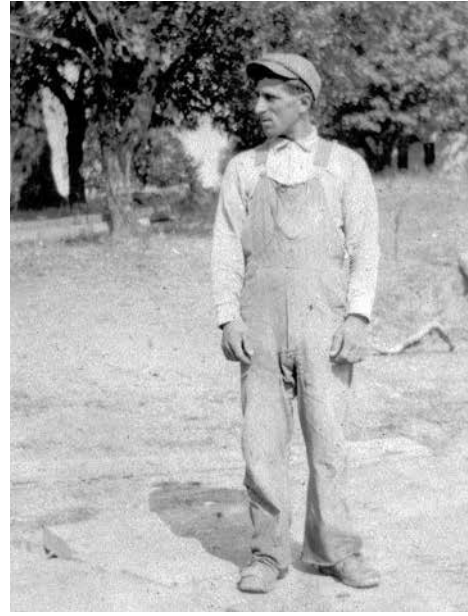


## ASK THE GATER



There's a story here! Wallace Palmer (born in 1915) and brother Shirley (born in 1920) in the Goat Buggy, Grants Pass circa 1921. Photo courtesy of Larry Hunt.



Dwight Lyman Moody Palmer, dairy manager at Leonard Estates Co., circa 1917. Photo by Albert L. Palmer, courtesy of Larry Hunt.

40 acres in Provolt and start his dairy. Eventually he bought another 40 acres, and when his two grandsons, Larry and David, were boys, they had the chore of milking 200 cows twice a day.

Albert L. Palmer (Wally's oldest brother and Moody's oldest son) was a photographer who worked for A.E. Voorhies at the Grants Pass *Courier* in the early 1920s. He took many photos of family and neighbors, as well as photos of the wider community, for the newspaper. Larry Hunt, the family genealogist, shared a big collection of Albert's photos and, with help from his aunts, Peggy and Donna, also some of the stories behind them. About the photo of the two children in the Goat Buggy, Peggy said, "I believe that's my dad, Wally, and his younger brother, Shirley. Dad said it was a pet goat. The goat and buggy were a unique sight around town."

More details came after Peggy talked to her sister, Donna, who recalled that "there was a man passing through Grants Pass getting pictures of different kids riding the Goat Buggy. Grandma didn't have enough money then to buy the picture, but when the man returned, Grandma Palmer did have the money. So the pet goat actually belonged to a man who offered to take photos of kids riding in a goat buggy. He did it for money!" It turns out that this wasn't one of Albert's photos after all.

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## Gater Tale: Applegate Valley rootstock families

BY LISA E BALDWIN

This Gater Tale is the story of five generations in the Applegate Valley, told by Larry Hunt, who currently lives just about halfway between Murphy and Provolt. Larry and his wife, Julie, raised their two children in the Applegate Valley, and both still live locally—Ben in Grants Pass, and Samantha in Jerome Prairie. Larry and his brother, David, were raised in Provolt on the family's dairy farm, the land that is currently home to Whistling Duck Farm. Larry's parents, Kenneth Hunt and Anita Palmer, helped run the dairy, which was started by Anita's father, Wallace Donald Palmer, and his wife, Mildred Edith Hetz Palmer. Three generations worked on the Palmer Dairy.

Wally's father, Dwight Lyman Moody Palmer, was the adventurous soul who came out west in the first years of the 20th

century. Moody Palmer was born in New Brunswick, Canada, and was raised by his uncle Charles. A mystic in New Brunswick told a teenaged Moody he would find his riches "out west," and by age 22, Moody was in the Yreka area, mining for gold.

According to family storytellers, "he and his Indian partner struck it rich" with a huge nugget. What became of Moody's share of the gold is a family mystery, but he found another treasure in Siskiyou County, marrying Florence M. Hegler in Yreka during the gold rush. Their oldest son, Albert, was born in Yreka but raised in southern Oregon. Their first home in the Applegate Valley was on the Leonard Estates Company's property, the old mint farm on Riverbanks Road, where the Applegate meets the Rogue, now known as Dinsdale Farm and Two Rivers Vineyard.

Moody's World War I registration card identifies him as a dairyman for Leonard Estates Company with an address of RFD 2 (Rural Free Delivery). In a nice turn of events, Moody's granddaughter, Alice Palmer Dinsdale, and her husband are the current owners of that beautiful piece of Applegate bottomland.

Wally Palmer (Moody's son, Alice's and Anita's father) went to work in Pondosa, a mill town near McCloud, California, but his dream was to own a dairy. By 1946 he had saved up enough money to buy

### Who's lived in the Applegate the longest?

When new *Applegater* board member Jennifer Petersen asked about Applegate families with pioneer ancestors, wondering, "Who has lived here the longest?" it seemed like an ideal question for "Ask the Gater." After putting some feelers out to longtime friends and acquaintances, and a call out on social media, it soon became apparent that this is a big question requiring a big answer, much bigger than a single "Ask the Gater" column can cover, but this issue will get us started.

I started asking around to find current residents of the Applegate Valley with pioneer roots, and I found lots of folks who fit that bill. And people have stories to tell. I heard from a descendant of the Morrison and Warner families of Williams who is also connected by marriage to the Hills of Provolt. Speaking of Provolt, there are two cousins who live there today on their family's homesteaded land. I've got a story about the daughter of one of the Robinsons who settled in Jerome Prairie, near Wilderville; she married an Applegate man, and they made their home on Thompson Creek Road, where their descendants still live. There are folks who are connected to the Bolts (think Bolt Mountain). Also connected to the Bolts were the Kubli brothers, Kaspar and Jacob; one of Jacob's direct descendants lives in Jerome Prairie now and may share some stories. I also heard from a friend whose mother is a Palmer—not the Upper Applegate Palmers, but the family that ultimately landed in Provolt and who are the subject of our first Gater Tale (see above).

This is just a small dip into our historical gene pool, and there are big names not yet mentioned, like McKee, Buckley, Applegate. I don't know if we can say who has been here the longest or if that is even what matters. More important is knowing our community's history and appreciating our roots.

In the coming months, we here at the *Applegater* will collect these family histories, these family stories, and bring them to you, our readers, in a new series of articles with a working title of Gater Tales. If your family is one of the Applegate Valley's rootstock families (those who came here in the 19th century or very early in the 20th) and you still call the Applegate Valley home, we want to hear from you. We invite you to share your family lore.

**Send your idea for a Gater Tale to  
Lisa Baldwin at [lisa@applegater.org](mailto:lisa@applegater.org).**

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