

In My Opinion...

Dean Says:

Resuscitation and Revival: A Coming Alive Again



Charlene Kidder

History has credited the philosopher Victor Hugo with saying: "Nothing is so powerful as an idea whose time has come."

Nearly 14 years ago, that concept energized us. Wayne Moore and I met in the basement office at Jerry Laughlin's house on a dark winter's night in Massachusetts to plan the premier issue of *The Moore-Wilson Signaling Report*. Jeff Moore had ridden along to keep me company on the drive up from Connecticut.

We four huddled in rather tight quarters as Jerry talked about his vision for a whole series of informative newsletters covering various aspects of fire protection. He had already successfully launched a newsletter covering the use of the Macintosh computer by the fire service. He had also recently begun publishing one covering Occupational Health and Safety issues—a current fire service "hot button."

We had originally wanted to write a book of question and answers about fire alarm systems. The book would emphasize the wisdom of finding cost-effective,

yet code-complying, solutions. The difficulty in finding a publisher willing to take a chance on such an untried idea had momentarily thwarted our progress. Then we met Jerry Laughlin.

Jerry had a quiet intensity about him. This seemed to spring forth as a mixture of his Alabama upbringing and his immersion in the culture of both New England and the fast paced world of New York City publishing. With a soft voice and a wry smile, Jerry could make ideas come alive. He brought excitement and vision to any project he undertook.

As we left Jerry's basement that night, I felt we had given birth to an idea whose time had come. Instead of a book, we would publish a newsletter that would focus on answering questions about fire alarm systems. We would champion the cause of code compliance. We would emphasize the importance of education and training. We would try to bring opposing forces together and unite them under one flag.

This issue of *The Moore-Wilson Signaling Report* marks a new beginning. Sort of a resuscitation. A revival, if you will. A coming alive again.

Now that both Wayne Moore and I have joined the dynamic and growing family at Hughes Associates, it seems time to breathe new breath into *TM-WSR*. With the Hughes partners and staff providing support, CPR has brought this newsletter back to life again.

Not only do we anticipate that it

will continue to serve its constituency, we expect its effectiveness to multiply. We hope to once again provide a forum to share ideas about the integration of fire alarm systems into a holistic fire protection program.

Beginning with the first issue of Volume 9, *TM-WSR* will appear in an electronic format. E-mail delivery will increase the usefulness of the information.

Wayne Moore and I will continue to provide significant contributions to the content, but we also hope to draw on a great amount of expertise from within Hughes Associates and from other sources, as well. We want to provide a way for important ideas to reach as many interested individuals as possible. We want to encourage a thoughtful exchange of information from many different points of view.

We want to cover important events occurring in the greater fire protection community that also impact on fire alarm systems. We want to deal with issues of broad concern. But we also want to focus on the details that often make or break the effectiveness of a fire alarm system.

It seems as if the improvement in technology has brought with it a variety of fresh solutions for problems from the past, and also opened up the door to solving a host of new problems. Integration of fire alarm systems with other building systems offers designers of fire alarm systems many new challenges. We hope that this newsletter will serve to provide a place where all aspects of dynamic world of fire alarm systems can receive a complete examination.

We invite you to correspond with us by mail or e-mail. We want you to ask your questions. We want you to offer your answers to the questions that others have asked. We want you to offer your point of view. We want you to share your constructive criticisms and we want you to offer your thoughts and dreams for ways to do things better.

In short, we want you to become a vital part of this endeavor. And, please, pass the word to your colleagues that *TM-WSR* has come alive again. □

The Moore-Wilson
SIGNALING
REPORT

Volume 8, No. 3
Page 10

Copyright © 2000 by Hughes Associates, Inc.