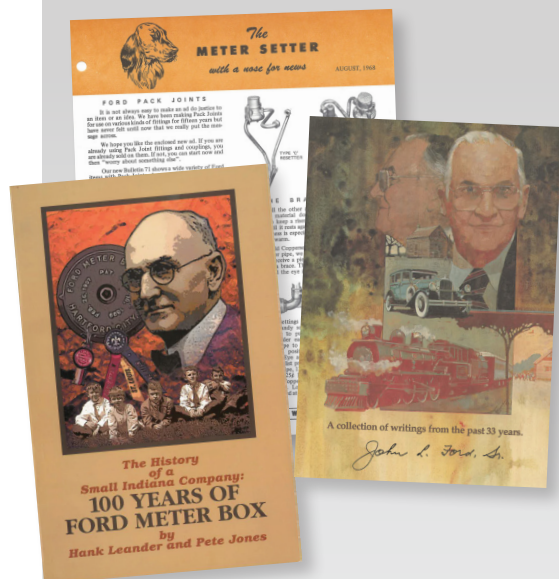


# The Meter Setter

09  
SEPTEMBER  
2023

## 125 Years of Storytelling



*"There was no fanfare when the company was conceived or named. I can find no definite date of the christening but find the name on a small printed sheet dated 1898 and assume that to be the birth year. No infant company could have fewer material assets or a less auspicious beginning. In fact, the company consisted of Edwin H. Ford, who had only his dreams and his ideas."*

*"There was no original intention to produce meter boxes for more than local requirements, but word of the unique program at Hartford City spread to neighboring towns, probably by meter salesmen, and father was approached to make boxes for other water utilities. These were made in our basement in spare time and pulled out of the window on a cart having baby buggy wheels, which ran on an improvised track. Thus a new business was born and the logical name Ford Meter Box Company was adopted."*

So writes John L. Ford, Sr. in his published recollection of the company's earliest years. John's memories – and tales of local history and colorful characters – are recorded not only in family chronologies but also in company mailings initiated in 1944 to keep in touch with Ford customers during the war.

Happily, this "storytelling" tradition survives through our 125th anniversary year. Ford's monthly product announcements seldom depart the office without a story – faithfully penned by local historian Pete Jones – or a personal note from our desks.

Some stories have been republished over the years. John L. Ford's favorite writings were compiled in book form in 1977. More ambitiously, former company chairman Hank Leander, and co-author Pete Jones, assembled a centennial history of The Ford Meter Box Company in 1998. Other writings have ranged from career autobiographies to essays on corporate leadership. Each serves as an indispensable reference today.

Edwin Ford famously concluded several of his early letters with the following offer, "I assure you we will gladly give you the benefit of our experience at any time." During this quasiquintennial year, we offer gratitude to the storytellers who have gone before and who have "shared their experiences" for the benefit of many. We are also grateful to our friends in the industry who inspire such stories and with whom we pursue the inherently worthwhile enterprise of clean water.

May our shared histories pave the way for a shared future – and another century-and-a-quarter of delightful storytelling.



Steve Ford - President



**The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc.**, P.O. Box 443, Wabash, Indiana, USA 46992-0443  
Phone: 260-563-3171 Fax: 800-826-3487 Overseas Fax: 260-563-0167 [www.fordmeterbox.com](http://www.fordmeterbox.com)