



THE HARDWARE HERALD

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TARPS ARE FINALLY HERE!

And are they worth waiting for! Some of them are over 30% thicker than Amazon's and at a shorter retail. Thanks Orgill! These are not the cheap blue tarps that last only a year if you forget to unwrap them. But we're not stopping there. While they last, all tarps are discounted 15% less than retail!

Remember tarps are vinyl and vinyl comes from crude oil. Get 'em while you can. Here are the sizes we stock:

9x12	12x16	12x28	30x40
10x20	12x24	16x20	40x60

RAIN RAIN GO AWAY! (MAYBE BY MAY)

Until then, we literally have you covered.

Keep your toes warm and dry with some

Inexpensive rubber boots.....\$20.79

Olive green PVC boots.....\$48.29

Waterproof light weight Muck Boots.....\$109

or the ever popular mossy oak Muck Boot.....\$127.94

Now for the upper half:

PVC yellow Climate Gear.....\$18.79

Diamond Back 3-pc rain gear\$19.49

Black nylon Climate Gear.....\$47.79

Skycast nylon blue 2-pc rainsuit\$64.95

For your head and hands:

Beanies.....\$2.39 Trapper Hats..\$14.99

Ear muffs \$3.19 Knit gloves.....\$2.39

Fingerless wool gloves.....\$11.69



Do you think this could be a partial reason why affordable housing is so hard to come by on Orcas? According to The National Low Income Housing Coalition, this is the hourly wage required to afford a 2-bedroom rental. Here are 12 representative states:

CA.....\$39	WA.....\$29**	UT.....\$22	KY.....\$16
HI.....\$38	TX.....\$22	MT.....\$18	AR.....\$15
NY.....\$34	NV.....\$22	WY.....\$17	SD.....\$15

By the way the Federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour.

OUT-OF-CONTROL PRICES

My crew and I are very sorry for what's happening to prices—they're just out-of-control! The causes, as I see it, are shortages of products, raw materials, factory labor, truck drivers, containers, fuel costs, dock workers, and, of course, add in good old-fashioned *greed*. Couple all this with run-away government spending devaluating the dollar's purchasing power and we are in a mess.

We at the hardware look forward to the time when we'll not experience such out-of-control prices. I guess we're very fortunate to live on an island as affluent as Orcas. Yes, we complain about the cost of fuel and food, but most of us don't have to choose between walking and eating.

I think I've told you that I was poor growing up. I lived in a converted one car garage with my mom and Sparky. We ate a lot of cheap food and had a really old Chevy but we never had to sleep in our car or in a tent. We never suffered the humility of applying for aid or food stamps. Maybe I was wrong—we weren't really poor, we just lived in a *tiny house*.

ELECTRIC COOK STOVE OWNERS, LISTEN UP!

I had to change the 8" coil-type electric burner on my 30+ year old Jennair electric cook top. The new burner gets hotter in less than half the time as the old one. I can't wait 'til a certain hardware in Crow Valley gets the smaller (6") coil burner in stock. If there's an electric expert out there, please answer this:



If electric current is passing through the same resistor dial on say #5 and the new burner gets twice as hot in half the time, is it using more or less electricity?



ORCAS CAR TALK

Yet one more idea that might keep away “you know who” this cold season: Install a really low wattage LED light string attached to a 24 hour timer where mice hang out (image at left). A Mouse expert (if there is such a thing) taught me this trick. Evidently the little critters hate change. I’ve used this system under my house and pointed toward my cars’ engines for many years with only a couple of kitchen mice and thankfully no more trips to a favorite island mechanic for rodent rewiring. Watch next month’s “Orcas Car Talk” for yet another mouse-be-gone technique that might work with even more success!! By the way the lights and timer can be purchased at your hardware in Crow Valley.

STORY CONTINUED

A few months ago, I promised to continue my story of how I became one of the luckiest people on earth by landing on Orcas Island. I was an average 47-year-old divorcee living in a sewage pit called Los Angles. Don’t get me wrong, LA has some amazing qualities—just not ones I particularly liked. For one, it was easy to make more money than you deserved in the contracting business just by being honest—not brilliant or even much more that adequate. I’m a living example of this fact.

Most days I’d leave my rather lovely home that backed up against a desert mountain covered in sage brush, rattle-snakes, and beer cans. I was living the dream or so they told me. To make my half acre of desert environment appear to be even a little bit green took eight automatic sprinkler systems pumping 2000 gallons of city water daily. What a monumental waste! I’m sorry environmentally for my stupidity.

I’d direct my 4-year old Mercedes to the donut shop and weight for the freeway to clear out. I do mean “weight” because the apple fritters I consumed each day added lots to my girth. About 8:30 AM, I’d start weaving my Yuppie-Mobile through hundreds of millions of tons of pollution to whatever nasty factory my construction company was working on. You haven’t lived until you rebuild half of a fire-damaged dog food factory or install new galvanized steel structural connectors because the old ones only lasted a year in a sheep tannery. Have you ever confronted a 10 pound rat? I have.

I must give credit to my mentor and senior partner at JH Parrish Construction. John Parrish may have had only a 3rd grade education but more importantly than education was his pure soul. He taught me my most important life lesson: Success is a synonym for honesty.

If I haven’t bored you to tears yet look for the next installment covering my introduction to what some say is paradise... Orcas Island.



One thing that is obsolete & another that should be.



SHORT STORY ABOUT A TALL CHRISTIAN

As you can see from the picture, the Baptist Church of Austin, Nevada’s facility would be difficult to classify as “ostentatious.” This corner of the church serves as the office for their small RV Park. The morning after my first overnight stay, I left my \$20 camp fee in an envelope and headed for the only open cafe in town (pop. 113). The cook told me that the pastor of the small church loved children and gave all of the proceeds of the RV Park to the school sports program. Makes you wonder about your own generosity.