



4th Qtr.  
Sep - Dec 2001

# The Mulvaney Pipeline

Happy Holidays from all of us at  
**Mulvaney Mechanical, Inc.**



## An American Cathedral

For many of us in the construction trades it has long been a tradition to sign our work in the field. Who can forget the notes, messages and phrases that were scribbled on the interior bulkheads of warships, or on the inside of airplane fuselages during the war. It's where the old phrase "Kilroy Was Here" was born. Well, for many plumbers and other tradesmen working on the World Trade Center Towers, this tragedy has hit a bit closer to home.

During construction of the Trade Center, Mike the plumber would always sign his name to the pipes he welded. It didn't matter if they would be hidden by walls or ceilings. He felt proud to be part of the 3,500 construction workers building a true landmark for the ages. His younger helper would never miss an opportunity to make fun of Mike as he kept on signing his name to his work. Year after year Mike continued to sign the pipes he welded until the towers reached their full height of 1,368 feet, after 8 years of construction. Mike always said that no matter where they went, no matter what they worked on after the towers, he always felt part of the proud construction team building "an American Cathedral". A city landmark that would stand long after he was gone.

As the years went by, Mike and his wife Mary retired and moved to a little house in Florida. His helper became the master and went on to fit up many other impressive buildings, but never one so special as the World Trade Center. He finally understood the passion his old friend had in signing his name to a special job, done well. Over the years people have climbed the towers, jumped off them with parachutes, walked between them on high wires and some even tried to blow them up. The towers always prevailed, with good work withstanding the test of time and human tribulations.

One hot summer's afternoon in Florida, Mary came home to find her husband Mike had passed away while sitting in his favorite chair while watching television. In the days to come, they laid Mike to rest in a cemetery near his old home in Queens, NY. The cemetery overlooked the East River and the city skyline beyond.

His old partner came with flowers the other day. He looked across the river to the scar on the cityscape and remembered where a proud plumber once signed his name on pipes he installed.... And he cried.

*This is a condensed version of a story written by Dan Holohan.*

If you provide the correct answer to the following two riddles, you could WIN

## DINNER for TWO

- 1- Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the tallest mountain in the world?
- 2- What is the largest possible number you can write with just 2 digits?

Give us the correct answers and **WIN Dinner for Two**. If more than one correct entry is received, a winner will be selected at random.

The answer to the **Word Jumble Quiz** from last time was "CELLPHONE". We received a record 13 correct answers!

Tom Orzech, Nestle Co.  
Leo Dunn, L&R Construction  
B. Swanson, Charles Beckman Swanson Architects  
Kay Balum, Pharmaceutical Discovery Corp.  
Alberta & Dick Jagoe, T.H.P.  
Sally Profeta, H&R Design  
Art Sanders, Hoffman Architects  
John Olsen, Botsi Associates  
Annemarie Guevarez, Blackstone Industries  
Susan Stout, Pipefitters Local 777 Staff  
Diane Baker, Hines, 255 High Ridge  
Andy Robinson, Pelizza & Robinson Architects  
Carol Valez, Danbury Dept of Public Buildings  
A final winner will be selected at random.

### 2001 Top 8 most expensive cities to rent office space.

London	\$157.63 SF
Tokyo	\$124.07 SF
Hong Kong	\$ 81.71 SF
Paris	\$ 80.28 SF
Bombay	\$ 79.80 SF
San Francisco	\$ 71.20 SF
Silicon Valley	\$ 68.90 SF
Manhattan	\$ 64.92 SF

## Have TALL Buildings Reached the Top?

The threat of increased terrorism may have put a halt to ultra high rise buildings. Anyone visiting the old capitols of Europe and specifically London can readily recognize how cities were built before the elevator was introduced. Urban buildings rarely went beyond five or ten levels. The modern elevator opened construction to ever increasing heights. Newer engineering methods and systems have allowed us to extend even higher than anyone ever thought possible. We can safely construct buildings that far exceed even the Petronas Towers in Malaysia, currently the world's tallest building. Architectural experts around the world widely concur that we can overcome nature's fury, the forces of gravity, and past engineering limitations, but we can not fully guard against the actions of terrorists.

Even a brand new building that opened the day before the September 11th attack could not have withstood a similar assault. Even the most sophisticated design can not effectively guard against the actions of those focused on destruction. Differences in fire protection design, upgrades in systems, etc. would not have made much difference at the World Trade Center. The fact that over 25,000 people were successfully evacuated following impact testifies to the structural strength of the building. Would more updated conventional designs fared any better?? No, not considering the circumstances. Perhaps a building designed and built like a WW II bunker would fair better, however you have to balance between making a building functional, useable and affordable.

What can we do to improve high rise safety in future? Experts agree we must reevaluate our thoughts on means of egress, fire protection and security. Much of future design will be driven by the marketplace. The concerns, fears and reluctance of major tenants will dictate where we go from here.

## HOLIDAY EATING TIPS..

As the holiday eating season approaches, everyone has questions about eating and exercise to best weather the festivities. Here are responses to frequently asked diet questions:

Q: I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?

A: Your heart is only good for so many beats, and that's it ... don't waste them on exercise. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up your heart will not make you live longer; that's like saying you can extend the life of your car by driving it faster. Want to live longer? Take a nap.

Q: Should I cut down on meat and eat more fruits and vegetables?

A: You must grasp logistical efficiencies. What does a cow eat? Hay and corn. And what are these? Vegetables. So a steak is nothing more than an efficient mechanism of delivering vegetables to your system. Need grain? Eat chicken. Beef is also a good source of field grass

Q: Is beer or wine bad for me?

A: Look, it goes to the earlier point about fruits and vegetables. As we all know, scientists divide everything in the world into three categories: animal, mineral, and vegetable. We all know that beer and wine are not animal, and they are not on the periodic table of elements, so that only leaves one thing, right? My advice: Have a burger and a beer and enjoy your liquid vegetables.

Q: How can I calculate my body fat ratio?

A: Well, if you have a body, and you have body fat, your ratio is one to one. If you had two bodies, your ratio would be two to one, etc.

Q: What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?

A: Can't think of a single one, sorry. My philosophy is: No Pain - Good!

Q: Aren't fried foods bad for you?

A: You're not listening. Foods are now fried in vegetable oil. How could more vegetables be bad for you?

Q: Will sit-ups help prevent me from getting soft around the middle?

A: Definitely not! When you exercise a muscle, it gets bigger. You should only be doing sit-ups if you want a bigger stomach.

Q: Is chocolate bad for me?

A: Are you crazy? Cocoa beans... Another vegetable. It's the best feel good food around!

We hope this has cleared up any misconceptions you may have had about food and diets...Have a cookie and enjoy your holiday!

# Have A HAPPY NEW YEAR



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