the proper space for the meter.

The solution we arrived at was to make a special nut to be used on the small coupling bodies already in service. The following sketch shows the arrangement.



We furnished the special nuts at 17¢ each which made a very modest cost for the material required to change the settings. The labor charge was kept to a minimum also because it was only necessary to unscrew the couplings, put new nuts on them and put them right back where they were.

There aren't many water utilaties which have this problem although recently furnished several hundred of these special nuts to the Community Fublic Service Company of Fort Worth, Texas. But this example is typical of dozens of cases where we have developed something a little special to meet unusual conditions.

So keep us in mind if you run into a problem along our line. We might come up with something worth-while.

John L. Ford

FORD METER BOX COMPANY, INC. Wabash, Indiana, U. S. A.

have been a priority for Ford. Solving waterworks problems is something we pride ourselves on, even today, in this 125th anniversary year. John concluded his Meter Setter newsletter, "...keep us in mind if you run into a problem along our line. We might come up with something worthwhile."