

# Pulling Together

Winter, 2017



## From the Top

Don W. Davis

How long has mankind labored on the face of the earth? A thousand years? Hundreds of thousands of years? How long? During those eons of inhabitation how much food was cooked? When did mankind start cooking on a cook stove? During the Greek Empire? During Roman Conquest? During Ancient Egypt? During the Xia dynasty in China? Inside the Stonehenge? By Alexander the Great? Among the Xian Tombs of Qin Dynasty? By the Vikings? Before the Aztecs? In Sparta? When? Where? Was cooking a regular, every day occurrence? Did people get tired of dealing with open flames and hot coals.

Actually, until Benjamin Franklin of the New World, invented his cook stove, most everything cooked was cooked over open fires and smoldering coals. Imagine that! A Great American invented a cook stove – a cook stove that became popular worldwide. The inventor of the cook stove and other business objects became a very wealthy business man. A lot of people expressed their respect and appreciation for what Ben Franklin did and who he became. Many people have done things similar to Franklin and benefited similarly because their country allowed them to claim their property

while protecting them from counterfeiters and thieves.

Think about America and what has happened because of the basic idea of Freedom and the protection of private property. In the United States of America, a person could invent something and file for a patent to prohibit others from profiting from their new, patented product. Can everyone in every other country do the very same thing? You, know truth? Does that make any difference at all? Do you wish you could live in a communist culture where everything belongs to the State? Remember, the May Flower People started out “all for one; one for all”. Remember, after a life-losing winter-experience, they shredded the communistic document (Mayflower Compact Agreement) and gratefully became individual property owners and entrepreneurs trading with themselves and with the Native Americans around them.

One of my favorite patent stories is about Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen, the German scientist who could have become wealthy beyond his dreams had he patented the X-ray products. He thought X-rays would simply be good toys for the younger. He never filed for X-ray patents. Imagine how

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widely X-rays have been used around the world. Nevertheless, have many tools, devices, and products been patented and improved our culture and our quality of life while making the inventor wealthy? I can't count the number.

I wonder what mankind has used for cooking energy or fuel. Well, I don't know that history very well. I do know that various and sundry people have used such things as wood, leaves, peat, dung, coal, the sun, volcanic emissions, animal fats, and geysers in the past. Now, of course, we see electricity, natural gas, microwave and such. Just think about millions of years without cook stoves. Cook stoves are about as old as our Founders. Did other home or factory heating features precede the cook stove? I can hardly go into anyone's home and office without noticing the central heating and cooling. Modern heating and cooling systems seem so commonplace. What do you think when you enter a home or office without central heating and cooling?

From time to time I think about inventions and time. I remember the environment under which my parents and grandparents lived. That's not that long ago, yet so many things are now part of everyday life. We seldom think about how much stuff has been invented during the history of this nation. I wonder if freedom and capitalism played a role. Maybe more than a role?

While reflecting about things such as these, I remind myself about the flushing toilet. Handy as we find the flushing toilet, mankind has invented it, used it and lost the concept. Our history teaches us that the flushing toilet has been invented three (3) times – invented and lost at least two other times. What kind of people lost the flushing toilets? If mankind lost the flushing toilet, is there anything mankind cannot lose? I wonder how many cool, handy, time saving devices have we lost – will we lose.

*Don W. Davis*

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## Puns

- My theory on inertia has no momentum.
- That cheese doesn't belong to you. It's nacho cheese.
- Dishonest golfers don't play the fairway.
- Ancient orators tended to Babylon.
- When I talk about computers, I make my motherboard.
- 'Tis better to have loved a short person than never to have loved a tall.
- Mathematicians wear glasses because they improve division.
- I regret not developing my photographic memory.
- Never play cards in the Serengeti. There are too many cheetahs.
- A backward poet writes inverse.
- A tardy cannibal gets the cold shoulder.
- Her bootlegging was illegal but I loved her still.
- Santa's helpers are subordinate Clauses.