



# THE HARDWARE HERALD

published monthly by

**Island Hardware & Supply, Inc.**

21 West Beach Road • Eastsound, WA 98245 • 376-4200 • Mon-Fri 7:30-5:30, Sat 8:30-5:30, Sun 9-3

Volume XVI, Issue X: October, 2016

## OCTOBER DOOR BUSTER SAVINGS

**Parabolic Oscillating Heater**..... only **\$39.88** (you save \$5.91)  
Sku: 9948605      Beat winter cold.

**3/4"x100' Contractor Grade Hose** .....only **\$66.73** (you save \$8.76)  
Sku: 0496372

**Body Barrier Painters Coveralls**.....only **\$5.95** (you save 50%)  
Large sku:1801000 XL sku: 3807385

**5/32"x50' Camo Rope**.....only **\$6.78** (you save 81¢)  
Sku: 9089129      You can't have too much rope!

**Industrial Aluminum Paint, 1 Gal**..... only **\$26.67** (you save \$3.52)  
Sku: 4533477      This is OIL BASE—protect your Equipment

## WATER PITCHERS/FILTERS

Tiny houses may be the current rage but they are not new. I grew up in a converted one-car garage a number of years ago. I've always had a special place in my heart for working poor families, maybe because my family was one. Clean drinking water should be affordable to everyone (kind of like coats for kids).

The Culligan PIT water filter pitcher is \$18.65 on Amazon. We're selling ours for \$11.65 while they last. It's important for all kids to be able to drink *clean* water, so if you know a family that can't afford to buy one of these water pitchers, let us know and we'll give one to you to give to them.

People ask what I do now that I'm retired. One thing is to search for good deals on water pitcher filters. Culligan, Pur, and Brita all use the same size filters. If we can continue to sell them for around \$6 for a 50-gallon filter, that works out to about 12¢ a gallon — a lot cheaper and healthier than sodas.



## "BORED" OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

I'm not sure if it was the great care, good wishes, prayers, Mom's Meatloaf Sandwiches, or a combination of all of the above. Warren Miller, my 91 year-old Hardware Herald columnist and "*Chairman of the Bored*" of IHS is recovering from a broken back as if someone flipped his age from 91 to 19. He is up and about promoting his latest book and coming up with ways to improve his favorite hardware store.

Thank you all for your prayers, your good wishes, and your visits. Warren and Laurie truly appreciate your thoughts.

## WE'RE PLAYING WITH THE BIG BOYS

At the recent Orgill wholesale hardware show in Las Vegas, I learned some neat stuff. To start with, our main supplier, Orgill, spends millions of dollars each year studying 48 Lowes and 48 Home Depot stores' prices across the country to be sure that the 80,000 items that Orgill is offering us are competitively priced with the big guys. One of the dealers in the audience asked about TrueValue and Ace. The speaker responded that their retails are so much higher that they do not consider them.

When you see an Island Hardware price that ends in 99¢, that's an indication that we've taken Orgill's suggested retail that is already set to compete with the "big boxes" and lowered it even further!

A price marked **DOOR BUSTER** is an item that we've purchased that month at a substantial savings and are passing the savings on to you. Grab these deals quickly—they're offered by our supplier for only one month at a time. We pass on the savings to you until they are gone.

Does all this mean that we are not trying to make a profit. Absolutely not. We are trying to provide you with what you need at the fairest price possible and at the same time provide a living wage for your neighbors (our employees). Your amazing support and their hard work is accomplishing our goal and I truly thank you from all of us.

*Paul*

The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they got for it, but what they become by it.

— John Ruskin

Nearly 30 years ago, Laurie and I were spending the summer in Vail, Colorado, while I recovered from torn rotator cuff surgery. I couldn't windsurf so we didn't go to Maui as usually so we had to find other things to do and I could still walk. While hiking one day, I ran into the editor of the Vail Daily and in the course of our conversation, he suggested that I write a weekly column for his paper.

That's over 1,300 individual stories that I've written for him so far. In my spare time for the last several years, I have been editing these stories into my autobiography. The working title is **Freedom Found** because, as you probably know by now, it took awhile before I finally realized that my adventures all came about because of my search for freedom... my goals were to get away from classrooms and, in general, square rooms and schedules.

