

From "Business Biographies" in the Farm Bureau News, Sept. 21, 1933:
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JOHN C. MEETER

John C. Meeter, or "Jack" as his friends know him, proprietor of the Oak Harbor Furniture Store, earned his first dollar when he was eight years old by raising pigeons and selling them. "I was pretty proud when I got a dollar for four pairs of pigeons,"

Meeter laughed, "But when the next customer thought that ten cents was a lot to offer for one pair, I decided not to sell pigeons for a living."

John Meeter was born in Cook County, Illinois in 1895. His father had come to the United States from Holland in 1848 and had raised crops on the land that is now the metropolitan area of Chicago.

My father mowed hay on what is now State Street, Chicago's busiest thoroughfare," Meeter said. "He had the first mowing machine in Cook County-a Buckeye. Persons came from miles around to see if it would really work."

The Meeters moved to Washington in 1902 and after a short time in Everett, began farming near Oak Harbor. John stayed on the farm until he was 24 years old then bought half interest in what was then known as the Oak Harbor Transfer with Ben Koetje. After two years in this business, he established a butter and egg route between Oak Harbor and Seattle. He sold out to the West Coast Dairy of Anacortes after two years and then purchased half interest in the Oak Harbor Market with Elmer Jackson.

Six and a half years later, in 1929, he sold his interest in the Market to Jackson and started the Oak Harbor Furniture Store-the first furniture business here.

Since that time Mr. and Mrs. Meeter (he and Gladys Rideout were married in 1927) have been continually building and improving their business. At present many nationally known lines are handled such as Monarch ranges, Zenith radios, Faultless washers, Simmons products, Armstrong and Gold Seal floor coverings besides a complete line of home furnishings.

Mrs. Meeter, who is very interested in interior decorating, enjoys the work in the furniture store as well as does her husband and they both take pride in keeping abreast with the times and building their business, Mrs. Meeter is an active and efficient partner in the business and sends her afternoons in the store.

"When it comes to a hobby, I enjoy baseball more than anything," Jack said. "And I like all sorts of athletics."

Meeter is a member of the town council and active in community work.

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