

EARLY HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF DISHMAN

Mr. A. T. Dishman, affectionately known as the "Father of Dishman" came to the Spokane area in 1888 from Kentucky. His native state was Virginia. The town of Dishman took its name when Mr. Dishman started his operations in 1889. At that time, the Valley was entirely covered with bunch-grass, liberally interspersed with sunflowers. There were only 3 or 4 farms between Dishman and Spokane at that time. The Road from Dishman to Spokane Bridge, corresponded almost exactly with the old Mullan Trail. The farmers tried raising apples but found difficulty in securing the correct variety of apples for the climate and soil and therefore they gradually discontinued apple growing except for home use and began to grow those edibles which the soil was better adapted to, as they then believed. Berries, grapes and melons grew remarkably well in the Valley and later the area farmers found the apple industry a flourishing enterprise. Mr. Dishman's first business venture was a livery stable at Riverside and Post which burned during the Spokane Fire in 1889. He was able to save his horses which he later traded for a heavy team of horses and since he had had considerable experience in quarrying rocks, building derricks and blasting, he purchased the Granite Hills at Dishman, hauling many thousands of tons of building rocks to Sprague and Riverside Avenue buildings in Spokane which were erected to replace the frame buildings that had burned in the Spokane Fire and also for the Lewis & Clark Building, Spokane County Court House, Sacred Heart Hospital, Great Northern Depot, Fort Wright buildings and many others. Mr. Dishman later set up a partnership with John R. Cannon and incorporated the East End Granite Co. and they proceeded to manufacture cement which they could sell at \$1.50 per barrel instead of \$9.00 a barrel for the cement that had to be shipped in. Mr. Dishman later bought property at Argonne and the Appleway, present site of the Lambert Tourist Camp

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and erected a beautiful 3 story building. This building housed a hotel, a store and a postoffice. Mrs. L. L. Tyner was the first postmistress. The building was destroyed by fire a few months after completion.

Mr. Dishman continued with his building program and later built the Boyd Conleo Building, the Ice Plant, the Jackson Seed Co. and also the Dishman Out-Door Arena, later to become famous by the personal appearance of fistio notables like Dempsey, Stribling, Schmeling, Ketchell and many others.

Later a dance hall, roller-skating rink and rodeo grounds were built and Mr. Dishman's last construction work was the erection of the Dishman Theatre building in 1938, seating 550 people, beautifully furnished throughout, and having an arrangement for free parking for capacity of house. This was built of concrete from his own gravel pit. The town of Dishman grew rapidly in the early 1900s after completion of Valloy irrigation projects and the Inland Empire Electric railway.

Mr. Harrington was the first man to homestead land in the Valley and was the second Dairyman. Dishman and Patterson who had the first lumber mill in the Valley, delivered lumber by horse and wagon on a dirt road that was none too good to Spokane at \$7.50 per thousand feet. Dishman and Patterson also operated a grist mill. Mr. Milmer operated a pool hall and barber shop. Other early business men of the Dishman area were J. F. Brod, C.P. Price, Oscar Reinemer, Ll L. Tyner, J. B. Phelps, George Phelps, W. F. McCana, George D. Grant, Frank Rogor, J. C. Fort<sup>FELTS</sup> and Charles Harden. <sup>FELTS</sup>

There were many others who helped to make Dishman and the Spokane Valley. In fact, every early resident had a part in developing the Valley from a grass-covered waste to the Garden of Eden-like place it now is.

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*By M. Goulet-Renaud*

Romance of Achievement -----First National Bank-----KHQ.  
Mr. A.T.Dishman ----- Friday, Jan.20,1939.---9:30 P.M.-----.

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In paying Homage to another Pioneer of the Inland Empire tonite, Romance of Achievement, Radio Spokesman of the First National Bank of Spokane, pays Homage also to several others, who, with our Guest of the Evening, helped materially to make of our story tonite, one of unusual interest.-----It was no doubt the intrepid spirit of other Inland Empire Pioneers, that inspired Mr. A.T.Dishman our Guest, to achieve tremendous success as a builder of this part of the far West.-----Affectionately known as the "Father of Dishman", Mr. Dishman came to Spokane in 1888, after a sojourn in Kentucky, when, at the age of 19, he was engaged in construction work for 4 years. In visiting with Mr. Dishman, we neglected to find out just HOW he spent his formative years, but of course we learned that he was born on a <sup>Patomac</sup> ~~Patomac~~ Farm in Virginia, 60 miles from Washington D.C. in 1865, in what was then known as the Tidewater Country.---Mr. Dishman was accompanied to Spokane in 1888 by two brothers, and in that year started what we later learned, one of the most remarkable feats of achievement that the West ever knew.-----The town of Dishman took its name when Mr. Dishman started his operations in 1889.---At that time, the Valley was entirely covered with Bunch-Grass, liberally interspersed with Sunflowers.---There were only 3 or 4 Farms between Dishman and Spokane at that time.---The Road from Dishman to Spokane Bridge, corresponded almost exactly with the old Mullan Trail. Encountering difficulty as to the correct variety of Apples to plant, settlers in those formative years of Dishman gradually discontinued growing Apples, except for Home use, and instead began to grow those edibles which the soil was better adapted to, as they then believed. Berries, Grapes and Melons grew remarkably well in the Valley, but of course Apples also came into their own later, as we now see they

