Homesteaded in 1873 by Grannis and Amelia (married in CA on November 16, 1865) is how the Reiner Farm started. The Austin's arrived in Snohomish County and started clearing the land and farming, some was already logged. As they cleared the tree they sold the timber and the “Ships knees” were sent to the ship yards in San Francisco. They also stored up wood to sell to the ships that came up the river, as they cleared the land they started growing veggies.

Amelia, the first white woman to cross the trail from Snohomish to Tualco Valley, completed the journey on horseback just five months before the birth of her baby son George. It is said that Amelia had “grit as well as culture” when she and a guest from Colorado made a trip on mule back to Sultan, the first women to venture on such a “pleasure excursion.”

George, Grannis and Amelia’s son was the first white child born in the valley, he used to play with the Indian children who called the valley Qualco, the white settlers could not pronounce the ‘Q” and called it Tualco. They also had a second son, Ernest. George and Ernest dairy farmed in the valley and were key part of the Carnation Condensery in Monroe (the old smoke stack in town).

George quit dairy farming in 1940 and sold off some of the land to retired. He kept a small piece that he continued to grow strawberries and Garden Truck vegetables. The produce went to local stores. George divided the last of the land into pieces for his children - Amy, Gladys, Doris and Grannis. Grannis went to the UW then went to work back east for Kraft foods candy division. Grannis owned the piece that had the house was on but didn't want to come back so Grannis’ sister Doris and her husband Jake Reiner bought his piece in 1944. That’s when Dale, his sister Jaci, his brother Allen and his parents moved back to farm. Two of Dale's aunts that had some of the land also did raspberries and chickens.

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George looked at the strawberries and thought “that’s a lot of bending over” so his parents spent quite a bit of time looking all over for the right kind of berry; they found the Willamette raspberry at a farm in Gold Bar where they purchased the root stock. They produced so well that many other farmers began growing them, too. They all had the same tractors and implements for working the berry fields. The valley consisted of many berry farms in the area of 1-12 acres each. Dale’s dad bought another place in the valley and did more berries. He also worked off the farm as well for Lervick logging company (also owned Twin City Foods) later he did reclaiming of land in Stanwood for Lervick and did pea harvesting.

Dale also recalls the 8 sows and 16 litters a year, which amounted to 160 babies a year. They sold wiener pigs and anything that didn’t sell was fed out and sold to direct market. They had some of the original “Free range pork”! During the summer the pigs were down at the dry stream bank where they would root out all the blackberries and weeds. He has fond memories of farrowing pigs with his mom eating graham crackers and drinking coffee. His dad liked colored pigs, he crossed them with Duroc’s because he liked the spots. A few years ago his dad was having a heart attack and passed away, his dad’s favorite pig was sick at the same time. Dr. Dennis Dinkla came out to look at the pig, when he was there the ambulance was there picking up his dad. Dennis said, “Why don’t I take the pig back with me?” The next day when he talked to Dale he said the pig was doing fine but appeared to have had a heart attack. At the same time as his dad, a heart attack which is not a normal occurrence in pigs.

Across the street from the Reiner farm lived Charlene Harzell. Their parent used to put them into a Number 2 wash tub together. Dale and Charlene were childhood friends playing and riding the school bus together. As they entered high school they drifted apart. When Dale got a car he splashed water on her, but he did take her to school one time and dropped her off two blocks from school and made her walk the rest of the way. Their parents however were good friends who often played cards together and took family vacations together. Their mothers who also grew up together were only two days apart in age.

Dale was 10 when he started raising Hereford beef cattle which he did up until he got out of the Marine Corps. He was home on leave one summer when he ran into Charlene who was home from college and said, “My mom’s baked some cinnamon rolls would you like to come over and have one?” He asked her out after that and she finished up at WSU. Dale sold his last two Herefords to buy Charlene’s engagement ring! They were married 45 years ago.

During this time Dale’s Grandpa George started growing flowers, gladiolas, dahlias, begonias, and roses all at different times. His favorite pastime was sitting on porch with his gun loaded with birdshot shooting robins that would try to get his cherries. Dale recalls that every night Grandpa would step out on the porch to check the weather. His entire life, he never missed a night!

Dale has two siblings; Jaci is five years older, Allen 5 years younger. Jaci lives in Orting with her husband Richard Smith, they have 4 kids and 10 grandkids and 1 great grandchild.

Dale and Charlene have two children, Jennifer who is married to David Rios and have one step son Cory. Their son Jason is married to Melissa and they have two sons.

Allen passed away 5 years ago. He was a Vietnam veteran. Allen has one son Josh, who is in Wisconsin and is an artist (36 years old).

Dale and Allen were in business for 35 years together. First the logging and farming then they went into the construction business until 1990 when they started buying more farm land. They started raising beef and putting in the Christmas trees. Currently Dale farms about 420 acres; they own 320 acres and lease another 100. They are running 30+ head of purebred Angus cows and calves for custom meat production and breeding stock, they have 81 acres in the area’s first and largest Conservation Reserve Enhancement Project (a habitat and bank restoration program), 18 acres of Christmas trees and native nursery tree stock. They also have 15 acres of Canola in production for Biofuels. They have 60 acres rented to a local dairy farm for field corn for their cows and the rest is used for hay production.

Dale has been instrumental in the development of the Qualco Manure Digester, composter – project in partnership with the Sno/Sky Agriculture Alliance, Tulalip Energy Corporation, Northwest Chinook Recovery and local dairy farmers.