

Petting the Annoyance

By Tim Tice, Projects Manager

Pet peeves involve complaints about specific behaviors, rather than general dissatisfaction. Pet peeves often involve specific behaviors of someone close, such as a spouse or significant other, yet they may include items outside the home, including work, play or common public places. Now this text is not a forum to climb on a high horse and preach, yet a way to complete a task each quarter and that is writing an article for our magazine.

Each morning our family wakes to a new day like so many, having a routine that, yes, changes only slightly as time goes by. One minute you are waking up with absolutely no one to worry about except yourself and the next day you and your significant other (politically correct) are chasing the kids around getting them ready for whatever or wherever they need to be.

Well, the other morning, the family is in our normal routine. It goes something like this; after working for an hour or so, my wife and I go down stairs from our office and set the day in motion with our boys. For our family, a routine is a necessity to life.

I am painting this picture to outline some of those annoying moments that drive me; and I am sure others, crazy. As our daily choreography begins one task that has simply fit into my schedule is handling the kitchen each morning. Define handle? Well, it means breakfast prep for the boys and me, collecting dishes, rinsing and readying them for the dishwasher. Well, of course the clean dishes in the washer need to be taken out. Pet peeve number one, dishware designed to hold water even after the dry cycle have been completed. No matter how hard you try, water ends up splashing on the floor unseen until you walk in it, wet socks.

So the kids are off to school and the focus returns to the projects for work. Your busy doing your thing when you simply glance over to the cell phone or PDA (personal device assistant), you've noticed that no calls or e-mails have come in. Now please understand me, I am not addicted to these electronic devices, even though my wife may claim the contrary. Why no calls or e-mails? Well, that little invisible ghost has turned off all connections, making this pet peeve number two. This peeve goes

right along with suddenly a dropped call. Can you hear me now? That has become an annoying phrase in itself.

I don't know if this next annoyance is considered a pet peeve, but I will throw it out there anyway. In the previous position of employment, being involved with the transportation industry, we would consistently have a driver come through the yard gate 3-4 minutes prior to leaving as dispatched. Engine cold, yes, paperwork ready no, yet the employee is driving out through that same gate in ten minutes, tops! This goes right along with punching the clock a minute before one is to be at their post and then spending five minutes getting coffee and a visit to the throne of Thomas Crapper, not necessarily in that order. A pet peeve, # 3 that will perpetually prove perplexing to this person, urrgggh!

Oh I forgot to mention pet peeve 1.1, the empty glass left on the sink with a residue of milk.

Pet peeves are cast out without an awareness of how sharp the barb on the hook is; since most pet peeves are habits, which with some consideration of others can be significantly reduced or eliminated. Is NOT holding a door open a pet peeve or straightforward disrespect? Can most pet peeves be purged from society if we place more consideration of others?

Parking lots are a classic feeding ground for pet peeves. The other day I come out from the local hardware store to find not one, but two baskets placed behind my truck. I tell you I wanted to throw them through the windshield of the car next to me, yet I couldn't lift them off the ground. From time to time I pick up my boys from school. Now picture a parking lot with limited spaces with most people parking in a circular manner so the buses can get through and park at the entrance. Low and behold, a ditzy (hair color of your choice) lady parks in front of me as her kid is the last to come out of the building. Can I move, no! Can the car next to me move, no! Do the buses have the lane narrowed by ten feet yes! I am thinking of saying something yet no! Pet peeve number four.

Pet peeve number 5 has set me off and I want to apologize to the person at the taco stand 20 plus years in the past for wearing my drink of iced tea. Please if you are serving the public, make sure the coffee is hot, the iced tea is cold. The drink is called

“iced tea” for a reason, not mildly warm tea with three ice cubes floating at the top. If the tea comes from a fresh brewed container, with steam rising as you fill the glass, what is the temperature you, *&%\$*. Even writing about it drives me crazy. Put some ice in the cup, thank you!

What about how the rules and regulations that keeps us from harming ourselves! You know the recently rule of 20 MPH in school zones. I like to idea of having to wear of beckon when you hike a mountain in the winter time. The cost of a rescue team from the tax payers to find you is \$20K per day. I say leave the person out there for animal fodder, it’s not like they would know about the next step. My favorite rules are consumer products with the warning labels. To quote just a few.....Best if served before date! What did we consumers do prior to determining water goes bad after a specific date? Or the label that says, “Do not attempt to stop the blade with your hands. All these rules to keep us safe and eliminating the common sense in so many people. Stupidity should hurt. Pet peeves number 6, everything that teaches us how to think and keep us from harm, go figure!

Last but not least is coined “failure engineering”. A pet peeve that takes your hard earned money and throws it away when the product breaks the day after the warranty expires. Now this is not to say that something is purposely designed to fail, but in the scheme of profit sharing, productivity time and cost, so many items today fail sooner than items purchased by our parents. Washers and dryers are good example of this. How about the new fandangle amenities to give you that extra creature comfort, yet when it breaks it cost \$65.00 per hour with a 2 hour minimum to fix?

A little digression please, that last pet peeve is the form of advertising; saying or doing just about anything, to get you to spend that hard earned money. Want, want, want! Fast food companies advertise a complete meal with a TOY for \$1.99. How much healthy food can be prepared for a \$1.99 with the cost of a toy? These little toys come in “kid’s meals” only to work for 1.2 seconds and break, leaving the kid frustrated and dad to step on them in the middle of the night. “Double urrgggh!

I am sure there are many more pet peeves that drive us all crazy. I am sure that I create a pet peeve or two, but I am not letting my wife add a paragraph to

this article. Our best efforts to overlook these annoyances may help us to live longer. We know the regulations are working on keeping us around. Thank you for letting me modestly vent. The best that life has to offer!