

The following interview is with Arthur P. Ireland, born in 1893. The conversation takes place on April 28, 1978. Five generations of Irelands have operated the same dairy farm outside of the city limits of Forest Grove. Mr. Ireland gives an informative and interesting history of dairy farming in Washington County.

The Ireland farm has been officially designated as a "Century Farm". His Grandfather took up the Donation Land Claim in 1852. Before recalling some of his personal experiences, Mr. Ireland gives an informal history on his family migrating from the Mid-Western state of Iowa and beginning a new life in Oregon.

Mr. Ireland was quite an outspoken and prominent member of the county. He served in the Oregon State legislature for a number of years. This is no more evident than by his involvement with the famous "Milk War" and the controversy surrounding it. In another oral history tape, Mr. John Mulloy of the town of Laurel and dumping tells of the hijacking of milk headed toward markets in Portland. For a colorful account of the Milk War of 1930, one is encouraged to refer to this tape. Mr. Ireland, on the hand, was leading the battle for the dairy farmer's right to sell their milk to distributors on a consistent and regular basis. He was instrumental in the formation of the Mayflower milk cooperative. For more details, one is encouraged to refer to the actual tape and transcription.

Mr. Ireland continues on to describe the various facets of the dairy business, i.e. the early milk condensarys, safety and protection standards, market conditions, and the like. The 90 minutes of recorded conversation provide an excellent overall historical background on dairying and farming in general in Washington County. As with the other tapes dealing with the history of agriculture, it reveals the activities in the daily lives of the early farmers.

INDEX TO TAPE AND TRANSCRIPT
ARTHUR IRELAND
APRIL 28, 1978
ACCESSION NO. LOH 78-187(1,2,3)

TRACK 1

- 0-10 (pgs. 1-2) Narrator's introduction. Interviewer's introduction. Changes in farming in the area. General comments.
- 10-20 (pgs. 2-3) Arthur Ireland's grandfather beginning the Donation Land Claim. People migrating to the West.
- 20-30 (pgs. 4-5) The original farm. Crops and cattle.
- 30-40 (pgs. 6-7) Cheese factories, creameries, the dairy market.
- 50-60 (pgs. 10-12) Local farmers' reaction to the creamery. The demand and market for condensed milk. The beginning of the Portland market for fresh milk.
- 60-70 (pgs. 12-14) "The Milk War of 1931" The beginning of milk cooperatives.

TRACK 2

- 0-10 (pgs. 15-16) "The Milk War"
- 10-20 (pgs. 16-18) Attendant violence. The beginnings of the Mayflower Milk cooperative.
- 20-30 (pgs. 18-19) Milk distributors.
- 30-40 (pgs. 19-21) The continuation of the cooperative. Possible diseases in milk. Unlet fever.
- 40-50 (pgs. 21-23) Storage of milk before refrigeration. The coming of refrigeration. Cow ailments.
- 50-60 (pgs. 24-25) Pasturization. Veterinarians.
- 60-70 (pgs. 25-27) A typical working day on the farm.

TRACK 3

- 0-10 (pgs. 28-29) The mechinization of farming. ~~Life~~ leisure time.
- 10-20 (pgs. ~~29~~-30) The forest Grove Grange. Social activities, i.e. dances.
- 20-30 (pgs. 30-32) The city of Forest Grove. Dairy farming.
- 30-50 (pgs. 32-34) Changes in farming. Final comments.

Page 1
Arthur Ireland
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LM: The following interview is with Arthur P. Ireland. Born 1893. The interview takes place on April 28, 1978. Five generations of Irelands have operated the same dairy farm outside the city of Forest Grove. Mr. Ireland gives an informative and interesting history in Washington County.

LM: All right, good afternoon. Before we start with some of the questions that I have I would just like to ask some personal information. When you were born and where you were born?

AI: I was born out on the Donation Land farm that was taken out by my grandfather in 1852. My grandfather operated there for many years till his death, ~~and~~ ^{My} father followed for a good many years and then I took over and then my son Graham is farmed for several years, now his son John is running the farm. There has been a lot of changes in the last 134 years as you may well know. In the early days there was ~~just~~ ^{just} a very few people living in the county or the state of Oregon as far as that goes. It was all dirt roads and many of the roads that are used today, the main highway roads were not even considered in those days. They just built horse and buggy roads through the area. Later they were straightened out and ~~---~~ [?] for horse and buggy days and then later of course when the automobile started coming in, they began to pave the roads to get out of the mud and get out of the dust. Then population began to move in and cities began to develop. Those earlier days at least ninety-five percent of the people in Wash. Co. were agriculture people. They were born and raised and their whole occupation was on the production of food and fiber.

They had practically all hand work, very few machinery, no automobiles or trucks or what not and the main type of operation was growing some grain and production ~~prevention~~ for the family use and some surplus that they would run into to take care of the general public. But most people were living on the farm and producing a ^{nd that was their} ~~network~~ ^{They're wasn't} of livelihood, and weren't very much money available. Any hired help that was ever gotten in place of paying for it in cash alot of times they would pay for it in trade and certain bushels of wheat or what not. So that is the type of living that we had in those earlier days. Alot of the area that is farmed now and producing heavy crops was in underforests in those earlier days. The country is changed, it is surprising. I don't think anyone that at any age in the last thousand years has seen as many changes as I have in my eighty-five years of life. From the very most modern type and most type of living until the time we have seen today.

(10) LM: ~~Just in some of these,~~ Just in your opening comments you touched upon alot of different subjects and I would like to get in a little bit more detail on some of the things you touched upon. I find it amazing that there has been so many generations on your farm. I was wondering if you could start out by talking about how and why your grandfather came to this area and where he came from ?

AI: He is from Mutsicane Iowa. That particular time along the late 1840's and early ~~1956~~ ^{sp?} ~~1850's~~ there was alot of people from the midwest, were coming into this new country of Oregon and taking up Donation Land Claim.

