



# COME IN AND HAVE A SEAT

**H**oly *Bathroom Reader*, Batman! We really opened up a can of worms this time! That phrase, by the way, comes from fishing: Before live bait came in sealable plastic containers, it was often sold in used metal coffee cans, and once opened, it was tough to keep the worms from crawling out. That's officially the first time I've shared a random fact in the first paragraph of my intro, but as longtime *Bathroom Reader* fans know, I just can't help myself. In fact, all of us here at the BRI share a passion for collecting and dispensing obscure information. And for making each other laugh.

That's how we came up with the name *Canoramic*. After 26 annual *Bathroom Readers*, choosing a new title has become quite a task. So, as I do every year, I called a staff meeting where we all shouted out title after title until one of them 1) described the book; 2) included a silly pun; and 3) made us laugh. When someone blurted out "Canoramic," we knew we had a winner. Not only is the title a bathroom pun, but it encapsulates our goal in putting this book together: *Canoramic* will give you a panoramic view of the world around you from the comfort of your can!

The ongoing mission of the Bathroom Readers' Institute: to stuff so many topics into a *Bathroom Reader* that there's something for everyone. For instance, whether you love or hate reality shows, you might be interested to know just how rigged they are. (Spoiler alert: a lot.) TV not your cup of tea? Then you might enjoy the mystery of the priceless violin that survived the *Titanic*...or did it? Prefer something lighter? You'll find funny street names, bizarre book titles, and funny names of real law firms (like "Dumas & McPhail"). The great thing about information is that none of it is useless. When you learn something new, your world becomes a bigger place.

Not to toot our own horn, but...TOOT! Our *Fully-Loaded 25th Anniversary Bathroom Reader* won a Benjamin Franklin (gold medal) Award from the Independent Book Publishers Association. More

tooting (excuse me): Our *Smell-O-Scopic Bathroom Reader For Kids Only!* also took gold. So now when I say we're an award-winning series I'm actually telling the truth.

In other news, we're really rolling along on the ol' Interwebs. Our Facebook page is growing bigger (and weirder) every day, as is Uncle John's Blog (which can be conveniently accessed via our Facebook page). We enjoy tweeting, too, for those who enjoy being tweeted to (@Bathroom\_Reader). And in the digital publishing realm, we have a little series of e-books called "Facts To Go" that feature long-lost articles and e-pages of new material.

But awards and e-books aside, everything we do comes back to the big book you're holding in your hands. It's hard to believe that back in 1988 when we put together the first *Bathroom Reader*, it was only about 200 pages long. As we're approaching 30 years in the book biz, we've amassed more than 40,000 pages of bathroom reading! If all the pages from all the books we've ever printed were laid end to end...it would be a huge waste of great books. Better to just read them instead.

So as we put the finishing touches on *Canoramic*, I'd like to once again thank my crack(pot) team of writers and researchers. You really do get better every year! All of the hard days and late nights (and long title meetings) become worth it when one of our faithful fans takes the time to tell us how much we mean to them—like reader Seth G., who recently wrote on our Facebook page, "Life without a *Bathroom Reader* would be like a broken pencil...pointless." Well said, Seth! To all of our fans: As you enjoy the view from your reading room, know that we've put our hearts and souls into every single page of *Canoramic* to make it as fun and absorbing as we possibly...can.

As always,

*Go with the Flow!*

—Uncle John, the BRI staff, and Felix the Dog