

## NEW VALVE EXERCISER

By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider

You know, I think my Grandpa was right when he said, "the older you get the faster the years go by". Another Spring Conference has come and gone. It was good seeing all of the familiar faces again this year and meeting some new operators as well. I hope you learned something new and had a chance to visit all the vendors. As you were visiting the vendors hopefully you made it to the old restaurant area and had a chance to see our new valve exerciser. We had a sign up sheet there for anyone interested in having their valves exercised. Several systems signed up so I know at least some of you made it there. This exerciser was purchased solely with the generous donations given by you, our membership.



I'm sure the best weather we have had all spring was while we were at the conference. It was hard staying inside and attending the classes. It seems that ever since the conference if it's not been snowing, the wind has been blowing 40 miles per hour. Even with the poor weather we have had so far this spring, we have had a chance to get to a couple of systems to try out our new exerciser.



Randy and I took the valve exerciser for its maiden voyage shortly after the conference to the Village of Milligan. John Zelenka, the Water Operator for the Village, wanted all of the valves in the system exercised. We exercised 29 valves for him. All the valves turned easily except for three. With the use of the exerciser we were able to exercise these three valves open and shut several times and after a short time we had these valves turning with ease.

Lonnie Petrzilka, the Water Operator for the Village of Denton, wanted four valves exercised in his system. Lonnie said all of his valves in his system turned easily except for these four problem valves. These valves turned easy until about half way shut, and then it was a back breaker to get them any further even with cheater bars. With the use of the exerciser, we were able to turn these valves open and shut repeatedly until we were satisfied they closed completely. We were able to get six more

turns out of one valve, four more turns out of another valve, and a couple of turns out of the other two.

Valve exercising can be a back breaking job, and after a few valves it's easy to find something else to do for the rest of the day. It seems valve exercising usually only happens under emergency conditions, during a main break, trying to shut down a leak. With the use of our new valve exerciser a lot of the work is taken out of this task.

If you would like to exercise all of the valves in your system, or just have a few problem valves, give us a call. As soon as the weather breaks I'm sure we will want to keep it busy.