

INTERVIEW

WITH ALVIN SYLVA

EARLY DAIRY FARMER

By Neil Mill

23 Jan 1976







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Side 1

Family origins

Grandparents from Azores 1860

Transporting fruit to Bodie by horse drawn wagon

How dead mans creek got its name

Portugese colony at Shaws Flat.

Father drove stage for 10 years

Father bought dairy

House to house milk delivery

Sonora Elementary School

Whole family worked on farm

Woodcutting important income supplement for loggers

Refrigeration changes dairy industry

Attended UC at Berkely

Pasturization and inspectors

Burned out by fire in 1935

Nature of competition

Spirit of Self- Sufficiency

Transportation: Horse drawn wagon to car to truck

Expansion to Jamestown and highcountry

SIDE 2

Recollections of "Old Days" in Sonora

Early education

Side 2 (Cont.)

Work ethic prevails

Methods of getting to school

First automobiles in Sonora

Early dress and customs

Chinese in Sonora: Restaurants, laundries, opium, New years celebration

Indians

Social life

Work Ethic

Started school of Agriculture at Sonora High