

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

60 Years of Excellence!

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THROUGH MY EYES

Earlier this year I had the chance to visit Southfork Ranch where the late 70's prime-time television soap opera "Dallas" had been filmed. I was in the city of Dallas for a conference and the organizers took us to the ranch for a Texas barbecue.

Pulling up to the ranch on the bus, I was a little surprised. On TV the ranch was huge. The reality is that the actual 'Dallas' homestead is on a fairly modest sized

ranch with other houses fairly close by. The impression of it being a vast, sprawling ranch on the TV show was all a trick of Hollywood magic!

Once on the ranch, we were allowed to tour the home. All the memories of the Ewing family flooded back - Bobby, Pam, Sue Ellen, and



Here I am at the Southfork Ranch riding (well, at least sitting on) a bull.—Daniel Squires

the most notorious of them all, J.R. (I actually liked the actor, Larry Hagman, better in his role as Tony Nelson in the TV show "I

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**Did you know...
...that you can prevent tree roots from growing in your sewer line to prevent back ups? See the nearby article.**

Tools & Training That Help Us Do A Better Job for You – Part 3

Sewer Video Inspection Cameras and Drain Treatments to Prevent Roots

Sewer Video Inspection Cameras are one of the most innovative developments in plumbing. Now, when there is a problem, we can actually see what is going on inside of a sewer or drain line instead of just

guessing. Here are some of the common causes of a sewer line backup that a video inspection can identify:

- **Tree Roots** – cracks in old sewer pipelines provide an easy water source for tree roots. This is typical in older

homes that have sewer pipes made of cast iron, clay, or other porous materials. Once inside, the roots will grow and will catch the waste products and toilet paper causing a stoppage. Also, as

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Tools & Training ... – Part 3 (Continued from Page 1)

roots growing in the crack become thicker and expand, it can make the crack bigger and cause further damage.

- **Broken, cracked or collapsed pipes** – Prior to 1980, clay pipes were used for sewer lines. These typically last 50 to 60 years and now clay pipes are wearing out. The lifespan of cast iron pipe is only a little bit longer and these are also wearing out. In addition, when clay pipes were installed, they were sealed at the joints with mortar. Unfortunately, there is no give or flexibility with a mortared joint. As a result, when the ground shifts or settles, the mortar joints or the clay pipe itself will crack or break and provide an avenue for roots to infiltrate. A video inspection can reveal if a pipe has shifted, collapsed or become damaged.
- **'Bellied' or sagging sewer lines** – Over time, as the ground shifts and settles, sections of sewer pipe can sag and waste can be trapped in this 'bellied' section and cause a blockage. The only solution for this is to dig up and replace the bad section. A video inspection can

pinpoint where the repair needs to be done.

- **Accumulated waste products** – Over time grease, paper, and items that shouldn't be put into a drain can cause a major blockage – even if the sewer pipe is in good condition.

Without a video inspection camera, just 'snaking' out a drain or sewer line may only 'punch a hole' through a clog without taking care of the whole problem, and it can soon plug up again. A video inspection camera can either be used afterward to verify that the problem is solved, or during the service as the line is being cleared.

A partially cleared clog may be the result of the type of sewer cleaning tool that is used. Along with our video inspection camera, our sewer and drain cleaning system uses 'chain-knockers' that expand to clear the entire diameter of the pipe. This is in contrast to sewer cleaning systems with tools that are limited to the size of the cutter and are 'hit or miss' as to whether they reach the entire pipe diameter.

There is another advantage provided by 'chain knockers' over traditional 'cutting

heads'. Recently, we cleared a mass of roots in section of 4" pipe that we could only reach by going through a 2" sump pump discharge pipe. In the past, we were limited to using a cutter that was small enough to fit through a 2" pipe. This would not have worked to clear the entire blockage as we were able to with the 'chain-knockers'. Further, the 4" pipe was corrugated plastic - which our 'chain-knockers' cleared without damaging it!

Additional benefits

- It is possible to clear roots while the sewer video inspection camera is in the line, which lets us see the progress we're making in real time.
- Because the sewer cable is encased in a flexible plastic sheath, the traditional mess created by 'stuff' flying off a spinning cable being removed is eliminated.

Sewer Line Treatment to Prevent Roots

If tree roots are your problem, you may want to consider using Root-X. This is a product we carry that prevents roots from growing inside your sewer line and comes with a 12-month guarantee. -Daniel Squires

Through My Eyes (Continued from Page 1)

Dream of Jeanie" - remember that?)

The big living room where the family gathered was left exactly as it had been on the show. There was even the crime scene tape on the doorway to the room where J.R Ewing was shot - with the chalk outline on the floor where he had been found. After that cliff hanger season finale, the question "Who shot J.R.?" dominated pop culture until the shooter was finally revealed in the next season. I had fun at Southfork and it brought back a lot of memories about the way TV was back then.

Of course, today TV is different. Some of it good, some of it bad - and some of it interesting. I think the overall coarseness of TV shows today has not been a positive development. In the 'good category, I love my TIVO (a digital video recorder) - that allows TV programs to be automatically recorded and watched later - a huge improvement over VCR's and video cassette tapes. Then there

are the online services like Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Hulu. These also provide flexibility as they allow TV shows and movies to be 'consumed' at the viewer's convenience.

In the 'interesting category' is how many people are 'cutting the cord' and getting rid of cable TV altogether, opting instead to watch TV shows on the Internet. This is similar to how so many people have abandoned their land-line phones and just use cell phones. We'll have to 'stay-tuned' to see how this all works out.

There have also been major advancements in the heating, cooling, and plumbing industry. Now there are Wi-Fi thermostats that allow us to monitor and control the temperature in our homes from anywhere there is a Wi-Fi signal. Today we have sewer cameras to pinpoint and solve sewer and drain problems with precision - and to have visual evidence that things are fixed. (We actually now have a

sewer camera to perform a sewer video inspection and tools to clear roots and sewer clogs - see the nearby 'technical' article.)

Also, there have been big improvements in how furnaces and boilers are maintained. Our certified Carbon Monoxide & Combustion Analysts can even make older units operate more safely and perform better. If you're a VHP Club member, you're already enjoying this enhanced service. If you aren't a VHP Club member, whether your heating system is new or old, consider having one of our techs service your heating equipment to make certain it is safe and performing as well as it should be.

As with anything in life, changes come and there is no turning back. You can rest assured the Vincent's Heating & Plumbing will stay on top of them in the heating, cooling, and plumbing arena and bring the best changes to you.

- Daniel Squires

What Our Clients Are Saying...

Vincent's service was outstanding! I was informed of their expected arrival time and they were there on the dot! The technicians were prompt, neat, knowledgeable. The work was great! Thanks!

Campbell—Port Huron

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

Classic TV Show Word Search

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H K J M H T H R E E S C O M P A N Y
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Charlie's Angels
MASH
Happy Days
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Diff'rent Strokes
The Odd Couple
Fantasy Island
Three's Company
Columbo
The Jeffersons
The Waltons

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Humor Section



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Your Best Choice*

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I told my girlfriend she drew her eyebrows too high. She seemed surprised.

A man walks into a library and asked if they had any books about paranoia. The librarian says "They're right behind you!"

I ate a clock yesterday, it was very time consuming.

I couldn't figure out why the baseball kept getting larger. Then it hit me.

My wife told me I had to stop acting like a flamingo. So I had to put my foot down.