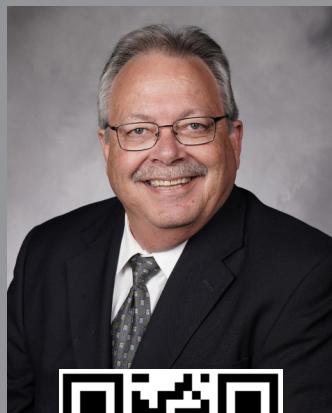


The Meter Setter

From Wells to Tumblers: Reflecting on Water's Journey



Water Ways Article

Seventeen years ago, *Water Ways* featured a story by John Mone titled *Water: Our Most Precious and Most Under-Appreciated Natural Resource*. The article captured a time when hand-dug wells, outhouses, and hauling water were daily realities for many.

This might sound like ancient history today, but these struggles were common just a generation or two ago. For John, it was everyday life with the water systems of his youth.

He wrote: "Probably my most vivid memories of 'less than modern' residential water systems were from my preteen and teenage years. My parents owned an old farmhouse in southeastern Illinois. The well house was attached to the home, and the hand-dug, shallow well was rock-lined. On top of the well there was a reciprocating pump belted to a 110v motor along with a 10-gallon pressure tank. Its operation was very apparent anytime anyone used the water in the house. We were just happy to have 'indoor plumbing.' Many of our neighbors did not and had to run out to the outhouse in the bitter cold of winter when nature called."

John is approaching 25 years with Ford, serving customers as our Southwest Regional Manager. Over those years, water infrastructure has expanded, and technology has made potable water more accessible, but significant challenges remain. Harsh climates, aging pipes, and growing populations push systems to their limits. Winter freezes, droughts, wildfires, and other natural disasters remind us how easily access to water can be disrupted.

The giant Stanley tumblers we see everywhere have become a modern reminder of how deeply water is woven into daily life and how society's relationship with water has evolved. What was once a struggle for survival is now a constant convenience, thanks to the efforts of past generations.

We take great pride in supporting the ongoing effort to expand and maintain vital water infrastructure. For over 125 years, our products have been used to join pipelines, improve service connections, and aid in delivering clean, reliable water to communities. It's been nearly two decades since the original article was written, and its message remains just as important today. Our commitment continues through the modernization and maintenance of these systems, ensuring clean, reliable water for generations to come.

We are still inspired by the way John concluded his message years ago, quoting Benjamin Franklin: "Only when the well is dry will we know the worth of water."

Reference Mone, John. *Water: Our Most Precious and Most Under-Appreciated Natural Resource*. Published in *Water Ways*, Volume IV, Winter 2007-2008, page 22, by the Illinois Rural Water Association