

BERRYING/FARMING/SUBDIVISIONS

Interview: July 25, 1973

Dellis Cleland

Mr. & Mrs. E.H. Herbert, assisted by Daughter June  
771 Williams Road,

Mrs. Herbert: nee Etta Craig...October 16, 1893 at Craighurst,  
Ontario...town was named for great grandfather,  
John Craig.

Eric Howell Herbert:

Born March 5, 1893 at Winnipeg, Manitoba...lived there for 25 yrs...  
operated Savoy Hotel there for 8 years...at St. Cloud, Manitoba,  
400 acres mixed farming for 8 years. *Claude?*

March, 1925, Herbert joined parents family farm, C.F. Herbert...  
16 acres...Railway Avenue, between Williams Rd and Woodwards Rd...  
mixed farming and strawberries.

Contrasts farming in Richmond with prairie farming...more hard  
work here...by hand, not machinery.

Rented 2½ acres, house, corner Woodwards and Railway...brought 4  
working horses with him from Manitoba...earned money ploughing,  
discing small acreages (2½)

40 families moved in from Saskatchewan without machinery, settled on  
Woodwards Rd., Maple and Francis... Herbert did their ploughing

Herbert rented 80 acres....area of Woodwards to Francis Rd.,  
Railway to #2 Rd.

1926: arranged sale of this land to group of people who came  
here from working Brittania Mines.

1926: Herbert bought 27 acres of permanent original 'home'  
farm which eventually became 800 acres...built house, barn,  
chicken house to start location was #3 Rd. to present Deagle  
Road and 330 feet in.

Farm included: cattle, dairying with 30 cows, 3 kinds of potatoes,  
Early Epicure, White Rose and Netted Gem. Had pasture and hay.

Rented Brighthouse and Lansdowne race track areas...put in oats  
where grass is now...to make green for races July and August.

Cut hay grass at airport runway, custom work, for Grauers who  
rented it from airport taking crops...charged by the bale.

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Gas thresher used by Herbert...then bought 2-3 combines...sold combine to John Savage...had first self-propelled combine and it was displayed in the Vancouver Diamond Jubilee.

800 acres Herbert owned or rented was used for: cattle, dairying, berrying

50 acres strawberries several years.

20-30 acres loganberries. Of the berries sold 140 tons for wine... rest went to canneries.

1938-52 Herbert handled berries sale from Richmond...got  $3\frac{1}{2}\phi$  a pound for berries when Herbert came to Richmond...people couldn't make a living at this price.

Mac McKinnon Cannery, River Road just starting up business...so agreed to take all berries.

c.1938...was selling 150 tons at end of season...Herbert got growers  $7\frac{1}{2}$  cents to pay for hauling costs...government representatives made inquiries into berry sales at a meeting...next year Herbert got  $9\frac{1}{2}\phi$  a pound for people growing berries and took  $\frac{1}{2}\phi$  a pound for hauling so price of berries rose to 10 cents...price went up to  $35\phi$  a pound one year.

Berry Canners listed: Pacific Coast Packers, Canadian Canners, on Drake St., Empress Canner, Murray's Jam, 17 & Main, Royal City, New Westminster, Growers Wine, Victoria.

1942, took all berries to New Westminster, put in cold storage, then to Oregon. Early Percy, Salem, Oregon...sold him strawberries and loganberries) under contract.

Berries Herbert sold include: Rasp<sup>berry</sup>, straw<sup>berry</sup>, logan<sup>berry</sup>, black<sup>berry</sup>, black currants, red currants, goose<sup>berries</sup> and apples.

Explanation of Crosses:

Youngberry= raspberry x blackberry

Boysenberry= raspberry x loganberry

Labor: Herbert, on his farm land had 500 people employed picking fruit...400 acres in hay...100 acres in potatoes...daughter June was bookkeeper for the farm...paid hired workers every night... workers changed daily...employment agency was Farm Labor Board.. in New Westminster...phoned day ahead for number of people needed next day...sent trucks over in morning to get pickers... got 200 Japanese steady, 165 Chinamen steady.

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1943-44 On Japanese evacuation, ...got Indians to pick... coastal Indians came and occupied Japanese home, some stayed... 3 generations of Japanese worked on his farm.

Herbert then sold own farm land for subdivisions...for first subdivision in Richmond.

1. Sold 10 acres land @ \$1,000.00 / acre
2. Sold 160 acres former Acheson Dairy farm between Blundell and Franville Ave from #3 Rd. to Gilbert
3. Sold McMyn land (which he had farmed 5 years) 80 acres on corner of #5 Rd and Steveston Highway.
4. Sold all but 2 acres of original family farm which extended from Francis Rd to Williams Rd and #3 Rd to Gilbert except for land in Gilhurst Crescent area and 12 acres at the south-east corner.

Herbert then finished sale of Broadmoor area land but building the Broadmoor Shopping Centre...a family owned business, it is valued a 3/4 million doll ars.

Herbert put in first sewer in Richmond, taking it to the top of #3 Rd and running it out 280 feet under the South Arm of the Fraser because of tidal conditions...it cost \$390,000.00.

These subdivisions listed are of land Herbert farmed...he sold other land as well for subdivisions in Richmond.

The children are: Cyril ("Berly"), Clifford and June (Mrs. Ernest Fanslau.)