

Pit Setters for Large Meters

In February 2000, Ford Meter Box introduced a plastic pit setter for 1-1/2" and 2" water meters. These pits are lightweight, durable and easy to maneuver. Compared to traditional concrete vaults, Ford's large pit setters are more economical and less time-consuming to install.

The Ford® Plastic Pit Setter for 1-1/2" and 2" meters features a pit constructed from heavy-duty corrugated plastic for lighter weight and extra strength. Ford offers a full range of inlet and outlet risers which are securely affixed to the pit walls. The inlet and outlet valves are soldered to copper tube risers with lead-free solder and anchored with a brace pipe to prevent shifts during shipment and installation. The pit setter male iron pipe service line connections allow a simple transition to compression or flare copper connections with Ford's large variety of service line couplings.

All Ford Meter Box Pit Setters feature an open bottom to allow warm air to circulate and prevent line and meter freeze-ups. The risers are designed for optimal distance from the side walls to prevent frost jump even in the coldest of climates. Simply place the pit in the pre-dug hole so the top of the cover will be flush with the final surface grade. Then make the service line connections for easy 1-1/2" and 2" meter installations. Ford Meter Box offers a variety of meter pit lids and covers for 1-1/2" and 2" pits. Covers are available with pre-cast holes to facilitate EMR signal transmission.

The Ford Plastic Pit Setter for 1-1/2" and 2" meters is another Ford innovation designed to make setting large water meters a little easier. For more information, contact your local Ford distributor or the Ford Meter Box Company.



Each setter is tested for leaks before installation in a pit.



Dennis Faust (left) and Dan Pegg lower the setter into the pit.











The setter is braced to prevent movement during shipment.





Chore Time
Oil on canvas by Susan Ring

AUGUST 2020

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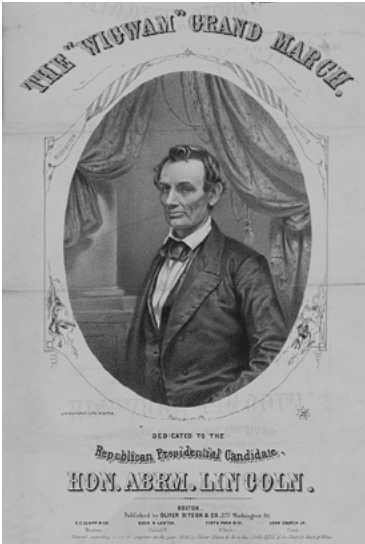
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Lincoln Wins at The Wigwam



Every four years the major political parties hold conventions to formally nominate candidates for the presidency. The conventions have often been colorful events in our country's political history, especially when the candidates have actually been chosen at the convention rather than predetermined by presidential primaries.

The Republican convention of 1860 was filled with tumult and shouting when the newly minted party assembled in Chicago for only its second nominating process. Chicago was a relatively new city in 1860, and never before had a major political party staged its convention west of Pittsburgh.

The crowds that poured into Chicago were perhaps the largest the city had ever seen. It was all but impossible to find space at a hotel, and rooms that were available were filled to capacity, sometimes with six or more people.

Delegates and observers drawn to the convention packed hotel lobbies and hallways. A lawyer from Cincinnati who was still seeking a ticket to the convention galleries remarked, "I have not yet been able to obtain a room to sleep."

He finally found a room, but he shared it with three others, all of whom were strangers to him. "Fortunately, they are quiet gentlemen," he said. But the attorney remarked that the halls of the hotel were so crowded that it was "...almost impossible to move without tearing the buttons off your coat."

Chicago, eager to attract the convention, had, on short notice, built a convention hall at what is now 191 North Wacker. It was called The Wigwam, and it was built to hold a crowd of perhaps 10,000 delegates and spectators, but nobody really knew its capacity, which may have been upwards of 12,000.

It was a huge building for the time and place, two stories tall and stretching 180 feet by 100 feet. A few skylights and a host of flaring gas jets illuminated the convention floor. Dry evergreen boughs decorated interior posts and pillars, so it's little wonder that

historian Bruce Catton wrote that the structure was perhaps "...one of the most dangerous fire traps ever built in America."

When officials called the convention to order for the first ballot, on May 18, Senator William Seward of New York and Senator Salmon P. Chase of New York were considered as frontrunners. In third spot was the relatively unknown Abraham Lincoln. There were other candidates as well, but none were serious contenders.

Vocal support from the galleries was considered important by all three leading candidates, and most of the tickets had gone to Seward's backers who jammed the hall on Thursday, the opening day. Balloting was set for Friday.

On Friday morning, Seward's backers lingered in their hotels before joining a parade through the business district. By the time they arrived at The Wigwam, Lincoln's supporters had taken nearly every seat in the gallery. Some sources say they gained admission with counterfeit tickets printed during the night. At any rate, Lincoln's people got there first and were not about to turn over their seats to Seward's brigade.

At every mention of Lincoln's name, the shouting was overpowering. Cheering and foot-stomping for Lincoln shook the building.

Once officials restored order, Seward polled 173.5 votes on the first ballot with Lincoln finishing second with 101, but 233 votes were needed to clinch the nomination. A second ballot saw Lincoln's total climb to 181. Seward added 11, but it was still not enough. It was clear that momentum was running in Lincoln's favor.

Lincoln shot to the lead on the third ballot, but he still was short of a majority by one and one-half votes. Then the Ohio delegation switched its votes to Lincoln, and it was all over except for the final tumultuous cheering.

Back in Springfield, Lincoln was downtown when a message announcing his victory arrived at the telegraph office across from the Illinois Statehouse. Lincoln accepted congratulations from those around him, and then remarked, "Well, gentlemen, there is a little woman at our house who is probably more interested in this dispatch than I am."

by Pete Jones