

## “KEEPING PACE” - #77



### COCA COLA™ MOTOR:

A large fire case settled favorably after years of work. The electric motor for a Coca Cola™ fountain pump in a tavern in Louisville, Kentucky was being blamed by an electrical expert for the cause of a fire which destroyed the tavern. He gave a deposition in which he said the motor shorted.

Months later, we spent five hours disassembling the motor and its internal windings as he took video. No copper melt which would indicate short circuit arcing could be found. Next, this same expert gave a second deposition changing his opinion to blame the motor's bearing for "overheating." I gave a deposition ruling out both a short circuit arc and the bearing, and I offered to have my metallurgist take the bearing apart, to be absolutely sure. After that the case settled.

Since there was also a trash can at this area of origin, I will always believe this was a smoking related fire, even though everyone insisted that no one had been in the tavern for 30 hours prior to the fire. The usual cause of tavern fires, especially when they occur in the early morning hours, is that employees dump ashtrays into a plastic garbage can when they clean up and leave. They think the cigarettes are extinguished, but they are not.

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