



CNY-ASHI
"The Training Leader of Central New York"

MARCH 2013

THE OBSERVER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>This month: CRAL Contracting presentation</i>	1
<i>CNY ASHI Officers and</i>	2
<i>Why they are still with us</i>	3
<i>Life's funny</i>	4
<i>Air sealing</i>	6-7
<i>Eyeballs!</i>	8
<i>Photo's from the field</i>	3,5,8



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March 13



Spring Seminar 2013!



The only reason why we ask people how their weekend was is so we can tell them about our own weekend

~Chuck Palahniuk



Still time left to register, though not much.
Hope to see you there!

THE OBSERVER



We are always on the lookout for articles or items of interest. Anything which you feel would help educate our readership. Please feel free to forward to either Mike Chapman or

Tom Sherman. Also, if you should have any thoughts or ideas which you feel would make this a better publication, please let us know.

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WHAT’S NEXT... MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING

WHERE:: Tony’s Restaurant
3004 Burnet Ave., Syracuse, NY 13206 (638-2930)

WHEN: Wednesday, March 13, 2013. 6:00 PM

What's hiding behind the wallpaper?



Sent in by Dennis Cole from Envirotech. What do you think the cause for this mold growth was? Vinyl paper? Did they cover this up, or did it grow as a result of other conditions? Good find, Dennis!



Why they are still with us

By Tom Sherman~ Editor

Last evening, I had the opportunity to watch a movie titled "Tuesdays with Morrie". It's been around awhile, so some of you have probably heard of it, or perhaps even read the book. I read it several years back, and couldn't put it down. It was a real eye opener.

This is a true story based on a over-worked, over-driven, single-focused sports writer by the name of Mitch Albom and more importantly, his relationship with Morrie Schwartz, his favorite professor from college whom Mitch had promised to stay in touch with after graduation. Of course, life took over, and his contact with Morrie evaporated. That is, until one evening many years later while Mitch was in the midst of multitasking and trying to meet a score of different deadlines,

there was Morrie on ABC's Nightline with Ted Koppel. You see, Morrie had been stricken with ALS, commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease. This is a debilitating disease that slowly and agonizingly robs one of their ability to move, talk, eat...everything except the ability to think. It is a fatal disease that is heartbreaking for both those who are afflicted, as well as the family and friends surrounding them. His story was the reason for the appearance on Nightline.

I won't spoil the rest, but with all the people affected by terminal disease, why does this one make such a great story? Much like our friend, Gregg Harwood, who himself faced a similar dilemma. Both Gregg and Morrie took their illnesses and decided "This is what I have; this is not who I am. I am in charge of how I will react to it." They

took that stance, and until the end continued to impart their wisdom on to the rest of us.



So what, you might ask, does any of this have to do with home inspections. Not much, but it does have everything to do with who we are as people. Every day, we have the opportunity to write our own obituaries. One day, that opportunity will no longer exist and what we have done throughout our lives will be stamped in indelible ink, never to be altered.

What we did yesterday is in the annals history. Today, we have another chance. Don't be afraid to take it.

Stay safe



Smart Ass Answers

A senior citizen in Florida bought a brand new Mercedes convertible. He took off down the road, flooring it to 80 mph and enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left on his head.

"This is great," he thought as he roared on down I-75. He pushed the pedal to the metal even more. Then he looked in his rear view mirror and saw a highway patrol trooper behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blaring.

"I can get away from him with no problem," thought the man and he tromped on it some more, flying down the road at over 100 mph, then 110, 120mph. Then he thought, "What am I doing? I'm too old for this kind of thing."

He pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the trooper to catch up with him. The trooper pulled in behind the Mercedes, and walked up to the man. "Sir," he said, looking at his watch. "My shift ends in 30 minutes and today is Friday. If you can give me any reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The man looked at the trooper and said, "Years ago, my wife ran off with a Florida State trooper, and I thought you were bringing her back."

The trooper replied, "Sir, have a nice day."



Got questions?

