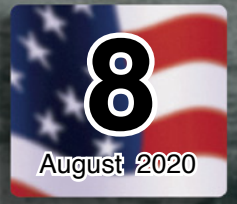


# The Meter Setter



## The Fordilla

In 1962, Ford Meter Box introduced the water-saving Fordilla. Conceived by Richard V. Ford in 1958, the Fordilla was a component of Richard's dream to develop water systems for poorer neighborhoods in Asunción, Paraguay. The valve's measured release would practically eliminate waste because it limited the quantity of water given. Controlled usage would mean the water could be provided for an affordable flat rate.

Richard designed and developed a brochure on building water systems using the Fordilla. Entire systems could be designed in miniature, saving millions of dollars in precious aid funds or capital expenditures. At the time, impoverished people in Paraguay were spending pennies daily for water from a dirty wagon that went door-to-door. This money could easily support a small-scale system, Richard concluded.



*A newly-installed Fordilla receives a blessing in a small Central American village. (Circa 1971)*



*A Fordilla in MacGregor Point Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada is still providing water.  
Photo by Roy Voorberg*

The day the Fordillas were introduced to the village was a day of great celebration as hundreds of families experienced running water for the first time. It was a miracle! However, despite Richard's best efforts, the Fordilla never became a commercial success. Water system engineers who were paid a percentage of the cost of the entire project were not interested in designing miniature systems at one-tenth the cost.

Today, the Fordilla is all but forgotten. However, a query recently came through our website contact page about a water valve spotted in Ontario, Canada. Roy Voorberg commented, "My wife and I like to RV camp at various parks in Canada and the United States. I noticed this particular valve in MacGregor Point Provincial Park which is located near Lake Heron in Ontario." By researching the valve's markings, he located Ford Meter Box's website. We confirmed the valve was a Fordilla from the 1960s. According to Roy, many parks he has visited still have these valves in service.

Thanks to Roy for reaching out and sharing his find! It is wonderful to see Richard's invention still in use, providing water for campers in a beautiful park.







**A Symbol of America**  
Watercolor on paper by George E. Lanning

## SEPTEMBER 2020

| SUN  | MON            | TUES                      | WED     | THURS                       | FRI                 | SAT  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |
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| <b>AUGUST 2020</b><br><table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> </table> | S              | M                         | T       | W                           | T                   | F  | S |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | <b>OCTOBER 2020</b><br><table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | S | M | T | W | T | F | S |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |  |  |  |  |  |  | ○ | Australian National Flag Day |  |  |
| S  | M              | T                         | W       | T                           | F                   | S  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |
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| 2  | 3              | 4                         | 5       | 6                           | 7                   | 8  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |
| 9  | 10             | 11                        | 12      | 13                          | 14                  | 15   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |
| 16   | 17             | 18                        | 19      | 20                          | 21                  | 22   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |
| 23   | 24             | 25                        | 26      | 27                          | 28                  | 29   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |
| S  | M              | T                         | W       | T                           | F                   | S  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |
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| 2  | 3              | 4                         | 5       | 6                           | 7                   | 8  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |
| 9  | 10             | 11                        | 12      | 13                          | 14                  | 15   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |
| 16   | 17             | 18                        | 19      | 20                          | 21                  | 22   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |
| 23   | 24             | 25                        | 26      | 27                          | 28                  | 29   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |
| 30   | 31             |                           |         |                             |                     |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |
|  |                | 1                         | 2       | 3                           | 4                   | 5  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |
| 6  | Labor Day<br>7 | 8                         | 9       | ●<br>10                     | Patriot Day<br>11   | 12   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |
| 13   | 14             | 15                        | 16      | ●<br>Constitution Day<br>17 | Rosh Hashanah<br>18 | 19   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |
| 20   | 21             | First Day of Autumn<br>22 | ●<br>23 | 24                          | 25                  | 26   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |
| Yom Kippur<br>27   | 28             | 29                        | 30      |                             |                     | ● New Moon<br>● First Quarter<br>○ Full Moon<br>● Last Quarter |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |

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# Vanishing Occupations



The United States Census Bureau wants to know how you earn your living, and from responses to its surveys and the decennial census itself historians are able to track changes in the occupations of Americans over the years.

Occupations that once were common, such as those of wheelwrights, lamplighters and wainwrights, have vanished, and thousands of new job categories have sprung up. Current census records list biochemical engineering, robotics engineering and stem cell research among the expanding occupational categories of the twenty-first century.

The Census Bureau currently recognizes some 52,000 specific occupations, and constantly updates the list, adding those job designations that are being created and eliminating those that have vanished.

Some of the jobs that have all but vanished from the labor scene were once thought of as indispensable, jobs that would always be with us.

Telegraphers, or telegraph operators, were once the mainstay of railroad operations in America. Sending messages over thousands of miles of wire, the men and women who worked the telegraph keys in nearly every railroad depot in the land, kept the flow of trains running smoothly. In 1922, more than 78,000 telegraphers worked for the railroads, and there were thousands more who dispatched telegrams for Western Union. Today, the use of Morse code is a dying art, and a working telegrapher is hard to find.

There was a time when all but the tiniest villages had at least one print shop where employees handset type for handbills, calling cards, stationery or the town newspaper. But typesetting by hand gave way to the Linotype, a wondrous machine that revolutionized the business. The skilled Linotype operator was king of the printshop.

But now even the Linotype and its operators are gone, and most people in the printing game have never seen an example of that amazing device. Computer operators now rule “the back shop” in the printing industry.

The iceman has vanished from the job scene in America. Robust young men who hauled heavy cakes of ice from trucks or horse-drawn wagons to kitchen iceboxes were once familiar sights on American streets. The job gained in prestige when the public learned that Harold (Red) Grange, the sensational football star of the 1920s and early 1930s carried ice in his hometown of Wheaton, Illinois. Sportswriters called him “The Wheaton Iceman.” Electric refrigerators eliminated the iceman from the scene by about 1950.

Pinsetting, an occupation that provided jobs for thousands of young boys, began to vanish in the 1930s with the introduction of child labor laws and the invention of automatic pinsetting machines.

The task of resetting bowling pins was dangerous, and it often involved working very late hours. A good pinsetter could work two or even three lanes at a time, but flying pins and carelessly thrown bowling balls presented a constant hazard to those who worked in the rooms that were often filled with cigarette smoke.

A job that most have forgotten was that of a lector who worked usually in a cigar factory. Rolling cigars by hand was a boring job, and the workers often contributed money to hire someone to read to them as they labored. Lectors read from newspapers, magazines, or the popular novels of the day. Their voices were loud, and they usually read from a raised chair or platform so that they could be heard throughout the room.

The list of occupations that are disappearing or that have vanished entirely is long. It includes that of once common occupations of roper (a maker of rope), tinker (a repairer or seller of pots, pans and small metal goods), farrier (one who trims horse hooves and puts on horseshoes) or even newspaper carrier.

So remember: The job you have now may someday vanish, and your grandchildren may ask, “What did you say Grandpa and Grandma did for their jobs?”

*by Pete Jones*