

PIPELINE

piping systems inc.

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/INSTITUTIONAL MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS

WINTER 2016

Piping Systems, Inc. Earns Renewal of ASME/National Board Certification

by Pauline L. Lally

For more than 35 years, Piping Systems, Inc. has held at least one type of ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) stamp and the National Board "R" stamp. Once again, PSI has been granted a renewal of the ASME "S" stamp and the National Board "R" stamp.

Holding the "R" stamp means that PSI has been authorized by the National Board to repair boilers and pressure vessels under the "R" stamp. By undergoing an extensive review process by the National Board in conjunction with our authorized inspection agency, The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co., PSI has the capability to offer additional services requested by our customers.

Our on-site tri-annual review was conducted in September. In attendance were: Mr. Marshall Chandler, Supervisor Code Services, Mr. Harold Greer, Authorized Inspector, Hartford Steam Boiler Code Services and Ms. Rubia Garcia, National Board Team Leader.

This review was very thorough—unlike previous reviews that simply required our welder to be on-site. For this review, the team leader required our welder to weld a partial root and hot pass on our demonstration piece under her watchful eye. Before and after the actual welding, she asked questions of our welder to determine whether he had complete knowledge of our welding procedures. During past reviews, the team leader would examine the welds in the presence of our welder, however, our welder was not required to demonstrate knowledge of the welding technique. During this review, technical questions were asked relating to our Welding Procedure Specification (WPS): where to find the welding rod type



and AWS (American Welding Standard) number, who purchases the "code" wire and how it is to be maintained, what type of inert gas is used and how the flow is measured, what welding position (if any) is referenced in the drawings and whether or not the welder is qualified for those positions. During the review, our QC Manager was expected to have a complete understanding of our *Quality Control Manual*, in addition to a working knowledge of the ASME Code sections and the NBIC (National Boiler Inspection Code).

And, for the first time, we had a female inspector, Ms. Rubia Garcia. She demonstrated a very thorough knowledge of her subject and was a stickler for detail. It was nice to see a different face!

Congratulations to everyone on the team, especially Michael Moreira, our QC Manager and Fred Best, our team member who performed the welding.

How does this affect you, our client?

In today's marketplace quality and timeliness are paramount in business. We are extremely aware of the pressures on our customers to provide goods and services at reasonable costs and of the highest quality. Our efforts to achieve authorization by the National Board and ASME have allowed all of our departments to streamline and focus on the details. Our fabrication shop and field technicians are required to improve their welding skills and achieve certification by nationally accepted standards. This translates to higher quality welding and pipefitting skills...and a higher quality job performed for you, our client.

*We count ourselves among the fortunate and know that, without you, it would not be possible.
Thank you, and may the New Year be happy, healthy and full of promise!*



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Have A Nice Flight

Flying may be the fastest and safest way to travel, but we all have our own preferences and quirks when traveling by air. A survey of more than 1,100 family travelers by *ExpertFlyer* looked at passenger habits. Their findings included:

- **Airline choice.** United? American? Southwest? Forty-five percent of participants said that airline mile redemption was a factor in choosing which airline to fly.
- **Storage.** Space is at a premium on most airplanes. Seventy-five percent admitted to “stealing” overhead bin space beyond their authorized allotment.
- **Food.** In-flight meals aren’t the only option if you’re hungry. More than one-third of passengers said they bring their own food to eat during a flight.
- **Complaints.** Flying can be stressful. The top complaint: A bad seat or a seat not near companions (35%), followed by delays (25%), and general discomfort (24%).
- **Worries.** Lost luggage is one thing, but 21% of survey participants said that terrorism is their biggest concern when traveling with their families. That was followed by getting lost or separated (19%) and crime (19%).