The Wall is the place to get your answers. It's a very friendly part of Heating-Help.com and everyone's wel-

Where the elite meet and talk heat. Find good help. Find a job. Make a friend. Make a business connection. Size a contractor. Compare one product to another. Get great advice from good people. Keep it or replace it? Calculate a heat loss. Ask a question. Get sensible answers. Get inspired. Which pump to use? Which boiler? Oil or gas? The old stuff. The new stuff. The hard stuff. What does it do? Make it more efficient. Chat with pros from other countries. Find a more valuable employee. Hire a better one. Will this work? How do I do this? Improve the air. Design for disassembly. Innovate. Automate systems. Control it smartly. Travel the world without leaving your desk. Get smarter each day. Find that old product's literature in the HeatingHelp.com Library. Learn history. Post videos of your work. Never be alone. Learn Green through hundreds of articles and links. Make it efficient. Make it last. Save energy. Save money. Get addicted to education. Learn about Solar. Get real help in minutes. Mine with people who have spent time in basements. Get Listed in Find a Professional. Share your knowledge. Get your name in front of hundreds of technical articles. **You're never alone.** some of the best work in the world. Help one another. connect with great suppliers. Prove the best minds in the business. Get new ideas. Shop for easy-to-understand books. Become an Affiliate and make money. Strut through the Virtual Trade Show. Hang out with positive people. See what's new. Learn radiant. Get Holohan's weekly newsletter. Check out Dan's Reading List. Swap a story. Ask the pros who know. Tap the experience. Steam experts hang out here. Challenge yourself. Grow and grow and grow. Cutting edge heating cooling and solar talk. FREE!

(Written by members of the HeatingHelp.com community. Join us!)



Free in-depth information for home inspectors is found online at

www.inspectapedia.com

Encyclopedia of building & environmental inspection, testing, diagnosis, & repair.

We welcome questions from home inspectors & are glad to research answers as needed.

Why is there mold in my attic?

By Tom Sherman

While it is certainly not present in every house, I think we can all be comfortable with the fact that it is most assuredly growing on the underside of many of the attics that we inspect. “How did it get there?” is the question that I am regularly asked by my clients, real estate agents, attorneys and such. At that point, I go into a Reader’s Digest explanation on how air has moved through the house and whatever is in that air had, no doubt, ended up in the attic in the form of moisture, condensing on the underside of the roof decking, and “poof”, has resulted in mold growth. (Or mold-like growth in pure home inspector-speak)

Usually that discussion starts the ball rolling and sometimes, it becomes a show-stopper, others, an item on the report that was able to be worked through by the interested parties.

Now, add the semi-contractor to the mix, and it can become a whole new ball game. The semi-contractor usually shows up with the home buyer, who is his brother-friend-uncle-sister’s god-mother...you get the point. He has been in-and-out-and-around the construction trades for at least part of his adult life. Perhaps he worked with a roofer for awhile during summer vacations, or helped his uncle build a few decks. In any event he already “knows” everything you were hired to tell your client.

So when the mold topic comes up, he is right there with the “Huh. Not enough ventilation” comment. Of course, trying to explain the whole process to him is often pretty much impossible, as, like I said before, he already knows everything. And while I’m not present during the ride home from the inspection, I’m

fairly certain that the conversation led by Semi is peppered with the phrase, “...home inspector doesn’t know what he’s talking about” of perhaps, “home inspector’s an idiot” several times.

Now, to any of the semi-contractors out there reading this, I’d be very appreciative if one of you could explain to me why a fair amount of the houses with mold problems were constructed in the 1980’s...that sad time in construction history, the onset of when we actually began adding ventilation to the attics.

Back to our inspection. At this point, a new phrase comes into the vocabulary in the form of the term “Air Sealing”, which the response from Semi goes something like this. “Air ceiling??? How in the world are you gonna build an air ceiling??”

“No, sir. Not air ceiling... air SEALING”

“Well what do seals have to do with the mold??”

