
NEWSLETTER

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER S.E.E.

JULY 2012

.....

President's Message

One of the most important things that must be done prior to moving into a job is to notify the public. As blasters, being proactive in creating positive relations with the public, helps promote goodwill for all of us in the blasting industry. It sounds simple enough but if it is not done properly, it can open the door to a host of other problems. It just takes one citizen to turn a job into a nightmare.

If we invest time and care into promoting positive public relations prior to starting a job, we can avoid the inevitable pitfalls, such as complaints directly and indirectly from neighbors, onsite visits from Code Enforcement Officers and other State and Local officials, and work stoppage or permits revoked. Inevitably this adds time and cost to projects, something general contractors do not wish to cover. We can't plan ahead for everything, but a little basic pre-planning and communicating with the public can curtail most problems for us as blasters, along with the general contractor, town officials, and ultimately the property owner.

As an industry, we need to do a better job of promoting and selling ourselves and our abilities. We can't continue to operate in the manner that we have in the past. We have seen an increase from local governments writing regulations to control our business, from notification processes, pre-blast surveys, water testing, etc - all to gain the important permit. Most of the regulations are written and implemented without input from our industry - they tend to be knee-jerk reactions to calm vocal citizens who have spoken out against the impending, current, and/or post blasting activity.

One of the tools we have employed, include personally meeting with those who will be most impacted by blasting, the neighbors. Introducing yourself and taking time to inform them of the blasting process, can start a positive relationship with the neighbors and create a degree of comfort before you even show up with equipment. Answering questions and offering to put them on a call list for notification prior to detonating a blast can go a long way in gaining their trust and respect with the process.

It is up to us, the Blasting Industry, to look at what we do and continue to improve our relations with the public. If we can't do this, then we can expect to see more rules, regulations and restrictions from local governments, which could lead to no blasting zones in towns. So it's up to us, the Blasting Industry, to work together and keep our public informed and comfortable about what we all love to do.

Your comments would be appreciated and welcomed.

Respectfully:

Don McNeil

207-846-5839

207-415-5467 -cell

DAMPDK@maine.rr.com

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Neighborly Manners: How Listening Now Will Save You Money Later

Blasters should consider good relationships with neighboring property owners integral to a successful project with a less-litigious atmosphere. With continued urban expansion and the growth of blasting operations near densely populated areas, blasters continue to face public relations challenges. Reaching out to nearby property owners about a blasting project is therefore vital and should be part of any blaster's business plans.

While pre-blast surveys are a useful tool to communicate with nearby property owners to a blasting site (e.g. Massachusetts' 527 CMR § 13.09(10)), setting expectations with all neighbors, even those not requiring such a survey, is critical in minimizing claims. When blast effects intrude upon neighboring property owners' comfort, strained relations often arise between operators, residents, businesses and even surrounding communities, causing delay and expense.

One "violent" blast can permanently alienate neighbors. Of course, what may be a minor blast to you may be an extremely violent blast to neighbors of the blast site. Thus, taking the time to reach out to neighbors, developing rapport, outlining the details of what the blasting job will entail, setting expectations, and keeping an open line of communication are all key steps to reducing claims and headaches.

Even if a blaster takes those steps, there will still likely be property owners near any blast site that are intent on stopping a project and creating havoc for the blaster and general contractor. However, many neighbors will be less inclined to run to the courthouse if they feel they have been heard. Having defended many baseless property damage claims in which damage is allegedly due to vibrations, we have found that a common denominator among most of the claims is the property owners' angst at not being treated well or fairly by a blaster or general contractor. In short, these claimants simply do not feel that their concerns have been heard, or their questions answered.

For example, whether it is due to ground vibration or air blast, structural responses can result to offsite homes or buildings. Most homeowners mistakenly believe that any movement in window glass or house structure originates from ground vibrations striking the foundation of the house. In fact, however, the concussion elements of air blasts are often the cause of such effects. Taking the time to explain the science of blasting to nearby property owners can go a long way in reducing fears and therefore reducing claims. Neighbors should be informed that each blasting site differs, and that as each blast occurs, more information is learned that will help limit any damage to their homes and structures.

Complaints about noise and vibration can be overcome through careful blast design with effective use of delays, careful monitoring of blast effects and, again, by meeting with neighbors to answer their questions and explain the care and safety precautions used to protect their property and safety.

