

A GAME OF INCHES

by **Bob Talabay**

Regional Sales Manager, The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc.

When the putt lips out, when the baseball grazes the fielder's glove, when the puck sneaks under the goalie's sprawling body, we're bound to hear the announcer say, "Oh my, this is truly a game of inches." Small differences in measurement can make large differences in performance.

Dallas Water Utilities, in the process of upgrading their oldest and hardest working purification plant, discovered the truth of this statement. The task of replacing 32 backwash valves became a game of inches...more or less. It was discovered that the space between mating flanges ranged from 3" to 6". The challenge was to find a solution that provided flexibility in order to accommodate the various laying lengths found throughout the plant.

Pre-fabricating iron spool pieces took time and did not perfectly match each gap. Differences of only 1/4" prevented proper installation. Fabricated PVC spool pieces had similar variation problems and proper installation required a cure time for the adhesive. Both

methods cost considerably more than the eventual solution.

A call in search of an easy and cost effective solution was placed by Benny Smith, a Dallas supervisor at the plant. Ford Distributor, Metro Valve and Pipe, received

that call and suggested using the Uni-Flange® Series 900 Flange Adapter for PVC pipe. By using the Uni-Flange Adapter, exact lengths of C900 PVC could be cut to span the gap. Because the Series 900 is a two-piece design, it can be installed after the pipe is cut and in place. Laying-length variations pose no problem. The serration lock feature of the flange provides a solid installation. The gasket provided with the Series 900 eliminated fumbling with flat gaskets in tight quarters by sliding on the pipe and compressing against the mating surface.

Following a successful inspection of the Uni-Flange® Series 900 Adapters, the new backwash valves were put into service and the Bachman plant is

now back on line.

For more information about the Uni-Flange® Series 900 Adapter for PVC pipe, contact your local Ford distributor or The Ford Meter Box Company.



Benny Smith, Dallas Water Utilities, and a Uni-Flange® Series 900 Adapter Flange that help make valve upgrading quick and easy.



BEFORE - an old backwash valve requiring change-out



AFTER - a new backwash valve installed using a Uni-Flange® Series 900 Flange Adapter



The Ford Meter Box Co., Inc. 775 Manchester Avenue, P.O. Box 443, Wabash, Indiana, USA 46992-0443
Telephone: 219/563-3171 FAX: 1-800-826-3487 Overseas FAX: 219/563-0167 <http://www.fordmeterbox.com>