

# 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."*



Here I am with my Dad, Ray. –Daniel Squires

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**OWNER'S CORNER**

**THROUGH MY EYES**

March 9, 1934 until August 3, 2016. Those are boundaries of my father's time with us. But during those years the world was a better place for him having been here.

On August 3<sup>rd</sup> my father, Ray Eldon Squires, passed away. It was only weeks after he and my mother, Kay Squires had celebrated their 60th Wedding

Anniversary as related here last month in this publication. You may remember him, either as

a long-time client of Vincent's Heating & Plumbing, or possibly from the radio commercials that he used to do when we started advertising on

WPHM back in the 1980s. That was long before I stepped up and took his place first in doing the radio

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**Did You Know...**

**...The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) urges: "Do have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year."** 1

## The 3 Most Risky Mistakes People Make About Their Furnace

I just did 3 searches in Google and got these troubling results:

- "news 2016 carbon monoxide furnace U.S." ...about 2,490,000 results
- "news 2016 furnace explosion U.S." ...about 4,370,000 results
- "news 2016 furnace fire U.S." ...about 4,340,000 results

Now, it is true a Google

'result' is not the same as a fatality, and a 'result' can be a single incident reported many times. Still, while I know there are a lot of furnace related accidents that we never hear about, seeing how often these kinds of furnace-related tragedies occur is pretty mind-boggling. And frankly alarming - even to someone in the business like me.

Accidents are all around us, but here is the important difference: when a furnace accident occurs, it's not like a sudden car crash caused by an external factor. Inevitably, there are warning signs for furnace fires, gas explosions, or carbon monoxide related fatalities. Look deep

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## AC #1 Job (Continued from Page 1)

enough, there is usually a single common thread: each incident was a totally avoidable tragedy. And here is the tragic irony: the causes were probably detectable and would have easily been discovered during a safety inspection by a trained heating professional.

### **Three Bad Assumptions Lead to One Bad Conclusion**

Let me get right to the point: each of the '3 Risky Mistakes' you need to avoid have two things in common. First, each is a faulty assumption based upon incomplete or bad information. Second, each faulty assumption leads to the flawed conclusion that a furnace needs no greater attention than your refrigerator or microwave. In other words, the furnace is overlooked and neglected. And unfortunately, the path to becoming one of the Google statistics above is paved with these notions. Notions like The 3 Most Risky Mistakes that Can Lead to Tragedy:

- 1) Assuming that because a furnace is working to make heat that it is working safely.**
- 2) Assuming that a carbon monoxide monitor is all the protection you need to keep you safe.**
- 3) Assuming that having furnace insurance - like a utility repair**

### **service plan - also ensures safety.**

Now if you have held any of these ideas, it's not your fault. There are a lot of myths and misconceptions about furnaces that are even held by people in the business. Remember how you were told a nice blue flame in your furnace burns hottest? Not true. Yellow in the flame is hotter. So you're not to blame for believing bad info.

**So how do you avoid the 3 most risky mistakes and protect your family? Simple. Don't neglect your furnace and have it professionally checked annually.** Don't just take my word for it:

- **The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) advises:** "Consumers should not service their own appliances, but have a qualified plumber, heating contractor or gas company technician perform an inspection every year."<sup>2</sup>
- **The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued this warning:** "Each year, more than 400 Americans die from unintentional CO poisoning, more than 20,000 visit the emergency room and more than 4,000 are hospitalized due to CO poisoning. Fatality is highest among Americans 65 and older. Recommended strategies to prevent CO poisoning from your home appliances include

having your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year and installing a battery-operated CO detector in your home."<sup>3</sup>

· **The U.S. Fire Administration has issued this urgent warning:** "The importance of proper maintenance cannot be overstated. Both furnaces and chimneys should be professionally inspected annually and cleaned as necessary."<sup>4</sup>

I could go on with citations regarding the role of maintenance in furnace safety, but you get the point. The unanimous expert opinion is that your furnace should be checked annually...and that it should be done by a qualified professional.

If you are a member of our VHP Club, you're already doing what you need to do to protect your family. Your furnace is checked annually for safe operation, heating performance and energy efficiency as one of your many valuable Club Member benefits. If you haven't had your furnace maintained and checked for safety in over a year, don't forget to put this on your 'to do' list before winter arrives.