Good blasters will also continue to analyze blast design, monitor effectively and maintain accurate records. Completing these tasks will further help reduce complaints. Furthermore, it is our experience that when defending blasting cases involving alleged property damage, fully

completed, clear records of blast design and blast effects are very helpful when government agencies investigate and discuss complaints. They are also helpful in court when the fact finder, a judge or a jury, considers a neighbor's claims.

In sum, reach out to neighbors, keep the communication lines open and hold nearby property owners' hands during the course of a blasting project. These efforts will go a long way in reducing claims and will save you time and money in the end.

Attorney Thomas J. Fay is a Director and Shareholder at Boyle, Shaughnessy & Campo, PC, which has offices in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut and Rhode Island. His practice includes representing construction contractors and blasting companies.



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- Report unauthorized excavations or suspicious activity at any pipeline facility or on the right-of-way to **1 800.888.3982**.
- Notify Iroquois immediately if you become aware of or if you suspect you have caused damage to the pipeline. Any damage, including a gouge, scrape, dent, crease, or coating damage, even if it appears to be minor, may cause a future leak or failure.

2

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU SUSPECT A LEAK

- Stop work and evacuate the site to a safe distance.
- Call 911 if there is blowing gas.
- Call Iroquois at **1 800.888.3982**.
- Do not strike a match; use telephones; operate engines and motors; or switch on/off appliances, lights, or even a flashlight in the area where you smell gas. These items can produce sparks that might ignite the gas and cause an explosion.
- Alert everyone on the premises.
- Keep the public and traffic away.
- Do not try to fix the pipe or slow the rate of leaking gas.
- Do not try to extinguish a gas burning fire unless there is a threat to life.

3

HAZARDS OF NATURAL GAS

- Flammable in concentrations of approximately 5% to 15% gas in air
- Explosive in a confined space if present in the above concentrations
- Asphyxiate, by displacing oxygen in a confine space

4

HOW IROQUOIS PREVENTS PIPELINE DAMAGE

- Participation in one-call and dig-safe programs
- Inspection programs
- Design and construction practices
- Workforce qualifications
- Public education programs
- Industry safety practices and government oversight
- Pipeline markers and facility mapping
- Leak surveys
- Patrol of facilities
- Pressure monitoring
- Odorization
- Communication and coordination with city and municipal agencies
- Security measures
- Integrity Management Programs

5

PIPELINE DAMAGE CAN BE DETECTED BY

- **SMELL** – Natural gas is colorless and odorless. Typically, a distinct and recognizable odorant is added to natural gas so that people detect and recognize it quickly.
- **SIGHT** – A dust cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water, or vegetation that appears to be dead or dying for no apparent reason.
- **SOUND** – An unusual noise like roaring, hissing, or whistling.

6

HOW TO GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Visit our website at www.iroquois.com
- Call Iroquois at 1 800.253.5152
- Send Iroquois an e-mail at PSA_Ad@iroquois.com
- Information about pipelines in your area may be available through the National Pipeline Mapping System at www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov

