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ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

The Lungmotor for Adults



In 1930 cartoonist and screenwriter Reuben L. "Rube" Goldberg (1883-1970) and his colleagues needed a resuscitating apparatus for a rescue scene in *Soup to Nuts*, the film debut of a trio now known as "The Three Stooges." The apparatus chosen for the comedy was America's adult version of Germany's Draeger Pulmotor—the "Lungmotor" manufactured by the Life Saving Devices Company. No laughing matter, one Lungmotor helped revive a mother and then her son from carbon monoxide poisoning just 35 miles from what is today's American Society of Anesthesiologists headquarters. Careful inspection of the example above (courtesy of the Wood Library-Museum) reveals the initial wording of the upside-down metal-punched hallmark of "THE LUNG MOTOR" on the apparatus' base. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

George S. Bause, M.D., M.P.H., Honorary Curator, ASA's Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, Park Ridge, Illinois, and Clinical Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. UJYC@aol.com.