

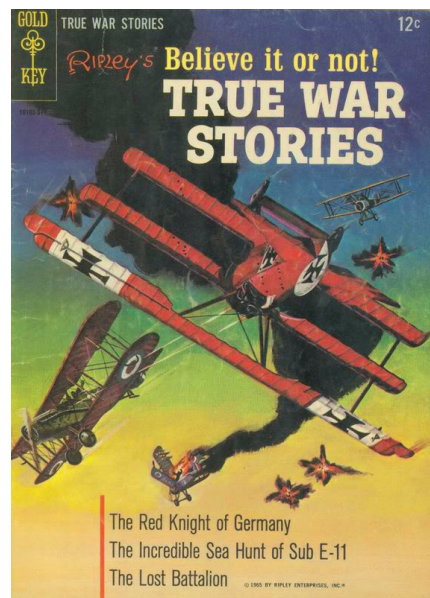
# Believe it or Not!

For 52 years, an obscure researcher tirelessly dug up the bizarre facts that put 'Ripley's' on the map

> If ghosts exist, Norbert Pearlroth's might likely haunt the reading room of the New York Public Library. It is there that he spent 52 years digging for odd facts and bizarre trivia to publish in Ripley's Believe it or Not!, the popular newspaper panel series syndicated in publications around the world.

Born in Austria on May 7, 1893, Pearlroth originally intended to become a lawyer. But his studies in Poland were

interrupted by the outbreak of World War I. And so in 1920 he moved to America, where he settled in Brooklyn, N.Y., and took a job working in a bank. Then, in 1923, he learned from a friend that Robert LeRoy Ripley—who was already having success as a cartoonist and travel journalist—was looking for a linguist who could read foreign newspapers and compile information for his syndicated Believe it or Not!



cartoon series in the now-defunct *New York Globe*.

Pearlroth, who spoke 14 languages, got the job.

## Introducing the New VEP Series

### Features:

- No spill, threaded, flush face design
- Connectable under pressure
- Available in sizes 1/4" thru 2"
- Patented valve retention system minimizes pressure drop and maximizes disconnected pressure performance
- Interchangeable with Stucchi VEP-Series
- ROHS compliant Trivalent Chrome plating improves corrosion resistance against competitive offering
- Rebuildable

### Applications:

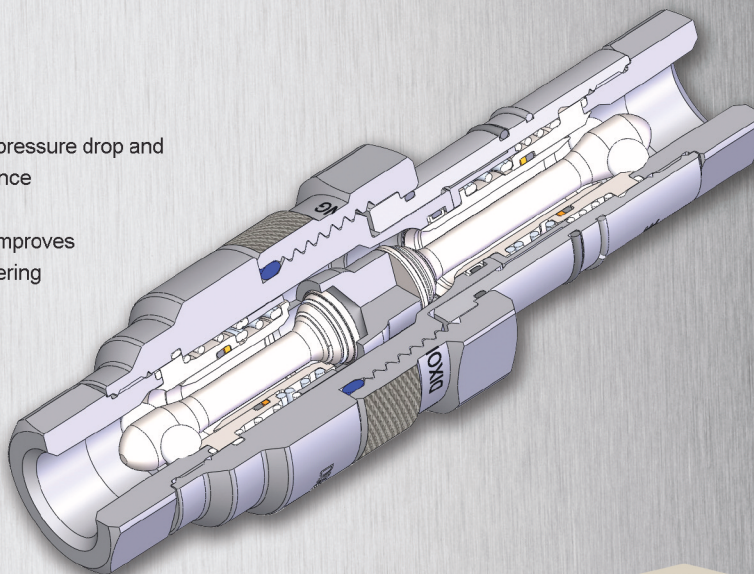
- High Impulse Hydraulic Applications
- Oil Field
- Construction Equipment
- Excavators
- Crane Systems

Available Summer 2012!

### Dixon Quick Coupling

332 Atando Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28206 • ph 877.963.4966 • fx 800.839.9022

dixonquickcoupling.com • customer service: 877.963.4966





For 10 hours a day, six days a week, for 52 consecutive years, Pearlroth pored over books, constantly on a quest for the kinds of oddities that contributed to Ripley's success as a collector and exhibitor of all things bizarre. "He would spend a great deal of time with the card catalog and then sit in the reading room with these books for what seemed like days," Catherine Marquard, a supervising librarian at the New York City Library, told *The New York Times*.

Much of Ripley's brand—including his famous insistence that he could provide evidence for all of his far-fetched facts and unlikely exhibits—was tied up in Pearlroth's indefatigable research. Staff at the library estimated that Pearlroth examined 7,000 books each year—and more than 350,000 during his career. His efforts more than paid off, with Ripley's publication garnering some 80 million

readers around the world.

"Everyone has always believed that all of this information was found [by] wandering the world," Pearlroth's son Arthur told *The New York Times*, in his father's obituary. "But it was really found on 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue at the Main Library."

But even as the Ripley brand grew into a multimillion-dollar industry—with books, museums and radio and television features—Pearlroth remained comparatively low-key. Married for more than 50 years, Pearlroth took the subway every day from Brooklyn to his Manhattan office, where he worked until noon answering the thousands of letters that arrived weekly. After a quick 30-minute lunch, it was off to the New York Public Library, where he often worked until close to 10 p.m. He never missed his Friday deadline and notoriously worked weeks ahead of schedule.

After Ripley's death from a heart attack in 1949, Believe it or Not! was purchased by King Features Syndicate, whose editors required that Pearlroth submit 24 items every week. On the side, he also wrote a weekly newspaper column, "Your Name," about the origins of Jewish names, for the *Jewish Post of New York*.

Although Pearlroth never missed a deadline, King Features replaced him in 1975. He continued to contribute as a freelancer, despite receiving no pension or royalties from the many Ripley collections and reprints that sold in the millions. (Ripley himself left Pearlroth a bequest of \$5,000 and paid for his son's schooling.)

On April 25, 1983, the man who himself could have been the subject of a "Believe it or Not!" for his unflagging work ethic and tireless pursuit of the bizarre, died of heart and kidney disease. He was 90 years old. ■

# Dixon's King Crimp System

*Finally a Comprehensive Crimp Solution For Industrial Hose!*

Make hose assemblies, faster, safer and more consistent every time!

- crimp range is stamped directly on the sleeves and ferrules to allow for easier and proper assembly
- all shanks have a machine finish cam and groove;

- sizes: 1", 1½", 2", 3", 4" and 6"
- material: aluminum, brass, stainless steel
- styles: Dixon, EZ Boss-Lock and global type C

King Combination nipples:

- sizes: 1", 1½", 2", 3", 4" and 6"
- material: carbon steel, stainless steel
- styles: male NPT, grooved and beveled ends

Sleeves and Ferrules:

- sizes: 1", 1½", 2", 3", 4" and 6"
- material: carbon steel, 304 stainless steel, aluminum (sleeves)

For more information, call 877-963-4966 or visit [dixonvalve.com](http://dixonvalve.com).

For *The Right Connection*, it's got to be Dixon!

**Dixon**

800 High Street, Chestertown, MD 21620 • ph 877.963.4966 • fx 800.283.4966

[dixonvalve.com](http://dixonvalve.com) • customer service: 877.963.4966



*The Right Connection™*