

HSIA HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO CHEVY CHASE VALET OWNER JOHN BACON – THE STAR OF OUR RECENT AD IN “NATIONAL CLOTHESLINE”

HSIA: How did you get your start in the dry cleaning business?

JB: When I was in High School, I had a seasonal job and when it ended I just went door to door down the block until I found another job. It was at a dry cleaning shop.

HSIA: How long have you now been in the dry cleaning business?

JB: Since January of 1968 – 44 years. I remember it so clearly because my first day on the job was the day that my grandmother passed away and I had to leave to go to her funeral.

HSIA: Have you always been at this location?

JB: No, but I’ve always been in the Bethesda, Maryland area. I’ve been at this location for seven years now.

HSIA: How many employees do you have?

JB: Just myself and one employee.

HSIA: How many pounds of clothes do you dry clean yourself in an average week?

JB: On average, 500 pounds a week. We also do alterations and shoe repair.

HSIA: Have you always used perc to dry clean the clothes you take in?

JB: Absolutely, it does a great job and I wouldn’t use anything else.

HSIA: Have you been approached by other companies trying to sell you an alternative cleaning system?

JB: You bet – all of them and I’ve told them I am just not interested.

HSIA: While visiting with John, a good customer stopped in for some advice and a chat. It turns out he calls John the “philosopher” and always looks for an opportunity to stop in and visit. The customer had clothes to be dropped off to be dry cleaned and two questions for John – “Could perc take care of cleaning his wife’s dress that had been exposed to poison ivy?” and “How should he care for a favorite new pair of pants – wash or dry clean?” John assured him that perc would resolve the poison ivy problem and if he wanted to maintain the new pair of pants without shrinkage, dry cleaning with perc was the way to go.

HSIA: A recent review on YELP stated “Chevy Chase Valet has to be as good as it gets when it comes to dry cleaning in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area. Everything from the quality of the service to the friendliness and personality of John was first rate.” Keep up the great work, John!