Social Media: Mistakes That Can Harm You

Whether you’re looking for a job or just trying to keep the one you have, beware of these social media errors:

- **Complaining.** Think twice before griping about how boring your job is or how much you hate your boss. Negative comments can easily come back to haunt you. Remember that everything you post online is public.
- **Careless comments.** Avoid posting jokes or sarcastic comments. What seems funny in the moment can strike a nerve or prompt a backlash. Keep your tone professional and polite.
- **Exaggeration.** This is especially dangerous for jobseekers, but it can trip up experienced veterans as well. Don’t cite qualifications or degrees you don’t actually have. Pretending you graduated from a particular university when you only took a few classes there can land you in hot water.
- **Failure to network.** Facebook, LinkedIn, and other social media sites offer opportunities to make connections that will support your career. Reach out to people who can help you—and whom you can help in return.
- **Not managing your online image.** Use the highest privacy settings on all your social media sites. Periodically search for your own name on Google and Bing. Review your own posts and remove anything that might send the wrong message.

How To Build On The Creativity Of Others

Thomas Edison once said, “Make it a habit to keep on the lookout for novel and interesting ideas that others have used successfully. Your idea needs to be original only in its adaptation to the problem you are working on.”

What creative thinkers know is how to adapt. Follow these four steps to train your own creative mind to adapt ideas into new solutions:

1. **Look at your problem.** Compare it against other similar problems in your organization or industry.
2. **Look into the past.** Find parallels to your current situation. What solutions were successfully used that could also be applied in your instance?
3. **Identify people you can emulate.** Observe how they approach challenges and problems.
4. **Expand your scope.** Look at ideas outside your field. Can you find any to incorporate?

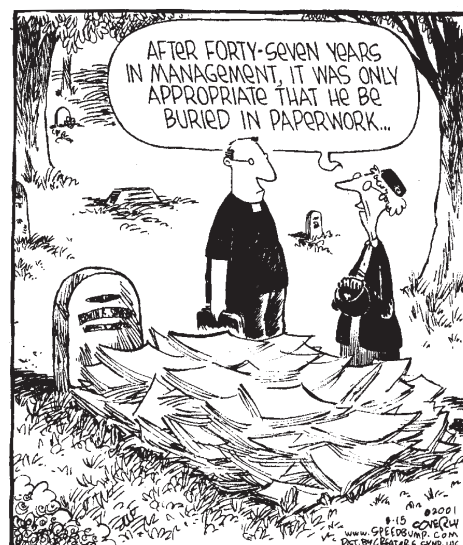
How Much Is That In Galleons?


Converting money when traveling to another country is difficult enough. What happens when you travel to a different planet? Many famous fictional worlds have their own currencies, designed by writers and filmmakers. Take a look at what your cash would buy (as calculated by Mobile Money UK) in places you’ve only read about or seen on the big screen:

- **Star Wars.** Currency: Galactic Credit Standard. Conversion: 10 GDS = \$10.10
- **Flintstones.** Currency: Clams. Conversion: 10 clams = \$32.00
- **Harry Potter.** Currency: Galleons. Conversion: 10 galleons = \$73.50
- **Game of Thrones.** Currency: Gold dragons. Conversion: 10 Dragons = \$13,157.89
- **Discworld.** Currency: Ankh-Morpork Dollar. Conversion: 10 AMD = \$1,666.67
- **Dune.** Currency: Solari. Conversion: 10 Solari = \$16.39

SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly





The cows were tested in a T-shaped maze similar to those used with mice and rats.

Moo! Cows May Be Smarter Than You Think

What's the smartest animal you can think of? Dolphins and chimpanzees may spring to mind quickly, but don't neglect one often-overlooked farm animal: the cow.

College students at the University of Sydney (as reported by *The Huffington Post*) conducted experiments with dairy cows and found that our bovine friends are capable of quickly mastering a maze to find food, and thus may possess better problem-solving skills than previously known.

The cows were tested in a T-shaped maze similar to those used with mice and rats. They learned to follow a sound through the maze to get to their food, with one of them reaching its goals within the first 20 seconds of the test.

The results suggest that cattle farmers could train cows to obey specific sound signals to come in for milking, producing greater efficiency on dairy farms.