One interesting about it, my grandfather was a young married man and he and his wife took up this Donation Land Claim. ~~and~~ They had one child ^{who} was born and his wife died and he stayed for a couple years taking care of the child and operating the farm, if you call it a farm, in those days. He found out that a girl or young woman ~~that~~ in Mutskane Iowa ^{S P?} had her lost her husband and he had gone with her in school days in Iowa, and he went back and married her. So he made a trip, came out first and went back and remarried ~~in the fall and~~ Then he followed two years later to come back. He couldn't come back ^{immediately} because he found ~~that~~ his new wife he had married was pregnant and my father was on the way and my grandmother said he couldn't travel. To go back to Oregon we would have to wait a year. So they came back the following year so my father was actually born in Mutskane Iowa by accident. So that is rather interesting I think in some of the things that happened in those days.

LM: You mentioned that a lot of people from the Midwest came out here to Oregon besides your father. Why do you think that was so? [?] Why do you think so many people from that area decided to make a long trip out here?

AI: That is a question ~~and~~ I don't think ~~it~~ can actually be answered. There was a lot of people that had that feeling of ~~go west going west~~ ^{"Go West."}. And this country at that time was still young and the population was moving west. It started as you know at the East coast. It finally came into ~~and rounded~~ ^{and around} Chicago and the middle western states and then when they began to think about what they are going to do with their young lives, These young people said that they had that idea in ~~those~~ ^{to} heads, go west and find new ~~place~~ ^{their} to live.

And I don't know if I would, but it was common.

(20) LM: It was more a sense of adventure then? Or challenge ?

AI: It was adventure that they had in their blood in those days and now there is no where to go, it is pretty well covered. I don't think people ~~are~~ or have that adventurous attitude today that they had in those earlier days. But they had ^{dairying} ~~dering~~ was a meal in those early days. I don't know where they got ahold of their few stock that they had but most of the stock dairies ahead with a few cows to produce milk for their own farm and maybe some of those neighbors. Then practically all on walking plows and sewing grain by hand and everything was done by hand. But today the things that have changed quite materially and the Wash. ^{ingto} County and the area that I ~~live~~ ~~and~~ have lived in. I am living in McMinnville at the present time. I have got my grandson who has taken over. But they are now producing dairy, they have a great many cows producing milk for the general public and irrigation is just coming in in this particular area. And they are preparing ~~for~~ to irrigating all the land at this time and their productivity is so much higher than it was in the early days. The type of living is so different than it has been.

LM: When your grandfather first settled on his Donation Land Claim after he came back, what was raised on the farm ? What was the farm used for ?

AI: He had a few beef cattle to raise. They raised chickens and they raised a few beef cattle mainly for their own use. It ^{was} ~~is~~ hard to get in to marketing any of the stock in those earlier days.

And they had one or two cows and they used some wheat and that was the main thing they did in those earlier days. They just dug it out by living in log cabins in the earlier days.

LM: So each farmer pretty much raised and grew the same type of things ?

AI: It was just expanded and when the markets began to develop and people began to come in, people living in the ^{cities} ~~cities~~ had to be fed, while then there was a market for dairy products, and ^a market for beef and a market for grain ~~that~~ products into bread and what not. So things, as time went on, why, conditions of life kept up with the demands.

LM: Was your grandfather's particular donation claim originally timber land ?

AI: No, there was ash timber and some fir on the place but not much. But it wasn't for the purpose of marketing timber. It was more a place to establish a home and raise a family, I think that was the main thinking in those earlier days. But now this area has developed into quite a marketing area, The dairy products is quite prominent and they are raising vegetables for canning purposes, raising wheat, they are raising practically all the different products at the present time. But there is a market not only in this area but in the extended area throughout the U.S. and the world market.

(30) LM: We are talking here about the market conditions. You mentioned at the very beginning that there really wasn't that market ^{in the beginning.} ~~that~~ It was all self supporting farms supported ~~part~~ part. When did this market start up and where was this market ?

AI: In the early days there ^{were} ~~are~~ a few cheese factories started up and a little ^{a few more.} later ~~than a few years later.~~ When that happened and the two creameries ^{then} started ~~and~~ they separated the milk and sent the milk to the creameries and the whole milk went to the cheese factories and then finally the Carnation Milk Co. came into Forest Grove and later into Hillsboro. That gave a boost for dairy and there is more people then ~~that~~ started in building ^{ing} ~~ding~~ barns and housing ~~this~~ ^{his} area and producing dairy products.

LM: You are talking about these cheese factories, They were in existence before the creamery out here in Forest Grove ?

AI: The cheese ^{factories} ~~factorys~~ and the creameries came in pretty well the same time. I think that probably the production of butter was one of the first things that happened ~~and~~ because they separated their milk and kept their skim milk home and raised some chickens and take from the skim milk and the ~~cream~~ ^{cream} went to the creameries for making butter.

LM: Where was the creamery in this area ? Where did your family take it ?

AI: They had a creamery near Roy. Roy didn't exist at that time but it is over in that area. And then a little later the creamery came in at Forest Grove and they sold more. And then there was a cheese factory that came in at Banks. ^{that} ~~That~~ was before Banks really existed.

LM: What years are talking about ?

AI: That was in the early teens. 1909 and 1910 and teens why that [?] ~~0~~ became to come.

LM: Did you ever take the cream or whole milk over to the creameries ?

AI: Oh yes, I done that myself as a young boy.

LM: That must have been quite a trip, it ~~doesn't~~ ^{doesn't} seem so far today but . . .

AI: We had to go with a horse and buggy or wagon and haul the milk over. ~~and~~
The routes hadn't started for the people, ^PPractically all had to deliver their own products to the cheese factories and what not. When Carnation came in they started up their routes and had wagons ~~was~~ that could be pulled by either two or four horses and go through the mud and the dust in the summer and the winter. They hauled the milk from the different dairies and took it in to Forest Grove and later into Hillsboro.

LM: That must have been quite a savings or quite an advantage for the dairy farmers to have a truck like that or a cart come by and pick up the milk.