One column was about taking my soon-to-be wife, Laurie, on a horseback trip crossing the Continental divide in the Bob Marshall wilderness in Montana. That was a 120-mile ride in six days. I shouldn't have been wearing jockey shorts because I ended up with blisters on my bum from the seams of my shorts rubbing while in the saddle. That was still early in my relationship with Laurie but she came to my rescue by putting ointment on my backside every evening!

I've written lots of stories about summers spent windsurfing on the North Shore of Maui Hawaii and getting pounded by waves that were taller than my 16-foot mast. There is even one about windsurfing from the island of Maui to the island of Molokai. The only way I was allowed to make that trip was because I promised Laurie that there would be a boat following us. Well, it sounded good at the time but she caught me.

A lot of the stories are about my experiences on the road narrating my feature-length ski film life from the stage every night.

There are other stories about building a home in Vail and being married in the living room and for many years skiing seven-days-a-week from fall to spring. Of course, this

was after I sold my film company. All I had to do in those days was to write the script; I no longer had to travel the world and run my camera. During summers, I wrote many of those columns and scripts from the salon of our powerboat while cruising in British Columbia and Southeast Alaska.

Sharing travel experiences is one of the most enjoyable parts of traveling and I have virtually endless stories about broken windows on trains, missing connections, losing passports in Italy, visiting ski resorts all over the world with my camera—many of them brand-new catastrophes on the ski scene.

In the late 1940s, television was rare as a form of entertainment but there were a couple dozen people who traveled the world making documentary movies of a different country every summer then offered this form of entertainment by showing them on tour to live audiences and narrating from the stage. It seemed like a great way to make a living. I was later able to do that my whole professional career. The main difference in my show was I filmed only in the winter and showed my movies to a very special audience called skiers.

Many of my newspaper columns came directly from the narration of my experiences of my ski films. Many things that happen while traveling are better told verbally than visually. This is why I've coined the phrase, "never ruin a good story with the absolute truth." Statistics are a lot easier to state verbally than visually and why not? No one can call you on it easily if it isn't written down!

I guess I became a storyteller at a very young age. I think it was about the time I became a Boy Scout at the age of 12. When all of my school friends were playing baseball or football on weekends, I was backpacking somewhere with my Boy Scout troop. I remember making a pack board with good, strong, very comfortably measured shoulder straps. Some of my Scouting friends are still doing a lot of backpacking.

I have included in the autobiography dozens of stories related to the learning curve of growing up. When we went backpacking in the Cesspee River in Southern California, we discovered that we could catch awesome trout simply with a line and a safety pin. The local Smokey the Bear spoke to us very seriously because we were fishing one week before the season opened. When we showed up the following weekend, there where so many fishermen, there was hardly a place to pitch a tent.

I have a lot of stories about being the only one riding a surfboard at Surfrider Beach at Malibu in the early 1940s. In those days you had to take wire cutters with you, cut a hole in the fence, then move your car down the highway 100 yards and come back, sneak through the hole and put the wires back together. Then we'd surf as long as our bodies could stand the cold water. This, of course, was many years before the invention of the wetsuit or light surfboard.

I have already self-published three different books of these columns and each book only takes about 50 columns. This winter, if I get pinned down by a month or so of blizzards, I'll pick out another 50 or 60 columns and publish another book. In the meantime, my autobiography is moving ahead very quickly...out of my hands now as the graphics and pagination, etc. are all being performed by people who know what they're doing...as opposed to how I used to do things!

I don't earn a lot of money writing newspaper columns but I certainly enjoy doing it. I do earn enough to buy the occasional pineapple milkshake and a pair of tickets to the local movie theater. Unfortunately, the local movie theater subdivided the seats with a paper-thin wall so that you can watch one movie and, at the same time, listen to the soundtrack in the adjoining theater. You have to be very careful which two films they are showing and which one to buy a ticket to see.

[Warren's autobiography is now available. Go to [warrenmiller.net](http://warrenmiller.net) to order your copy.]