

From "Business Biographies" in the Farm Bureau News, Nov. 23, 1933:
The Farm Bureau News was published by the Island County Farm Bureau in Oak Harbor, WA between 1920 and 1950.

C. L. WRIGHT

"The women were wearing high French heels when I was learning the shoemaker's trade in 1913," began C. L. Wright, proprietor of the Oak Harbor Shoe Repair. "Since then we shoemakers have been busy keeping up with the styles, but I can repair them all."

Wright was born in Tacoma in 1897. When he was 16 years old he served his apprenticeship and now recalls laughingly the changes in footwear and repair methods since he learned the trade.

"Then, to half-sole a shoe you filled your mouth with tacks and began pounding." As a comparison he pointed out several machines that have lately been introduced in the trade for neater and more efficient work.

In 1915 he went to Alaska where he logged for a year and a half at Fish Bay. He has since followed logging for some time but finally gave it up entirely for shoemaking.

He has owned the Oak Harbor Shoe Repair since August 1, 1932, when he bought it from Bill Werning. He has improved and added machinery until the Oak Harbor Shoe Repair is now the best equipped on Whidby Island.

"I earned my first dollar cutting wood for a school district near Tacoma," Wright said. "A dollar a rick for cutting it and delivering it a quarter of a mile on a wheelbarrow."

Wright spent 18 months in service during the war but saw no action. He is a member of the American Legion.

"Fishing is my main hobby. That and baseball. I surely like my baseball," he said, smiling.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright were married a year before the war and have one daughter, Mamie, in high school here.

"I certainly like the climate and the people here, also the schools," Wright concluded.

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He was born in Tacoma in 1897. When he was 16 years old he served his apprenticeship and now recalls laughable changes in footwear and methods since he learned the trade.

When he first made a shoe, you filled both with tacks and began stitching. As a comparison he pointed to several machines that have lately been introduced in the trade for doing more efficient work.

After the war he went to Alaska where he worked for a year and a half at Fish River. He has since followed logging for a time but finally gave it up to return to shoemaking.

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