

# The Meter Setter

# 7

July 2019

## Ford Meter Box Celebrates 25 Years with Uni-Flange

Twenty-five years ago, on June 20, 1994, Ford Meter Box purchased the Uni-Flange® Corporation. Ford Meter Box moved Uni-Flange manufacturing operations from Jacksonville, Florida, to Pell City, Alabama, where Ford's Pipe Products Division was headquartered. The addition of pipe restraints to Ford's product line rounded out Ford's catalog to include a broad line of water works products from the main to the meter.

The Uni-Flange® Corporation was founded in 1976 by Nappco, Inc, and began with an invention by Charles W. Roche. As a ductile iron pipe fabricator, he knew that prefabricated flanged piping systems did not always fit properly when they arrived at the job site. So, Mr. Roche invented the "Uni-Flange Adapter" ("Uni" is short for "Unique"). His discovery solved many problems with misaligned pipes and offered built-in restraint.

After the successful launch of the Uni-Flange® Adapter line, the UFR1300 split, serrated series of restraints for PVC was developed. The UFR1300 Series introduced the idea of thrust restraint to the U.S. and pushed the Uni-Flange brand into the next generation of restraints.

Since the acquisition, Ford Meter Box has grown the Uni-Flange line to include restraint devices for many connections and pipe types. For more information on Ford Meter Box restrained products, refer to Catalog Section U or contact your Ford® Representative.

**1994** – Ford Meter Box acquires Uni-Flange which includes the UFA and UFR1300 product lines

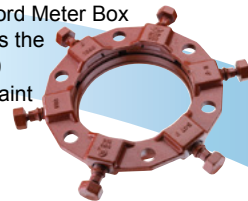


**1995** – Ford Meter Box introduces the UFR1400 Wedge Style joint restraint for ductile iron

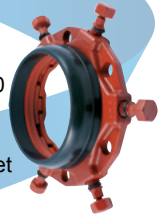


**1997** – The UFR1450 split joint restraint with back-up ring for ductile iron bell joints is released

**1998** – Ford Meter Box introduces the UFR1500 joint restraint for PVC



**2007** – UFR1500 restraints are redesigned and the SO-EZ gasket is introduced



**2010** – UFR1405/1455/1490 Split Joint Restraints are introduced



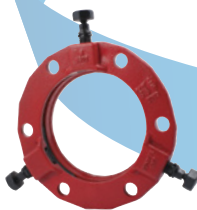
**2010** – Ford introduces 10" and 12" UFR1360 back-up rings with a range for PVC pressure fittings



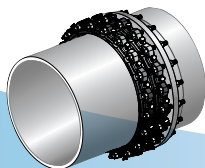
**2010** – Ford introduces restrained couplings (RCDD/RCPP/RCDP) and restrained flange adapters (RFAD/RFAP)



**2011** – Expanded sizes for UFR1400 and UFR1500 are introduced



**2011** – The UFR1500R is released



**2013** – The UFR2800 and UFR2850 are released for tandem restraint of ductile iron in high pressure situations



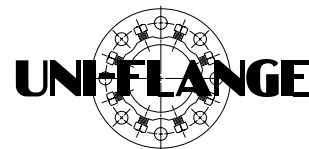
**2013** – Ford introduces restraints and casing spacers for sewer pipe (UFR1300P and UFRCS1300P)

