

VINCENT'S NEWS

The 'Van-Go' Gallery



"Wherever you see a 'Vincent's Van Go' you know the job will be a work of art."

OWNER'S CORNER

THROUGH MY EYES

60 Years of Excellence!

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Did you know...

...that our 4th Annual Vincent's News Drawing has great prizes again this year? After the top 3 prize winners have been picked, 10 more people will be selected to receive a Bonus Prize: a free Combustion Optimization & Safety Inspection for their gas furnace or boiler. See the cream colored insert for details.



2019 marks the 60th year in business for Vincent's Heating & Plumbing.

Vincent Unte founded Vincent's Plumbing & Heating in 1959. Vince was an interesting person. He had previously owned a plumbing company in Detroit that had over 50 trucks on the road – until he lost it in the Great Depression. Before starting

Vincent's he had retired and moved to Brown City. However, needing something to do after his wife died, he moved to Port Huron and started Vincent's. He had a hard time getting any workers to stay with him because he was difficult to get along with



Today Vincent's is run by brothers Daniel and David Squires, pictured here with a photo of their late father and former company owner and president, Ray Squires.

and so the company never grew much beyond him, one or two workers, and a bookkeeper.

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Water Heater Safety & Maintenance - Part 1



I normally feature photos with people but there was no way that I could communicate what is in the photo to the left. This is a real picture of an attempted customer fix of a leaking water heater temperature & pressure relief valve (T & P valve) using a pair of vise grips to hold the valve closed. This isn't a recommended fix.

While it was a solution to a problem using what was available, a real

MacGyver would have known that doing so would turn the water heater into a bomb.

To understand, take a moment and search "water heater explosion" on YouTube and view a few of the jaw-dropping videos.

- A *MythBusters* segment simulates the devastation of a two-story house caused by an exploding water heater.

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Water Heater Safety (Continued from Page 1)

- The video “*Explosion: Danger Lurks (1950)*” is the video that I watched during training in the 1980’s and shows houses being leveled with water heaters landing hundreds of feet away.
- The video “*Water Heater Blast*” describes the exploded water heater being airborne for 9.3 seconds.

...plus many more very tragic real life stories of the devastation caused by a faulty water heater relief valve.

This is the reason for the warning label on your water heater that states: “**WARNING – Explosion Hazard. If the temperature and pressure relief valve is dripping or leaking, have a licensed plumber repair it. Do not plug valve. Do not remove valve. Failure to follow these instructions can result in death or explosion.**”

How can I tell if my water heater is at risk of exploding?

Most water heaters operate

safely – but remember they never stop working. And just like anything mechanical they require periodic maintenance.

- If it has been over a year since you tested your T & P valve to make certain that it works it should be tested. While designed to operate safely, they can rust shut or become clogged and fail to open. This is your only safety should your gas valve fail to turn off or your thermostat fails on an electric water heater.
- Warning: do not test your T & P valve if you suspect that the water is at 212° F – boiling point. The water coming out can instantly turn to steam and scald you.
- It does not matter how old your water heater is. The water heaters shown in the *MythBuster* segment and the “*Water Heater Blast*” video were brand new.
- If your faucets are sputtering or spitting when you turn them on it may be a sign of

overheating. You can notice the sputtering on either or both the hot or cold-water side of your faucet.

- Excessively hot water is a signal that there is a problem that could cause pressure to build up.
- If your T & P valve is dripping or trickling it can mean that your water heater is overheating or has too much pressure.

I want to expand on the last point: a leaking T & P valve may be the problem or it may be the symptom of a problem. A T & P valve is doing its job if it leaks – or relieves – due to excessive heat or excessive pressure in a water heater. Therefore, don’t automatically assume that a T & P Valve is faulty if it is leaking. It may very well be doing the job it was made to do by leaking – and it just might save your life! More next month...

-Daniel Squires

What Our Clients Are Saying...

I’ve been having VHP service our heating/AC and plumbing needs for going on 25 yrs. Their quality and professionalism is of the highest standard. They are trustworthy, efficient and honest...the highest integrity.

Tony ~ Kimball

Heating & Air Conditioning
Amana
LASTS AND LASTS AND LASTS.®

Vincent’s Heating & Plumbing is proud to install Amana equipment, made in the USA.

