



Allen Tanis
President

From the President's Desk

If you've got your health . . .

Sister Benedict from the Little Sisters of the Poor stopped by the other day for her annual donation. She didn't get out of the van because she can't walk very well anymore. Sister Benedict is 90 years old. I threw a luncheon in her honor about four years ago and presented her with a lifetime achievement award. I figured she would appreciate it more if she were alive to receive it.

I told her I almost beat her to the next life. Two days before Thanksgiving, I went to the emergency room with a bleeding ulcer. By the time I got there, my blood pressure was 38. Not good. I won't go in to all the details. But if you have acid reflux, go to the doctor immediately. A little pill will save you a great deal of trouble.

Two good things came out of this. I got to see how well our group health insurance works. And I now understand what they mean when they say if you've got your health, you have everything.

On to more good things. Business is booming all over the Midwest. Thanks to our thirst for oil and our need to decrease our dependence on the Middle East, we now have ethanol plants popping up like oil wells in the Permian basin. Goodness knows we sure needed some new construction projects.

However, let's not get carried away. The bread and butter of this business is still in maintenance. Our Field Service Unit is something to behold. If your customer doesn't have the time to take

the valves down and send them in, we can send in our team to handle the work on site. We also offer the customer an exchange program. We take an inventory of their valves, and ship them fully remanufactured units to install when they take their old valves off. They can either send the old valves in for credit or we can store them for the next repair job.

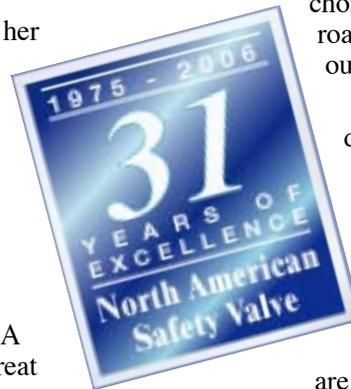
We really need your help in selling these programs. I have mechanics chomping at the bit to hit the road. They make more money out there.

However you want to do business with us, we'll take care of you. We have probably the largest safety valve inventory in the country. We ship faster than most, and we get back to you the same day with most requests. We

are even thinking about putting in a second steam boiler to keep our customers happy with same-day shipping requests. Now that doesn't mean you can call here at 4 p.m. and expect a boiler valve to go out the same day. This isn't a fitting that you can pull off the shelf. It even has to cool off.

Thank you for all of your business. I hope after 31 years we have earned your trust, but if not, we will continue to seek your approval.

Allen Tanis



INSIDE

- Safety Valve Body Loading
- Deliver on-site testing and repairs
- Tracking saves you time

SAFETY VALVE BODY LOADING

“As an inspector looking at a boiler that was steaming at 20 psig above the safety valve set pressure, I had to keep reminding myself that the boilers were good for 150 psig.”

By Don Gentry

Reprinted from the *Seattle Steamer Online*



Safety and relief valve discharge piping can easily be overlooked by both inspectors and boiler operators.

I'm not referring to sizing and length in this case, although they are of significant importance, but the support of safety and relief valve discharge piping – something not quite so obvious to the naked eye.

Let's talk steam for a moment. Steam safety valves, when properly tested and maintained, are very reliable safety devices. They are, however, very sensitive to external loading. If I were to thread a 10-foot length of pipe into the discharge port of a safety valve and just let it “hang” there with no support, would it affect the operation of the safety valve? Definitely!

I once had a unique opportunity to safely allow a pair of boilers to exceed the set pressure of their safety valves (two were installed). The boilers were 150 psi Scotch boilers which had recently been fitted with 50 psi safety valves.

During the installation of the new valves, the installer had not properly supported the vertical discharge piping (the safety valve discharge piping included “drip pan ells”).

So on with the test. The building engineer “jumpered” the pressure controls, and steam pressure began to rise. With the steam pressure at 50 psig, the safety valves remained tightly seated. At 70 psig, the engineer and I looked at each other in amazement. As an inspector looking at a boiler that was steaming at 20 psig above the safety valve set pressure, I had to keep reminding myself that the boilers were good for

150 psig (this helped me fight the urge to run out of the room). Finally, at almost exactly 100 psig, the first safety valve lifted. The second valve lifted shortly after and the engineer restored the boiler controls to the normal configuration. A later test – following proper support of the discharge piping – proved proper safety valve operation.

So, the lesson in this case lies in the fact that the externally loaded safety valves did not lift until boiler pressure exceeded safety valve set pressure by 100 percent! The second part of the lesson is that safety valve discharge piping should not only be closely checked at installation, but continuously thereafter. In drip pan



elbow installations, the vertical run is often supported by clamps that can weaken or loosen over time. Hard-piped discharges are even more

sensitive and their support systems can change over time, especially in boiler rooms that tend to heat up and cool down along with the boiler operating cycles.

Take the time to do actual pressure tests of your safety valves (where the boiler pressure is raised to the set pressure of the safety valve) rather than simple lift-lever (manual) tests. While you're at it, continue on and run an accumulation test and see if the “blow down” of the valve is within tolerance. Afterward, don't be surprised if you feel just a little more comfortable standing in front of that boiler!

"BOILER PRESSURE EXCEEDED SAFETY VALVE SET PRESSURE BY 100 PERCENT!"

FIELD SERVICE UNIT

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Sometimes even the fastest off-site service isn't good enough ... the work must be performed at the site and within a very tight window of opportunity. And that's where our Field Service Unit delivers.

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The self-contained repair shop and mobile testing stand unit offers on-site repair and resetting of safety valves during scheduled maintenance shutdowns.

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the equipment on the truck to the people on the repair team, NASVI backs everything. Whether the customer needs the Field Service Unit for three days or three weeks, you're going to save them a lot of downtime and increase your opportunities for more valve sales.

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