



The Mulvaney Pipeline

Beware of Counterfeits

We all know that the Rolex watch we buy from a street vendor for \$20 is not really a Rolex watch. Likewise, we know that the \$900 Gucci bag we paid \$10 for is not really a Gucci bag.... Don't we? These are clear cut examples of knowingly buying counterfeit goods, for the sake of having the trademark, regardless of the quality. But.... how sure are you about the validity of the Kohler toilet or the American Standard faucet in your own bathroom?

Counterfeit product is a big issue for suppliers and is also of growing concern to plumbing product specifiers and installers who, for their reputations' sake, want to ensure they are installing the genuine article. The prevalence of counterfeit product is a rapidly increasing problem around the world. Branded products are being copied, and replicas – often of poor quality – are being churned out of shadowy factories on the other side of the world. Most of these plagiarisms are from Asia (especially China) and Italy, and at the ISH (International Sanitary & Heating Fair), 15 exhibitors were found to have counterfeit product displayed.

U.S. fixture manufacturers advise that to avoid problems with counterfeit products, architects, contractors and individuals should buy from a known reputable source, supplier, distributor or showroom. These channels guarantee that you receive the genuine item, as desired. Currently 5% of all faucets and fixtures sold in the U.S. are counterfeit. This number of bogus materials is growing each year. Always remember to trust, but verify whenever you suspect a problem.



A Health tip from George

In Wine there is Wisdom, in Beer there is Freedom and in water there is Bacteria.

In a number of carefully controlled trials scientists have demonstrated that if we drink one liter of water each day, at the end of one year we would have absorbed more than one kilo of Escherichia Coli, (E. Coli) bacteria, which is found in feces. In other words, we are consuming one kilo of poop every year.

However we do not run that risk when drinking wine, beer or hard liquor because alcohol must go through a purification process of boiling, condensing, filtering and/or fermenting.

Now what have we learned??? Water = Poop, Wine = Health., therefore, it's better to drink Wine and talk stupid, than to drink water and be full of poop. There is no need to thank me for this valuable information, I'm doing it as a public service.

FACTS YOU CAN LIVE WITHOUT

- Heinz Catsup leaving the bottle travels at 25 miles PER YEAR.
- Men get hiccups more often than women.
- Men can read smaller print better than women; women can hear better.
- An average of 61,000 people are airborne over the US at any one time.
- Mark Twain never made it through elementary school .
- Your nose and ears never stop growing .
- Only 1 in 7 burglaries in the US are actually solved.
- Only 28% of Africa is wilderness.
- 38% of North America is wilderness.
- 7% of Americans eat at McDonalds each day.
- Iceland consumes more Coca-Cola per capita than any other nation.
- A pig is the only animal besides humans that can get sunburned.
- First lady, Eleanor Roosevelt always carried a loaded revolver.
- The government owns 1 in every 3 acres of land in the US.
- After divorce, 58% of men and 85% of women say they are happier.
- 1 out of every 3 potatoes sold in the US is made into French fries.



The Unforgiving ANTARTICA



Try this for a challenge: Build a structure thousands of miles from civilization on a slow-moving slab of ice. It must withstand 90 mile-per-hour winds and temperatures 40 degrees below zero, plus house a dozen scientists through winters so dark and cold that venturing outside can be as daunting as a moonwalk. And make sure it doesn't hurt the environment.

You would face many serious design problems. The ice shelf moves about 5 feet every day, off the continent and onto the Weddell Sea. It is effectively a floating glacier. The snow level rises 7 feet a year, mainly due to wind-blown accumulation combined with some precipitation. This results in surface buildings being buried within a few years and crushed after 15 years.

A group of creative engineers and architects has succeeded in overcoming the vast majority of obstacles the cruel and unforgiving environment of life on the Brunt Ice Shelf. The ultimate successful design comprised a series of semi-autonomous modules, connected in a line to reduce snow accumulation, around a 220 ton 'mother ship' – all 14 feet above the snow level and supported on giant skis. The skis will allow the units to be towed 10 miles every 10 years to a new site when 'carving' causes chunks of the ice shelf to break off and float north. Construction and placement is scheduled to happen in the summer of 2010.

WELL DIGGER'S WORK

A hundred and fifty years ago when a family wanted a water well, he had to dig it by hand. The space required for digging it required that the diameter of the well be quite large so the well digger would have room to maneuver with his pick, a short handled shovel and a heavy steel bar. Hand dug wells were usually 10 feet deep or more, but rarely more than 50 feet.

