

by Albert W. Wardin, Jr.

HILLSDALE and the FULTON PARK DAIRY

1880s The Raz family, Swiss-German immigrants, were among the hundreds of Europeans to settle in Portland after the transcontinental train line reached the still-forested city in 1883. Dairymen by family heritage, they carved out the Fulton Park Dairy in present-day Hillsdale by decade's end.

1900s By the turn century there were some 17 dairies in this SW corner of Portland. Distinguished early settlers included the Slavin and Dosch clans, the "world famous horticulturalist" Dr. Cardwell, the "well-known circus man" Isaac Baird and the famous minstrel Primrose, who planned to use his land as a "haven for stage people in their old age."

1908 The Raz family sold the 75 cows of Fulton Park Dairy to Gustav Wardin, husband of Elizabeth Raz. For the next 45 years the Wardin family added to the dairy's holdings and herd. Their delivery wagons were horse-drawn.

1914-16 In these years just before WWI, PGE delivered the first electricity to the community and Capitol Highway, then called Slavin Road, was macadamized, an early paving process. F.M. Reed's jitney ride into Portland costs 10 cents.

1920s Gustav and Elizabeth Wardin's son Albert, now a full partner in the dairy, married Anna Klemm at the First German Baptist Church in Dec. 1926. Calendars for the dairy trumpeted "The World's Highest Milk Scores, 99% average for two years." The 1929 calendar introduced Albert Wardin, Jr. to the world, "Age 5 Months--Fed on Raw Milk." The James Lynch family leased a fruit stand on Wardin land along Capitol Highway. SW Portland's once rural countryside was being subdivided and population was booming.

1930s-40s Anna and Albert's five children were introduced and documented year by year in Fulton Park's calendars. By 1947, the dairy had 100 acres, 42 employees and serviced 3,000 retail customers in Portland, Beaverton and Lake Oswego.

1950s Multnomah School District #1 acquired 37 acres of Fulton Park Dairy land to build Wilson High School and Mary Rieke Elementary. This loss and shifts in the business environment prompted the Wardins to sell Fulton Park's distribution business to Alpenrose Dairy in 1951 and its dairy herd and equipment two years later. The family retained its property along Capitol Highway and in 1953 the present day Lynch's Market was constructed.

1960s-90 Hillsdale becomes a distinctive city neighborhood and its commercial district diversifies. Lynch's Market goes through several operators and is finally leased to *Nature's fresh Northwest*, which opens its fourth full-service grocery as *Nature's Hillsdale* in September, 1990.