

## Preface

What a privilege it is to have been a part of the dairy cows (and people) migration into the San Joaquin Valley and particularly Tulare County for over 40 years!

As a land broker our primary working area has been Tulare County. Even with the limited area it has not been unusual to drive from 35,000 to 40,000 miles per year showing off our area to those considering moving here.

The first seven years were the most difficult years. Establishing a large enough Dutch community to attract fellow countrymen, touring people through the latest dairy developments and finding the appropriate parcel of land. But the pay was good: 40 acres at \$500 per acre with a 5% commission, which you split with the listing broker less the office cut and you wound up with \$300! Back then we sure appreciated an 80 acre sale at \$750 to \$1,000 per acre!

The migration happened in basically three stages. The first stage happened in the years between 196? And 1968. These people were the pioneers – the ones who came to buy a herd of cows, who had no money for a facility and who worked on paying down the cows loans. The second stage was people who came to the area with their herds – they had good herd equities and enough borrowing power to build themselves a new place – 1965-1985. The third stage was basically people who sold property elsewhere and came with substantial money – enough to build plus double or triple their herd size – 1985-2005.

This booklet is not meant to be an accurate record of what happened during the 40 plus years. Too many records have been lost, memories have failed or become inaccurate. Too many names have inadvertently been excluded. We didn't always keep track of what our competition was doing in relocating dairies, who they were selling to and when. We apologize for error and omissions. Although this is primarily the record of the Dutch migration it certainly included a number of non-Dutch dairy producers.

If you are a part of the “migrants” we certainly hope we did not forget your name and if we did please accept our apology.

The sad part of compiling this history is to realize how many of these people who settled into Tulare County have passed on. Hopefully these pages will help keep them in our memory.

A journey of a group of people whether crossing a border, coming across the ocean or migrating to a different part of the country or state creates history. This booklet is to give you a glimpse of the migration of Dutch dairy families to the San Joaquin Valley.