

Trivia

did you know that ...

Maryland - Sixteen of the 23 Maryland counties border on tidal waters. The combined length of tidal shoreline, including islands, is 4,431 miles.

North Dakota - *The town of Rugby is the geographical center of North America. A rock obelisk about 15 feet tall, flanked by poles flying the United States and Canadian flags marks the location.*

Arizona - Four Corners (where Arizona, Utah, New Mexico and Colorado borders meet) is noted as the spot in the U.S. where a person can stand in all four states at the same time.

Rhode Island - *George M. Cohan was born in Providence in 1878. He wrote, "I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy," "You're a Grand Old Flag," and a wide variety of other musical entertainment.*

Minnesota - Rollerblades were the first commercially successful in-line Roller Skates. Minnesota students Scott and Brennan Olson invented them in 1980, when they were looking for a way to practice Hockey during the off-season. Their design was an ice hockey boot with 3 inline wheels instead of a blade.

Arkansas - *Located just outside of Murfreesboro, Crater of Diamonds State Park allows dedicated prospectors to search for precious gems including diamonds, amethyst, garnet, jasper, agate, and quartz.*

<http://www.50states.com>

Ancient Chinese Technology

Compass

During the Qin Dynasty, 221 - 206BC, the Chinese discovered naturally magnetic rocks called lodestones and used them to magnetize a piece of metal. These metal pointers would point in the general North/South direction, providing the world with the first compass.

Gunpowder

By the 8th century the Chinese had a refined formula for gunpowder. They combined saltpeter and sulphur with charcoal to create gunpowder. The explosive grains were first discovered in earlier times by Taoist alchemists attempting to create an elixir for immortality - but by the 8th century the recipe had been formulated properly. This discovery allowed the Chinese to create fireworks and signal flares and later into weapons.

Paper

While the Egyptians used Papyrus as a form of paper, the Chinese revolutionized the idea of a writing media. The paper was made by using bark from a mulberry tree, bamboo fibers and mixing them with water - then draining and drying the mixture on a flat bamboo frame. Other items used in papermaking included tree bark, hemp, linen and fishing nets.

http://www.discoverychannel.co.uk/ancient_china/inventions/

THE DIXON DRILLER

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Product Spotlight

Safety Break-away Couplings

One of Dixon's newest products for the DPL109 is the Safety Break-away Couplings. These couplings are designed to minimize spillage and damage associated with drive away and pull away incidents. Dixon offers three types of Break-away Couplings: Industrial Breaking Bolt, Marine Breaking Bolt and an Industrial Cable Release series.

The Industrial Breaking bolt couplings are designed so that the coupling automatically senses an excessive load, closes the valves and disconnects. These couplings are offered in stainless steel or aluminum and come with a Viton® seal.



Dixon's Marine breaking bolt couplings are designed to be installed within a string of hoses where the coupling will have a length of hose attached to both sides. The typical applications for these couplings are ship-to-offshore platform and ship-to-ship product transfer operations. These couplings are made from 316T1 stainless steel and have Viton® O-rings.



The Cable Release series automatically detect an excessive load, closes the valve and disconnects. The release is executed by pulling out the locking bolts with the help of a cable. The coupling is made from 316T1 stainless steel and has Viton® O-rings.



Dates in History

1803 On January 18th, President Jefferson requested Congress to fund the expedition of Lewis and Clark through the recently acquired Louisiana Purchase.

1902 On January 1st, The first Rose Bowl game is played, which saw the Michigan Wolverines route the Stanford Cardinals, 49 - 0.

1933 On January 5th, Construction on San Francisco's Golden Gate bridge begins.

1974 On January 2nd, President Nixon signed a national speed limit law, lowering the speeds on all national highways to 55mph in an attempt to lower the nation's gas dependency.

1999 On January 3rd, The Great Lakes region is hit hard by record snowfall. Fifteen inches of snow was reported from Wisconsin through Ohio, with record low temperature's reaching negative 36 degree's fahrenheit. As the storm moved across the U.S., it began its assault on Buffalo, NY where 60 inches of snow fell over a two week period.

(<http://www.history.com>)

On the Lighter Side

- Gretchen Alexander refused to allow her blindness to limit her life experiences. She mastered archery, golf, softball, sailing and water skiing as well as a number of other activities her sighted friends had yet to learn.

Speaking in front of a group of high school students about her achievements, one student asked if there was anything she wouldn't try. "I've decided to never sky dive," she answered. "It would scare the heck out of my dog."

- *There are three ways in which a man can wear his hair: parted, unparted, departed.*

- The rookie reporter was told to keep his copy short and stick to the bare facts. Sent on his first accident story, he turned in this copy: "S. White looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on it's way down. It was. Age 45."

- *"Do you believe in life after death?" an employer asked an employee.*

"Oh, yes, sir," was the reply.

"Ah, then everything is in order, because after you had gone to your grandfather's funeral yesterday, he came here to see you."

- Girl friend to boy friend at marriage-license bureau, "Seems sort of silly to get a license after the hunting is over."