

The Meter Setter



Quality for the Generations

The legacy of Ford Meter Box is a rich one, starting when Edwin Ford was a water superintendent in Hartford City, Indiana, during the late 1890s. Running water was a novelty in rural Indiana and the city faced routine water shortages. Citizens would allow water to run in their sinks to chill dairy products and the city was unable to keep up with the demand. Ford wanted to encourage conservation by metering water so he designed the meter pit to protect the meter in freezing temperatures while still allowing access to the meter.

Edwin Ford built and installed his pits throughout Hartford City and recently an early Ford pit was unearthed during the excavation of a driveway. Ron Thomas, Water Superintendent for Hartford City, examined the pit and concluded that this one was, without a doubt, installed by Edwin Ford himself. The lid was cast with "Pat Sept 18 1899 = Feb 26 1907" and measured



A cutaway sample of the original Ford meter box in a photograph taken about 1898 in the Ford family kitchen.

11 inches in diameter by three and a half feet long. This early pit was made of vitrified clay pipe which was still completely intact after excavation. Although the pit was not connected to a service line, it appears to remain completely functional.

Early Ford pits were also built for water utilities throughout Northern Indiana, Southern Michigan and Northwestern Ohio. These early pits were made with a focus on quality as Edwin was making them not only for himself but also for his friends and colleagues. That commitment to quality continues today in each and every Ford Meter Box product. For more information on quality Ford products, contact your local Ford distributor or The Ford Meter Box Company.



This original Ford meter box recently unearthed in Hartford City, Indiana, remains functional after more than 100 years.