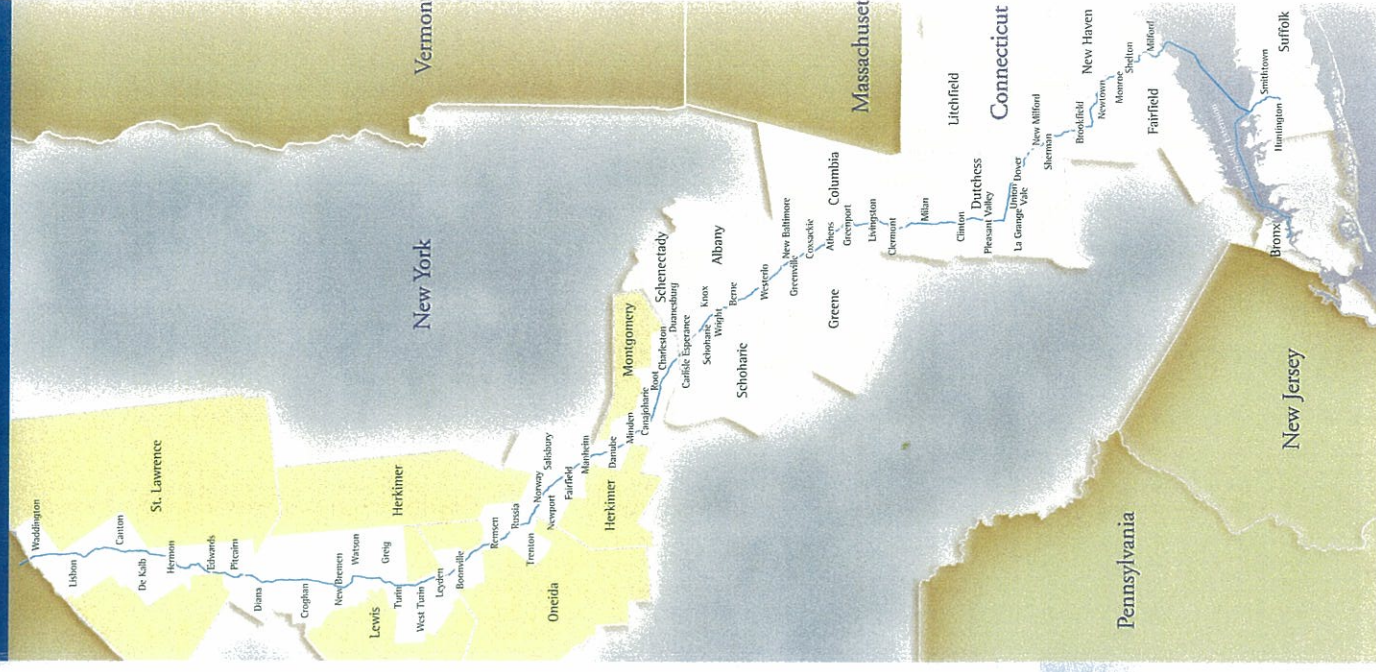
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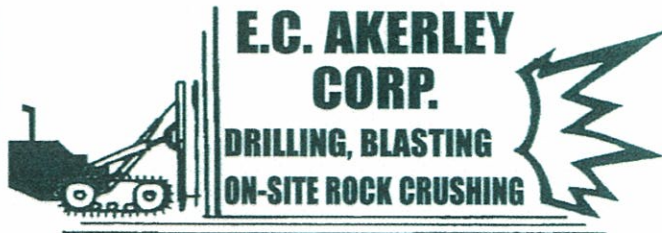
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EXPO 2013

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EXPO 2013 31st Year Holiday Inn, Route 111, Boxboro MA

The New England Chapter, Society of Explosives Engineers will be sponsoring its thirty-first year annual exposition at the Holiday Inn Boxboro, Route 111, 242 Adams Place, Boxborough MA, (Rt. 495 to Exit 28, Route 111, left at light, next right onto Adams Place. on Friday, March 22, 2013 between 12PM and 9PM. Suppliers and distributors in the drilling and blasting industry are invited to display their products and services. Contractors, their employees and friends will be able to view the new techniques, supplies and equipment now available in the explosives industry. Seminars will be held in the afternoon.

Exhibitors will be able to set-up their booths after 7AM. Display booths are \$300.00. There will be a charge of \$30.00 for electricity to your booth.

We ask that you make your reservations early. You will be invoiced in December for your exhibit booth. All booths must be set-up by 11AM.

In the past, many exhibitors have had a "give-a-way" at their booth. At the end of the evening, everyone looks forward to the many drawings. It also helps to keep the people there for the entire evening.

Last year approximately two hundred users and suppliers attended our EXPO. A list of all attendees, names and addresses included, were sent to all exhibitors after the show. A great time was had by all. Exhibits, raffles, food, seminars and special rates on lodging. We ask that you reserve your room @ \$80.00 as soon as possible, (978-263-8701 and ask for front desk NOT reservations.). You can always cancel 24 hrs. prior to arrival if necessary. Make sure you mention the NESEE EXPO when reserving your room(s). Any problems, call me. Call by February, they fill up quickly.

Please label all boxes sent to the Holiday Inn Boxborough, 242 Adams Place, Boxborough MA 01719, 978-263-8701 with your company name, c/o NESEE, the Ivy room for March 22nd. And, please try to send no earlier than two days prior.

For further information, or if you wish to reserve a booth, please call me, Terri @ 978-562-6211; fax @ 978-562-2662; email @ nesee@nesee.org

HOPE TO SEE YOU ON MARCH 22, 2013

Terri Barton, EXPO Coordinator

Quick Notes

Mike Turner once again stepped up to the plate for the NESEE to discuss blasting operations near utility lines at the request of National Grid. Although I did not quite make it that morning in through the Boston traffic, I understand the presentation was well received. Thank you Mike!

