

AGRICULTURE - - Dairying, Potatoes, Racing Horses
and Expropriated Land

Cline Huggard,
4780 - 104 St., Delta.

Interviewed at his previous home (now His Son
Leslie's home) 355 Ferguson, Sea Island,
on April 24, 1973.

Summary from notes - tape too faint.

Born 1909 in Ontario.

Nov. 1919 arrived in Richmond at age of 10 . . . father leased
80-acre Williamson place, land at site of Administration Buildings,
present airport . . . father milked 20 Holstein cows . . . had 7
children with 3 boys becoming farmers on Sea Island: Cline, Clarence
and Carl . . . Cline attended Bridgeport School . . . first teacher
was Rachael Laing . . . went to school in an old Ford bus, driven
by Mr. Garret, of Marpole . . . growing up Cline recalls the
rule: work or not eat . . . he helped in milking and farm chores
while going to public school grades . . . had no spending money
until age of 13 or 14 when he drove the horses on a hayrack for
nearby farmers: Murphy, Dunc McDonald family, Millers.

Cline left school at 16 . . . at 18 he saved enough for down
payment of a 1928 Fordson tractor, plow and disc, using Clydesdale
horses, contracted for Chinese vegetable farmers who were renting
various farms on the Island: Mah Fong, Mah Wing Toi and Wong.

When he lived in Marpole area around 1912 recalls seeing
Chinese vegetable wagons lined up along Granville at 12 p.m. . . .
used to throw stones at Chinamen . . . father pastured cows where
White Spot, Vancouver, now is.

1912 - 1918 - father operated road roller for Municipality of
Richmond, then Municipality of Point Grey . . . also operated
steam engine for Grauer's . . . threshed for many on the Island.

Growing up on Sea Island - Cline's father operated a gas thresher . . . harvesting for as much as 38 days . . . Cline sewed sacks . . . To go to Vancouver Cline rode bicycle over the bridge to Marpole . . . then interurban tram into Vancouver . . . to go to Lulu Island, Cline went over the bridge to Bridgeport.

For fun - played pool in Marpole . . . also a pool table at Vancouver Cannery, Sea Island . . . swam in the ditches and sloughs, and North Arm of Fraser . . . caught muskrats . . . trapped them in winter . . . license cost \$10.00 . . . caught 300 per year , . . took skins to Whittiker, Water Street and wholesale depot of the Bay. 1929 Vancouver Airport was begun. Father and Cline leased all land not in use at airport for growing crops.

1933 Cline started growing peas for canning (Laxton, Alaskan) and some Netted Gem potatoes . . . Cline cut the peas . . . Royal City Cannery, New Westminster sent out machines to thresh peas . . . continued for two years . . . resumed in 1940, World War 2 - airport extension effected . . . so Cline's leased land was taken. 1942 - he leased 180 acre Erskine place - grew potatoes, peas, dairying.

1948 or 1950 - Department of Transport took over Erskine place, Cline's "best farm" . . . in one year took off crop worth \$98,000. . . had high yield of potatoes, 27 3/4 tons to the acre, White Rose potatoes . . . got a trophy that year.

1950 - bought present land (355 Ferguson) totalling 87 acres composed of 40 acres on the North side of Ferguson Road and 40 acres on the South side of Ferguson Road. 1953 acquired another. 1954 - Federal Government expropriated acreage on the South side (80 acres).

c1954 - acquired 47 acres more to the east of other acreage (totalling 87 acres) . . . and also leased expropriated acreage. . . . began to "finish off" beef cattle for 6 to 7 years, Hereford, . . . one year pastured 470 head.

Earlier: in mixed farming, grew 1000 tons of potatoes yearly . . . grew Canadex (2nd early) and Netted Gems (late) . . . got new seed (annually) from Pemberton Valley . . . used ground spray equipment . . . sold through the Marketing Board . . . also grew oats (sold some, fed some) and hay . . . and dairying.

April 1971 - Federal Government expropriated present land at 355 Ferguson Rd. - leased it back 1972.

Dec. 18, 1972 - Cline and wife moved to East Delta - 20 acres and home . . . his son Leslie (Bachelor of Agriculture, Master of Business Administration, U.B.C.) continuing the farm at 355 Ferguson Road with beef, grain and hay. Other son Doug farms 91 acres across from Erskine farm, Delta.

At East Delta: Cline and brother Carl are raising racing horses . . . have 6 at the track . . . 5 foals.

Earlier - on Sea Island, Cline's two brothers farmed at west end of Sea Island, owned 200 acres between a private dyke and municipal dyke . . . now both farm at Ladner.

D. Cleland