

# Of Cabbages and Kings

By David Branham

Haw!! Did I get your attention? It's been a dark and gloomy November day and I am feeling just a little melancholy. Seems like I get that way about this time of year, must be the coming on of winter. I couldn't get that saying from "*Alice in Wonderland*" out of my mind all day. After pondering all day on what to write about, I decided to lighten things up a bit. So here goes with these bits and pieces of very informational information.

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF THE WASTEWATER OPERATOR

1. Thou shalt be: Pipe-fitter, electrician, welder, office boy, carpenter, or what have you, for the sake of the treatment plant.
2. Thou shalt not take in vain the name of thy superintendent, thy city manager, nor any of thy commissioners.
3. Six days shalt thou labor with thy plant, and on the seventh thou shalt labor also, for the Sunday was made for poor fools like thee.
4. Thou shalt keep thy plant running on Election Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years' Day for the welfare of thy fair city – thou shalt have no holidays whatsoever.
5. Thou shalt operate thy plant without residues, wither those that pollute with stench the air above, or those poured into the rivers, or those that accumulate as ungodly wastes upon the face of the earth. Thou shalt do this without asking how it is to be done.
6. Thou shalt endeavor, by hydraulics, politics, electronics, soft-soap, bull-doing, profanity, and/or chemistry, to keep thy efficiencies high. 100% is acceptable.
7. Thou shalt not covet new equipment, nor assistants, nor helpers, for these things are an abomination in the eyes of the taxpayer.
8. Thou shalt never, **NO NEVER** assign anyone of the day-laborers to any menial task, which they might consider beneath their dignity, or in any way discriminatory.

9. Thou shalt maintain, continuously and at all times, a B.O.D. of 99.44%, for the Water Pollution Board knows best.
10. Thou shalt not covet great rewards. Thou shalt accept gratefully and without question, the pittance meted out to thee. May thy troubles be many, the financial and spiritual rewards small, and may thy days be long with thy antique overloaded treatment plant.

If you liked that one you'll love this bit of wisdom from an unknown author.

## You'd like the Day Off?

So you want the day off. Let's take a look at what you are asking for.

- ❖ There are 365 days per year available for work.
- ❖ There are 52 weeks per year in which you already have two days off per week, leaving 261 days available for work.
- ❖ Since you spend 16 hours each day away from work you have used up 170 days, leaving only 91 days available.
- ❖ You spend 30 minutes each day on coffee breaks. That accounts for 23 days each year, leaving only 68 days available.
- ❖ With a one hour lunch period each day, you have already used up another 46 days, leaving only 22 days available for work.
- ❖ You normally spend 2 days per year on sick leave. This leaves you only 20 days available for work.
- ❖ We are off for 5 holidays per year, so your available working time is down to 15 days.
- ❖ We generously give you 14 days vacation per year, which leaves only one day available for work and I'll be darned if you're going to take that day off.

Hum! Kind of sounds like the last job I had. Ha Ha. Hope you enjoyed the lighter side as much as I did. And now I must close as I finish up my 5<sup>th</sup> year

working for the Association. My, my how time  
seems to fly by. From the South Coast to Astoria,  
from Joseph to Lakeview and all points in-between  
hope you had a happy holiday season and I wish  
you and yours a great and prosperous new year.  
Dave