

The following article was published in something called "The Dishman Family News" which appears to be a newsletter published by a family group. The author and publication date is unknown.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF DISHMAN

Mr. A. T. Dishman, affectionately known as the "Father of Dishman" came to the Spokane area in 1888 from Kentucky. His native state was Virginia. The town of Dishman took its name when Mr. Dishman started his operation in 1889. At that time, the Valley was entirely covered with bunch-grass, liberally interspersed with sunflowers. There were only 3 or 4 farms between Dishman and Spokane at that time. The road from Dishman to Spokane Bridge, corresponded almost exactly with the old Mullen Trail. The farmers tried raising apples but found difficulty in sourcing the correct variety of apples for the climate and soil and therefore they gradually discontinued apple growing except for home use and began to grow those edibles which the soil was better adapted to, as they then believed. Berries, grapes and melons grew remarkably well in the Valley and later the area farmers found the apple industry a flourishing enterprise. Mr. Dishman's first business venture was a livery stable at Riverside and Post which burned during the Spokane Fire in 1889. He was able to save his horses which he later traded for a heavy team of horses and since he had had considerable experience in quarrying rocks, building derricks and blasting, he purchased the Granite Hills at Dishman, hauling many thousands of tons of building rocks to Sprague and Riverside Avenue buildings in Spokane which were erected to replace the frame buildings that had burned in the Spokane Fire and also the Lewis & Clark Building, Spokane County Court House, Sacred Heart Hospital, Great Northern Depot, Fort Wright buildings and many others. Mr. Dishman later set up a partnership with John R. Carson and incorporated the East End Granite Co. and they proceeded to manufacture cement which they could sell at \$1.50 per barrel instead of \$9.00 a barrel for the cement that had to be shipped in. Mr. Dishman later bought property at Argonne and the Appleway, present site of the Lambert Tourist Camp and erected a beautiful 3 story building. This building housed a hotel, a store and a post office. Mrs. L. L. Tyner was the first postmistress. The building was destroyed by fire a few months after completion. Mr. Dishman continued with his building program and later built the Boyd Conleo Building, the Ice Plant, the Jackson Seed Co. and also the Dishman Out-Door Arena, later to become famous by the personal appearance of fistio notables like Dempsey, Stribling, Sohmeling, Ketchell and many others. Later a dance hall, roller-skating rink and rodeo grounds were built and Mr. Dishman's last construction work was the erection of the Dishman Theatre building in 1938, seating 550 people, beautifully furnished throughout, and having an arrangement for free parking for capacity of house. This was built of concrete from his own gravel pit. The town of Dishman grew rapidly in the early 1900s after completion of Valley irrigation projects and the Inland Empire Electric railway.

Mr. Harrington was the first man to homestead land in the Valley and was the second dairyman. Dishman and Patterson who had the first lumber mill in the Valley, delivered lumber by horse and wagon on a dirt road that was none too good to Spokane at \$7.50 per thousand feet. Dishman and Patterson also operated a grist mill. Mr. Milmer operated a pool hall and barber shop. Other early business men of the Dishman area were J. F. Brod, C. P. Price, Oscar Reinemer, L. L. Tyner, J. B. Felts, George Felts, W. F. McCana, George D. Grant, Frank Roger, J. C. Fortune and Charles Harden.

There were many others who helped to make Dishman and the Spokane Valley. In fact, every early resident had a part in developing the Valley from a grass-covered waste to the Garden of Eden-like place it is now.