

Foreword

Stan and Greg first teamed up with Ted Williams for the ground-breaking book, *How to Become an Instrument Engineer – The Making of a Prima Donna*. Since then, Ted has illustrated numerous sequels plus our monthly “Control Talk” column. Twenty-years later, Ted’s cartoons are as fresh, timely, and entertaining as ever.

Stan and Greg spent a total of more than 50 years in the employment of Monsanto so, through association, many readers wonder if Ted Williams is the same person who helped pioneer advances in control theory during the 1960s and then moved on to head a special department and workshop on control at Purdue University and was elected into the “Control Hall of Fame” in 2004.

Others have speculated that Ted is the incredible Boston Red Sox hitter of the 1940s and 50s who is now in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Well, Ted the illustrator is not really related to any of these famous people, but he deserves to be in an industrial Cartoon Hall of Fame. Since we are pretty sure there isn’t such a thing, we

hereby create one and make *our* Ted the founding member.

To get your friends’ and neighbors’ attention and to promote the sale of this book, ask them if they have seen the latest from Ted Williams. Some ISA old timers may wonder if the Ted Williams of Purdue is getting out of his rocker in Indiana, but most will think you are off your rocker for proposing the possibility that a cryogenically stored Red Sox player is being thawed out.

The automation profession at times is strange and difficult to explain to people outside the field. You may also remember from our previous writings that it has been extremely difficult explaining it to our managers. It is one of the most misunderstood, yet fascinating jobs in industry. As a part-time professor teaching process control, Greg knows that students in the classroom have no concept of what it really means to be an automation engineer. Therefore, in order to prepare students for industry, we

suggest that this book be a required text for every course in control theory.

Automation engineers have some characteristics to match their interesting jobs. This cartoon book shows how you can spot these strange creatures at an early age. Since they are an endangered species, be careful in how you approach them and please don't mess with their habitat. The best place to find them is at ISA conferences where they can be lured for a closer look by offering new software, although the local draft beer has been reported to work as well. Outside of ISA and computer rooms, they are known to spend their time measuring and plotting the equilibrium temperature and declining level of a glass—once filled with ice and ethanol. In Naples, Florida, Stan has made technological advances in reducing the effects of humidity by using insulated glasses.

Back by popular demand are quotes from a control room deep in America's heartland courtesy of Pravin Patel and Kevin Witter. These "strange but true" quotes of operators from the Muscatine plant that first appeared in the book *Dispersing Heat Through Conviction* have been appreciated by people from all walks (and jogs) of life.

The next time friends and relatives ask "what do you do," give them a copy. If the smiles develop into uncontrollable laughter, use your automation skills to prevent injuries from side-splitting humor and, as a last resort, force the reading of standards as an effective antidote.

To help preserve and promote this valuable profession, Greg promises to donate every dollar of royalty that he gets from this book to the profession. At the suspected rate of a quarter per copy, he should have enough to buy a refurbished laptop in 10 years, assuming that the price comes down.

As a Supervisor of the Collier County Soil & Water District in Southwest Florida, Stan will use his share of the royalties to supplement the \$9,000,000,000.00 that has been pledged by our governments to restore the Everglades.

A picture is worth a thousand words or, in the case of Stan and Greg, at least two thousand words. This is our chance to sit back and let the cartoons speak for themselves. Enjoy.

"TED... WE NEED CARTOONS ABOUT DISCRETE MANUFACTURING!"

"WHAT IS DISCRETE MANUFACTURING? WHEN I MANUFACTURE SOMETHING, I WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW ALL ABOUT IT!"