(P.S. The series An Air Conditioner's #1 Job will resume next spring.)

- Daniel Squires

#### References:

<sup>1</sup> Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/co/guidelines.htm> "Carbon Monoxide Poisoning - Prevention Guidance"

<sup>2</sup> Source: NEWS from CPSC Releases: #01-069 Jan. 18, 2001 and #97-191 Sept. 22, 1997 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission - Office of Information and Public Affairs

<sup>3</sup> Source: Topical Fire Research Series Volume 6, Issue 3 Nov. 2006: Heating Fires in Residential Buildings, U.S. Fire Administration - FEMA, U.S. Dept of Homeland Security

<sup>4</sup> Source: Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Fact Sheet, April 27, 2009, CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## Through My Eyes (Continued from Page 1)

spots and, then in 2002, to take the reins of Vincent's Heating & Plumbing. He loved being on the radio and cited early experience working in radio when he first left home.

He shared how, as a young man attending a Bible school in Boone Iowa, he worked at the school radio station. This was in the early 1950s - long before radio stations operated around the clock. Stations would sign on at 6 a.m. and sign off in the late evening. He and several of his fellow students shared the responsibility for turning the power to the station back on in the morning and signing on for the day.

One morning, another off-duty student burst into his dormitory room where he was sleeping and in a panic blurted out that it was past 6 o'clock and the radio station was still off the air. My dad jumped out of bed and they ran out of the room with the intention of getting the station started. The other student took off for the station and my dad went to find the tardy culprit that had failed in his duty.

His anger grew as he went to this confrontation. In my dad's words, he intended to 'clean his clock'. He arrived and banged on the student's door. The door was opened by a bewildered young man still wiping the sleep from his eyes even as my dad lit into him. My dad was looking for a fight and was prepared to knock-down any excuse or defensiveness.

To my dad's surprise the guilty student offered neither. Instead he offered a meek apology and admitted that he had blown his assignment. He had stayed up too late and overslept. As my dad told the story, the lack of defensiveness and ready admission of guilt had the effect of taking all the wind out of his sail. He was ready to chew him out, but how could he 'dress-down' a person who already knew he was wrong and didn't make excuses?

It was a powerful lesson that stayed with him that he often shared. Admit it when you are wrong and take responsibility. He

would explain, "That's why the Bible says 'a soft answer turns away wrath'." To this he would add an equally vital truth: "When you are the person wronged, it's just as important to forgive...even as God forgives us."

Like most of his stories, I heard them many times, because such important truths need to be shared again and again. But, even more important than words alone, was that I watched him live it, both in his personal relationships and in the tone he set for how to treat clients and employees of Vincent's Heating & Plumbing.

There are a lot of accomplishments I could share and things I could write about my father, Ray Squires, but none that would give you a better glimpse of the man that he was. I am blessed to have had him as my father, mentor, and friend. I loved him and I will miss him. However, I am also glad for the hope that I will see him again.

- Daniel Squires

### Read What Our Clients Are Saying...

*Dear Mr. Squires,*

*I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate your company and the men that installed my new furnace. I am so pleased with their work & blessed by your generosity to me. I know you have serviced me through the years and I feel so blessed. I was very impressed by the fast response. I felt that your team went above and beyond for me. I especially enjoyed the installers, Tom Jones and his son. They were so nice! - In Christ, Margaret Sprotberry*

Vincent's Heating & Plumbing

2650 Oak St.  
Port Huron, MI 48060

Phone: 810-985-7103  
E-mail: sales@vhpinc.com  
Website: www.vhpinc.com

www.vhpinc.com

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# Word Search: Back to School

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

Cafeteria  
Homework  
Principal  
Textbook  
Calculator  
Paper  
Study Hall  
Classroom  
Pencil  
Teacher

## Humor Section



**Q:** Why did the student throw his watch out of the school window?

**A:** He wanted to see time fly.

**Q:** What happened to the plant in math class?

**A:** It grew square roots.

**Q:** How did the geography student drown?

**A:** His grades were below C-level

**Q:** What is a chalkboard's favorite drink?

**A:** hot chalk-olate!

source: <http://jokes4us.com/miscellaneousjokes/schooljokes/>