

Calamity at the Debutante Ball



In spite of its name, the Flederer Pepper Mill Company was in the business of manufacturing salt shakers. Eschewing those boring little condiment holders that reside on the counter of every roadside diner in America, FPM Co. made only snazzy, high-end salt shakers. The product line ran the gamut from elegant units designed by the 18th century furniture maker Shakers to cutting edge models with artificial intelligence chips that gauged the amount of salt grains needed for each application. Sometimes the company's engineering designs were more flights of fancy than functional tableware accouterments. Case in point was the Overhead Salt Power Shower, invented by Bennington Beezer. Mounted on a standard microphone boom, the S2 Power Shower could unleash twenty pounds of sodium chloride a minute for as long as there was material in the adjacent salt shed. While fun to operate, its complexity rendered it impractical for typical household use. In the picture we see Dr. Beezer demonstrating the slow-flow control to Lady Crinoline Capsicum just before the commencement of the 2007 Klondike Valley Debutante Ball and Buffet. Suffice it to say that Lady Capsicum did not fully grasp the potential hazard of the S2, for, two days later, rescue personnel were still pulling disoriented trenchermen out of the slick, white mountain that filled two-thirds of the Klondike Valley Municipal Auditorium. Shortly thereafter, the Power Shower was withdrawn from FPM Co.'s product line, replaced by a boring little condiment holder that you see on diner counters all over America.