

Chapter 4

What makes these people come to Tulare County during the early and mid sixties? Was the money to be made in operating a dairy and selling milk to a processor who had a lot of control and where milk was predominately used for manufacturing, thus paying out much lower prices than were received by most operators in Southern California? Why work like a slave and tie your family down to that type of lifestyle as well.

It seems that many of the Dutch people have an overwhelming desire to be in a business for themselves. Many of those who came from across the ocean had limited education but a strong background in agriculture, particularly dairy. I believe that the desire to be on ones own, not accountable to others, and the belief that if one worked hard enough and long enough, you could be successful. I'm not sure just what the definition of success was at the time except that it included on eventually of having one's own dairy facility, raising a family which in most cases included private Christian education at a substantial cost, and at some time being relieved of some of the hard labor. Another goal was to help any of the children who wanted to get into the dairy business to do so.

My guess is that few could have envisioned the dairy the dairy industry as it is today. Is talking to some, the comment is often made that they had no idea that the dairy business would take them financially to the point where they are today.

As noted earlier most of thee people coming prior to the establishment of the Milk Pool Quota system, came with very limited funds. Many borrowed from a friend or relative in addition to a bank just to buy a herd of cows and rent a facility. I think it shows the will and determination to be successful. Bankruptcies just didn't happen among these people.

Most all the rental dairies had flat barns and either flat corrals or corrals with big holes in them. Winters were tough for man and beast! Most of the Dutch dairymen attended the Hanford Christian Reformed Church but few made the evening service during the winter due all the extra work. Even over the next 10 years the evening church services were held late to tenable the dairy families to attend.