

Discourage Water Theft with Ford's Secura-Lok!

Are you fighting water theft, unauthorized access or tampering? Ford Meter Box's Secura-Lok™ line of ball valves is the answer!

The Secura-Lok, a patent pending design, incorporates an integral locking mechanism on Ford® Ball Valves to discourage valve tampering. This revolutionary design offers more security in a slimmer profile than standard padlock wings and is available on all straight ball valves. Sizes 5/8" – 1" employ a key style lock and 1-1/2" – 2" valves have a barrel style lock. The valves can be locked in the open position, closed position, or left freely operational.

For more information, contact your Ford Meter Box® representative or local distributor.



B11-777SLB-NL



KEY-567-SLB



B11-444SLC-NL



KEY-234-SLC

Lockable in the:

- Opened Position
- Closed Position
- Operational Position

**Expanded Line
Coming Soon!**



The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc., P.O. Box 443, Wabash, Indiana, USA 46992-0443
Telephone: 260-563-3171 FAX: 800-826-3487 Overseas FAX: 260-563-0167 www.fordmeterbox.com



Gerig Round Barn at Mill Creek
Acrylic on canvas by Pat Thompson, 1226 Washington Street, Rochester, Indiana 46975

NOVEMBER 2018

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| OCTOBER 2018 <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | 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 | | | | DECEMBER 2018 <table border="1"> <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 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Daylight Savings Time Ends 4 | 5 | Election Day 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Veterans Day Remembrance Day (Canada) 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | Thanksgiving Day 22 | 23 | 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

THE FORD METER BOX COMPANY, INC.

P.O. Box 443, Wabash, Indiana USA 46992-0443

Phone: 260-563-3171 • Domestic FAX: 800-826-3487 • Overseas FAX: 260-563-0167 • www.fordmeterbox.com



Believe It Or Not, Robert Ripley's Idea Worked

It was a slow news day in December 1918 in the sports department of the *New York Globe and Advertiser* when a bored newspaper artist put together a nine-panel cartoon of athletes performing somewhat unbelievable physical feats. One panel was a sketch of a man who walked backwards across North America. Another showed a swimmer who stayed submerged for more than six minutes.

The cartoon was a sensation, and it launched Robert Ripley's successful but slow-to-develop career as the creator of the feature that later became known as "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" At the peak of his popularity Ripley was one of the best-known men in America, and the phrase "Believe it or not!" had entered into the English language.

William Randolph Hearst, the wealthy publisher, eventually hired Ripley and sent him on trips around the world in search of oddities for his cartoons, which soon appeared in some 375 newspapers and in 17 languages. Ripley's daily readership was estimated at 80,000,000. This was the golden age of newspapers, and so the timing was perfect for Ripley, who amassed a sizable fortune from his cartoons and from the several books he wrote.

Ripley filled his cartoons and his books with hard-to-believe facts and figures which sometimes were based on elusive statements. He claimed that Buffalo Bill never shot a buffalo. (His explanation: Buffalo Bill shot bison.) He said that Charles Lindbergh was not the first man to fly nonstop across the Atlantic. (Sixty-six people, Ripley explained, had already flown across the Atlantic in dirigibles.) The writer Geoffrey Hellman said of Ripley, "A good many of Ripley's eye-openers rest on rather minute technicalities."

Ripley said he would send proof of the truthfulness of his claims to anyone who would write to him and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope, but he once told a magazine writer that he had a million unanswered letters in storage.

Throughout much of his career, Ripley leaned heavily on the efforts of his only researcher, Norbert Pearlroth. When Pearlroth died in 1983, *The New York Times* said, "Mr. Pearlroth spent virtually seven



days a week at the Main Library on Fifth Avenue in the years he worked for Ripley...Every Friday he would turn in his research."

Pearlroth scoured hundreds of thousands of books while working for Ripley. He was fluent in 14 languages and possessed an unusual memory for miscellany.

In some ways, Ripley's own life was as sensational as the oddities he featured in his cartoons. He stocked his mansion in Mamaroneck, New York, with objects he collected on his travels around the world. He named his home BION, an acronym for "Believe it or Not."

A reporter working on a profile of Ripley toured the house, and when he was leaving a member of the household staff said to him, "The most unusual thing in the house is Mr. Ripley."

Ripley expanded his empire into radio, television, movies, and museums, which he called "Ripley's Odditoriums." He wrote books and magazine articles and established entertainment venues, including his museums, in dozens of cities.

Ripley died in 1949 at the age of 59. It is said that a segment of his last TV show, which aired just a few days before his death, was about the origin of "Taps."

by Pete Jones

Photo credit: Robert Ripley. Library of Congress <https://www.loc.gov/item/2003653646>

Please send questions or comments to Pete Jones at peteinwabash@comcast.net.