Roofing Metal Heating Associates (RMHA) ***By Charles McGarvey***
Roof Surveys and Informational Services

With the recent passing of Paul Rys, of Rys Roofing, who was the longest active serving member of the RMHA and at different times held the titles of president, treasurer, and director, I started remembering Paul, past members I met through the association who have also passed away, and how I became a member of the RMHA.

I first met Paul about 1980, when I became an association member and later an elected director. I can personally attest that Paul was a giant to this association; in reality, this comment is an understatement of what he gave. The amount of time he spent giving to the RMHA could never be counted. I think the greatest compliment that could be given to Paul and all of the past association members and directors over the last 121 years is the continued success of the RMHA.

The year is now 2024, and as strange as it is, which I did not know at the time, my first connection with the RMHA was in 1967, the start of my first year in high school. Like so many other association members, my father was a small and, most of the time, a one-man roofing company. As a young boy, I loved getting in his truck, helping him carry tools, but especially climbing ladders and looking down on the world. I still have a scar on my knee, when at the age of 10, he let me cut strips of 90 pd. roll roofing with a new razor knife. Forget the blood, tendons showing through the open wound, and the homemade bandage; I loved every second of working on a roof.

However, as with many other roofers of his day, my father ended up in the neighborhood bar at the end of the day. There, the neighborhood roofers would meet and talk about everything that happened, and they often ended up with stories that caused uncontrollable laughter. One night, my father came home and gave me a small booklet about roofing. I don't remember the articles within the booklet, but for whatever reason, I clearly remember what the cover looked like and the roofing contractor who gave it to my father. About 13 years later, when I became a member of RMHA and received my first issue of the "Trade News," I was shocked to see the cover and remembered that it was the same booklet my father had given me years before.

As for the roofing contractor who gave the "Trade News" to my father, his name was Ed Coyle. I don't know if his roofing company was Coyle Roofing or another fictitious name, but as a young teenager, I remember he was a very nice and large older man. I never forgot the story my father told me one night that Mr. Coyle had three sons, two of whom were killed in World War II.

I now sit here thinking about the passing of Paul, Mr. Coyle, and the history of the RMHA. How many past members had gone through two World Wars, police actions such as Korea, or undeclared wars like Paul's military service in Vietnam, but came back and devoted time and effort to the RMHA? To all of these known and unknown people, I know I speak for the entire association when I say thank you.

Source
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