

From "Business Biographies" in the Farm Bureau News, Sept. 14, 1933:
The Farm Bureau News was published by the Island County Farm Bureau in Oak Harbor, WA between 1920 and 1950.

HOWARD MAYLOR

Howard Maylor, son of Joe R. Maylor and manager of the Oak Harbor Theatre, is a native son as was his father. Howard was born in 1902 above Maylor's Department Store where his parents then lived.

He attended school in Oak Harbor and was graduated from high school in 1921. He attended Oregon Agricultural College for a quarter and went to the University of Washington nearly a year for business training and later was graduated at Wilson's Business College in Seattle.

In 1927 he and Bessie Elliott, daughter of W. J. Elliott of Oak Harbor, were married. Howard has helped in his father's department store in his spare time ever since he was a boy, and at present takes care of the accounting and hardware buying there.

He and his wife started in the theatre business in 1929 when he purchased the equipment formerly used to present movies in the I. O. O. F. Hall, and built the Oak Harbor Theatre. Since then, with Howard taking care of the projecting and Bessie buying the pictures and managing the advertising, the Oak Harbor Theatre has become a first class little theatre.

"We first had to repair the old projectors and install electric motors." Howard said, "and shortly after we opened the theatre, we had it equipped for sound pictures."

The Oak Harbor Theatre was the first theatre in Island County to install sound and has been awarded a plaque by a national trade magazine for good sound and other high standards.

"We are continually trying to keep the Oak Harbor Theatre as near as possible to "big theatre standards," Bessie said.

She explained the difficulties encountered in buying pictures for the small theatre. "We have to buy pictures by the block, that is, a whole series, and cannot pick just certain pictures. Larger theatres can buy from several concerns and show nearly all of the big pictures, but where we run just a few days each week, we cannot do this."

The Maylors confessed that neither of them knew much about managing their present business, but they have grown to like the work very much and take pride in their theatre.

"There are lots of good pictures coming in the next series," Howard said. "There was a trend toward musical comedies when we first started the theatre here, and the musical type of picture seems to be coming back to a certain extent."

As a hobby, Howard enjoys hunting and fishing and sports. He is secretary of the Rod and Gun Club. Bessie takes the theatre as her hobby. "We both enjoy the theatre work more and more all the time," she smiled.

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