“No, sir, not the circus seals and not Navy SEALS. Sealing, as in stopping something from moving between point A and B, in this case, between the ceiling of the house and the attic.”

At this point, Semi is really confused, as I have now reintroduced the word “ceiling” back into the conversation. We could go on, but for now we’ll leave our friend with his eyes glazing over contemplating why in the world the Navy would want to build an air ceiling.



Thoughts to ponder:

“We live in a moment of history where change is so speeded up that we begin to see the present only when it is already disappearing.”

R. D. Laing

“You can’t wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club.”

Jack London

“You only live once-but if you work it right, once is enough.”

Joe E. Lewis

“The four stages of man are infancy, Childhood, Adolescence and Obsolescence”

Art Linkletter



Air sealing *(Continued from Page 6)*

Back to the point of this article, which is air sealing of the attic floor, which we will refer to as the “thermal boundary”. Here is what happens when we fail in that endeavor. Insulation will stop the transference of heat and does a pretty good job of that; of course some types of insulation are certainly better than others. Insulation does not do a very good job of stopping the air from moving. And we all know heat rises, right? Wrong! Warm air rises. Remember that! And as the warm



air is rising through the house, via the stack effect, that air hits a point which we refer to as the “neutral pressure plane” This is the point where the pressure in the house goes from negative (starting in the basement) to positive. Depending on how well the attic is insulated and air sealed, this will determine where that neutral pressure

plane is located. Long story short, the higher the neutral pressure plane, the greater amount of “house” air is entering the attic. Air sealing is nothing more than sealing every gap, hole from an electrical wire, attic entry hatch and any other spaces that will allow air to pass from the living space into the attic. And let’s not forget about the partition walls. Drywall is merely nailed or screwed in place, and there are gaps running along the edges that should also be sealed. This whole process is referred to as an “Air Sealing Protocol” and the lack of this process is usually the cause for the mold growth on the underside of the attic deck. Not only

that, poor air sealing, coupled with attic ventilation can actually raise the level of air transference, as the upward movement of air from the soffits to the



ridge actually pulls more air from the house through these unsealed gaps.

Now I realize that this is simplifying a very complex issue and there may be more or different factors in place on any given house, though in simplified terms, this is the general idea of the cause for mold in an attic.



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Eyeballs



Note the photo on the left., sent in by **Dave Gambocarto**. It's a good thing it's "grounded"!
 In the photo to the right, taken by **Tom Sherman**, it's a good idea to pilfer some of that warm air from the clothes dryer, right?? Introducing the new and improved "In-O-Vent"! And why wouldn't they use such a contraption? This falls under the "Just because the Home Store sells it, doesn't make it a good idea" category.



Thanks to Mike Chapman

CNY-ASHI LIBRARY

The chapter library is filled with books, videos and an assortment of other excellent training and refresher information relating to our profession. Everything from setting up and running a home inspection business, to technical journals and training information is at your fingertips.

As a chapter member, you are allowed to access this information free of charge. Mike has just put an updated list of the contents on the TRAINING PAGE of the CNY ASHI Website. Check it out.

We are always on the lookout for additional items for this library. Also, if you are looking for specific information on items we have, please contact Dan at: solutions@mikementerprises.com



This extra flue must be where the squirrels come out!

Chapter Librarian, **Mike Mollura**~
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Correspondence to the chapter or articles for consideration should be emailed to Tom Sherman, Absolute Home Inspection tom@absolutehomeinspection.com. Central New York ASHI reserves the right to reject any submitted articles. Central New York ASHI, it's officers, agents employees, editors and authors of contributed material assume no liability whatsoever with the published contents of this newsletter. Opinions of statements of authors or advertisers are their own and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Central New York ASHI, it's agents or editors. Any discussion or material is for general informational purposes only and does not imply that other opinions are not available or are not suitable.

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Upcoming Calendar of Events

- **March Meeting—**
 - **Where—Tony's Restaurant**
 - **When—March 13, 2013**
6:00 PM

Annual Spring Seminar
March 16, 2013
Not too late to register!