AI: Oh yea, it is a normal thing that grew with times and grew with needs. It did relieve the farmers from bringing in two or three cans of milk which was unproductive and a wasting of time, so when the more product more dairy products were produced then they found a need for better transportation.

LM: What was the relationship between the creameries and or the condensor and the farmers? In other words the financial thing . . .

AI: ~~When~~ Carnation Milk Co. had it's first factory in the Seattle area. Above Seattle, Mount Vernon. They sent people in our particular area, Wash. Co. ^{ONA} and tried to determine if it would be practical for them to make an investment and put in a condensory in Forest Grove. They went from one farm to another and said "would you be willing to put on more cows and produce milk and send it through to Forest Grove condensory?" We think we can guarantee that we will be able to pay in about a dollar a hundred for the milk.

- LM: A hundred gallons you're speaking of ?
- AI: Per hundreds pounds. A dollar per hundred pounds of milk. Now that doesn't sound reasonable now, but we thought that if we could get a dollar for hundred pounds of milk, why sure, we would go into business. We will put up some cows. So that was the way it started.
- LM: You say a hundred pounds of milk. How much milk is that ^{actually} in actuality ? How many cows milking and . . . ?
- AI: Well a hundred pounds of milk in those days, if the cows would average twenty to twenty-five pounds of milk a day was a general average figuring the dry period and all. Because they didn't produce, didn't have a high breeding stock and they didn't have the feed that we have today. So it would take five or six cows to produce to guarantee you that you would produce at least ~~produce~~ a hundred pounds of milk every day of the year throughout the year. So there wasn't much money in production but the money was something that ^{no} ~~know~~ one had in those earlier days.
- LM: ^{Did} ~~Do~~ the men from Carnation come by your father's farm at the time and ask him ?
- AI: I remember it when I was a small boy. The representative from Carnation Milk Company came to our place and talked to my father and wanted to know if he would be interested or was practical for them to put in a cheese factory. We were really relieved and thought it was a step in the right direction and so it was done.
- LM: So where did you get the initial cows and how many did you have initially there ?

AI: Well there was few breeding stocks in those earlier days was available and Rigs started in raising more calves. Carnation Milk Co. had a dairy of their own in Seattle and they were interested in producing and supplying breeder stock, Holstein ~~stock~~^{cow} and Holstein breed. Some people bought a few from Carnation and (breeding stock.) That is where the Holstein breed started into Washington County, before that is was practically all Jerseys and Air Shires and mixed breeds of cattle.

LM: Holsteins are the best milk producers then ?

AI: They are the heavy milk producers. They are better for condensed milk and now it is proved that it is the leading breed for fluid milk because they take off the high butter fat production and all of your milk that you buy in the bottles now is on low test products, so the Holstein has become the leading cow.

LM: The Jersey cow has a high butter fat content ?

AI: They are high butter fat and are a good family cow. And some people are still staying with the Jersey cows because ~~they like~~ they like their little Jersey cow. But it hasn't been ~~proving~~ proved to be the proper cow ~~for the~~^{to} take care of the demands, low test demands that the people now are looking for. They are not looking for high fat milk they are looking for high protein milk but not too much high fat.

LM: Before the condensory came along then, ~~what~~ did the farmers in the area just have a couple of jersey cows. . ?

AI: Yes that is right.

~~_____~~

(50)
LM: You mentioned that your father and your family were quite elated when the representative came by and proposed this idea. How about the other farmers?

Did they feel similar ways?

AI: I think that it has been proved that that was the ^{consensus} ~~conservative~~ opinion. That anything that was bring in any new industry and give them a market for their product, why, they were only too happy to sign up and say that we will participate, we will supply you with the market, if you supply us with the market we will supply you with the milk.

LM: Did the farmers get together beforehand and discuss this, ~~or was it a matter of just,~~ [?] Do you remember any particular gathering ^{or} ~~of~~ discussions?

AI: There weren't so many farmers in this area at this time, but they probably did discuss it over fences when they let the horses rest ^{from} ~~when~~ their plowing and said, "What do you think about this Carnation coming in?" So it was discussed and it seemed to meet with approval.

LM: We keep mentioning the word condensery. I was wondering if you could describe what you mean by that word?

AI: The condensed milk. Condensed means it condenses the milk. They take the milk and it is cooked and canned and it is condensed down to... I don't remember the percentage but in the hundred pounds of milk I am sure that it wouldn't be over fifteen or twenty pounds of condensed milk. It is all canned and then it can be shipped and be kept for one or two years. ~~So~~ Milk is something that had to be used almost immediately because it spoiled in time.

~~But~~ Condensed milk after it is cooked and condensed and canned in air tight cans, it was sold any place throughout the world.

LM: That's what the Forest Grove and Hillsboro condensary did with milk then ?

LM: It was a national market ?

AI: That's right. Then as Portland grew, Portland demanded more fluid milk.

And Portland people, distributors from Portland came out in the area and

said, " Golly if you fix your dairies up a little better so you can cool

your milk better and take a little bit care of it, we can pay you more

for fresh milk than Carnation is paying you. " So then they had inspectors

and started in and inspecting milk and inspecting the dairies and if the

dairy would qualify for grade A then they could sell it in the Portland

market. And that is actually what put Forest Grove and Hillsboro conden-

saries out of business because with the rapid increase in the population

and the need for milk in fluid form.

LM: When did the demand start from Portland for fluid milk?

AI: Well they came out ^{along in} ~~in the long~~ of the twenties when Portland began to find

a need for having to come in the country. They used to get their milk

from the few dairymen ~~right~~ living right near Portland. They were getting

to be short supply and more the demand for fresh milk and so they started

in coming out in Wash, ^{ington} ~~Co~~ ^{County} area and Clackamas Co. and other areas and that

is when it started. And then of course the Carnation Milk Co. carried

on for a good many years. But as the population kept growing and kept

growing the greater demand for fresh milk. But Carnation finally discon-

tinued and moved out.

Portland.

And practically all the milk now is used for bottle can trade, making cheese, and to take care of the demand and some butter and cottage cheese and so many other products made by the dairy products.