Paul Fleuriel was given a certificate of appreciation for the years of helping at the Westfield High School Career Day festivities on behalf of the NESEE. Paul seems quite at ease to engage young folks to draw them into our mining industry. He was able to put smiles on many young people this June 2012. Thank you Paul!

Classified

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12 Ft HD Supreme Explosives Body, Aluminum 12x90x96, 42" Cap Box, 1-42" Street Side Door, Full Rear Opening Barn Doors. Price \$ 9900. Call Reggie Orifice at McDevitt Trucks 603-621-8324.



SUDOKU PUZZLE

	5					8	9	
2	6				5	4		
	7		9		4			
3				4	1			
7								4
			5	9				3
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		2	4				5	7
	1	7					4	

The shaded diagonals must also contain the numbers 1-9.

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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9	5	8			2			
				5		2	6	

The shaded diagonals must also contain the numbers 1-9.



Geology Section

From: Roadside Geology of Vermont and New Hampshire, B. B. Van Diver, 1987, US 7: Massachusetts Border—Rutland, Vermont.

Bennington is known for the Battle of Bennington, one of the decisive battles of the American Revolution that marked the start of the end of the British campaign. During General Burgoyne's push down the Champlain and Hudson valleys he sent a detachment from Fort Edwards to Bennington to take the town and obtain supplies. Meanwhile, Brigadier General John Stark got word of the impending assault, and decided to head them off. The battle, near Walloomsac Heights in New York, lasted only two hours.

The Bennington Battle Monument, completed in 1891 is 306 feet high, the tallest structure in Vermont. It is made of a blue-gray dolostone called Sandy Hill dolomite from Hudson Falls, New York.

An outcrop/roadcut on the northbound lane of US 7 about 1.5 miles north of Bennington is a small scale example of the thrust faulting of western Vermont. A 5-foot thick bed of dolostone, thrust up and over the northwestern segment with a lot of crushed rock in the fault zone. This outcrop is near the Maple Hill thrust fault.

Dolostone

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Dolostone or **dolomite rock** is a sedimentary carbonate rock that contains a high percentage of the mineral dolomite. In old U.S.G.S. publications it was referred to as magnesian limestone. Most dolostone formed as a magnesium replacement of limestone or lime mud prior to lithification.[1] It is resistant to erosion and can either contain bedded layers or be unbedded. It is less soluble than limestone in weakly acidic groundwater, but it can still develop solution features over time.

The usage of the term *dolostone* is controversial because the name dolomite was first applied to the rock during the late 18th century and thus has technical precedence. The use of the term dolostone is not recommended by the *Glossary of Geology* published by the American Geological Institute. It is, however, used in some geological publications.

References

- Blatt, Harvey; Tracy, Robert J. (1996). *Petrology; Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic* (2nd ed.). W. H. Freeman. pp. 317–323. [ISBN 0-7167-2438-3](#).
- Tucker, M. E.; V. P., Wright (1990). *Carbonate Sedimentology*. Blackwell Scientific Publications. [ISBN 0-632-01472-5](#).
- Zenger, D. H.; Mazzullo, S. J. (1982). *Dolomitization*. Hutchinson Ross. [ISBN 0-87933-416-9](#).

The Industry Cares

The NESEE sent a remembrance of \$100.00 to the Fleuriel Family for their son. Paul sent this message:

"Thank you sincerely and please add this to our scholarship fund. The family has received many benefits from this group and I'm proud to be a member." Paul & Kit



Your Thoughts?

Recently, several NESEE members were asked for their input.

The NESEE is here to help you. Do you have any suggestions for the NESEE to help you with regulations, industry in general, social events, and/or the 2013 Expo? Please let me know your thoughts.

Here are some responses.

Response A: Not sure if I can offer any suggestions on the challenges the chapter is having. The economy is struggling, competition is tough and hungry. Spending money on company perks has all but stopped. Everyone looking at cost cutting, rather than growing/spending. If and when Europe can get their poop together and the rest of the world stops waiting and watching that fiasco,,,maybe then we might see some spending.

