

# Yarnell~Hoffer

## Do-it center.

## News

Yarnell-Hoffer Do-It Center News

942-3500

Volume 9 Number 1 - April 1997

'Chapel Hill's Favorite Hardware Store'

Mon-Sat 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

*Welcome to the first newsletter of 1997! I meant to put out a newsletter at the end of last year but was too busy with the Fran aftermath. We want to thank all of you for sticking with us during the Hurricane and letting us help you with your chain saw needs. We sold over 800 saws in September.*

*Probably the biggest change for us in 1997 is our decision to be closed on Sundays. For Craig and I, Sundays is the Lord's Day, and we have always wanted to be closed. The Lord has blessed us so much over the past 12 years by allowing us to prosper in business and we decided it was time to have a day of rest. I hope that you won't think bad of us and that you will choose to come visit us on Saturdays instead. Thanks for your continued business. All the staff at Yarnell-Hoffer know who signs our paychecks - you our customers.*

*I hope you enjoy this edition. We've got some really exciting things to tell you so sit back, relax with a cold drink, kick off your shoes and get ready.*

### **CRAIG, PASS THE GORP**

**I** had so much fun writing the last article about Craig's and my camping trip on the way back from the hardware show that I thought I would spend a little time with you talking about some of our old Boy Scout camping days. This will be the first of a two part series. This issue we'll talk about what a true camper's diet is like and I'll give you some interesting ideas that you might (or might not) want to use on your next camping trip. Of course after reading this, you might not want to have anything to do with camping ever again.

We used to go camping once a month with Troop 39. By the way, as I have said many, many times before, Boy Scouts is one of the best things Craig and I have ever done. If you have a boy, make sure you check out the Boy Scouts. It has taught us lots of what

we use every day in the hardware business. Anyway, every month before the camping trip, we would go to Winn Dixie (currently where Harris Teeter at the mall is) to stock up on supplies. I'll give you just a few of the delectable items that we used to eat so you can get an idea of our camping diet. Keep in mind that back then no-one had ever heard of fat intake. One of my favorite foods was vanilla frosted chocolate pop-tarts. They were a great breakfast when you didn't want to cook a full course of eggs and bacon. I used to wake up build a fire (with two matches of course) and go hunting for a forked stick to heat up my pop-tart. I think eating one too many of those scrumptious frosted pop-tarts is why I was so chubby around the middle when I was growing up. I earned the nickname "Hefter". I guess it could have been worse.

Another one of my mainstays for camping was that squeeze tube cheese wiz that went so well on Ritz crackers. It sounds pretty gross now, but it was a fine snack on those long hikes that our scoutmaster, Jim Mackorell, took us on. You just take your trusty pocketknife out (that you're parents finally let you have) and cut off the cap and puncture the seal inside (just like a tube of caulk) and you're ready to squeeze. It worked pretty good unless it was below about 40 degrees. When it was cold, you had to really want to eat that cheese whiz because it took all your strength to squeeze it out of the tube. My wife still thinks to this day that cheese whiz is one of the grossest things she's ever heard of. Little does she know that I can't wait to indoctrinate my kids to the proper cheese whiz technique on our first family spring camping trip this year.

As for Yarnell, one of his favorites was those little Vienna sausages that came in that pop-top can with juice in it. They look like little bitty hot dogs that have been left in the microwave for about two hours on high. He used to eat those things with saltine crackers. I did try them once, but I told him I'd rather stick to my cheese whiz.

Now, our fearless scoutmaster, "Jimbo" as we call him now, tried to get us to eat something to this day that I don't think he has ever gotten one of his boy scouts to eat in the 33 or so years that he has been Scoutmaster. He used to take little cans of sardines in a pop-top can and put them on crackers. He told us they were full of protein and they were good for us. "I wish you'd listen" he used to say. I just couldn't stand the thought of eating those cold little fish with heads on them between a pair of saltines. I think Jimbo might have coerced Craig into eating one in a moment of weakness, but after hearing about that thing sliding down his throat you better believe none of the rest of us ever tried that.

I can also remember the first time Mike Edmiston (our store manager) went camping

with the troop. I think Mike was busy talking on his CB radio in his basement so his mom packed his backpack for him. Now, all of our mom's worried about us going out into the wilderness for a weekend when we were only 11 years old. She thought her little boy shouldn't be drinking just water so she loaded him up with a big six pack of Coke in the bottom of his pack. When we got ready to hike in to camp, we all noticed how heavy "Edi's" pack was. He only weighed about 60 or 70 pounds when he was 11 so carrying a pack about 1/2 his weight was kind of tough. We never laughed so hard when we pulled out all that stuff she had packed to find that six pack of Coke in the bottom. I can't even remember if we drank that Coke or not.

The last but probably the best part of our diet on camping trips was Gorp. Now, for those of you who don't know what Gorp is, just let your imagination go. I don't actually know how Gorp got its name because it sure doesn't sound anything like what it really is. Maybe its one of those old military things that Mr. Mackorell made up from his military days. A more common name for Gorp is hikers bird seed. That name of course sounds way to sissy for hard core Boy Scouts like us so we never called it that. Gorp is a

mixture of cereal, raisins, M&M's, candy corn, peanuts, and whatever else looks good from the grocery store shelf. Gorp is an individual kind of food so different people put different stuff in. You can tell what kind of kid I was. I liked more candy than I did nutritious food. I guess that's another reason I was nicknamed "Heftor". The idea behind Gorp is to give you quick energy while you're hiking as well as be a good snack or even quick lunch on the trail. Now, Jimbo (remember that's Mr. Mackorell) was a little more health conscious so he like a lot more cereal (the boring kind like bran flakes instead of frosted flakes) mixed in with shelled sunflower seeds in his Gorp. Craig liked to add pretzels and coconut to his.

The Gorp making ritual is important and

**Special of the Month**



**\$1.99** 717134

**Kneeling Cushion**