LM: Again I am interested in the conception of this demand in Portland. How did that begin? Was it again people from Portland, business men would come to the farms here in Forest Grove. Who were these people that just started . . .?

AI: ^{The} ~~What happens there~~ is the consuming public in the very early days ⁱⁿ ~~when~~ Portland was no larger than Forest Grove is at the present time. Many farmers produced the milk and hauled it in ~~the~~ ten gallon cans and went down the street to Portland and the rural areas and sold it, sometimes dipped right out of the milk cans. And then as the population grew and the demand got greater then some distributors, some people in Portland said " Well let's put in a receiving station and we will buy the milk directly from the farmer and we will bottle it and sell it directly to the consumer. So there is quite a few people that went into the business of processing the milk. They would be called milk distributors. And we sold to the milk distributors and then they in turn delivered the milk to the stores and homes in Portland. And as time grew it developed up to the place where it is now.

(60) LM: Were you involved in taking some of this milk over in Portland yourself ?

AI: Oh yes. Not taking it, we never took it there directly. But the distributors had trucks in those days and some of them were horse-drawn but mostly at that particular time, why, motorized trucks took the milk into Portland.

And ^{but} ~~now~~ milk went in for awhile and they found a need organizing the dairy-
men in dairy organization. The Dairy Cooperative Association come in
about that time because we felt ~~that~~ it would be a benefit to the producer
if they had something to say ~~wh~~^{at} they got for their milk and went into
processing it themselves. So that is another development that has gone in
the many years. I was quite interested in the organization of what they
call the Dairy Cooperative ^{Association} ~~Asso.~~ in 1929 and 1930 and 1931. I worked with
that organization for twenty-nine years.

LM: Since you started this topic I was curious ~~as if a result of~~ the beginning
of the cooperative ^{was} ~~as~~ the result of what they called the Milk War back in
the 1920's

AI: That is right.

LM: Could you talk a little bit about that ?

AI: I was right in that. I was on the board of directors at that time. When we
had that Milk War in 1931, no in 1930 and we had some dumping of milk too.
And finally the distributors decided that they didn't ^{want} to deal with
a group of producers in a cooperative way. They wanted to deal with each
producer on a separate deal and pay them what they wanted to and when they
didn't need their milk say to keep it home. Dairies can't operate that
way. So the dairymen would come ~~dis~~satisfied and said we have to do some-
thing about our own marketing of our ~~milk~~. So they ^{did} ~~do~~ it on a cooperative
basis. When we had meetings with the distributors to get contracts with
them to take our milk, and they finally said that we don't need you ^{and} ~~and~~ we
can buy directly from the producer.

Start of track 2

And the statement was made at one of our meetings that we that was representing the dairymen could go home and milk the cows and we could produce and they could take care of the other end of it, that wasn't our business. That was the cause of the milk war.

End of track 1

AI: I was on the board and we kept check from the dumping of milk. And we knew that they were probably be using our organization for it. So I, leading up to the milk war, I covered the different areas talking to producers and I was on the arbitrary committee when we worked with the distributors when they turned us down. And reported back to them that our progress of lack of progress and then finally they shut the door on us and said for us to go home and take care of our end of the business and they would take care of their's. Our dairymen said okay this has gone too far. We can't operate this way and so they suggested that we could go right on dumping milk and of course I never said go out and dump it because I knew they were going to do it. Our home was the headquarters in this part of Washington State. The milk dumpers started in our home and reported back here. I had seen some milk dumping but I stayed away from dumping it.

Q: In other words you are dumping the milk for the farmers that are not participating in this? It was almost like a strike then?

AI: Well we told the dairymen to keep the milk home. They said they were all willing to do it, and they kept the milk home. But the Forest Grove Creamery, the creamery in Forest Grove, they could take the milk and we could send it to the condensery because that wasn't going into Portland,

LM: Okay continuing on with the milk war, you mentioned there was some dumping. I have talked with a man by the name of John Mulloy out in Laurel, and he told me some of the things that went on. Were you involved with any of the actual dumping ?

AI: I was on the board and we kept clear from the dumping of milk. And we knew that they ^{would} probably be suing our organization for it. So I, leading up to the milk war, I covered the different areas talking to producers and I was on the arbitrary committee when we worked with the distributors when they turned us down. And reported back to them that our progress or lack of progress and then finally they shut the door on us and said for us to go home and take care of our end of the business and they would take care of their's. Our dairymen said okay this has gone too far. We can't operate ^{that} this way and so they suggested that we could go right on dumping milk and of course I never said go out and dump it because I knew they were going to do it. Our home was the headquarters in this part of Washington County. The milk dumpers started in our home and reported back here. I had seen some milk dumping but I stayed away from dumping it.

LM: In other words you are dumping the milk for the farmers that are not participating in this ? It was almost like a strike then ?

AI: Well we told the dairymen to keep the milk home. They said they were all anxious to do it, and they kept the milk home . But the Forest Grove Creamery, the creamery in Forest Grove, they could take the milk and we could send it to the condensory because that wasn't going into Portland,

AI: Well I think they was telling the truth. Chicago had a pretty cold case
So we sold our milk where/ever we could sell it. Some had to leave their
milk home and feed it to hogs and what not, but it only lasted five days.
Some of the distributors that had been getting milk from producers that
hadn't signed up with the organization, they wanted to continue. There's
was the milk that was dumped. The trucks would come from the farm and go
into Portland and observe ^{a group of} the people on the highway would stop the truck
and they want to see what you got there and they would dump the milk on
the highway.

