



The Story of an Old Furnace

By the late 1950s, Gerald Abercrombie's small Clarksburg hardware store had become a thriving contracting business. The area was still a rural economy but the resort industry was starting to expand. As the population grew, so did the demand for water systems, plumbing, heating and electrical. Gerald found that most customers preferred to leave the whole job in the hands of one capable person – and call this same person for service as needed.

Gerald prided himself on knowing exactly what his customers wanted, and preferred to visit their homes and talk about the job on the spot. A good example of Clarksburg Contractors' tradition of service can be found in the Crosskills' Clarksburg-area home.



A magazine profile on Gerald Abercrombie's thriving Clarksburg hardware store. At this time, the business was meeting a growing demand to install its products in local homes and businesses.

In 2007 daughter Debbie, who had taken over the family home, decided to renovate. "It was with some hesitation that I decided on a new furnace," says Debbie. "Since the old furnace was still working fine!" Nevertheless, she decided to give the 1963 model a rest and went ahead with a new Lennox gas furnace. Debbie looks forward to many years of the same reliable service that her parents enjoyed.

Through the years, Clarksburg Contractors has grown and diversified, and today handles all aspects of heating, air conditioning, plumbing and electrical, as well as offering geothermal installation and service.

Rewind to 1963. At this time if you wanted to call Clarksburg Contractors, you asked the operator for 2 – that's right, just the number 2. Cliff and Barb Crosskill hired Clarksburg Contractors to install a Lennox furnace in their home, and the furnace did its job for some 45 years.

Geothermal – tomorrow's energy today

The ground under your backyard can be your source of heating and cooling comfort. Geothermal energy, which moves naturally occurring energy to and from the earth, can heat and cool your indoor environment and save you 30 to 60 percent on your monthly energy bills as compared to conventional systems. Geothermal energy is the most innovative, safe, clean and reliable space conditioning system on the market.

Clarksburg Contractors is a dealer for the WaterFurnace geothermal system.

Gerald Abercrombie and son Michael beside the Lennox Furnace installed by Clarksburg Contractors in 1963 in the Crosskill home. The furnace still worked when Debbie Crosskill hired Clarksburg Contractors to install a new one in 2007.

Clarksburg Contractors Timeline

- 1954**
Clarksburg Hardware established, selling hardware items, plumbing and electrical supplies.
Staff: one, part-time. Average wage: 90 cents to \$1.00/hour.
- 1960s**
Farm trade grows, with cottage and chalet work expanding. First commercial clients. Natural gas comes to area, boosting our business.
- 1971**
Sold Clarksburg Hardware and opened a new location for Clarksburg Contractors across the street. *Staff: 12*
- Late 70s-early 80s**
Energy-efficient equipment coming onto market, boosting CC's upgrading business.
- Mid-80s**
First geothermal heat pump installations.
- 2000**
First air-filtration systems installed.
- 1982**
CC installs first high-efficiency gas furnace, a Lennox Pulse.
- 80s-90s**
CC grows with condominium boom and increased commercial work.
- 2008**
CC continues to build its traditional business and begins training for installation of renewable energy systems such as solar and wind.
Staff: 35.