

AGRICULTURE - - DAIRYING (SEA ISLAND)

Hewitt Hayward,
22901 Zero St. Langley, B.C.

Interviewed - March 9, 1973.

Born 1918 at Ladner . . . 1921 moved to Sea Island . . . father W.A. Hayward started dairy farm 45 acres at N.W. corner, Miller Road and McDonald Road . . . cleared last few acres to start , , . milked Guernseys by hand . . . machine later . . . started with 18 by 1935 increased the herd to 45 . . . bottled raw milk, sold to Turner Dairy and Crystal Dairy, Vancouver . . . milk picked up by a truck for the dairy . . . early milk trucker Mr. Jewel also bussed school children . . . boards put into truck which kids sat on . . . feet on milk wet floor.

School - Sea Island school closed so Hayward started at Bridgeport School . . . recalls Grade 2 teacher Miss Westman, . . . attended Cambie High School, Mr. McNeil principal around 1925.

. . . daily farm boyhood . . . at 8 years milked cows . . . drove horses in spring and 10" walking plough . . . no one worked Sunday . . . attended Sunday School at old school house, McDonald Road . . . then to United Church, Marpole.

. . . never played hookey from school . . . sad experience incident with Barney McGregor . . . after school they walked to Grauer's to see new farm . . . missed school bus (Grade 2, 7 years old), phoned and Dad picked him up . . . recalls no one playing hookey younger days . . . so few people around would be noticed . . . when Dad on council 278^{on} voters list . . . on council 10 - 12 years . . . father big man who commanded authority.

Airport land - 1929. Mayor, alderman of Vancouver out to get land on Sea Island for an airport . . . couldn't budge farmers but father went along with them to see farmers . . . bought George Wright's property first . . . going price \$300 an acre . . . were told land just as good on Lulu Island \$150 . . . McDonalds sold their land . . . explains McDonalds owned whole strip through Island . . . Three McDonalds on Sea Island . . . then bought Hardwick's 80 acres . . . Billy Buckingham wouldn't sell at that time . . . planted some willow trees at end of runway which was over his property.

Farming - Dad hauled pea vine from Buckingham . . . silo feed for dairy cows . . . this was before made pea hay . . .

c. early 1930 - Dad grew silage corn, chopped up . . . called Dent corn.

1939 - Hayward went to Ocean Falls paper mill . . . was injured . . . in hospital . . . then came home.

1943 - Government expropriated father's land for airport at approx. \$500 per acre.

. . . recalls when good potatoe crop 7 tons to an acre, now 20 - 25 tons to acre . . . grew Netted Gems . . . 1st year at farm Dad grew oats 23 sacks to the acre and last few years there, oats grew 60 sacks to the acre . . . fertilizer was cow manure . . . father never lost a crop.

Orchard on Sea Island farm: Apples were Transparents (ready by threshing time); took a bucket out to crew to eat, big tea served between noon - night meal . . . Russets, Northern Spy, Kings.

Trees: quince, crabapple, plums, winter pears "tame" Himalaya blackberries . . . sold some plums to Japanese fishermen . . .

400 - 500 pounds.

. . . rode his bike to dances at Cambie Gym.
1927 - recalled first tractors used . . . McGregors came with old Wallace disc for two years . . . old Harry McGregor was scalded with steam from radiator . . . Hewitt about 11 (1929) when family got first Fordson tractor, had it till 1939. . . . recalls using steam engine . . . and hauling water to field by water wagon . . . had windmill on farm to grind feed . . . house used gas when moved to Sea Island . . . electricity came 1924 or 1925 but had telephone when first there.

Airport - land was bought in 1929 . . . first opened 1931 . . . Hewitt liked to visit airport . . . saw Will Rogers, Wiley Post, Amelia Earhart Putnam . . . tri-motor Ford of Grant McConachie, pilot first trip in . . . Earl Ortman flew Vancouver to Mexico first . . . before World War I went to airport and flew to Coal Harbor with Canadian Airways to save a nickel, rode bike to airport then flew home to Sea Island . . . floats had to be washed . . . stacks oiled . . . had pilot's license in 1938.

. . . rode bike to school after age of 10 . . . for repairs took bike to Reeds Shop, Marpole, fixed own tires.

Blacksmith was Les Richards . . . incident re blacksmith's son Dal fell on slingshot and put his eye out, so Hewitt was deprived of his slingshot. Pete Cooney was first person to show Hewitt how to drive a tractor . . . and to drive a Model T Ford from Langs to Mah Bing's farm - 2½ miles . . . two police then in Richmond, Chief and Ed Bell who rode motorcycle.

Vegetables went to town with 3 Chinese:

Mah Luke, lived by Acme Cannery

Mah Fong, lived behind Haywards on Sea Island, farmed corn cabbage, cauliflower, squash, and Mah Wing Toi -

Hewitt Hayward

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Wagons took produce over Marpole Bridge to Water St.
Indian Reservation on north west corner of Sea Island but no Indians
there now.

Sister picked berries - Strawberries on Sherwood farms . . .
when father came to Sea Island he had McLaughlin Buick.
1925 - had a touring car. 1935 - got a Plymouth coupe.

To go to Vancouver - went to Oak St. to catch old #17 street-
car, "Toonerville Trolley" . . . used to walk or rode bike . . .
saw ice skating on Fraser between Sea Island and Lulu Island . . .
colder old days . . . told that a bucket of water froze overnight
in cabin.

1943 - moved to Ladner, bought a farm, sold it, moved to Vancouver
Southlands, 10 years, then to Ladner in 1953 - growing vegetables
. . . started with 1½ acres and in 3 years had 150 acres . . .
retired . . . moved to Langley in 1968 . . . has 80 acre farm with
few saddle horses to ride and a couple springs.

Children - five - Wanda, Lola, W.A. (William Alford), Cynthia and
Hughett Roger

Dellis Cleland