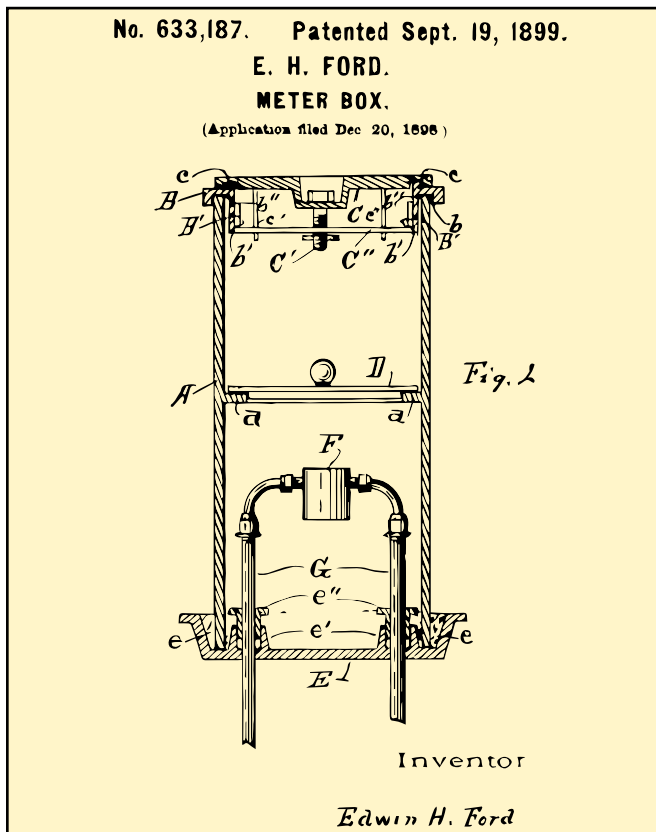


The Meter Setter



Ford Meter Box – 115 Years of History

One hundred fifteen years ago on September 19, 1899, Edwin H. Ford received a patent for the invention of his first meter box. Although officially incorporated in 1911, we mark these earlier years as the birth of Ford Meter Box.



Beginning his water career as the Water Superintendent in Hartford City, Indiana in 1895, Edwin Ford implemented the use of water meters to accurately measure water usage. Because citizens were previously charged a flat rate for water, some would let their faucets run freely, which eventually caused a shortage of water in the city. In an effort to encourage

conservation, Ford suggested charging each customer based on individual use.

As the concept of metering water spread, those using metering services further north noticed that frigid temperatures often caused meters in open pits to freeze. Ford searched for a solution that would still allow buried meters to be located near the water main and be easily read and maintained by water officials.

Ford began experimenting with a meter box during the winter of 1897-98 by taking a few sections of clay sewer pipe and burying them vertically in the ground. He explained: "I put a quart bottle of water at the bottom of each pipe, and I placed another water bottle halfway up. I placed thermometers in different parts of each box. Then I took one box and put an inner lid on an annular ledge halfway up, and took readings and kept a careful record. I found that the water froze and broke the bottles in those boxes that were not protected by an inner lid, and after further experimenting concluded that the inner lid is the great secret of the success of this box."

The rest is history. As we celebrate the 115th anniversary of what may be Ford's most famous patent, the focus of our company remains the same: to provide high quality products and solutions to solve the needs of our waterworks customers. We want to thank you, our customers, for being such a significant part of what makes our business possible.