LM: Did this lead to any violence at all ? ~~Or was it all . . . ??~~

AI: ~~My~~ There was some, but not too much . One fella from Clark Co., Washington
got (coal cocked) [?] Somebody hit him in the head and he was in the hospital
for some while. But that was the only one that I knew of that was actually
hurt. There is alot of threats and some of the distributors told me after
it was over, ~~he said~~, I knew them real well, I knew all of them as far as that
goes. He said, " Ireland I warn you never call another Milk War" and I said
" We never intended to." Dairymen are not that kind of people, they were
forced at that time and I don't think it will be necessary again. We had
the backing of the people that time and he said I am just warning you never
call another milk strike because we had people coming back from Chicago,
gunmen out and if this thing has lasted much longer they were gonna start
killing. He said don't ever do it again. I said I don't like to be threa-
tened, I know we never intended to go that far and I hope that you wouldn't.
But as I said I don't like to be threatened. ~~But they said they . . .~~

(10)

LM: Gunmen coming out from Chicago, was that more of a threat or actual. . . ?
possibility

AI: Well I think they was telling the truth. Chicago had a pretty rough name in those days and some of the distributors would pay a couple people a thousand dollars apiece or something and come out and say we are having trouble out here and if you want a gang war let's have a gang war. When they started dumping milk, why they skin the worst.

LM: The milk war must not have been only in Wash. Co., it must have been the whole Pacific Northwest.

AI: Oh yes, It was Clark Co. Wash. and Salem and Vancouver Wash. and Clackamas County, Yamhill Co., Polk Co., whole area.

LM: ~~Was~~ Was the outgrowth after the milk war then the growth of the cooperative ?

AI: Well the same organization that makes the $\frac{2}{0}$ now. They have changed the name to Mayflower. But it was the Dairy Cooperative Asso. covered the whole area. And we have had quite a bit of criticism. The people, the

distributors didn't like to lay down and take it and they started in to try and get independent shippers that didn't belong to us, so it set up some ^{shippers} strippers to supply them the milk, they could go around us. Then

of course the organization, we had to take all of the shippers that was signed up with us and we could market all their milk, practically all their milk on a good many days. But there is always some milk that had to be made into cheese and butter which was less money. So we had to blend, put a blend price on the milk. And the distributors that went out to try and fight us, they got milk from producers and they just bought the amount of milk they needed.

And then they would show that they paid a little more per hundred weight than we did. So they used that idea and said ~~there~~ " Why do you belong to the Mayflower Milk Co. or the Dairy Cooperative Asso. when there pay offs are so much and ours are fifteen or twenty or forty cents higher." They wouldn't tell why it was higher. ^{Ours} ~~Reese~~ is higher because we took all the milk and they kept just what they needed to sell it in the high bottle can trade. And then that developed in ~~over~~ a couple of years to the point where we started losing some of our shippers because they said " We are pretty hard up we can't afford to sell milk to the Dairy Co-op for less than we can get it from selling it to the distributors". That was the cause of us going to Salem and passing the Oregon Milk Control. I was in the SEⁿate at that time. I sponsored the bill, the Oregon Milk Control bill. I carried it on the floor and fought it through the house.

LM: What year is this then ?

AI: That was in 1933. We started in in the middle of 1930 as a organization of bottling our milk. But in 1933 it got the bad point. We needed a law that all milk had to take care of his fair share the surplus.

LM: All the distributors you mean ?

AI: All distributors. Then they would take care of their, certainly have to buy the milk that came into the farm and we couldn't get it all in a bottle can trade in the high price category. Then it had to go in the lower price mill. And that had to be in a pool of so much for the bottle can milk went into bottle can trade and so much that came in overage that sold it in a cheaper category.

Butter and cheese which could be sold. And so they didn't have any of the lower price they had all in the high price, all that they bought.

LM: You talk about these other distributors, who were these other distributors, ~~in~~ other milk companies?

AI: Well Carnation Milk Company was in the distribution business and after they began to lose the business out here, they went in and bought a can trade in Portland. Carnation MILK Company and there was numerous, ^{others,} ~~there~~ was about ~~oh a~~.

LM: Was Alpenrose one at that time?

AI: Alpenrose was one. And then Alpenrose came in with us for awhile afterwards and they produced some of their own milk. And then they bought the rest of their milk from us, about two-thirds of the milk that they were bottling was from us. And Carnation and Alpenrose and the Brandy's. There is about fifteen or sixteen distributors in Portland.

LM: Just in the last few minutes we have talked about the rise of ~~sort of~~ the dairymen organizing around cooperatives and the growth of ~~a little bit~~ more political power. Presently we hear a lot about on the news and so forth about the Oregon Dairy Council and National Dairy Lobby's and so forth in the national ^{scene} ~~marketwide~~. A lot of people say they have too much power and too much say. Do you think that is so . . . ?

AI: No, I don't think so. There is one large national co-op that they claim they were working for the interest of all dairymen throughout the U.S. by having certain ceiling under ~~large~~ ^{a hundred pounds of milk.}

LM: How about before the milk was being taken into Portland. Local cows that
And they lobbied for that purpose and they may claim that they bought
~~there~~ ^{their} way in, paid money or guaranteed money to certain legislatures to
benefit our side. And they tried, figured it was illegal. I don't know
whether they did or not but they might have stepped over a little bit.

AI: You mean there disease from the milk?
LM: Yes, I mean a problem in your area, say in the early 1900s?
AI: Yes, I mean, don't they have an idea that probably knew it was done. That
was one big cooperative organization on the national basis. But we had
nothing to do with that here.

LM: All right, going back a little bit before the cooperative came about. You
were mentioning that when the demand started to increase our fluid milk
here in Portland, that inspectors would come by and look at the farms and
see if the quality of milk was right. Was that a problem in the early
farms, diseased milk or keeping it bacteria free?

AI: That is true in having that milk so that it was handled ^{satisfactorily} satisfactorily and
there is always some dairyman that never washed the cows utters as they
should and maybe add a little dirt in the milk and if they sold in the
fluid milk bottles why it wasn't ^{acceptable.} ~~acceptable~~. Then it would get off bolder ^{sp}
and the person that fed certain products to their cows sometimes it would
carry over to the flavor of the milk. So that was the reason why. They
wanted to keep the barn floors clean and they wanted to have it cooling,
and cooling it down at a certain time and keep the washing utensils up
in good shape. So they had an inspection passed, and ordinance passed in
Portland to have inspectors to inspect all milk that come into Portland.

