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WILLIAM O'SHAUGHNESSY

"The tougher the whiskers, the better I like 'em," is the motto of "Bill" O'Shaughnessy, proprietor of the Oak Leaf Barber Shop.

And Bill ought to know, because he's been barbering here since he bought the shop in 1918 and was the fifth barber to ply his trade in Oak Harbor. He learned barbering in 1915 in Seattle and has worked in several shops there.

William O'Shaughnessy, (no middle name), was born in Kansas City, Kansas, April 25, 1891. The O'Shaughnessy family moved to Seattle the same year and Bill later attended school there.

Bill's father took up stock farming in Idaho and the family would live there during the summer and go to Seattle during the winter. It was in riding over the Idaho hills herding his father's stock that Bill learned the knack of sticking to a horse's back, that led to one of his later jobs.

Back in Seattle, before horse racing was shut down, Bill accepted a wager that he could ride, and made such a good showing down at the track that he was employed as exercise boy. Later, in 1909 and 1910, he jockeyed in principal Western Canadian cities and acquired a liking for the race track that he has never forgotten.

In 1911 Bill came to Oak Harbor to visit an aunt for a week and has lived here since then except for a few years spent in Seattle.

"I don't remember how I earned my first dollar." Bill laughed, "But I'm certain that I spent it."

He bought The Oasis along with his barber shop in 1918 and ran both until he sold The Oasis to Bert Nunan in 1923. He and Edeline McCrohan of Oak Harbor were married in 1914. They have two daughters.

Bill is a member of B. P. O. E. and the present Chief of the Oak Harbor volunteer fire department.

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