

THE WHOLESALER

Our 10th annual purchasing survey!
Survey begins on page 42.

News of Plumbing • Heating • Cooling • Industrial Piping Distribution



Photos by Bob Martins

Pensacola Winnelson opens in Fla. Panhandle

DAYTON, OHIO — WinWholesale has opened Pensacola Winnelson Co. in Pensacola, Fla., to provide plumbing contractors in northwest Florida and southwest Alabama with a complete line of equipment, parts and accessories.

(Turn to WinWholesale... page 35.)

AP lauds Taco in White House jobs summit story

CRANSTON, R.I. — Taco Inc. was highlighted in a widely reported *Associated Press* story on the recent White House Jobs Summit. The company's successful attempts to avoid laying off any workers during the downturn this year was discussed at some

(Turn to Kudos for Taco... page 35.)

actor Mike La Fay believes his commitment to continuous learning and attention to product lation precision have been essential to his success with the more than 100 reliable Baxi Luna lating wall-hung boiler systems he has installed over the past decade in Alaska's Meadow Lakes located northeast of Anchorage and home to the Twin Peaks landmark. Story begins on page 65.

's HDPE solid wall fittings division

Specified Fittings acquires division of KWH Pipe

INGHAM, WASH. — Specified Fittings has red the HDPE solid wall fitting division VH Pipe. This acquisition triples Spec- s HDPE production capabilities and lens the line both dimensionally and configuration wise. The production equip-

ment will be relocated from Saskatoon, Sask., to Bellingham, Wash. The equipment has IPS, DIPS and metric capabilities with some machinery able to produce fittings through 54" and 500 mm. Much of the new machinery has crossover capabilities that will enhance the PVC/CPVC side of Specified's product line. All machinery will be operational within 30 days, allowing for quicker turn around

(Turn to KWH... page 35.)



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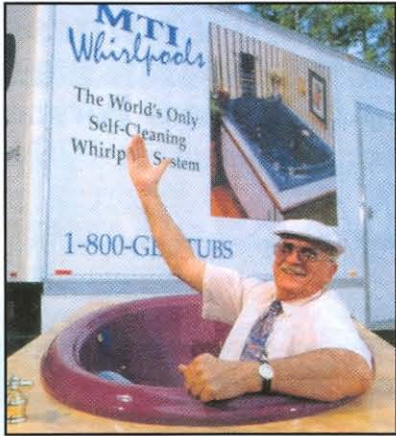
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OBITUARY

J.C. Henry, founder of MTI Whirlpools

ATLANTA — MTI Whirlpools is saddened to announce that its beloved founder, JC Henry, passed away December 14. Henry founded the company in 1988 and is widely respected throughout the industry for his creation of the self-cleaning whirlpool tub.



JC Henry

"We are heartbroken by the loss of our dear friend and colleague," said Kathy Adams, CEO of MTI Whirlpools. "JC Henry was a remarkable man who had incredible vision and innovation. It was his passion and creativity that built MTI into the industry leader that it is today. He was loved and respected by the entire MTI family, and we will feel the pain of his passing for many years to come."

Henry had a varied, colorful career history, including jobs that ranged from machinist to collections agent. Amazingly, at the age of 59 he not only started again, but started from scratch with a highly entrepreneurial spirit. His goal was a simple one: to make the best whirlpool tubs on the market. He named his company "Mr. Tubs" and began buying tubs from other manufacturers and plumbing

them with whirlpool systems. He bought a defunct bathtub manufacturing facility in 1990 and began producing his own tubs.

Perhaps Henry is best known professionally for his invention of the patented Fill-Flush® system. As the business expanded, he was increasingly bothered by the build-up

of soap residue and deposits of varying types left behind in the plumbing lines. Through a great deal of trial and error and by adding a few custom-made parts, Henry created the self-cleaning whirlpool. He obtained a patent for the technology, which he called the Fill-Flush® whirlpool cleaning system.

ASA names Hercules a Four Diamond Vendor

PASSAIC, N.J. — Hercules Chemical Company, a charter member of the American Supply Association, was honored as a Four Diamond Premier Vendor by the association for 2009. ASA promotes their Premier Vendor Program as being designed to recognize the unique contributions vendors make to the success of the association and the advancement of the industry. Recognition is earned one diamond at a time with a maximum recognition



of five diamonds.

Hercules has a long history of being dedicated to the plumbing professional not only by solving problems with innovative products, but by supporting the community with creative marketing approaches, leadership roles at industry trade shows and conventions, innovative selling tools and programs, and dissemination of information such as safety training and compliance with Department of Transportation regulations for the movement of chemicals.

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