LM: How about before the milk was being taken into Portland[?] Local cows that were used by the farmers themselves, were there ever problems with children getting ill from the milk ?

AI: You mean was there disease from the milk?

LM: Yes, was that a problem in your family say or neighbors' ^{families} family ? *unlet*

AI: No, ~~I think that~~ I don't think that that is the ^{unlet} might have been ~~----~~ fever in those days and people didn't know what ~~----~~ fever was. There might have been a little [?] ~~----~~. But and some of these families that were never very sanitary (there is always some you know) some farmers that produced milk and used it on the table that I wouldn't drink. It just some of the milk wet handed and they would come in and the cows would be out in the pasture with mud all over their utters and they would put the bucket right under it and milk it and of course dirt would go into it and you can't strain it out. So they needed some inspection. When inspectors come in and inspect it, why, then they over set themselves some and made a lot of dairymen mad. ^{unlet} Even some of the dairymen that were good clean people. They would have some little violation and if you get three violations on you they breeded each day and get two or three violations why they said well we are going to deny your milk to come into Portland. So they would have to send it to Carnation or someplace else.

(40) LM: What ~~would~~ the farmers do to keep the milk cool before the days of refrigeration ? What did your father do or you do ?

AI: ~~We put it,~~ ^{unlet} It wasn't long ~~before~~ after we started in with inspection that you had to have refrigeration. But in earlier days before that we practically always had big watering troughs and put right a^{ft}er cows would milk we would in a ten gallon can, just as soon as it was full put it in the

watering trough and we would stir it and we would take the body temperature out of the milk and that would help a lot. But it didn't get it down low enough. Then finally an inspection ~~came in and say~~ you can't do that anymore because you have to have refrigeration. And those that didn't have the refrigeration got it or else they didn't get on the market.

LM: Was that ^{an} expensive thing to ~~influence~~ or refrigerat^eing the milk ?

AI: Well it was on the start they had to have milk coolers and they would have good well water and you would use that well water to cool down under the cooler. You would get it down fairly good and that was exceptable but for awhile then finally well you had to get an artificial. BUT it got by steps and improved the quality of the milk.

LM: We have been talking a little about the quality of the milk itself and some of the diseases that might be possible. How about the quality of the cows ?

AI: Well that is where it comes in at. The cows had unlet fever or cows that had aborted. Why there milk was ^{maybe} ~~maybe~~ contaminated for unlet fever and give a person unlet fever. So that was something that he had to check and cows, we finally passed laws that the cows had to be inspected. ^{At} ~~so on~~ the start they were not inspected. Then if the cow is just after she might have a bruised utter and maybe one of her utters had milk that shouldn't be put in the can. Sometimes they put ~~on~~ the milk to quick after a cow had ---- and ~~that~~ milk isn't good for five or six days. They had to inspect to see that that didn't happen.

LM: What is unlet fever by the way ? Is that something that the cows had and was transmitted along to us ?

AI: A cow with unlet fever would throw a calf, they wouldn't carry a calf through. Then the milk itself was not good, and then the milk itself could get the consumers if it wasn't pasturized, if it was pasturized okay then the pasturization company took care of it. But if the milk was not pasturized why then the unlet fever would come into the person that was using that milk, ^{it could} would become sick and get unlet fever.

LM: What were the symptoms then?

AI: About the only symptoms is the history of the cow and only the dairymen would have that.

LM: No I mean to the actual person that would get this, the person that would get this from drinking the milk. Was it something that would cause death? Or was it like a flu or what?

AI: The symptoms of unlet fever with an individual you would lose ^{weight} and you just wouldn't feel good and you would be on the shelf half the time and ~~actually~~ you of course, If you weighed a hundred and seventy-five pounds you would go down to about a hundred and forty. You would lose ~~w~~weight and lose appetite and he was a sick man and that's what the fever would do to you. I don't know if it could cause death but it is a bad ~~to~~ thing to get ahold of because you can't get rid of it for along time. Somwtimes if you get unlet fever you might have it for the rest of your life. So it is a dangerous thing.

LM: Did some of the farm children get that or some of the farmers families?

AI: I know a good many of them that has had unlet fever. But if the milk is pasturized that is the reason why they got that pasturization law. That would protect it.

LM: When did the pasturization law come in?

AI: The pasturization law is state law passed in the state of Oregon. It is passed by practically every state in the nation. But sometimes even before Oregon passed the ^{Pasturization} ~~Pasturization~~ law they, the city had passed ^{a law} the milk used in the city had to be pasturized. So they did that before the state come in. And that is the reason that Tillamook, they had alot of abortion in their area at one time years ago. They wouldn't clean it out because they knew they would lose half there cows to be slaughtered. They were making cheese and cheese milk was not pasturized when it went into cheese. So the state stepped in and passed the pasturization law over the objections of the Tillamook dairymen. But it was the best thing that ever happened to them. There cleaned up now and everything is okay.

LM: How about when the cows themselves had calves or got sick, was there an vetharian around what would come out to the farm ?

AI: ^{Veterinarians} ~~Vetnarians~~ were called part of the time and part of the time they weren't. Because the cow could abort and then they could carry there produced milk but not quite so much. Sometimes the veterⁿarian would be called, even if the veterⁿarian did come out there wasn't any law that made illegal for quite awhile. So all the veterⁿarian could do is treat the cow and carried right on the illegal operation. The operation that was not practical it should have been corrected and it finally was corrected.

LM: I would like to turn back a little bit to your farm itself. I was wondering if you could describe a typical working day on the farm ? How it would start out back in when you were in your teens?

AI: Well we usually had about a five o'clock getting up time, ~~and~~ going out to milk the cows and then we had horses to curry and some of us would go and milk the cows and then another would take care of the horses. Then we would go in to breakfast. We would work in the fields all day, we would work ten hours in the fields. You would be milking and I think we had a couple hours in the morning doing chores, and then work ten hours in the field and then come home.

LM: Working in the fields, What would you do during this ten hours ?

