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CORNELIUS JOHN ABRAHAMSE ARTHUR GORDON HARRIS

Oak Harbor's smiling partners, "Art" Harris and "Neil" Abrahamse, who go "half and half" in every enterprise, have been in partnership for nearly eighteen years without yet disagreeing.

"How do we do it?" asked Art "Simply by never being serious."

"Do you mean to say that I'm never serious?" Neil interrupted.

"That's what I said--we're never serious and that's why we never disagree."

"But I am serious, lots of times, and nobody who answers to the name of Art Harris can tell me differently."

"All right then, if that's the way you feel about it . . .!"

And the fight was on. But Art and Neil were really not serious--they were merely displaying their cheerful temperaments.

These two men, one of Scotch and the other of Dutch descent, both single, are co-proprietors in their Shell oil business, drug store and farm.

Harris, who has been on Whidby Island since 1916, was born of Scotch parents at Jamaica, British West Indies, in 1892. His father was a botanist and superintendent of the Botanical Gardens.

In 1910 Art started at the Toronto Agricultural College in Canada and in 1914 he was graduated at the University of Toronto. While attending school he worked for the Canadian government and continued to work there until 1916 when he came to Whidby Island and began farming.

"From that time, everybody here knows all about me," Harris concluded.

Abrahamse was born in Westfield, North Dakota, in 1895 and lived there for several years. For nine years he lived on a ranch in Montana with his parents and in 1913 came to Whidby Island.

In looking for work he applied for a job at the Art Harris farm, and got it. He worked for Harris for five years and then Art "punished him by giving him a partnership in the business." Since that time these two men have shared equally in all their business. They have owned the Oak Harbor Drug Store for the last seven years and are now embarking in the oil business.

The partners agreed that their chief recreation was a camping trip in the mountains each year.

"The depression caught us both going and coming," Art said, "As both the ranch and store were seriously affected. However we certainly appreciate the fine support of Oak Harbor people during the past few years."

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