

## Tom Maloney became an expert on wood

By: LaRAYNE WATTS

Tom Maloney grew up in the Riverdale area of Raymond but came from Irish and Norwegian roots. His father, Peter Maloney, came from Ireland and worked in the copper mines in Butte, Montana, for many years. He also worked as a policeman in Butte. In Raymond, he was a mill hand, bridge carpenter, and in his later years a police officer (Raymond Police Chief and Pacific County Sheriff). His mother, May (Jacobsen) Maloney, was of a pioneer Pacific County family. Her father came from Norway and the family lived in the North Cove area. May worked for many years for L. V. Raymond in his real estate business.

Tom said, "I remember wandering around in L. V.'s many office areas and warehouses as a boy. L. V., to be honest, was a packrat, and so there were many interesting and offbeat things in his warehouses. L. V. and Stella Raymond were great people and helped not only our family but also many other families. They gave many things to the community, which over the years may have been forgotten. For example, they gave the land for what is now Anderson Field in Riverdale."

Tom graduated from Raymond High School in 1949 in a class that numbered 49 students.

Tom remembers many great teachers from his school year in Raymond. He said, "During the late 1930's and through the 1940's, we were fortunate to have very good and dedicated teachers for the most part."

In grade school he remembers Miss Gard. "She was supposedly deaf, but she heard everything," he commented.

During high school he recalls many very good teachers. "Mr. Flem claimed that no one who took his Chemistry class got below a B in college, and that seemed to prove out," he said. "Mr. Askegaard taught us practical math, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry."

Tom said that basketball was his favorite sport, and he played beyond high school for many years in AAU leagues, club teams and pick-up games at Washington State until his late forties. "Ray Odell in junior high school was the best basketball coach I ever had," Tom said. "What he taught me served me well for well over 30 years."

Tom also played a lot of baseball and fast pitch softball. He said, "The Raymond American Legion and Town Team (baseball) were quite successful. The softball teams behind the sterling pitching of Art Buchanan were excellent---once placing in the state championships."

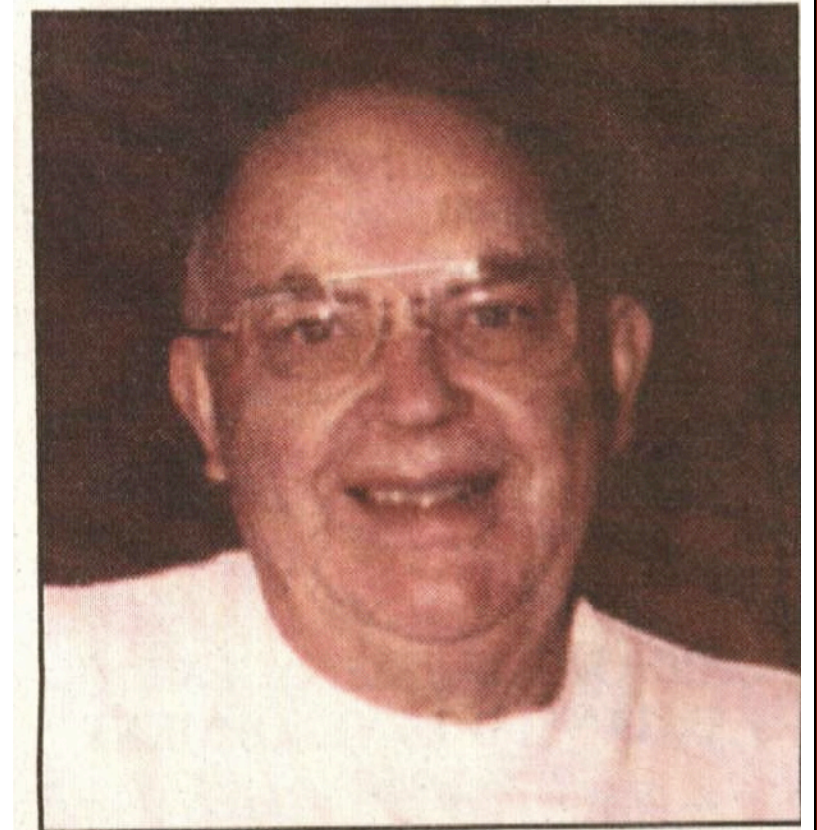
After high school Tom attended Washington State University, Graduating in 1956. He worked for 45 years in the field of developing innovative uses of wood in buildings, becoming a world-recognized authority on particleboard, fiberboard, strand board, waferboard, laminated veneer lumber, and other wood composite materials. He retired as Director of the Wood Materials and Engineering Laboratory at WSU.

He has visited plants and research facilities throughout the world and won many distinguished awards for his work, including WSU's first Faculty Excellence Award for Public Service in 1983, the Forest Industries annual award, and a Fellow of the International Academy of Wood Science. He has been an invited speaker in Mexico, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China, Australia, India, Brazil, Canada, Germany, France, Yugoslavia, Italy, Sweden, Poland, and Malaysia. Washington State University honored him by naming the Wood Composites Laboratory that he brought to worldwide recognition after him---the Tomas M. Maloney Wood Composites Laboratory.

Tom has been married to his wife, Donna, for 40 years. Donna is a registered nurse. They have three children. Bill works in a lead position for amazon.com in London, England. Carol is a program director in the College of Education and Washington State University. Joe is a production engineer and all around troubleshooter and quality control person for Baxter, Inc. in Orting, Wash.

Tom and Donna get back to Raymond often to visit old friends and his sister Susan. They also take the Willapa Harbor Herald to keep up to date on happenings in Pacific County.

Tom's advice to this year's graduating seniors is, "The basic education one can receive in Raymond is critical for moving on later in life. Unfortunately, to many people recognize this too late in life when the chance for getting a good education has passed by."



RHS Alumnus  
Thomas M. Maloney, 1949