

SLEEPLESS IN WABASH

The Ford Meter Box Company celebrates its 100th anniversary in 1998. Research into the company's history is uncovering many interesting stories. This month, we will look into the development of the Expansion Connection which is now used in Ford Yokeboxes, Gulfboxes and Yokes.

One morning, in about 1916, when the Ford family lived in Wabash, Indiana at the southeast corner of Miami and Pawling Streets, Edwin Ford came to the breakfast table after a sleepless night because of a bout with sciatica. Edwin had suffered with an inflammation of the sciatic nerve for several years and back and leg pains plagued him. His cheerfulness and optimistic attitude rendered the family's sympathy useless and so, said one of his sons, "We soon stopped feeling sorry for him."

On this particular morning, Edwin left the table as the dishes were cleared away, and he went into the living room where he picked up the top of a white wood box containing a set of chessmen. He seated himself in a chair and began sketching. What emerged in the drawing was the design of an Expansion Connection for

holding a water meter in a Yoke. The fitting he had concocted during the sleepless night became one of the bread-and-butter items of the Ford catalog and resulted in millions of sales in

future years. Its design today is little changed from that of the 1916 product. The Expansion Connection made it possible to install and remove a

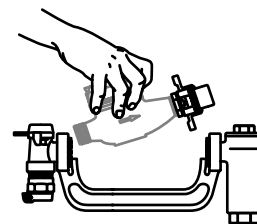
meter in a setting conveniently by hand. It replaced the awkward wedge device and revolutionized water meter settings.

Meter Installation easy as 1, 2, 3!

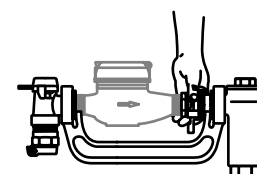
1. The Expansion Connection is tightened on the meter with an ordinary wrench. The combination thereby becomes an expandable unit which can be installed or removed in a matter of seconds.



2. The meter with connection attached is placed in the saddles of the Yoke and is aligned between the rubber gaskets in the ends of the Yoke.



3. Turning the handwheel of the Expansion Connection makes the meter water-tight quickly and easily. No wrench is required in the meter pit for meter changing.



The Expansion Connection

