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*FREDERICK L. YOUNG FAMILY – By Frederick L. Young*

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The YOUNG family has been in the Pleasant Valley, Claquato area ever since 1867 when my great-grandfather George L. YOUNG settled her to farm on the Levi L. GATES Donation Land Claim. Levi GATES died of T.B. and George took over his farm and married his widow, who was a WHITTIER from New England, on May 2, 1867. They had two sons who farmed; Clarence on the west side of Pleasant Valley and Frederick L., born March 17, 1869, my grandfather, who farmed on the north end of the Chehalis River Valley by Claquato.

Frederick married and had one child, Lewis W. YOUNG, my father born February 12, 1903. Mrs. YOUNG, who was a CLINTON, died October 27, 1903, at age 26. Frederick married again and had another son, Gardiner, and a daughter, Margret. Frederick farmed and in the fall always ran the threshing and baling crews. He was killed September 17, 1928, age 59, moving machinery up Foster Hill. He was crushed between his tractor and the thresher in front of his father's home. I was not yet two years old then so I never knew either of my grandparents.

My father attended Claquato Grade School and my mother, Nina (CHASE) attended Twin Oaks, both of them graduated from Adna High School; Mother in 1921 and Dad in 1922. They married in 1923 and had four children; Harvey, born August 4, 1924, who served in the navy in WW II, then became a doctor in Spokane; Jean, born September 18, 1925; Donna, Born December 30, 1929, died at age 50; and myself, Frederick L. YOUNG, born December 20, 1926.

Lewis and Nina YOUNG lived and farmed all their lives. Both were active in the grange. In 1927 dad bought the SENN farm, known today as the Ernie ROTHLIN place. The barn burned down their second year there. We sold cream and milk to Lewis Pacific Dairymen's Assn. and eggs to Washington Co-op. We sold three to four hogs a week to Pool's market on 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Chehalis.

I grew up there with many happy experiences of farm life that made lasting impressions on me, swimming lessons in the river every week in the summer and cleaning those chicken houses every Saturday morning is something I'll never forget. We listened to the radio at night – The Lone Ranger, The Green Hornet, Amos and Andy (there wasn't any T.V. then). We ate potato soup five days a week at Adna School lunch room. It was the depression then; W.P.A. crews digging ditch by hand. During the floods of 1933 and 1936, we got in a boat from the front steps of the house and the milk truck went off the bridge on Christmas day, all the milk and creams going into the river.

I remember roller skating in the hay loft; homemade ice-cream and fried chicken every Sunday in the summer; dry cereal on Sundays, otherwise oatmeal; shutting my sisters in the empty silo all day (were they mad when I let them out); Rosemary RAYTON's flesh-colored bathing suit; riding Shetland ponies from CLARK's, they either kicked you in the gut or bucked you off in the gravel road; being water boy for the threshing crew every hour (The well always went dry when we needed water the most; running the downspout during silo filling corn was the best because of the little cobs you throw at your sisters; sleeping out in the hayfield on a shock of hay and watching all the stars; learning to milk cows by hand. Yes. Growing up there from diapers to girl friends was hard work but fun for everyone.

Dad sold his farm in 1941 and bought the big Foster place up on the hill where June and I live today. In 1943 we bought my great-grandfather's place back from Tom NESBIT who had purchased it from my grandfather in 1921.

My mother, Nina, passed away in 1958 at age 55. My father died at age 73. June (HALBERT) and I were married July 20, 1947. We lived in my grandfather's big house until 1949 when the big earthquake ruined all the fireplaces. We

then lived in the old FOSTER house that had been pulled down to the bottom of the hill by horses so that Mr. FOSTER could build the big white house that we live in today. All the homes June and I have lived in were built before 1890.

We graduated from Chehalis High School, I in 1944, June in 1947. We met at Ocean Park at the Methodist Youth Camp. We have four children living. Richard and his wife, Marilyn, have two children and run the Northwest Sausage and Deli in Centralia. Karen and her husband, Bill have two children and live in Olympia. Fred, Jr. and Kevin both came home to farm after college.

In 1972 we formed a corporation called Claquato Farms Inc. We used the name Claquato because the property that the Claquato School was on was added from this place. The Claquato River crossing on the military road was on this place. The historic Claquato Church and former town is but a short distance away and, of course, the Claquato Cemetery is always too close to everyone. We wanted to keep the name Claquato alive. In 1979 we purchased part of the L.F. RAYTON place. This makes Claquato Farms run from the old BROWNING place in Pleasant Valley where I was born in 1926 all the way north to the Claquato Bridge, where the river crossing was when my great-grandfather came here in 1867.

Fred Jr. and his wife, Sue, and their four children live on the PETERSON place. Kevin and his wife, Margaret, live on the old YOUNG farm with their three sons.

I'm 58 now. June and I have eleven grandchildren. The Young's have been in the valley for 118 years and should be around another 118 at least.