Reponse B: As a vendor: Considering the contraction of the blasting industry, there are far fewer people to sell to, influence or form allegiances with. It's find to the financial reward in membership. The last Expo was a bust. Vendors attend trade shows in anticipation of sales leads. How did "we" do? Where's the youth? I attended a recent refresher training session presented by NY DOL. Of the 120+ people in attendance, 12 were under 50 years of age. We need to reach out to a college or community college with a construction management program and forge an educational opportunity for blasting industry prospects. Continue an audit of "active" members and revisit what the roll of the organization needs to be, or is there a roll to fill? Review why larger industry members don't participate. On-line membership directory? On-line advertising opportunities? Update web page, color, photos and video links. Target corporate/company membership. Continue the educational opportunities for small business, OSHA 10 Hour training, MSHA training, DOT training. CO-OP for small business training, blasting supplies, insurance. Mass. Small Business Development Center - MSBDC.org



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name of Applicant: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Social Security No: _____

Name and Relationship to NESEE Member: _____

Educational Background: _____

High School: _____

College or University: _____

Graduation Date: _____

Degree: Major/Minor _____

List previous honors, distinctions, accomplishments & volunteer work

Explain briefly your educational goals:

Explain briefly your need for scholarship funds:

Please have your faculty advisor submit your transcript for the latest completed semester.

The above statements are correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature Signature of NESEE Member

NOTE: All persons who have access to the information contained in this application will treat the information with absolute confidentiality. All applications must be submitted no later than **July 30th**. There are two principal factors that are taken into consideration in awarding these scholarships: one, which carries the most weight, concerns the promise of success in college on the part of the applicant, the second is grade standing. The applicant must be the member, spouse, child or grandchild of an NESEE member in good standing. These scholarships are awarded after the first semester of an accredited 2-4 year college degree.

Please send completed application to: NESEE, Box 596, Hudson MA 01749

Got Moles?

Believed to have evolved from weathervanes, it is unclear as to when the whirligig as we know it today has developed. Ancient Chinese tapestries show a type of whirligig woven into the fabric and in classic literature the whirligig is referenced in William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, using the whirligig as a metaphor for "what goes around, comes around".

Besides useful as a weathervane and with some entertainment factor, the 'gig' can be used as a kinetic garden ornament. They can be designed to transmit sound and vibration into the ground to repel burrowing rodents in yards, gardens, and backyards. In particular, moles are susceptible to the vibrations of motion transmitted, therefore creating a 'green' way to rid your yard of burrowing pests.

Whatever its start and history, the whirligig is recognized today as a form of folk art.



Stranger than Truth: Three months after blasting at a construction project, a homeowner located approximately 300 feet away from the site called to complain that for the first time he had moles in his yard and it must be due to the blasting.

Options – You Decide:

- (a) blast to get rid of the moles
- (b) get a cat
- (c) install a whirlygig

Massachusetts Fire Prevention Board

Please congratulate Mr. Ken Smith from Maine D&B/Independent for qualifying and volunteering to attend the Massachusetts Fire Prevention Board as a representative for the blasting industry. Ken Smith will keep the NESEE Board informed of changes in regulations, potential impacts to the industry, and provide his expertise for the FPB. Thank you Ken!

We need to thank Mr. Paul Fleuriel for all his years of service for the blasting industry on the Fire Prevention Board. Paul started on the FPB in 1993. Paul was a willing participant in the FPB along with being on the NESEE Board. The Massachusetts Governor also thanked Paul for his service. We were well represented. Thank you Paul!

The NESEE is here for you. Need help? Anything you would like to share in the next quarterly newsletter in October?

Selling some equipment?

Any "clean" jokes that you could share for the newsletter?

We are always looking for articles about safety....

We are always looking for articles of interest for this industry....

Do you have a photo of a shot you want to share?.....

Any comments on the article about Community Relations by Attorney Fay?

2013 Expo

Terri continues to do a wonderful job for the NESEE with all the ideas, help, schedules, and accounting. Give her a call about your booth for the 2013 Expo. Do you like the Poker Walk?—Let Terri know. Got some ideas to bring more folks to the 2013 Expo? Let Terri know your thoughts.



Goose Quills?

