

THIS AIN'T SHOW BIZ !

by Ralph Liebing, RA, CSI
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Since the time is growing nigh, one can assume that more thought is being given to the CSI Show, in Baltimore. With early registration closed, and many rooms reserved, would think many others are trying to find their way to the show.

Good!

I think calling this a "show" is both good and bad. First, it is good not to portray it as a "convention" and thereby eliminating a lot of the stigma with those events and the penchant of conventioners to direct their attention to side issues and events.

Too, it is bad to call this a "show" since that gives an unintended (hopefully) complexion to the event. It ain't "show biz"!!! At least not for this kid!

Oh, sure we'll meet face to face for the first time, or to review what has happened to each other since the last time. But it is a good guess that everyone there will be there for a distinct purpose. Many will come for the amazing array of product booths and the wonders of the last technology and innovations. It is so great to see and be a small part of an on-going American (and indeed, world wide) process of creating new, and improved construction products.

Now as to specs--well, aren't we there to see the products and for the enlightened manufacturers to partake of their specifications, so we can write our project specific Project Manuals (oops!) correctly?

But wait! Isn't there a "side show" at the show?

There is and you know it darn well.

It is the educational opportunities that are afforded all interested participants, professional and industry. There are no clowns, comics, singers, dancers, scantily attired performers or freaks in this effort, but pure, raw, and very fine information, provided by good, sincere, and astute individuals. There is so much to be gained and such a potpourri of topics that it is virtually impossible to satisfy all of your intellectual appetites.

But hold on! Now there's bound to be "a character" involved with one of these sessions. Now I MUST qualify the above.

Where a character is involved in a session, it is NOT a reflection on any co-presenter, nor on the content of the session. That character can still be sincere, very intelligent; highly motivated; and loaded for bear even for a session a quirky topic like building codes--I mean it; you can still learn a lot and should never ignore a chance for education, even at the hands of a quirky or unusual character.

Now all of the sessions can be noted as "typical" but each is truly unique in what you ,more than likely, will find in every other session. Presenters are deeply interested in their topic, and sincerely feel they can offer some added or new insight for your benefit. You "previous participants" can attest to that; you new comers can be comforted by this.

Now as to that "character"--well, beware; come at your own risk (of learning something of value) in spite of the presenter. The content no doubt is good, perhaps needed in some venues, and well.....despite some appearances----of value.

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So come on along; check your over-ripe fruit at the door; bring a pen to record the sparkling nuggets of information; shake hands with each presenter and tell them, "thanks" because I'll bet you'll go away from each session, the better for it!

This Ain't Show Biz ! It's education! Even if presenters, and their styles of delivery vary.