

Another Year Gone By

By David Branham, Wastewater Technician

My, my, time sure does fly. By the time this article reaches print it will be another new year, or close to it anyway. It will mark my fourth anniversary working for the association.

One of my duties is to write an article for each of our magazine publications. During my first year or so, I sensed that Jason and Doug seemed to have some concern that I may run out of material and subjects to write about. I guess the reason I thought this was because my inbox at work used to be stuffed with articles with a note attached stating, "this may be a good subject to write about". I don't seem to get that much anymore, as Doug and Jason seem to have found out that I am rather windy when it comes to writing articles.

One of my very favorite things to do is writing. That being said, I know in my heart that I could find material and subjects to share with you for at least ten years, maybe more. So! What should it be? CMOM, process control, lagoons, sludge management, and so forth, and so on. Nah! This time I would like to lighten things up a little and share with you an insight from the old man of the crew.

So, I think that a little nostalgia is in order, to bring in the new-year, you understand. When I graduated from high school in 1967 the computer as we know it was nonexistent. Only large companies and the government had them and they were large, cumbersome, and expensive. My how things have changed. In "67" the cell phone as we know it today was called a "two way wrist radio" featured in the Dick Tracy comic strip, (for those of you old enough to remember). And boy that was really science fiction and way out there, especially since a lot of rural communities were still on telephone party lines. Remember those?

And don't you know when I was a kid I had to walk five miles to school barefoot, in the snow, and it was uphill both ways. No. No. Only kidding, we did actually have cars and school buses back in those days. However, Ray Krock of McDonald's fame only had a few restaurants in the larger cities and Colonel Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken

was still living in the back of his station wagon. What did we do about eating, you may be asking? We ate at home; what a novel idea, huh.

And so today, technology seems to have overwhelmed our society. Is it for the good? For the most part I think so. Long gone are the days of my youth when we used an outhouse, my mother cooked the meals and heated the bath water on a wood cook stove, TV was a new technology and only a few people owned them. When I look back, it is amazing to see how far we have come.

My youngest will be off to college next year. I mentioned to her that space travel will soon be common place, and she may, in the not too distant future spend a weekend at the Hilton Space Center located near the moon. Boy, did I get a funny look from her. I am sure she thought that I was crazy and that will never come to pass. Just the ramblings of a silly old man, I am sure she was thinking. But we shall see, we shall see.

And now I must go, but I will leave you with this. I sure would have liked to spend the weekend at the Hilton Space Center.