

Dear Readers,

Every other month, I get a cooking magazine in which the editors hide a picture of a toothpick somewhere in the pages of each issue. Readers who find the toothpick and send in a letter or postcard become eligible for prizes. I can't tell you how many times I've looked for that silly toothpick without ever having found it. I know now where I've made my mistake — I should have enlisted the aid of a reader of *Inspection Trends*. You guys have the keenest eyes anywhere. Nothing gets by you as I discovered shortly after the Winter issue came out in January.

Dozens of sharp-eyed readers let me know about the mistake in the caption of the thumbnail-sized photo of the cover that ran on the Table of Contents page of that issue. As you pointed out and can see in the photo at right, Southeast Community College student Molly Stuhr is not placing film on the inside of the tank, she is positioning the source guide tube and collimator for an exposure of a vessel weld. Not only did you let me know about the error but there was a lively discussion about it on the AWS Web site's inspection bulletin board.



While I certainly would rather hear from you about something other than a mistake, I must say it was gratifying to learn how thoroughly you read the pages of *Inspection Trends*. I want to thank all of you who took the time to inform me about the error and explain why the caption was incorrect.

In the meantime, I'm hoping you find the issue you have in your hands today is also a cover-to-cover must read. The primary topic — Inspecting Pipelines — is one that many of you have expressed a wish for more coverage on. The four pipeline-related articles each cover a different aspect of the industry. In "To Audit or Not to Audit?," David Culbertson provides actual field results from recent pipeline projects and offers some tips of what you should look for when auditing those NDE activities. Thomas Reeder discusses changes in requirements for the penetrameters used with radiographic inspections in "Change for a Penny." In "Developments in Ultrasonic Phased Array Pipeline Weld Inspections," Michael Moles and Simon Labbé outline the advantages of that technology. Jeff Noruk details how visual inspection operations can be improved in "Pipe and Tube Weld Inspection Using Laser Vision Technology."

This month also brings you the third article in our four-part series on steel-making. In this issue, Ray Shepard explains the workings of the electric arc furnace, the technology behind the "mini mills" that make steel one of the world's most recycled materials.

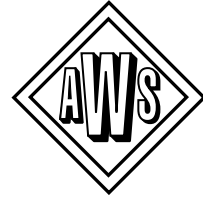
I hope you enjoy this issue and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mary Ruth Johnsen
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