



Lewis County

Gordon & Betty Jones

In a soft-spoken voice, Gordon Jones reflects on his life and what brought him into tree farming. “I didn’t know anything technically scientific about it, but I lived around trees all my life and figured I wouldn’t have any problems.”

Initially, Gordon began logging for Longbell Lumber at the age of 18 and describes his early days with the company, “I started practically out of high school, felling and bucking. I went from there to Weyerhaeuser, Camp McDonald, and the Doty Camp where I worked with hand tools until they went to chainsaws. It took two-people teams for the chainsaws at first. I never did log second growth. They had to be six feet through to be any good. I stayed with the chainsaws for about 15 years, then quit and went to work for a wooden garage door factory in Centralia.”

Gordon married Betty in July of 1956. Both had children from previous marriages. Together they ventured into land investment with an interest in tree farming, which led them to joining the Lewis County Chapter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association. In 1969 they bought 10 acres, which they cleared, replanted, and sold. From the profits they bought 80 acres with 30-year fir trees. They designated part of the land for a Christmas tree farm. The rest was left in timber. Betty maintained the Christmas trees – mowing, clearing lower branches, and battling mischievous treetop-eating rabbits. Gordon kept the timber in shape by pruning and slashing competing undergrowth.

Around 1970 at the age of 60, Gordon left the door factory and the couple went into tree farming full time. They did this until 1990, retired and sold the tree farm. Currently they live on five acres near Chehalis, Washington. They still plant trees, including the five acres they call home.

Gordon’s advice to the next generation is, “Get into it early while you’re young so you’ll have time to wait for the harvest.”

EVERGREEN ACRES TREE FARM

Gordon Lewis Jones, born October 20, 1919

Betty Mariann Jones (Cabe), born March 17, 1924

Lewis County Tree Planting Award, 1969

Christmas Tree Award, 1971

Board Member Lewis County, 1970