MH RHODES CRAMER COMPANY
Precision Crafted Timers, Motors and Measuring Devices

Fall 2010

TimeLines

A Quarterly Newsletter from M.H. Rhodes/Cramer Company, Division of Capewell Components Co., LLC

Volume 1, Issue 3

Things that make you go hmmmmmmm.....

Railroad Tracks.....

US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates designed the US railroads.

Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did 'they' use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing. Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses. *(Two horses' behinds.)*

Now, the twist to the story: When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah . The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of two horse's behinds. *Imagine that!*

What's New?

Plug-In Timers!

88P120

88M1724T

Introducing two new MARKTIME® Plug-In Timers to our product line!

The 88P120 is a 7 day 24 hour programmable timer with LCD display. This timer can be programmed for up to 20 "ON/OFF" events per day for individual days or combinations of days, up to 8 different week groups. This electronic heavy duty capacity timer has 3 prong ground with 1 outlet and has a built -in battery back-up.

The 88M1724T is a mechanical timer that has easy to set captive tabs on the AM/PM format dial. This heavy duty capacity mechanical timer has 3 prong ground with 1 outlet, manual override function and provides 24 On/Off events per 24 hours.

MARKTIME 88 Series Plug-In timers are ideal where a programmed sequence of operation is desired. These heavy duty timers can be used at home or business, as a single point control for table or floor lamps, coffee makers, fish tanks, air conditioners, holiday and landscape lighting and other appliances.

Holiday & Landscaping Lighting

Both are easy to install, easy to program and promote energy savings. Use to control indoor lighting for higher security! Both are 125 VAC, 60 Hz, 15A, 1875W Resistive rated and are CSA Listed.

For more information about MarkTime® 88 Series Plug-In Timers, we invite you to visit www.mhrhodes.com

MARKTIME® PLUG-IN TIMERS ARE AVAILABLE TODAY!

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Company Spotlight

Continuous Improvement

During economic downturn, what is the best way we can spend our time? Looking inward and objectively reviewing our processes and corporate culture.

Why? To ensure our company is operating at its best; providing the highest quality products to our customers by highly skilled, trained and dedicated personnel using the most efficient and modern tools available. In order for our company to successfully grow, it is necessary that the corporate culture adapt continuous improvement methodology, focusing on making ourselves better and preparing for the time of economic recovery.

M.H. Rhodes/Cramer Facility
South Windsor, CT

At M.H. Rhodes/Cramer Company; we have begun our journey to ISO 9000:2008 Certification; implementing continuous improvement throughout, from supply chain to production, striving for zero defects.

Our aggressive yet confident goal is to obtain ISO Certification by mid 2011. We are committed to implementing and maintaining a quality system that will improve business and product performance to meet the requirements of our customers. Our goal is to provide our customers with the highest level quality product; first time – every time!

Eighty years in business, we continue to improve our products, train our employees and provide excellent customer service, to be the best solution provider for the most important people in our business; ***our customers!***

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Production Spotlight!

C10 cycle timer production line improvements

Above: C10 Cycle Timer

Right: Warewasher. Image provided by our customer ECOLAB, Inc.

Since the new Director of Operations took his position in April, he has dedicated a large amount of time inspecting and analyzing our facility and processes. He has determined there are various facets of our company that would benefit from implementing continuous improvement methodology.

The first area to have a "face-lift" is our C10 cycle timer line. Our ultimate goal is to improve our assembly line to "one-piece-flow" impacting and reducing two waste factors; time and WIP. The effect of removing excess time and WIP on our production line; our employees will achieve reduced stress levels, while piece production increases.

The Cramer C10 motorized cycle timer is our flagship product, assembled for our customers who manufacture warewashers. For those of us who are not familiar with this term; warewashers are dishwashers found in commercial kitchens such as: restaurants, cafeterias and health care facilities.

Warewasher manufacturers and their customers consider energy efficiency and water consumption key factors affecting their bottom line. Cramer C10 cycle timers have precision cut cams and are calibrated to provide the most precise timing for each cycle; from soap dispensing, washing, rinsing to the dry cycle.

Bottom line? Precision cycle timing equates to reduced energy and water consumption; reducing overall cost of use. And as we know, *reducing overall cost of use, equates to an increase in the bottom line!*

For more information about Cramer C10 cycle timers, we invite you to visit www.mhrhodes.com.

Quote Quips

"In order for you to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure."

- Bill Cosby

Calendar of Events!

Where we've been & Where we're going!

Date	Event & Place	Activity
10.02.10 3 Days	NECA Show Boston, MA	Exhibit *Booth # 652*
01.31.11 3 Days	AHR EXPO® Las Vegas, NV	Exhibit *Booth # N4270*
02.10.11 3 Days	The NAFEM Show 2011 Orlando, FL	Attend
03.15.11 3 Days	NFM&T 2011 Baltimore, MD	Attend
09.22.11 2 Days	HVAC ComforTech 2011 Indianapolis, IN	Exhibit *Booth #TBD*

Celebrating Employee Anniversaries!

Robert Pepper	*July*	*13 Years*
Carol Warriner	*September*	*9 Years*
Rasila Patel	*September*	*9 Years*
Mary Jane Neary	*September*	*2 Years*
Richard Wheeler	*September*	*1 Year*

Do You Know.....

What LEAN, KIAZEN and Six Sigma have in common?

They are methodologies in which production can embrace and practice continuous improvement to reduce waste while increasing quality.

Word Jumble

Continuous Improvement!

Business Management strategy *(2 words)*

gmxsisia ___ _____

Japanese word for "improvement"

enaizk _____

Removes production waste *(2 words)*

aenfgatinlumrunac ____ _____

Optimized production process *(3 words)*

cownielepeof ___ _____ ____

"ISO" means "International Organization for _____"

zinadatanirdsto _____

Answers To Summer Issue Word Search

1	Hysteresis	11	*Bushing*	21	Permanent magnet
2	*Round*	12	Rotor ring	22	Nonresettable
3	Pinion	13	Core	23	*Interval*
4	Knurled	14	Washer	24	*Motorized*
5	Gears	15	*Cycle timers*	25	*UL Approved*
6	*Gear cup*	16	ETI	26	Coil
7	Oval	17	*Shaft*	27	Cams
8	Motor	18	Bezel	28	Top plate
9	Square	19	*Resettable*	29	Cover
10	Rectangle	20	*Torque*	30	Detent

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Suggestions?

This newsletter has been developed for our employees and our customers. If you have an idea, suggestion or would like to submit an article of interest, please contact a member of the *TimeLines* staff.

Thank you!