(60)
AI: You would be plowing and hoving and seeding and having to binder in the quality or harvest of your crop. You had to binder that pulled by horses and you pulled all the good wheat and oats and what not and then you had to head chop it and then you had the thrasher to come and thrash it. That was the time you put in on the farm. Building fences and keeping care of necessary things on a farm. Feeding pigs and chickens and what not. But during the busy harvest season the normal day on a farm was sometimes sixteen hours, but a lot of people put in about twelve and thirteen hours in a normal day. That's the way it was and you had to do it. During World War One and also World War Two, we worked eleven hours in thrashing and I know that ~~as~~ I had one man working for me all the time ^{and} but others part of the time. He had to get and milk at four thirty in the morning during harvest season and milk and harness and curry the team of horses because we had to have a team to haul bundles from the thrashing machine and the hired man would take the bottled team and he would have to get there and starting working at seven in the morning and then be working until six at night.

- LM: Did it bother you working so hard so many hours? Was it something you minded or enjoyed?
So that was eleven hours and sometimes ~~if~~ they could finish a job why they would work until it was so dark that you couldn't see. Then we would have to milk the cows and take care of the horses.
- LM: You would milk the cows twice a day then?
- AI: Of course that wasn't year round sometimes the farmers would have easier times during the bad weather. They had to take better care of their stock so they are out loafing it a big share of the time anyway but of course they get their chores done and come in and stay in the house two or three hours in the day time. They didn't quite so hard as they did ^{work} in the summer time.
- LM: Those are a lot of hours to put in for one day, most people would just ^{refuse}.
- AI: Oh yes, they finally got so that they couldn't get hired help. You couldn't ~~blame~~ blame people for not working. And we used to fill silos and we had to go and cut the corn by hand and make little piles and haul the team of horses and get a big arm full in each pile and then tow it on to the wagon and haul it to insloose cutter by the silo. Then you have to have a couple of fellas on a load to load the corn into the cutter and then you ~~wasn't~~ ^{wasn't} ~~wasn't~~ ^{wasn't} in those earlier days. One fella had to be in the feeder to feed so that it all got in regular so it doesn't plug it up. So that was heavy hard work. Even if you filled up your vetch if you filled your silos with vetch. We had long stringey heavy green vetch, we had to throw that on the wagons and haul it in and pull it apart and put into silo. This was usually had to be in the hot weather. It was hard work, there was a lot of hard work done on the farms in the early days.

LM: Did it bother you working so hard so many hours ? Was it something you minded or enjoyed ?

AI: You knew it was a must and was necessary and always I could put out alot of work. I just did it because I had to and I didn't think there was anything else I could do about it. The work had to be done, and had to do it. The farmers would exchange work alot. When silo had to take more than the normal people on a farm, then we each cutter would go to one particular farm and then the neighbors would come and help us. There was crew of sixteen people to fill their silos and then move down to the next place.

LM: So there was quite ^{a bit} ~~bit~~ of cooperation with the dairy farmers then ?

AI: There was alot of cooperation and alot of exchange work. A person might have one or two hired men and they would go along with you but that is about all the hired men you had, all the rest was ^{all} exchange work.

LM: As years went by did mechanisism cut down alot of this labor intensive type work ?

AI: As time ~~came~~ on we got corn binders to place of cutting your head of your corn by hand, cut it with the binder.

End of Track 2

Start of Track 3

LM: All right I think we were talking about the amount of work was involved and you were mentioning that how it cut down now as a result of machinery. Do you have something to add to that ?

AI: Well in the early days practically everything was done by hand. When you were filling silos you would cut corn by hand and then you would put little piles and you had to load the loose corn on to the wagons, take it to the inshey cutter and then feed it into the inshey cutter and it made it all hand work and heavy and hard work. In handling the corn and alot of the saddles were filled in the summer with ~~vetch~~ ^{vetch} and ~~that was~~, We had to go by horse and binder, horse mower and cut the heavy vetch, pulled it aside by pitchforks and loaded it on by to wagons and then that was hauled to the cutter and pulled away. So it was all hard work. Today it is all together different. We have when we are filling saddles with corn we have a truck following a cutter and they go into fields and cut two rows at a time and it is chopped up and blown into your truck and then the truck goes to your saddle and it is all fed in by your truck by artificial filler. So ~~it~~ actually, you didn't have to use a pitchfork anymore. Ours may be put in just about as much and we don't have the heavy work and one man can do what took three or four did in the early days.

LM: I am impressed by the amount of time and labor involved, but I was wondering surely not all the time was spent at hard work there must have been some kind of recreation activities and fun. Can we talk about some of these things *what you might have had in your little free time you had?*

AI: Well the farmers were ^{Their} there own boss, I can't hardly say that because the work load demanded so many hours to put in. But there are times on a farm or was times on a farm where a person could take it a little easier. But during putting in your crops and harvesting your crops and filling your silos, getting your hay in and what not, the hours were long and work was hard. You usually had a dairy person operating a farm, usually had a small dairy and had to get up in the morning at five o'clock and milk his cows and get his team ready to go to help your neighbor thrashing with a bum wagon and what not and they would work about ten or eleven hours. During the wars they had about an eleven hour day working in the fields. Then besides that you had to milk your cows in the morning and evening and take care of your horses and travel back and forth to where your working. So actually during the rush season many people figured atleast a fifteen hour day. But now conditions have changed we have combines to where as one person would go into a field combine and you use it in bulk form and they are hauled and inloaders come get truck and all mechanical and all the heavy work is gone. B ut alot of time is spent today with keeping your machinery in order.

(10) LM: Was the grange pretty strong out in this area in Forest Grove?

AI: The what ?

LM: The grange movement, did the farmers belong to that the dairy farmers?

AI: The grange organization, Well there was people that belonged to the grange and post grange is an organization that is working as a benefit of farmers but they didn't actually participate it as work. The grange movement had been very normal for many years.

They have worked to let the legislature in. So actually there wasn't anything that a grange organization or anyone else could do to relieve the number of hours that had to be on a farm.

