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EGBERT BEEKSMA

"Great oaks from tiny acorns grow" applies in more ways than one.

Seven years ago, after Egbert Beeksma bought and paid for a tiny service station at his present location, he had to borrow five dollars from his father for change to put in the till.

Today he and his wife have a flourishing business besides a nice home. Modern equipment has been installed at the service station and new lines of merchandise have been added until the business has grown to an enviable size.

Even the "hard times" of the late depression failed to affect Beeksma's business. "The depression? We didn't notice it at all," he commented.

Beeksma was born in Holland in 1905 and moved to Winnipeg, Canada, with his parents at the age of six years. The family lived there about a year and a half and then came to Whidby Island where they have lived since.

In 1919 the urge to roam got the best of "Eg," as his friends call him, and he left the Island to work on the mainland. For seven years he travelled and worked, mostly in logging camps and saw a good part of the United States.

In 1926 when he returned, injured from an accident, he bought Homer Dickson's service station and began to improve it. In June of 1928 he and Betty Nienhuis were married. Mr. and Mrs. Beeksma have a little boy nine months old.

"Most of my education came from the school of hard knocks," Beeksma said, laughing. "I enjoy hunting and fishing for recreation and caught ten nice trout just this morning."

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