

Flushing for you

This month we step back, take a look behind the scenes to answer a few of the questions we are asked commonly about sewer sociology.

sew·ēr sō-ci-ol'ō-gy, *the science of society, social institutions, and social relationships viewed through the eyes of a sewer; specifically, the systematic study of the development, structure, interaction, and collective sewer use of organized groups of human beings.*

Q: Where do you get your ideas?

Pat: Most of the time, sewer sociology ideas find us and come from routine projects on which we work, including sewer flow monitoring used for billing applications, infiltration and inflow studies, and hydraulic modeling.

Kevin: Other times our ideas come right out of the newspaper headlines. We see an interesting story unfold and start looking for sewer use data to go with it.

Q: Why do so many of your stories originate in Southern California?

Pat: That's an easy one. Rain ruins a good sewer sociology story. Therefore, a dry climate is more fertile ground for sewer sociology.

Kevin: Indeed. This is why we affectionately refer to Southern California as the "Breadbasket of Sewer Sociology."

Q: What is your favorite Sewer Sociology story?

Kevin: The royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton is perhaps my favorite. A sewer sociologist has a special nose for a good story, and this one was about as entertaining as they come.

Pat: As a long-time Indy 500 race fan, my favorite is the difference in flow patterns at the Indianapolis 500 and the NASCAR Brickyard race, both held at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Q: I think I have a Sewer Sociology story, how do I share it?

Pat: We are always on the lookout for new stories from unique angles. If you have an idea, let us know. We would love to talk with you.

Kevin: We always appreciate suggestions from our readers. Bring us an idea, send us the data, and help us obtain the proper permissions to publish, and you could see your idea come to fruition in our column, along with membership in the prestigious American Society of Sewer Sociologists.

Kevin L. Enfinger is region engineer, and **Patrick L. Stevens** is vice president of engineering at ADS Environmental Services, a division of ADS LLC (Huntsville, Ala.).