Mr. A.T. Dishman -----2,

should have.-----Fruits and Vegetables tho, were not the things in which Mr. Dishman excelled.-----He was a builder, using Brick, Wood, Sand, and Stone.---Sketchelly now, we have set the Stage for a real Pioneer, and in the few moments available, we will proceed to tell all to briefly, the Romance of Achievement crowded into one mans life.

Mr. Dishmans first effort in business, was by buying an interest in a Livery Stable, which were then as thick as Garages NOW are.

In August of 1889, his Livery Stable was completely burned down, but he was able to save his Horses, and traded them for heavy Team Horses.

Now we find A.T. Dishman going into the building business, which was his Natural inclination.---Seeing a demand for all kinds of Building materials, and having had considerable experience in Quarrying rocks, building derricks and blasting, he proceeded to blast off the Hills around Minnehaha Park, and up-river water works, which was then known as "No-Mans-Land".---Looking for BETTER material, he found and purchased the Granite Hills at Dishman, hauling many thousands of tons of Building Rocks to Sprague and Riverside Avenue Buildings, including Lewis and Clark Bldg, County Court House, Sacred Heart Hospital, Gonzaga College, Great Northern Depot, Fort Wright Buildings, and many others.-----HIS, was a BIG business now, before of course the days of Concrete Manufacture in the West.---Mr. Dishman imported Cement, selling for 9 dollars a barrel.---Now, he and John R. Casson incorporated the Esat End Granite Co, ~~which was the firm of Casson and Endoff, and who now owns and operates the Empire Granite and Gravel Co.~~---After the manufacturing of Cement in Spokane, ~~it~~ selling for the price of \$1.50, instead of 9 dollars a barrel, Mr. Dishman turned his attention to operating the Dishman Sand and Gravel Pits.

Mr. A.T. Dishman -----3.

He also went into Lime and Brick Manufacturing, and all kinds of building materials, incorporating the Idaho Lime Co.---Then he built Lime Kilns at Bay View Idaho, and at Bossburg on the Columbia River, now called Evans, and now owned and operated by the U.S. <sup>Gypson</sup> ~~Steel~~ Co.-----Expanding firther, Mr. Dishman bot and operated a large Brick-Yard, southwest of the City, making and Selling in the Spokane and surrounding country, 35 million Brick.---While engaged in making Brick, he built a beautiful 3-story building on Argond and the Appleway, PRESENT site of the Lambert Tourist Camp, which burned a few months after completion, a great loss to him, the town, and the Valley. Some of the most important buildings he later erected were the following.---The Boyd\*Conlee Building, the Ice Plant, Dishman Ford Agency, Dishman Trading Co., Dishman Lumber Co., and the Jackson Seed Co.

He also built the Dishman Out-Door Arena, later to become famous by the personal appearance of Fistic Notables like Dempsey, Stribling, Schmeling, Ketchell, and many others.---Among his further properties, was a Dance Hall, Roller-Skating Rink, and the Rodeo Grounds.

He told us his last construction work, was putting up the Dishman Theatre Building in 1938, seating 550 people, beautifully furnished thruout, and having an arrangement for Free Parking for Capacity of House.---This was built of concrete, from his own Gravel Pit.

Mr. Dishman counts among his finest associations, the members of Spokane's First National Bank, from which institution he has borrowed money, and done business WITH, for the past 50 years.

A Personal side-lite, shows us that Mr. Dishman is a Widower, loosing his wife 7 years ago.--He has lived at 1927 West Second Ave, for the past 25 years.---He did'nt give us his age in round numbers, but if we be allowed to prophesy, we do so, without fear of successful contradiction, that Mr. Dishman will live to BUILD, many more structures

Mr. Dishman -----.

for his youthful physical appearance fairly SHOUTS further achievement, for the town that proudly bears his name, and of which they are as proud of as he MUST be.-----So, from the land of Bunch-Grass and Sunflowers, emerged a Pioneer of the West, ~~###~~ whose life is synomonous with Romance of Achievement.-----MUCH more could have beed said of this man, but perhaps at another time, we will have the honor of continuing the story of his remarkable achievements in this land of ours, now transformed to a land of opportunity for the unborn generations, who will benefit by the foresight of men such as we have had the privilege of telling about tonite. To Mr. A.T.Dishman in particular then, we Honor and Salute in our small way, his Achievements ~~#####~~ in helping to build a bigger and better West.