HOW TO OPEN A STUCK VALVE

The perplexing problem of opening a stuck valve is something that will confront everyone in this life; therefore it is advisable that the layman be informed as to the proper procedure used by most of the authorities. The first step, after having located the valve in question, is to cuss profanely enough to blister the paint on the opposite side of the room. This first step is vital and absolutely necessary and to the average layman is easily done. The results from this first step are amazing as the majority of valves will recognize your superiority and open with ease. (Provided you are strong enough to turn them.)

If the valve, however, does not recognize you as superior it is advisable to refrain from repeating the first step and concentrate on the second. The second step is to decoceive the valve and make it believe you have given up all hope and this is done by turning and starting away from the scene of action. This will relax the valve and then a flying tackle is made that catches the valve unprepared. This step if timed correctly will open all but not a few that did respond to the first step.

As there is exception to everything there are a few valves that will not respond to these treatments, and when these are encountered a thoroughly competent and reliable plumber with the proper equipment should be called.

- Harold Uthoim - '38

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