LM: Was there any time for like going to dances or anything like that?

AI: Young people; it is surprising how much the endurance the young people have. During the real rush period there was very little of that social life because the people were worn out to the extent that they couldn't do to much. But during the winter months and many of the months of the year that wasn't quite so strenuous, there was alot of socializing among the farm people. They went to dances and they went to lodge meetings and what not and some young people would go and dance until twelve or one o'clock in the morning and still get up at five o'clock and milk the cows. So it is surprising what they did, but they had this social life on the farm to a surprising degree.

(20) LM: When you were a teen ager what was the city of Forest Grove like ? Did you ever have a chance to go into the city itself ?

AI: Well I went to high school in Forest Grove. I lived five miles out of Forest Grove. For the first year I went back and forth to school and then after that my folks carried on two homes on the farm and in the city. And I lived in town and the population in Forest Grove was at that time, twenty five hundred or three thousand people. Small high school, when I started in to high school you only had three years of high school. It started in as one year and then two and then three years till the fourth. But when I was in high school we just three years of school. The total enrollment I think the first year in high school was under a hundred, so high school was small in those days.

LM: Was it mostly a farm community at that time ?

AI: Yes, it was a farm community but we had the small city small town that was the center of the recreation and people from the area would come into Forest Grove. They had a skating rink and did a lot of skating and dancing and socializing and life wasn't all grudging we all enjoyed ourselves. I think work doesn't hurt anybody and I think people learned to work and learned what working really was in those days. And there weren't as much grumbling at that time as there is now.

LM: That is really interesting viewpoint. Right now I would like to switch a little bit and talk about the future of dairy farming here in Wash. Co. and the whole industry itself. On your farm you mentioned as a outfit that your grandfather was a dairy farmer and your father and you were and your son was and now your grandson is carrying on the tradition. Do you think dairy farming will continue out here in Forest Grove or Washington County ?

AI: I am glad that you brought that up. In early days I don't think I could consider my grandfather or father was a dairyman. They had dairy and milked a few cows but there main thing was the general farm operation. Hogs chickens, and some dairy cattle and some beef cattle and there is just a round about deal. But as time went on it got to be more commercialized and in my days a dairy on a grade A dairy didn't average over thirty milk cows and today here is an average of over a hundred. So it shows that there are few dairies that small dairies went out of business, they couldn't afford to keep up with inspection and the long hours and the necessary thing. And to buy the equipment that was necessary to continue in the dairy business,

So they went out of the business and went into growing crops, into vegetable crops, and what not. But in the early days four/fifths of the farmers were in the dairy business. Today there isn't one in five. There are just fewer dairymen that are producing more milk, the cows are producing heavier, they have increased their size and they have so much equipment now that it is hard for a young person to start in the dairy business because he had to have a fortune to start in.

LM: That is very interestin. That is really all the questions that I have unless you have something that you would like to add. Looking back on your eighty-five years and the dairy farmers in general.

AI: I would just like to make an observation that of the difference, I think we have covered it pretty much already, but farming is all together different than it used to be. Farming now is a science it is a business. In the early days it was just a way of life. Ninety-five percent of the people were living on the farms in early early days. They were looking towards making a home for themselves and raising a family. The very few dollars and very few products they market off the place, they were just living and hoping that they would be able to produce enough for themselves in their working days to carry them through in the later years. They never had social security or anything of that kind. They had to produce enough and lay enough aside so that they could take care of themselves in the older age.

LM: That must have been fairly tough to do then ?

AI: Well, it was just a necessary thing in those days. We never thought of any other way of doing it, we never leaned upon Uncle Sam.

We had few laws and people with living within themselves and I think we have a better feeling between farmer and farmer and if one farmer had a little hard luck, the other farmers will step in and help them out and contribute to their welfare.

LM: Once a farmer starts to get older and is not able to do the work himself could he depend on his children to carry on the tradition and help him out in his later years?

AI: As a general rule the children on the farm they stayed and carried over and did the same kind of work there fore fathers or grandfathers had started. Of course some of them had two or three sons, they spread out and take over adjoining farm and start in on his own. But there is all planning toward making a home and raising a family and educate the family and to lead a good life.

(40)
LM: Do you look back astoshically on the time when farming was a way of life more than it is a business today. Do you regret that change or do you see it as part of progress ?

AI: I think it is a part of progress. I think it is something that had to happened. I don't think that any of us could hope to go back to that way of life. It would be impossible now to go back, we are in a different age. I think that farmers in the earlier days had to be a good solid farmer plugger and took care of his own business and worked toward the necessary things he ^{DOWN} had to do. Today a farmer has to be a businessman, he has to make his reports to the federal government and he has to take care of his income tax, and he has to take care of so many things and of course he can't depned upon hire ^{we} help like he used to depend on.

Hired help is not trained, they have all the people out training themselves to work some place off the farm not on the farm. That is the reason that the farmers have to get more equipment and spend thousands and thousands of dollars to replace and to produce the same greater amount of product with fewer men and fewer man power. But he has to be a business man today.

LM: If you had a choice, if you could be a farmer today rather grow up on a farm today, rather when you did grow up starting eight-five years ago, which time would you pick ?

AI: Of course today you can't answer that one because today you have so many conditions and they are different. But I don't begrudge the early days of my life and the things that I was forced to do in the earlier days, it hasn't hurt me any and I look back with a certain amount of pleasure of the hardships that we had, but I wouldn't want to live my life over, but never the less I am glad that my life has been what it is. I think I have been a little bit different than most of the farmers that are born and raised on the farm only. I got into other things in my earlier days personal activities, I spent much time in organization of the Dairy Cooperative Asso. I spent twenty-nine years in Portland as either Vice-President or President of the organization. Contacted many people in goodwill activities. I spent twenty years in the legislature and now I am trying to work with senior citizens activities. I have had a very ^{satisfying} ~~degreasing~~ life. I have enjoyed it and I wouldn't like to change it.

LM: Thank you very much .

End of interview.