

Mohinder Singh Gill (Moe Gill) PICTURES

Mohinder- that goes way back to the year that Tigerjit and his family came to Mission. From India. He was is trucking, his son is wrestling now.

Interviewer- so when did you start wrestling?

Mohinder- oh what year was it, I did it for 16 years, 12 years I did then a short stint in professional.

Interviewer- was this while you were in high school?

Mohinder- no, after that. We, actually when I went to India in 1969 I took my wrestling gears with me, I was going to line up some wrestling practices there, but in India, it doesn't work, it's totally different, they don't have the wrestling matches lined up as they do here. Only time your gonna get a wrestling match is with Dara or with Dara's brother and that didn't work out.

Interviewer- so how did you get involved in that? Was it just extra curriculum activities?

Mohinder- well Paul Singh Dhaliwal, used to be a professional wrestler. And he used to travel up and down the coast, and down in Mission right next to Gurbaksh's house, they used to have an office and rooms there, they used to have the old mat in there, and all the boys used to work out on the mat. And then, we used to, we got the weights installed, because in school I was involved in all different kinds of sports. Then, lifting weights and all that, got involved in wrestling. We would go out to Vancouver on the weekends, to the YMCA, to workout then participate in the tournaments, then come back. Then when going into the professionals, I got one of Paul's old wrestling trunks, so I used that then went and bought some of my own, and boots and all that. And, there was coach at the university, Paul Manick, he had two of his boys with him as well. And, the other boys at the university, they got us involved more.

Interviewer- at what university?

Mohinder- UBC. And, when you get involved in amateur wrestling, then I said 'I'm big enough, strong enough, and more bulkier than now', then I went over to Calgary. And, it was too hard to start the club. So when I went out there, he gave me a go-over, he tried to everything he could to me, to see if I could take the pains and whatever. Then I did a small stint with him. Then after that I wanted to go to Texas, but it didn't work out. Then in between that time, I hurt my back.

Interviewer- when did you hurt your back?

Mohinder- I cant remember, then I wind up in the hospital. I had a back operation. And after the back operation, I went into wrestling again.

Interviewer- do you remember what year you got the operation?

Mohinder- this is after I got married. And, then I went back in again, then I went to see my doctor, and he said, 'if you get hurt again, I can't fix you, for your back, I can't do anymore'. And I was very fortunate to have the doctor, that doctor works as an acutherapists. So he did more. Your back, the bottom bone and top, in here, he took the disc out, and grinded them together. So, all I can do now, is I can't touch my toe all the way, but otherwise, everything is fine. And so after he sat me down and went over for about half an hour, and he says, 'you can't go back'. So, then I decided that be sitting in a wheelchair so, quit that.

Interviewer- so how long did your wrestling career last then?

Mohinder- well the professional career last a very short period, the amateur lasted about 12 years.

Interviewer- and so I assume you must have been doing this, off season, from the berry season.

Mohinder- no no, this was before we even had the farm. When we were living in Mission.

Interviewer- so how many, when you guys used to go practice with Paul Dhaliwal, at the gym that he had, how many of you were there that used to go?

Mohinder- well there were other people that were working out, Paul's nephew used to do that, and Dyal Sidhu, and Gurbaksh used to work out there too. And few of the others. They would work out, this was, they were working out when I was still young. So when I got a little older, we took, we had another house, another person's place, because they wanted to use that office space and rent it out. So we took the mat over there, so I was working out with a different generation. Not the older generation, so we would work out with the weight, my purpose was to work out 2 hours a day, two hours a day 7 days a week, then still going out to the YMCA.

Interviewer- so with the kind of athletic background, did your son ever get into sports/

Mohinder- no my son, son's big boy is a little bigger than I am. He never, he doesn't like sports. He likes to watch them. He likes soccer.

Interviewer- any other thing you wanted to tell me that I might not know about.

Mohinder- there's a lot of things, slowly they come out.

Interviewer- so what about, you retired from farming you said, so is your farm, your 4 acres, are they leased now?

Mohinder- the from 40 acres I sold 20, so I'm sitting on 20 acres. And they are all leased out. Leased out to another farmer. He's farming.

Interviewer- and so did you just, when your retired, the 40 acres, were you doing them yourself?

Mohinder- yea we were, my wife and I, we were doing it before, we had 60 acres. When we retired, I let the lease go back to the owner, actually I moved the lease over the person that I lease my farm out to. Then I sold him the 20 acres. So then I sold all my machinery as well.

Interviewer- 20 acres is a little bit easier to manage now?

Mohinder- no they are easy to manage, then you have to understand the federal government will take more from you if you have more, so you got to hold back.