Digging a well was amazingly difficult work fraught with danger if not done correctly. More than one well digger has lost his life from the side walls of the well caving in on him. Most of us today, when we think of an old, hand dug well, think of a neat, round well shaft lined with brick. Interestingly enough, in the early days this rather expensive method wasn't the standard way well walls were reinforced. The typical well shaft of 150 years ago was square, rather than being round. And instead of bricks, the walls of the well were reinforced with rough boards commonly referred to as curbing.

Digging the first few feet were always the easiest with the dirt and rocks thrown out of the well by the person digging it. But just as soon as the well got a little depth to it, well digging became at least a two man job with an additional person on top. His job was to raise the bucket filled with dirt, empty it, and lower it back down into the well. The person in the bottom of the well used a pick, shovel, and sometimes a long, heavy steel pick rod maybe 6 feet long. The rod was thrust down into the ground, breaking up the rocks, clay and gravel. Then he'd fill the bucket, give a shout, and the bucket would ascend yet again.

The premium hand dug well was one that step tapered down to the water bearing aquifer. The idea was to start with a very large diameter hole at the top, stepping in about eight to 10 inches with every 10 feet or so of depth. Temporary wood shoring was used as needed, and when the desired depth was achieved, the well digger would then use field stone to build the walls of the well as he worked his way to the top. The stone lining would be set at the diameter of the deepest section, and as the stone walls went up, the wood shoring would be removed and the space between the stone lining and the hole would be backfilled. This technique was expensive, but avoided the foul tasting water that usually came from the wood in wooden cased wells.

As the industrial revolution took hold, large bore steam powered rotary well augers replaced the "Well Digger". When the steam auger completed its work, Clay well tiles were set in place using a special tool (pictured on left) to hold, lower and place the tile. The screw mechanism then released the tile. The tool worked on the principle of an expanding screw clamp.

If you ever wondered what "Colder than a Well Digger's Butt" meant, it is an approximation of temperature in the 40 to 50 degree range. (the constant temperature of subsoil).



A Hand Dug Well

Circa 1782



Steam Driven Well Digging Machine



No one can make you feel inferior without your consent. Eleanor Roosevelt

TAX TIME HUMOR

Income Tax Filing Strategy

To: Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury Washington, DC

Enclosed is my 2007 Form 1040, together with payment. Please take note of the attached article from USA Today archives. In the article, you will note that the Pentagon paid \$171.50 each for hammers and NASA paid \$600.00 each for toilet seats.

Please find enclosed in this package four toilet seats (value \$2,400.00) and six hammers (value \$1,029.00). This is in payment for my total tax due of \$3,429.00.

Out of a sense of patriotic duty, and to assist in the political purification of our government, I am also enclosing a 1.5 inch Phillips head screw, for which HUD duly recorded and approved a purchase value of \$22.00, as my contribution to fulfill the Presidential Election Fund option on Form 1040.

It has been a pleasure to pay my taxes this year, and I look forward to paying them again next year in accordance with officially established government values.

Sincerely,
Another satisfied taxpayer

Provide the correct answer to the following RIDDLE and you could WIN Dinner for TWO!

What does the letter 'T' and an island have in common?

E-mail or FAX your answer to our office. If more than one correct answer is received, a winner will be selected at random. If you e-mail your entry, you must write "NEWSLETTER CONTEST" in the subject line to avoid our SPAM filter. Please mail to janette@mulvaneyinc.com

The correct answer to the "what is it" picture contest was "A nail used to hang pictures on the wall" Sorry, there were no correct answers submitted

What's Goin' On?

- Feb 21- 23, 2008 International Roofing Expo Las Vegas, NV
- Mar 4- 5, 2008 National Facilities Management Technology Expo & Conference Baltimore, MD
- Mar 2 – 6, 2008 MCAA 2008 Palm Desert, CA
- Mar 4- 6, , 2008 Maintenance Solutions Expo Baltimore, MD
- Mar 19- 20, 2008 New England Facilities Expo Boston, MA
- May 6 – 8, 2008 Electric Power 2008 Conf & Expo Baltimore, MD

There is no limit to what can be accomplished if it doesn't matter who gets the credit. - Emerson