

THE Chamber News

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Stinkin' good business for garlic company

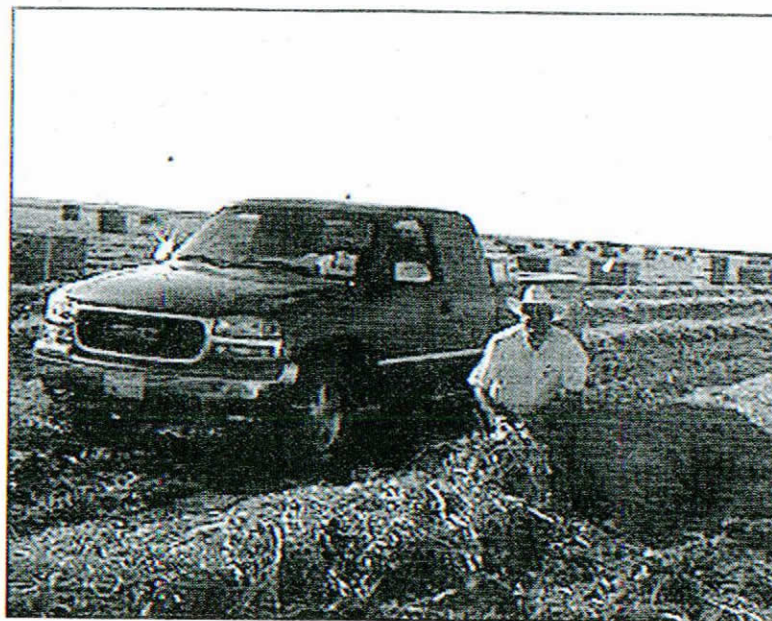
You might say that The David E. Grimes Company exploded into the garlic industry.

In fact, it was a propane explosion at the Fred Carter Company in 1983, that pushed David into his own garlic company. The explosion destroyed Carter's operation and left David unemployed, but not for long.

Through the generosity of Don Christopher, who lent David the money, a new enterprise was born. The David E. Grimes Company will soon celebrate its 16th anniversary and it is still going strong. Garlic consumption is up and doesn't show signs of stopping.

Last year, an estimated 250 million pounds of fresh garlic was consumed and David nurtured a great deal of it.

When he began his company, he operated the growing and packing of garlic in Firebaugh. Later he sold the packing operation to Dalgety Foods, but always retained ownership of the David E. Grimes Company logo and



David Grimes enters his 16th year of business.

trademark. This logo is seen on his boxes of garlic sold as "David's Best."

From Dalgety, an opportunity came to join a newly formed garlic packing company known as Sequoia Packing.

David was hired to be the general manager of a small two-grader packing shed in Lemoore. Soon Sequoia grew to be the largest packing facility in the San Joaquin Valley. Sequoia may even be the

largest facility in the world, because under David's direction, 500,000 to 750,000 pounds of garlic can be processed in a day. And although Gilroy claims to be the Garlic Capital of the World, in reality, it is the San Joaquin Valley that grows the most.

This year David expects harvesting to begin sooner than planned due to the late rain followed by excessive heat. Even with nature's twist of the time table, he foresees close to 25 million pounds of garlic to grade. This may sound like a lot, but last year, he had 8 million more pounds.

While Sequoia is headquartered in Coalinga, and David's home office is in Hollister, when there is garlic in the fields, that is where you will find David. Translated into miles and acres, he checks approximately 1,500 acres and puts approximately 40,000 miles a year on his pick-up.

Few people can say that they really love their job, but David not only loves it, he eats it up.

Local School to Career program

Skilled Workers

The need for skilled workers:

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