

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."



No more "Sinkhole" de Mayo!

OWNER'S CORNER

THROUGH MY EYES

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Did you know...

...Did you know you can get year-round protection for your A/C condenser with a Kool Kap? Get free delivery & installation on any service call. VHP Club Members save 10% off the \$124.99 price.



Oh the aftermath of the rough winter. It's almost Memorial Day and I can't believe the temperatures are still in the 40's at night. There are other 'leftovers' as well. Like the havoc left in our crushed stone parking lot in the back where we park our service vehicles. The constant snow plowing was rough on it. When the snow finally melted away we discovered piles of gravel where the snow mounds were. Which explained the many big depressions and holes left

in the lot. Well, almost. What I mean is that after I had our snowplow company come back and spread the gravel out, there wasn't enough to fill all the holes. Similar to the mystery of how a pair of socks goes into the wash and only a single sock comes out of the clothes dryer, so had quite a bit of crushed stone disappeared. I think the scientists are going to need

to go back and relook at the 'law of the conservation of matter'. In the end I decided that this was a sign that I needed to redo the parking lot so I had it bulldozed level and new stone hauled
(Continued on page 3)

Trivia:

Who is the 'Vincent' of Vincent's Heating & Plumbing?

One of the most asked questions I get is who thought of our slogan "Wherever you see a Vincent Van Go You Know the Job Will Be a Work of Art!", which no one recalls. After that is "Who is Vincent?" Vincent Unte started

Vincent's Plumbing & Heating in 1959. In 1986, the name was changed to Vincent's Heating & Plumbing, Inc. when it was incorporated. Vince was 76 years old when he started the business. Previously he had other plumbing

businesses, including Unte Plumbing & Heating in Detroit. This business had 50 or so trucks on the street at a point, but he was wiped out by the Great Depression and the business folded. Years later when his wife
Continued Page 3



To learn the reasons for the R-22 phase-out google 'Montreal Protocol' and 'Clean Air Act.'

From the Frequently Asked Question Department: Why is Freon (R-22) So Expensive Now?



Do you remember when getting your air conditioner fixed by adding a few pounds of Freon® (R-22) was a cheap fix that could get a unit through a long, hot summer? Those days are gone for two reasons: First, if your A/C system was made before 2010 it probably uses Freon (R-22) for refrigerant gas. Since 1987 EPA has put R-22 and other ozone-depleting refrigerants containing CFC's on a path to be completely 'phased-out' by the year 2020. 'Phase-out' means EPA limits how much R-22 can be manufactured and imported. And of course, when you limit the supply of an item in high demand like R-22, the price goes up.

This is why R-22 is so expensive now – and why the price will continue to rise. Since 2010 the cost of R-22 has skyrocketed 300 to 400%. Plan on another big jump in 2015, and successively every year thereafter until 2020 when R-22 will no longer be manufactured or imported. After that, only recycled R-22 will be available. And if the high cost isn't enough incentive, the second reason that the days of fixing your A/C by adding Freon are gone is that R-22 is now a controlled substance. Purchasing and handling refrigerants requires certification and keeping track of where it is used. We are not allowed to just add more refrigerant every year when there is a leak.

The leak has to be either repaired or sealed before more refrigerant can be added.

As a practical matter, when an older A/C unit fails due to a low refrigerant charge, homeowners will have to carefully consider whether to have it repaired or to replace it with a (less expensive) non-ozone depleting refrigerant like R-410A. Upgrading to a newer unit does provide a 'silver-lining' – the newer units use less electricity and thereby have lower operating costs.

Next month's (July) frequently asked question: Can a Less-Expensive Refrigerant Replace Freon (R-22) in an Older A/C System?

A LETTER FROM A VINCENT'S CLIENT

To whom it may concern,

This is to let you know that your serviceman has been the most helpful, informative, and reliable serviceman we have ever had. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

P.G, Port Huron

THROUGH MY EYES (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

in to get it back in shape. One particular hole we had to fill in surprised the person I had hired to do the work. This was a particularly deep-looking hole that every tech had instinctively avoided driving through. We called it our "'sinkhole' de Mayo". :) All in all it took 6 truckloads of crushed stone to get our lot back into shape. Now, admittedly the loss of stone was not all due to the 'great winter disappearance'. When I checked, it had been a few years since I had last brought stone in and

leveled it out. When I asked the driver about all the stone I needed he told me it was mainly due to neglect. If I had kept it up better every year, it wouldn't have gotten so bad. Oh the irony! Essentially he told me I needed annual maintenance! I had to kick myself, considering how I am always urging you and our other clients to give their heating, cooling, and plumbing systems the care they need every year to avoid future problems and to be safe. In this case, I was guilty of neglect as charged. It's

easy to forget. And that's one of the reasons why our VHP Club is so valuable: we remind you when it is time to take care of your system so you don't forget and end up with a big problem down the road. Hmm...maybe I should add an annual parking lot maintenance option to the VHP Club? It would have at least helped us! (To learn more about the VHP Club and how you can get annual reminders, save 25% on annual maintenance as well as many other benefits contact the office.)

"...The man was my father, Ray Squires. Ray took over Vincent's in 1971."

Who is "Vincent?" (Continued from Page 1)

died - and after another plumbing business - Vince sold the farm that he had been on and moved to Port Huron to start Vincent's Plumbing & Heating.

He was demanding of employees and the employee turnover rate was correspondingly high. In late 1965, a man working at a local plumbing supply house, Huron Pipe & Supply, heard of an opening for an apprentice and applied for the job. Vince was looking

for an exit strategy so he told this man that if he came to work for him that he would teach him the trade and groom him to take over the business if he worked the five years needed to get his Master Plumbing license. The man was my father, Ray Squires. Ray took over Vincent's in 1971.

Vince was not a man who could slow down very easily. 89 years old when he left Vincent's, it was only a short while until he opened another plumbing business: Unte

Plumbing & Heating, which he operated out of his home on 10th Ave as a one-man shop until his death a few years later. It is reported that he passed away in his sleep a day after he replaced a water service and was found with a smile on his face.

Every now and then I will come across someone who still remembers Vince. Vincent Unte was a truly memorable man and is still remembered in Vincent's Heating & Plumbing.

Vincent's Heating & Plumbing

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Summer Word Search

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

Beach
Barbeque
Water Sports
Sunscreen
Picnic
Festival
Air
Conditioning
Ice Cream
Baseball
Convertible

Humor Section



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Why did the AC man cross the road?
He opened the AC and found a wasp's nest in it.

What goes from 0 to 38 MPH in 1 second?
A mouse in a 12" diameter, 1075 RPM furnace blower wheel.

Customer: "It's been a long time since I've had the AC serviced".
Tech: "Yes, I could tell. The fur from your black Labrador Retriever has been in the condenser so long, it turned gray."

Why is "abbreviation" such a long word?

Quotable:

In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. But, in practice, there is.

Jan L.A. van de Snepscheut