



Local Plumbers Celebrate 50 Years

By Michael Roberts



In 1959, the US welcomed Alaska and Hawaii into its arms, mourned the loss of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper on the day music died, and Busch Gardens opened its doors. But before the calendar turned over to the decade of love, Maitland Winter Park Plumbing opened its doors — and they're still going strong.

The company is on its third generation of local ownership. "We're very lucky," said Sharon Peterson, who manages the company with her husband, Eric, and father Mercer Haight. "We just keep standing like the old oak trees."

Fifty + years speaks volumes about a business today," said a satisfied client who called the plumbing business a "real treasure" in Maitland and Winter Park. "I have a real comfort level with recommending them to friends and neighbors ... I use them for all my plumbing needs."

With 50+ years in the plumbing business, Peterson and her family have gotten some incredible calls. They once spent

two days working with the city of Maitland to find a man's \$25,000 Rolex. They've recovered \$60,000 and \$70,000 diamond earrings from down the tube. Once, they retrieved a live hand grenade.

And then there are the animal calls — frogs and snakes in toilets and raccoons and cats in the wall.

"Sometimes you question yourself, like, is this a prank?" Peterson said.

As the plumbing business became more specialized, so did Maitland Winter Park Plumbing. They used to do everything from sewers to mainlines to new construction. Now they focus on service, re-piping and remodeling jobs, as well as the retail sales from their specialty parts store.



Maitland Winter Park Plumbing, offers service, re-piping and remodeling jobs. The family owned business also features a specialty parts store, located at 210 N. Swoope Ave. in Maitland. For more information call 407-647-7996 or visit www.MaitlandWinterParkPlumbing.com.