

GREENBANK FARM

Phillips:

Calvin Phillips was born in Green Bank, Delaware. He later moved to Washington and became head of the Mortgage Loan Division Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia in this State.

Soon after congress passed the Act granting a transcontinental railroad, to be built, a wealthy banker in Philadelphia, Jay Cooke, and some of his friends advanced the money to cover the cost of a survey for a route from Lake Superior to Puget Sound. Before these men were repaid, the Northern Pacific Railroad became involved in litigation and had to compensate Cooke and his associates with 50,000 acres of land in Washington State. Mr. Calvin Phillips acquired about 10,000 acres of this land located at Greenbank and Oak Harbor and proceeded to sell portions of it to settlers.

On a portion of the property he called Green Bank Mr. Phillips developed an experimental dairy farm which included a landing for steamers, a hotel, store and post office. Postal officials objected to post office names with two words and the spelling was changed from Green Bank to Greenbank.

The dairy farm was stocked with 100 head of pure bred Holsteins. After a considerable period the 26 head of the herd contracted tuberculosis and were taken to Western State hospital at Steilacoom for breeding purposes, and the disease was eradicated in the next generation. The remainder of the heard was removed from the farm so that the disease germs could be destroyed by the cultivation of all the fields and cleaning of all the buildings.

Loganberries (practicallyedible.com)

Loganberries grow on trailing canes with thorns. Though the bushes are self pollinating, and they propagated via cuttings. A Loganberry bush has a productive life of about 15 years.

Loganberries look very similar to Raspberries. They, however, very tart, so they are rarely eaten out of hand and usually used for cooking or making wine with. Indeed, the berry is also more important as breeding stock, having been used as the parent of many berry cultivars now on the market.

The berries have a deep purplish color.

Cooking tips

Can be used for any purpose a berry is used for, even wine making.

History

Field Workers

During the 1960's the field workers were Stan Bowman, Willy Letola, Bob Letola, Glen Lamphere and Bob Henderson

Five full time field workers paid \$1.25/hr for 5 1/2 days a week. Three or four additional field workers were hired for summer tasks such as weeding, moving irrigation line, weighing berry buckets, delivering barrels to the barn and driving truck to haul the berries to cold storage in Seattle.

Pickers at peak of season

60 pickers 1961

80 to 100 pickers 1970

Crops;

Summer Harvest: (1963 Washington Farmer Article and J.L.S)

Loganberry harvest usually started about mid July and ran until late August. Local high school girls mostly were hired as pickers. At the peak of the season 50 to 60 pickers were employed. The pickers put the ripe berries and put in buckets; 15 to 20 pounds per bucket. Pay was 3 cents per pound with a 2 cent bonus per pound if they stayed the entire season. Buckets dumped into 55 gallon barrels with plastic liners. Each barrel contained 400 pounds of berries. The full barrels were stored in the barn and kept cool so they wouldn't explode. Each night a truck load of approximately 18 to 20 barrels were delivered to Seattle Ice Co. where they were frozen and stored until needed.

A sled with scales for the buckets and barrels was towed through the fields. An employee would weigh and dump the buckets. Another employee would haul the barrels to the barn and each night haul them to Seattle with the truck. Melva Sinema would record the information and keep daily records of each picker total pounds.

At the height of the berry season it took 60 pickers approximately 12 days for each picking of all the fields. Picker payroll approximately \$13,000.00 (1961 article).

"Sinema says it takes 80 to 100 pickers 6 sweeps through the fields to yield from 150 to 160 tons" (of loganberries). (1963 article)

Yield:

1961 130 tons of loganberries, blackberries and currants (1961 article)

1970 loganberries 843 barrels = 168 tons (John Sinema notes)
Currants, 94 barrels = 18.8 tons

The Loganberry bush was found as a chance seeding in 1881 by a Judge James H. Logan in Santa Cruz, California, and named after him.

The fruit was first tasted in 13 May 1883.

