

# Arrow Lumber & Hardware buys Intermountain store

Between them there are 65 years of experience in the lumber industry. Their enthusiasm for doing business in this rural community will be as large a credential as their experience.

Both Al Meier CEO of the new Arrow Lumber and Hardware and his partner, Barney Wagner, President of the company are jumping into the area's July 4th parade.

Their Arrow truck will carry the Eatonville Community Band. They bought Intermountain from Dan and Pam Painter and began last week to convert it to their first Arrow store in this area.

Ground breaking on their second store at 304th and Meridian in Graham will start in about 45 days. A third is planned for a future time in Buckley.

"We're hometown people with hometown interests at heart. We reinvest in this community," says Meier. Meier and Wagner live in communities north of Eatonville, but both have direct ties here.

Born in South Dakota, Al Meier was milking cows at the Swan Lake Dairy near Eatonville in 1942. He was 15 years old and milking about 100 cows for Ogie Enwall. His mother lived in town in a small house across from the Roxy Theatre.

"It's amazing how many people can live in a small space when that's what you've got," he said.

Meier's sister, Ruth, graduated from Eatonville High School in 1946 and now lives in Oklahoma.

Working for a time at the lum-

ber mill in Eatonville, Meier remembers that "The town got somewhat rowdy at times. Not too much, you understand. I've got a lot of good memories. This is where we did our things - dances at the Ohop Grange. For that matter, dances at the Kapowsin and Benston Granges, too!"

At age 17, Meier joined the U.S. Navy and found himself on the Battleship South Dakota. He assumed he was given that placement because South Dakota was his home state. "Just coincidence" he discovered later.

After the war, he worked at Clay City.

He built a small empire of Al Meier's Building Centers with headquarters in Fife, and stores in

(Continued on page 7)



New Arrow owners Al Meier and Barney Wagner are pictured with their lumber truck, which will carry the Eatonville Community Band in the upcoming July 4th parade. (photo by Jed Williston)