Don't Listen To The Critics

If you worry that your work is unappreciated, consider that even notable critics make mistakes. From *Rotten Reviews: A Literary Companion*, edited by Bill Henderson (Penguin Books) come these examples of reviewers who missed the mark when evaluating various "failures":

- **Emily Dickinson.** In describing poet Emily Dickinson for an 1892 review in *The Atlantic Monthly*, Thomas Bailey Aldrich noted his belief that "an eccentric, half-educated recluse in an out-of-the-way New England village—or anywhere else—cannot with impunity set at defiance the laws of gravitation and grammar."
- **William Faulkner.** *The New Yorker's* Clifton Fadiman didn't mince words in his 1936 review of William Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!* Fadiman declared it "the final blowup of what was once a remarkable, if minor, talent."
- **Rudyard Kipling.** A *San Francisco Examiner* editor summed up the paper's view of *Jungle Book* author Rudyard Kipling in an 1889 rejection letter that read: "I'm sorry, Mr. Kipling, but you just don't know how to use the English language."
- **Charles Dickens.** And in 1859, the *Saturday Review* made this bold prediction of Charles Dickens, author of *Great Expectations*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and *Oliver Twist*: "We do not believe in the permanence of his reputation."

"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings."

—William Arthur Ward



Which single recorded by Jan and Dean was the first "surf" song to top the U.S. Billboard pop chart?

Trivial Matters

1) Advertising executive Gary Dahl was responsible for which of the following short-lived fad items?

- a) Mood Rings
- b) Pet Rocks
- c) "Baby On Board" Signs
- d) Troll Dolls

2) "Conrad" was the first name of the founder of which hotel chain that still bears his surname?

- a) Sheraton
- b) Radisson
- c) Marriott
- d) Hilton

3) Which of the following singles was recorded by Jan and Dean and was the first "surf" song to top the U.S. Billboard pop chart?

- a) Surfin' U.S.A.
- b) Surfin' Safari
- c) Surf City
- d) Surfer Girl

4) The late Stanley Ann Dunham is the mother of which U.S. President?

- a) Barack Obama
- b) Bill Clinton
- c) Jimmy Carter
- d) Lyndon Johnson

5) By what name was Shelly Duvall's character, Winifred Torrance, known in the 1980 thriller *The Shining*?

- a) Winnie
- b) Willa
- c) Wendy
- d) Wanda

—from *mental_floss*

Answers: 1) b; 2) d; 3) c; 4) a; 5) c

Winner's Circle

We are pleased to announce that the following clients have won our drawing for a prize of their choice: an e-reader, or a donation valued at \$100 made to the charity of their choice.

How can you win? Simple. Look for our customer survey request. These requests are sent out to our clients following the completion of all contracts. Service clients are sent a request on a periodic basis. One of the completed surveys is chosen at random to win the prize.

Even if you haven't received a request, you may complete a customer survey by visiting our website at: <http://www.pipingsystemsinc.com/index.php?page=customer-survey>. Be sure to complete the project description and the approximate date of when the work was completed.

Congratulations to all our winners:

Steve Leonard – CWB Contractors
Wayne Homer – Heat Transfer
Frank Ciliberto – Depuy
John Romiti – Veolia
Tom Kraft – Benjamin Moore
Adam Arruda – Teknor Apex
Mark Lynas – Frank Rounds
Craig Webber – Tech Etch
Don Sasin – Trelleborg



From A Happy Client...

"The job was completed as scheduled. Done in a very professional and safety-minded way. Non-disruptive to my daily business."

— Kevin Collins, Victaulic

That's Not My Job!

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

I'm sure you've heard this story before. In practical terms, as a client, you never want to hear "That's not my job." Our team members NEVER say that to a client (let me know if they do!). Why? Because we are focused on cross-training.

Many of our technicians are licensed in multiple disciplines: plumbing, gasfitting, pipefitting and sprinklerfitting. We encourage all team members to avail themselves of our Tuition

Reimbursement Program which assists in gaining these skills. We even offer incentives to selected team members for enrolling in professional development courses. The old way of thinking was that if team members were "too smart," they would jump ship and go elsewhere. The alternative is that they are untrained and they stay!

At PSI, the key is to provide a dynamic workplace so that team members feel appreciated and are paid commensurate with their experience. As an industry, we face a serious shortage of trained technicians. This makes it all the more important for us to focus on cross-training and professional development. What type of technicians would you rather have on your project...someone who is well-trained, committed to quality and excellence, or someone who dreads going to work every day and is struggling to make it through their "8 hours?" Invite us to help you with your next project and see the difference for yourself.



We're doing our part!



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