ENSIGN-BICKFORD BLASTING TOOL - Heavy duty steel multi-purpose blasting tool, spring loaded with thumb lock, marked on one side THE ENSIGN-BICKFORD CO. SIMSBURY, CONN, 7 3/8 in. long, ca. early 1930s; well-made tool includes wire cutter, fuse splitter, sleeve crimp jaw, fuse cutter, wire stripper, cap punch and pry bar (The Ensign-Bickford Company pioneered the introduction of the safety fuse for mining in the U.S. Prior to the development of safety fuse, black powder charges were ignited by such methods as trails of powder to cartridges, kerosene soaked rags stuffed into blast holes, and goose quills filled with black powder to form a sort of fuse. Premature and unpredictable explosions with these early methods led to a heavy miners' death toll in underground accidents. These accidents led William Bickford of Tuckingmill, Cornwall, to invent a method whereby blasting ignition could be controlled by a uniform and determinate rate of speed. His patent for the Miner's Safety Fuse (British patent No. 6159/1831) was awarded on Sept. 6, 1831 for a fuse "consisting of a number of jute threads, passed through an orifice and stretched to rotate slowly while at the same time a small amount of fine gunpowder fell into the tube thus formed and was retained therein as a slender core." Following Bickford's death in 1834 at age 60, Bickford's safety fuse was introduced into the U.S. through Richard Bacon, then superintendent of the copper mines of the Phoenix Mining Company at Old Newgate Prison, Granby, CT. Bacon made arrangements with Bickford, Smith & Davey, the original British manufacturers of safety fuse, to build a plant in 1836 at Simsbury, CT to manufacture the fuse under the name of Bacon, Bickford & Eales Co. By 1839, Joseph Toy came from the Tuckingmill plant in England to soon become manager of the Simsbury factory, continuing in that capacity until Toy's death in 1887. Under Toy's management the name was changed to Toy, Bickford & Co. in 1852. Toy was responsible for dramatically improving production safety and market expansion while developing different varieties of safety fuse as the growing amount of coal and metal mining in the U.S. increased. After Toy's death, Ralph Ensign, his son-in-law, became manager of the Simsbury facility and the name was changed to Ensign, Bickford & Co. In 1907 the business was incorporated as the Ensign-Bickford Co. and a consolidation with the Climax Fuse Co. of New York took place with Ensign as the president of the corporation. He held that position till his death in 1917 when his son, Joseph Ensign, succeeded him. By this time, the quality of the standard safety fuse product had been steadily improved with a very regular burning rate, good appearance and excellent water resistance. Ensign-Bickford not only supplied the mining industry across the U.S., it also provided many million feet of fuse for the construction of the Panama Canal and special fuse for munitions during World War I. In 1936, The Ensign-Bickford Company celebrated its 100th anniversary and introduced its promising new detonating cord, which eventually accounted for two-thirds of the company's income. Ensign-Bickford's Primacord became the functional generic name for detonating cord in North America. The company continues in business today as Ensign-Bickford Industries. See VanGelder and Schlatter, *History of the Explosives Industry in America*, 1927, pp 721-729 and Kynor, *Multi Purpose Cap Crimper* from Ensign-Bickford Co., *Collectors' Mining Review* #1, pp 23-25)



NESEE

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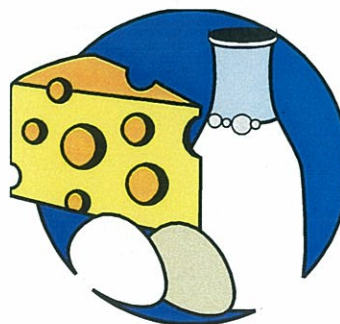
Comic Relief

A wife asks her husband, "Could you please go shopping for me and buy one carton of milk, and if they have eggs, get 6."

A short time later the husband comes back with 6 cartons of milk.

The wife asks him, " Why did you buy 6 cartons of milk?"

He replied, "They had eggs."



When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 Beers.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him.

When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls.

He then asked the students if the jar was full.

They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly.

The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls.

He then asked the students again if the jar was full.

They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar.

Of course, the sand filled up everything else.

He asked once more if the jar was full.

The students responded with a unanimous 'yes.'

The professor then produced two Beers from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

'Now,' said the professor as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life.'

The golf balls are the important things---your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions---and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car.

The sand is everything else---the small stuff.

'If you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls.'

The same goes for life.

If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your

happiness. Spend time with your children.

Spend time with your parents.

Visit with grandparents.

Take your spouse out to dinner.

Play another 18.

There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal.

Take care of the golf balls first---the things that really matter.

Set your priorities.

The rest is just sand.

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the Beer represented.

The professor smiled and said, 'I'm glad you asked.'

The Beer just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of Beers with a friend.

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