

Hillar and Jane Ibach -

You could hear Hillar holler from a mile away... Walt Kruger



Hillar Ibach plowing with his mares Lady and Maude

BY LOYCE MARTINAZZI

If you happen to live near Ibach Street, or in the Hedges Creek development, or have visited the lovely national award winning Ibach park nearby, you may have wondered where the name Ibach originated. And folks, its pronounced Eye-back. In Switzerland, where our Ibachs came from, it may well be pronounced Ibock, but the family wants it to be Eye-back, and that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Newlyweds Jane and Hillar Ibach came to Tualatin in 1920 on the Oregon Electric train and hitched a ride with the Nyberg girls up Boones Ferry Road to take a look at the 40 acre Leuthi farm. They bought the farm, which was just to their liking. It came stocked with 10 milk cows, 50 chickens, horse harness, equipment, plus a roomy house and two barns.

Hillar milked his 10 cows by hand, and devised a little cart to haul the cans up to Grahams Ferry Road for the milk truck to

pick up. Jane ran the chicken enterprise. She took her eggs down to the Robinson's store in Tualatin and exchanged them for the flour, coffee and sugar she needed. Like other farm wives, Jane grew a large garden and orchard and preserved



Jane Ibach and daughter Phyllis with the milk cart

hundreds of jars of tomatoes, beans, corn, applesauce and other produce to feed her family during the winter months. Prune butter was one of her specialties.

Three children blessed the marriage: Howard, Luella and Phyllis. Luella died from a diabetic attack after she graduated from Oregon State College. Howard became an engineer, and Phyllis, who survived a virulent strain of measles, purchased her mother's sister's (Zelda McCorckle) small farm which is now part of Meridian Park Hospital property. Another sister, Wanda Gifford lived nearby as did Jane's brother Carl Theobald.

Hillar was a big man, with a big voice, and when he hollered at the hired hand to come to dinner, all the farmers around the area chuckled, including Walt Kruger who lived about a mile away. Jane chuckled too. She was good natured, hard working and happy.

Hillar and Jane were old fashioned farmers, and Hillar used horse power until he bought a used tractor in the late 1940s. They did all their own butchering and curing of meats. Jane used to say they used every part of the hog except the squeal.

The Ibachs were long time members of Winona Grange, and in 1992 Jane received a 60 year Grange membership award. Hillar was a member of the Tualatin Veterans of



Jane Ibach and baby Luella in front of their home. The site is now part of Hedges Creek development

Foreign Wars and a memorial stone commemorating his service in the U. S. Navy in World War 1 is located on the North side of the Robinson's store where Jane used to trade her eggs. Hillar is buried at Willamette National Cemetery, and Jane was laid to rest at Tualatin's Pioneer Winona Cemetery.



Howard drives the tractor, Hillar behind the binder. Photos are courtesy of Bobbi Lemme, Jane and Hillar's granddaughter.