



# The Mulvaney Pipeline



**Mulvaney**  
MECHANICAL, INC.  
Mechanical Contractors

Jan.—Mar. 2019



## WHEN IS SPRING????

**In the United States** and the rest of the northern hemisphere, the first day of the spring season is the day of the year when the Sun crosses the celestial equator moving northward (on March 20th or 21st). This day is known as the Vernal Equinox. The word equinox comes from Latin and means “equality of night and day.”



### Can Groundhogs Predict the Arrival of Spring? MYTH or Not?

It's the only mammal to have its own day named after it and as legend goes, every Feb. 2, the groundhog emerges from hibernation. If it sees its shadow, six more weeks of winter lie ahead, and if not, spring is on the way! The most famous groundhog of all is Punxsutawney Phil, named in honor of his hometown in Pennsylvania where he acts as the spokesperson for all groundhogs. So how much stock should you put in his predictions? In reality, groundhogs prepare for six months of hibernation by eating up to one-third of their weight on daily basis. When they emerge, they actually do respond to changes in light and temperature, two factors that play a part in determining the forecast. **MYTH VERDICT: TRUE?**

## The Sewers Of Paris Are Cleaned By Giant Balls

Cleaning the sewer lines isn't really a job that people line up to do, but it has to be done. The city of Paris has a unique method for forcing away human waste that involves giant balls. Made of hollow iron or wood, the “boules de curage” are just one of many fascinating aspects of one of the civilized world's oldest sewer systems.

The sewers of the City of Light were first built in 1370 to address the growing Paris population. After the streets were paved in the 1200s, wastewater drained directly back into the Seine, which wasn't particularly hygienic. It wasn't until the reign of Napoleon I that more modern sewer systems were constructed. In 1855, Napoleon III undertook a massive renovation of the city's sewage management, building a double water supply network and waste disposal conduits.

By the late 1800s, the sewers of Paris were famous the world over, and tourists who visited the city were actually taking mechanical trolleys through the tunnels to marvel at its construction. The cleanliness of the sewer conduits was widely remarked on, and the city's secret was a bunch of giant balls.

If you visit the Paris Sewer Museum at Pont de l'Alma, 75007, you'll be able to see a number of the “boules de curage” on display. With over 1,300 miles of tunnel to keep clean, the city employed dredging boats and men with rakes to eliminate as much solid waste as they could. The solution was taking large balls of various sizes, up to 15 feet in diameter, and using them to build up water pressure in the tunnels.

They built the open sewer obviously pitched with rounded bottoms and they place the hollow ball that is slightly less in diameter than the particular sewer line and let it float and be pushed by the water that backs up behind it. The backed up water slowly pushes the ball along and then is naturally under the ball and the velocity forces all solids forward thus “cleaning” the sewer line. It's a remarkably clever, low-tech system that is still used today.



## QUESTIONS THAT HAUNT US

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up like every two hours?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why is 'bra' singular and 'panties' plural?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about him?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

Why did you just try singing the two songs above?

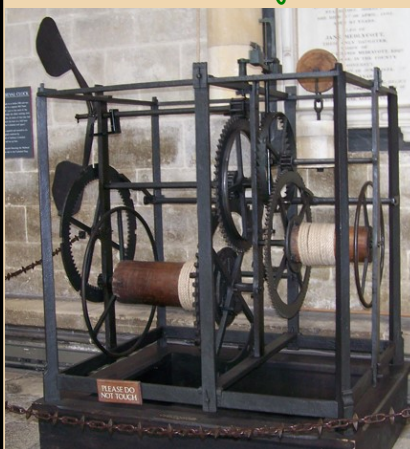
If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?



## 10 Most Famous Clock Towers In The World

1. Big Ben (Elizabeth Tower), London, England.
2. Philadelphia City Hall, Philadelphia, United States.
3. Makkah Royal Clock Tower Hotel, Mecca, Saudi Arabia.
4. The Prague astronomical clock, Prague, Czech Republic.
5. Rathaus-Glockenspiel, Munich, Germany.
6. The Saviour Tower (Spasskaya Tower), Moscow, Russia
7. The Zytglogge Tower, Bern, Switzerland.
8. The Peace Tower, Ottawa, Canada.
9. Old Joe, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom
10. Rajabai Clock Tower, Mumbai, India



PRAGUE ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK

← The **WORLD'S OLDEST** clock, which is located in Salisbury Cathedral in southern England, was commissioned by Bishop Erghum and dates from about 1386. There was apparently a mechanical clock already working in Milan, Italy, by 1335, but the Salisbury clock is the oldest of its kind known to still be working.



The **astronomical clock** is the main feature of the famous Old Town Square of Prague. Many tourists arrive to the square and wait to a round hour just to watch the famous moving figures of the beautiful clock. The medieval clock was first installed in the year 1410, making it one of the oldest astronomical clocks in the world and the oldest one still in use.

## What are winters like in South Africa?

**Winter in South Africa is June thru August.** It is generally dry and cool, with snow falling in the mountainous regions. The Cape is wet as it gets most of its rain in winter being a Mediterranean climate. September thru October is Spring time and the weather can be good, although rain is common.

## WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

Mar. 3-7	MCAA, Annual Convention	Phoenix, AZ
Apr. 1-4	AGC, 100th Annual Conference	Denver, CO
Apr. 8-10	IFMA EXPO	Atlanta, GA
May 19-23	World Environment Conference	Pittsburgh, PA
Jun. 22-26	ASHRAE Annual Conference	Kansas City, MO
Jun. 22-25	BOMA Annual Conference	Salt Lake City, UT

Money doesn't buy happiness, but it does buy everything else.

It is better to be rich & miserable than poor & miserable.

## WHAT THE HECK IS IT?



### WIN A MULVANEY MECHANICAL LEATHER JACKET

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When e-mailing your entry, please write “**Newsletter Contest**” in the subject line to avoid our SPAM filter.

Send to: [MMI@mulvaneyinc.com](mailto:MMI@mulvaneyinc.com)

If multiple correct answers are received, one winner will be selected at random.



## Last Quarter's Puzzle: Vintage Light Bulb Changer

WE HAD NO WINNERS THIS TIME !!!

GOOD LUCK ON THIS QUARTER'S MYSTERY ITEM



March  
11th is  
World  
Plumbing  
Day!



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the Pipeline to you instead?  
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