Through My Eyes (Continued from Page 1)

Fast forward eight years to 1966. My father, Ray Squires, was working as a truck driver and warehouse man at a local plumbing and heating supply company. This was the now-defunct Huron Pipe & Supply that had been located at the foot of Griswold St in south Port Huron. It was also where Vincent Unte would go to buy his plumbing and heating supplies.

My dad learned through the ‘grapevine’ at work that Vincent Unte was looking to hire some additional help. At 32 years-old, with a wife and two young sons and only a 2-year liberal arts degree from the community college, Ray didn’t see much of a future on his current career path and considered the opportunity to work for Vince. Initially he was concerned about the reputation that Vince had for losing help about as soon as he got it, but his co-workers encouraged him that if anybody could get along with Vince that he could. This gave him the confidence to apply for the job.

His father, Eldo Squires, who, for most of his career worked as a millwright at Mueller Brass, had been a plumber before he got married and had taught my dad basic plumbing skills. To these skills Dad added plumbing experience by working in a building maintenance position after he left home. With

these meager credentials he met with Vincent Unte - and got the job - and soon found out that Vince’s reputation for being impossible to work for was very well deserved.

The plumbing rules in Michigan require a plumbing apprentice to work under a master plumber for three years in order to qualify to be tested to become a licensed journeyman plumber. After passing the test, a journeyman must work for an additional two years to qualify to be tested to become a licensed master plumber. As hard as it was to work for Vincent Unte, he was a licensed master plumber, and so Dad determined that he would ‘gut’ it out in order to become licensed.

Along with being determined Dad was also diligent. In addition to being trained as a plumber, he also wanted to be educated on the heating side of the business. So while he was working during the day he took night classes at a technical school in Detroit to be formally trained in heating. I remember as a boy that once a week Dad and Mom would pack my brother David and I in a car and drive down to Detroit – he to go to his technical class, while my mom, David and I stayed at her uncle and aunt’s home in Detroit. Then after class, Dad would come pick us up

and we would make the late-night drive home with David and I sleeping on the back seat of their old Rambler so he could be back to work in the morning.

All of the hard work and endurance paid off and after three years Dad took the journeyman test. When the test results came in the mail a few weeks later, we had a celebration: Dad had passed the test and earned his journeyman card on his first try!

Looking back, I’m glad for the example that my Dad set for David and me – and for the tone he established at Vincent’s Heating & Plumbing. That is one of hard work, of doing what it takes to get the job done, and to persevere even when the going is tough. These are qualities that I look for when I need to add someone to the Vincent’s Heating & Plumbing team, although these days it seems like I have to look longer and harder to find people with these qualities. But, I’m very fortunate that every person on the team does reflect these values. It makes it a lot easier to be able to deliver the service to you that you expect from Vincent’s Heating & Plumbing.

– Daniel Squires

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Word Search: National Pizza Day (February 9th)

S B Q Q Q K Z N T N H S H S T N F M
A I E J X I A P E B T F G U N E X X
P Y C L G I D W Y U R X U P I V X E
L E R I I J Y W F I M G O R P O K K
D K S A L O X F E K N F D E X K M A
C N W E R I E F J M Y O A M P C Y G
G A U K E D A C D B M X R E F I T T
H E N P C H Z N K F N L S E M R I R
F Q D R M I C W Y X U Q O O P B M U
T H U T T O S E I V O H C N A P X B
Y S P I Z Z E R I A C G M N G Q E Y
T O G A C I H C F Y K L S N O N A P

Anchovies

Pepperoni

Cheese

Supreme

Hawaiian

Stuffed Crust

Pizzeria

Brick Oven

Dough

New York

Chicago

Sicilian

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Humor Section



*The Most Reasons to be
Your Best Choice*

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Want to hear a joke about pizza?
Never mind, it's too cheesy.

Q: Where do pepperonis go on vacation? A: The Leaning Tower of Pizza.

Q: How do you fix a broken pizza?
A: With tomato paste.

Q: Why did the man go into the pizza business? A: He wanted to make some dough.

source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/miscellaneousjokes/foodjokes/pizzajokes.html>