

“Ding!”



Edna's job at the Acme Ice Cube Works wasn't especially difficult but it *was* a crucial link in the manufacture of her company's sole product. Whenever the bell dinged and the Giant Ice Cube Tray slid out of the freezer, it was Edna's job to turn the knob on the control panel to "Empty." That caused the GICT to rotate 180 degrees and "empty" its cargo of 2" cubes of frozen water into the maw of the waiting refrigerated panel truck below. The truck then whisked the product across town, across the state, even across the country to temperature-controlled warehouses whence the ice would be disseminated. Clad in a form-fitting insulated jumpsuit (it was darned cold in there, after all!), Edna sat in front of the control panel day after day, week after week, waiting for something – anything! – to alter the tedium. But nothing ever did. Production was entirely automated, except for her stupid little (ding!) knob. Then one day, she noticed that the control panel next to hers, one she'd never seen operated by anyone, also had a single knob. "Ding!" went the bell. But this time, instead of turning her control panel's knob, she turned the *other* one. The result broke not only the monotony but the GICT's gyrosopic synchronotron as well. The machine was out of commission for weeks, and Edna was sacked and out of work for months. So to anyone out there who's considering fooling around on the job just to break the monotony, let this be a lesson!