

The Meter Setter 8

August, 2013



Making RUNNING WATER Run

Men work on earth at many things:
Some till the soil, a few are kings;
But the noblest job beneath the sun
Is making RUNNING WATER run!



Some may extol the glamor boys
Who bring you heat and light and noise,
Delivered through a pipe or wire
To make your living standard higher.

Now kilowatts may light your house
And gas may cook your quail or grouse,
And fry your meat or even boil it –
But neither one will flush your toilet!



Let's not forget old Doctor Bell
Who showed us how to talk so well
Through many miles of tiny wire –
But talk's no good to quench a fire!

Your radio blares forth each day
To bring you music, joke and play,
Or sell you soap if you would rather –
But soap alone won't make a lather!



Now none of this is really news
About utilities you use;
You know, if you could choose but one,
You'd have your RUNNING WATER run!

We're on the job both night and day
And yet we work for more than pay,
Because, to us it's really fun
To make your RUNNING WATER run!



Sometimes it's easy to take for granted how easily we access water and the many ways we're able to use it, while some areas of the world lack water fit for drinking. The poem above was written by John L. Ford, Sr. of The Ford Meter Box Company. Compliments on his RUNNING WATER horse illustration inspired him to compose this poetic verse, which is a good reminder to be thankful for our most basic and yet most vital resource.

Note: The poem (with art) was first published as a poster in 1953.



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