

Biography - Alderson

SUN PRESS - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1983 - PAGE 21

Remembering Yakima By Those Who Were There

Four Generations Hold Land for a Century

By Gary L. Jackson

When John Alderson purchased land in the Fruitvale area, he planted a family tree that now extends to a fourth generation growing up on the same place.

Alderson had moved from England to Pennsylvania then to the Yakima area, settling at what is now 32nd and Powerhouse Road in 1888. He and his wife Elizabeth purchased the land from Daniel McDonald and proceeded to transform their 80 acres into a fruit farm.

The couple had nine children including Samuel E. Alderson who carried on the family tradition, living in the family home and farming the land. Sam Alderson also worked for Pacific Power & Light from 1906 until 1947.

Besides working the land and working for the power company, he found time to build a major addition to the family home and do extensive landscaping which included hauling in gigantic boulders from Cowlitz Canyon. Samuel and his wife Adele had six children.

Harold S. Alderson, one of Samuel's six children, carried on the tradition. He lived in the family home and farmed the land. He and his wife Margaret still live there, and Harold is now in the process of retiring. The couple had four children, including Carolyn Alderson Smith.

"I grew up in the family home," Carolyn Smith said. "After graduating from Ike High, I went to Central Washington University and graduated with a history major. Marriage interrupted my quest for a master's degree in history after I had spent two years working on it."

Carolyn and her husband now operate a restaurant in Terrace Heights, tagged appropriately The Fourth Generation. Its walls are full of pictures showing her family's past three generations.

"Now we have a fifth generation," Carolyn said with a big smile. "Randy is six and Valerie is five."

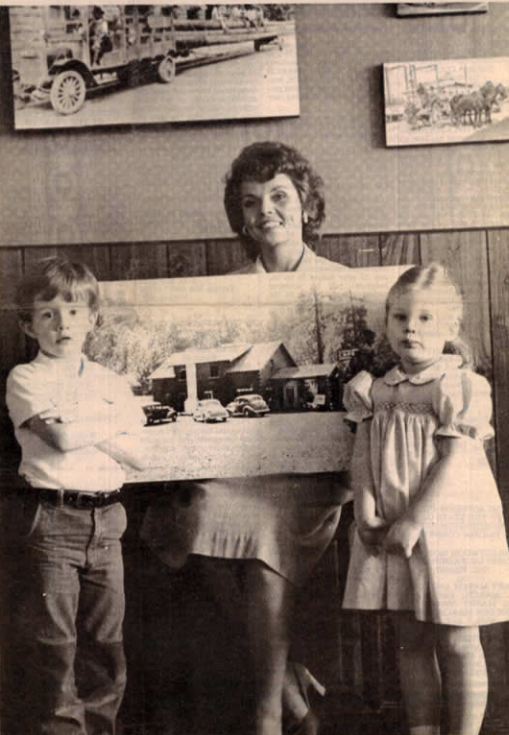
She and her family haven't made big waves in the Yakima area. "They worked hard and minded their own business," she said. "But, they have stayed on the family land for close to a hundred years."

The other side of Carolyn Smith's family is also portrayed on the restaurant's walls. Her grandmother, Mildred Lemley, and her husband, Lawrence, owned and operated the Elk Ridge Lodge on Chinook Pass for many years. They are the parents of Margaret Alderson.

"Lawrence Lemley quit the Great A&P Tea Company in Iowa and moved here in 1936," Smith said. "They purchased Elk Ridge and operated it until 1971 when they closed it down and retired." Mildred Lemley passed away in 1977 and Lawrence Lemley still lives there even though the lodge doesn't operate as a business any more.

"One of the things grandfather was best known for was his hi-fi system," Smith continued. "At one time he had one of the largest speakers in the world." A hi-fi enthusiast, he had a feature story written about him in the November, 1958 edition of Popular Mechanics and others in various newspapers.

Carolyn Smith said that she would love to research the family tree and do a total history of her family. With a fifth generation now in Yakima, that could be quite an undertaking!



CAROLYN SMITH with her two children, Randy and Valerie. She holds a picture of Elkridge Lodge and hanging above her is a photo of her grandfather, Samuel Alderson. The photos are part of a collection featured at The Fourth Generation Restaurant in Terrace Heights.