**2015** – UFR1309/ UFR1399 and UFR1509/ UFR1599 joint restraints for C909 PVCO are introduced

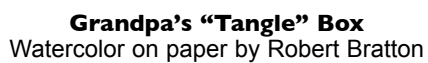


**2018** – The Uni-Ring, a Mechanical Joint Ring restraint is introduced

**Future** – Ford continues to develop restraints to meet customer needs



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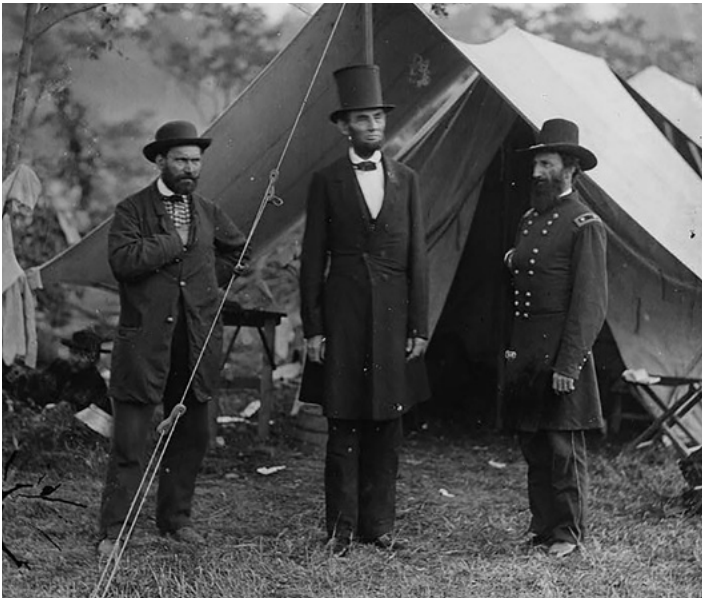


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# Allan Pinkerton: America's Famous "Private Eye"



*Allan Pinkerton, President Lincoln, and Maj. Gen. John A. McClernand at Antietam, September-October 1862.*

Allan Pinkerton, a man whose reputation as America's most famous detective lives on more than a century after his death, was born two hundred years ago this summer in Scotland.

Writers who research Pinkerton's life find that they are called upon to do challenging detective work on their own, for his story is filled with unexpected twists, turns and contradictions. Even the accuracy of his long-accepted birthdate has been questioned. Most sources have held that Pinkerton was born on August 25, 1819, but there is now reason to believe that it was nearly a month earlier.

Pinkerton came to the United States in 1842 and settled in Kane County, Illinois, where he took up the cooper's trade. By accident he stumbled upon a gang of counterfeiters working in an area where he was gathering wood and helped bring about their arrests.

This successful bit of police work resulted in Pinkerton's appointment as deputy sheriff, and later to a position as a detective with the Chicago Police Department. By 1850 he left the Chicago force and established his own detective agency.

In 1861, with his sterling reputation as a private detective well established, Pinkerton became involved in protecting the life of President-elect Abraham Lincoln when he traveled from Springfield, Illinois, to his inauguration in Washington, DC.

Threats against Lincoln—most of which came from secessionists—increased rapidly after his election. Samuel

M. Felton, president of a railroad over which Lincoln would travel on his way to Washington, contacted Pinkerton who quickly agreed to guard Lincoln.

The task of keeping Lincoln safe as he was en route to Washington resulted in the creation of a complicated plan involving Pinkerton and members of his detective agency. Pinkerton hoped to whisk the president-elect through to Washington in short order, but Lincoln insisted on stops in Philadelphia and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to keep promises he made to officials in each city.

The final legs of the journey to Washington involved passing through Baltimore, a hotbed of secessionist activity. Much to Pinkerton's dismay, Lincoln's itinerary was made public. Lincoln, who seemed unfazed by the threats against him, finally agreed to a change of schedule. But Pinkerton was still concerned about the risk of a change of trains in Baltimore for the final run to Washington.

Pinkerton's scheme to provide Lincoln with safe passage was elaborate, and even involved a bit of disguise for the president-elect who parted with his readily identifiable stovepipe hat in favor of a common woolen hat.

When Lincoln boarded the train in Philadelphia to go to Baltimore he was shunted to the back of a car where drawn curtains blocked the view of passengers in the front half of the car. The other passengers had no idea that Lincoln was in the back part of the car, and not even the train's conductor knew that the president-elect was on board.

The change of trains in Baltimore came off with hardly a hitch. Horses drew the car in which Lincoln was riding from one line to another. Much to Pinkerton's relief, the city was quiet, and the comparative safety of Washington was less than 40 miles away.

When the train arrived in Washington, Congressman E. B. Washburne, an old friend who somehow learned of the plan to bring Lincoln to Washington in secrecy, was there to greet the president-elect. Together they drove to Willard's Hotel where Lincoln stayed until the inauguration ten days later.

In 1861, Pinkerton became chief of the Union Intelligence Service, a position he held until late in 1862 when he returned to the Pinkerton National Detective Agency. He died in 1884.

*by Pete Jones*

*Photo credit: Library of Congress Control Number 2018666255 (<https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cwpb.04326>)*

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