

# Yarnell~Hoffer

## HARDWARE NEWS

Yarnell-Hoffer Hardware News Volume 2 • Number 4 • November, 1990

### **MERRY CHRISTMAS! MERRY CHRISTMAS! MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Welcome to our final newsletter for 1990. We've expanded it this time to include a special last minute gift guide. We hope you enjoy it.

All of us here would like to thank you for choosing to shop at our store this year. We hope we've been able to help you with the projects or hardware problems that you've had. Craig and I would like to personally thank each of you for helping us realize our dream of owning a hardware store and we wish all of you the very best in the coming year. We would also like to thank the good Lord for allowing us to serve you for another year. We couldn't have done it without his help.

### **THE GOOD 'OLE DAYS PART 3**

We had so many comments from the last newsletter about our feature article that I reached way back into the memory book for another story from the past of Mike and Craig. I'm afraid to tell too many of these because y'all might think that we really don't know anything (which is really not the case, at least for me anyway. I don't know about Craig).

I talked briefly about this story in one of the earlier newsletters but it warrants a better explanation. Let's go back to the summer of 1977 during the heat wave. That was a fine year for Craig and me because we had just graduated from Chapel Hill High, in June. We were already experienced entrepreneurs (we thought) since we had been in business for an entire summer before that one. This job was a roofing job so we felt especially confident since we had already done two roofs in our career. By now, we didn't even have to refer to the back of the shingles for instructions (I do remember at first having to make sure that at least one bundle of shingles didn't get wet if it was going to rain so we would have a dry set of instructions).

The most important thing, I'm sure Craig would want me to say, is how much of a wimp I was on our first roofing job. The summer before, on our first roof, I hadn't thought much about how we were going to get the shingles on the roof until they got delivered. The packages weren't very big so they couldn't be very heavy, right? WRONG! Each bundle weighs about 97 pounds, and, is even harder to lift when its over 100 degrees outside. But, I was pretty strong (I thought) so I didn't see a problem. We decided to each carry up half so that meant 30 bundles for Craig and 30 for me. (Each square has three bundles). Well, Craig carried

his half up while I was on the roof to take them from the top of the ladder. Now it was my turn. As I was climbing down the ladder, I didn't see any problem because Craig had carried his up and didn't seem to have any problems. The way to pick up shingles is to throw them on your shoulder to distribute the weight as evenly as possible. I bent down for my first bundle and was sure there must be at least two bundles stuck together because I couldn't begin to pick them up. To my surprise there was only one bundle. Well, if Craig could do it, I was sure I could. I repositioned myself and tried again. I struggled as hard as I could and finally got them on my shoulder.

That must be the hardest part I thought to myself. I started up the ladder and it felt like I was carrying a ton of bricks. By the time I got about halfway up I couldn't take it anymore. I dropped those shingles like they were a hot potato. I gripped onto the ladder to catch my breath. Craig looked at me in amazement. He thought for sure that I got stung by a bee or something. I confessed and that's when he said it. "Mike, you're such a wimp. Don't tell me you can't make it up the ladder." I knew Craig was probably stronger than me but I never imagined I was that weak. I didn't have much to say, but I got back down and tried one more time. This time I made it almost to the top of the ladder, but still dropped them. Knowing I was never going to be able to do it, Craig got down and carried up all the rest of the shingles on the roof (I hope you got lots of enjoyment out of this paragraph because I know Craig did!).

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## MORE GOOD OL' DAYS

Anyway, back to the real story. Craig had looked at this job for us and bid on it. We started early in the morning because we had to tear the old roof off first (It already had two layers on it). We immediately had several problems we hadn't thought of when we gave our bid out (That's probably why we got the job in the first place). The first one was the fact that this house sat on a hill right next to a major street. If we were to fall we would have become part of the street patches, or almost as bad, if a piece of shingle were to fall on someone or a passing car, we would be in trouble. This called for extra care on our part to make sure neither one of those things happened. We had to tie ourselves into the roof and dangle down to remove the shingles. The next problem was that it was much harder than we imagined to tear off the old shingles. They didn't seem to crumble like others we had taken off before. We just thought they were put down with extra long nails. Chapel Hill was in a heat wave that summer and it didn't help matters any when it was over 100 degrees every day. We just happened to be directly across from the fire station so we had an audience every day. I remember they would hold up glasses of ice cold tea and laugh at us from their air conditioned comfort. Every day there was more of a crowd over there. I think all the firemen in Chapel Hill were watching us and laughing. We finally couldn't stand it anymore so we climbed down and went over to see what was so funny. Now, as lots of you know, most firemen do odds and ends in their off time, and it just so happened several of the ones watching us were roofers in their off time. When we got upstairs over there, they asked us why we were reroofing that house. We told them the customer needed a new roof and we were tearing off the old roof before putting on a new one. We thought they must be able to tell us why the shingles

were so hard to tear off. Maybe they could even give us a few pointers on a better way to tear them off. As soon as we mentioned that, they immediately started laughing again. They then informed us that the reason the shingles were so hard to pull off was because the roof was just redone the year before. Boy, did we feel stupid. We thought they looked to be in pretty good shape for as old as we thought they were. Craig then remembered it was kind of strange when he told the customer the roof looked like it was in pretty good shape but they still wanted to do it. Oh well, we had learned yet another valuable lesson in the home improvement business. We got to be good friends with all the firemen over there and went up every day to get out of the blistering heat. Their friendship turned out to be quite valuable after we started roofing because we had to weave the valleys which we had never done before. The Captain taught us one day so we could finish that job. It just goes to show you how multitalented firemen can be.

Every day after we got off that roof (about 9pm) we were so hot, sweaty and tired that we needed something to cool us off. Remember that we were still young and perhaps foolish when I tell you this but we had grown up here so we had done this at least once before. We would without fail drive over to Eastwood lake and go skinny dipping every night. That was the most relaxing thing we did that entire summer (except for the time I got bit in the rear end by something in the water a story for another time perhaps). Now, those were the GOOD 'OLE DAYS for sure!

Well, needless to say, we didn't make any money on that job. It took us over two weeks and we had bid about \$400.00 for labor. I guess it was good character building though, huh?

### DON'T MOVE IT STORE IT!

We're proud to announce a new business venture. We have recently acquired a storage facility on Eubanks Rd. Eubanks Rd. is right off Hwy 86 N, at I-40. We are just putting the finishing touches on the massive remodeling we did to the tune of about \$15,000.00.

Some of you are already renting a 10x10 unit out there, and even if you're not, go out there and take a look. We plan to convert some of the 10x10's into 5x10's before the end of the year. If you need storage space, please give us a try. We have the same degree of customer service that you've become accustomed to in the store and the place really looks great. If you know of anyone who needs some space even for as



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little time as one month, please tell them about us. The current 10x10 units rent for \$50.00 per month but they fill up fast, so don't wait.

Call us if you would like some more information. You know you'll be glad you did! Also, in the near future we'll be offering open car and boat storage.