It's not entirely certain whether it is a variety of a Blackberry or a cross between a Raspberry and a Blackberry.

It was introduced to England in 1897.

American Wine Growers (1961 article)

In late probation days, 13 partners made apple juice. In 1933, they went into the wine business in Seattle as the Pommerelle Company.

Pommerelle Acquisition of Farm??????????????????

John Moltz planted Loganberries in the triangle in 1933. (James V. Casey)

That same year, other interests formed the National Wine Co. also in Seattle. The Pommerelle partnership acquired National Wine Co. in 1940.

The partners formed American Wine Growers in 1950 to acquire the Pommerelle Co. and National Wine Co. American Wine Growers acted primarily as the marketing and administrative parent of the two.

Facilities of American Wine Growers included the Pommerelle Plant in Seattle, the National Wine Co. plant in Grandview, Yakima County, four grape farms in Yakima Valley with a total of about 500 acres, and a 540 acre farm on Whidbey Island where loganberries, blackberries and red currents are grown.

Greenbank Farm Full Time Employees:

Farm Manager 1946 to 1970; John Lewis Sinema

John Lewis Sinema became Farm Manager and moved to the farm in the late winter of February 1946 to repair the houses and buildings which had been vandalized. John's family moved into the Sears house on farm in June 1946. Later we moved into the house at the north end of the barns.

Family Members:

John Lewis Sinema

Melva May Sinema, wife

Leda Ann (Casey) Baker, stepdaughter (Deceased)

James Vincent Casey, stepson, (Portland Oregon)

John Lee Sinema, son (Anacortes Washington)

Fall:

Loganberry plants were set 10 feet apart in 500 foot long rows. Spacing between rows is 9 feet. Each plants bearing growth for the season is supported on two wires stretched between cedar posts set 30 feet apart in the rows. These support wires are stapled about midway up and near the top of the posts which are set to reach 4 ½ feet above the ground.

Each health plant will produce about 14 healthy shoots per year. During the growing season these new runners will reach lengths of 15 feet or more. To protect against damage from mechanical and human weeders and cultivators and also to keep away open for pickers, the course of this new growth is controlled by staking it to the ground between the posts.

Immediately following harvest, experienced pruners start removing old wood which produced the season's crop to clear the way for bringing new growth up to the support wires. 10 of the strongest runners at each plant are saved for training, all others are cut back to the crown along with the old wood. The pruned material was tossed between the rows and run over with a disk to make mulch.

Applied at the rate of ½ pound per plant, 14-14-14 commercial fertilizer is applied in the spring. Normal rainfall in the area provides enough moisture except for some of the higher spots which are sprinkler irrigated with water from the pond.

Anthrachnose, a soil born fungus, is one of the major troubles for loganberries. Generally it remains dormant until during the winter until late February. When the foliage is young and before the buds break, dad sprayed with a lime-sulphur solution. For a second treatment late in May or early June and pre-bloom sprayed with ferbam.

Additional winter tasks;

Equipment maintenance

Splitting stakes

Barrel stenciling

Posts:

From 1946 until the mid 1960s the fence posts were hand split cedar beach logs soaked in anti- rot liquid and were placed in hand dug holes. Beginning in the mid 1960s 3x6 cedar posts were treated and placed with a driver mounted on the front of a Ford tractor.

An extreme freeze in November 1955 killed all the berry vines. Dad, mom and I went to Oregon to get a truck load of new plants. The existing plants had very sharp thorns.

However the replacement plants were a highbred thornless variety and were much easier to work with. (Jim Casey)

New plants will bear fruit in one year and be in full production in the third year.... (Jim Casey and 1963 article)

Buildings:

The original loafing shed, bull shed and chicken house as well as several smaller structures were torn down due to dry rot.

Community Club

The Greenbank Progressive Club was founded in 1949 and held its early meetings in the bunkhouse located in the northerly most barn. There were square dances and many fund raising activities. A total of \$3,500.00 was raised to construct the existing club house located on fire house road.