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DAVID NATHANIEL JUDSON

Is a long name, so it was soon shortened to just "Dave" Judson. And it was "Dave" Judson who pioneered large scale chicken ranching on Whidby Island and who, as a delegate to the state and national Democratic conventions, helped nominate Franklin D Roosevelt for the presidency

David Nathaniel Judson was born at Brant, Erie County, New York, on May 20, 1878. He was the oldest of a family of four children. He was raised on a farm there, attended grade school and went to Angola high school and moved to Jamestown, N Y, in 1900.

His first work at Jamestown in "the good old days" was a six-months' job at a brewery, and he later spent a year and a half with the Art Metal Construction Company. On October 1, 1901, he went to Douglas, Alaska, to work with his uncle at the Treadwell Gold Mines. He was married in Douglas in 1904 and the Judsons' first two children, Dave, Jr. and Esther, were born there.

In 1910 the Judson family moved to Whidby Island where Dave planned on going in to the chicken business. He purchased the farm where he now lives and built the present house on it. Dave shipped 1800 cases of eggs to Douglas, Alaska and was still helping supply the Alaskan market in 1915.

Judson was the first Washington Co-Operative Egg and Poultry Association shipper from Oak Harbor and was the first Island County chicken rancher to brood more than a thousand chickens in one flock. In 1918. 35,000 chicks were hatched on his farm. The honor of being the first person in the county to gather a thousand eggs in one day also goes to Judson.

Prices received for eggs from the Judson flock ranged all the way from 72 cents (ungraded) during the war to 19 cents net.

In 1926 Dave leased the garage which he operates at present. Among his other activities, Dave has been school director for eight years, secretary of the I. O. O. F. for 21 years, first Noble Grand of the lodge here, and is a life member of the Juneau Elks lodge. He was state and national Democratic committeeman in the last election.

Mr. and Mrs. Judson have five children in all, three of whom, Ernest, Frank and Helen, were born at Oak Harbor.

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