

CAROL DIMARCO |
THIS PORT ORCHARD LIFE

Straight As an Arrow

Seems like I am always building something:

A barn for my partner's expectant pygmy does. These does are about to be featured on the Jerry Springer Show as mothers of immaculate conception — or the Agouti buck we rescued was not quite as immature as its former human caretaker would have us believe.

A corral for my grandchildren's 30 bunny rabbits, which just two months ago were only two adorable, allegedly male, bunnies. Are you reading this, Mr. Springer?

A hoop house to protect my cornfield from my chickens who love corn and evidently (who knew?) love tasty corn plants.

My project list goes on and on. I am always on the lookout for deals at my local lumber and hardware store — deals and innovative ideas for using alternative materials.

I patronize Bob-Chris-Dan-Jeff-John-Mike-Patrick-Paul-Ron-Shelley-Vince Lumber and Hardware a.k.a. Arrow Lumber and Hardware of Port Orchard. I imagine they call themselves Arrow because they are straight shooters, honest, helpful, quick with joke and great ideas.

Also, I imagine trying to paint Bob-Chris-Dan-Jeff-John-Mike-Patrick-Paul-Ron-Shelley-Vince Lum-

ber and Hardware on their storefront sign would be a little cost-prohibitive and hard to remember.

Oh, I admit, when some gigundo chain lumber store opened, I checked it out. It is a really good thing I brought my miniature dachshund, Cookie, with me or I'd still be wandering around lost in there.

Cookie led me out safely but not before I got to hear:

... You're building a what? (Hoop house.)

... That item should be on aisle 3,007, which is about a quarter-mile from the front of the store, left at Appliances, right at Plumbing etc.

... And my favorite: "What's a little gal like you doing building a barn?" (I'm serious, that's a verbatim quote).

It only took one visit to this mega retail outlet to reaffirm that no one (or thing) can replace Bob-Chris-Dan-Jeff-John-Mike-Patrick-Paul-Ron-Shelley-Vince Lumber and Hardware.

They know my name. My budget. My crazy, never-ending projects. And, yes, they will meet or beat anyone else's price.

They are what make living in a small town delightful. They are not just a store. They are my advisers and friends in my always busy (but constructive) Port Orchard life.

