

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

**Question: AQIS 14**

**Topic: Citrus Canker Eradication**

**Hansard Page: 47**

Senator Heffernan asked:

Would it be possible to get a copy of the record of interview for this committee?

Answer:

AQIS Investigators took a statement from the informant (Mr Gillies). Mr Watson (an AQIS investigator at that time) also provided a statement on his interview with Mr Gillies in the form of a Federal Court affidavit. Both documents are attached.

*Imports IIB:1*  
*Evergreen Farms property*  
*27 Nov - Dec*  
*Compliance*  
*other companies*  
*Sea imports*

**AQIS**

AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FORESTRY AND FISHERIES



Compliance and Investigations  
Queensland

STATEMENT in the matter of: **Wayne Donald GILLIES**

Address: PO Box 1089  
Emerald Qld 4720

Occupation: Farm Production Manager

STATES:

1. This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything I know to be false.
2. I am employed as a Production Manager for Evergreen Farms, Gregory Highway, Emerald, Queensland. Evergreen Farms is a large horticultural farm development, which produces amongst other things, citrus products, grapes, lychees, melons and paw paws.
3. I began work with the company on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1999 and have assisted in the development of the farm from its initial stages to the present. There are some thirty five (35) permanent employees on the farm and up to eighty (80) on contract, depending upon seasonal requirements.
4. I have come to know the owner of the property, Mr Philip Cea, on a personal basis by his visits to the farm and have had a number of conversations with him regarding the farm and the fruit plants grown on it.

Statement of: Wayne Gillies- Evergreen Farms, Emerald - Continued Page - 2

5. Within the property there are a number of orchard areas of various fruit trees, in different stages of growth and development. These areas are made up of approximately eighty (80) acres of lychee trees, .5 acre of paw paw trees, five hundred (500) acres of citrus trees and seven hundred (700) acres of grape vines. Many of the trees and grape vines on the property have been grafted from budwood and I have seen the grafting being done on many occasions.
6. Between September 2000 and November 2000 Mr Cea told me that he had imported a large amount of his budwood and seeds, without Quarantine approval. He informed me that he has imported the budwood in the form of:
  1. Grape cuttings - 2 red varieties and 1 white variety - the white being "Melissa", and the reds "Autumn Royal" and "Camellia". Some 600 cuttings have been grafted onto vines, of which approximately forty (40) are still growing. The grape cuttings which he brought into the country had been given to him by a friend in California
  2. Lychee cuttings of the variety "Fuzie-shu" - 1500 cuttings ex China.
  3. Mandarin cuttings of the "Ponkkan" variety - budwood ex China of which five hundred (500) have survived.
7. He also told me that he had brought in six thousand (6,000) paw paw seed from the Philippines, of which 2,000 have been planted and the remainder are stored in a container in the nursery. He also stated that he brought in a quantity of water melon seeds from a person in China.
8. In talking to me of the importations, he stated that all of the cuttings have been smuggled in, whilst hidden in bags of tea and that both seeds and cuttings arrived  
between September and November, 2000.

Statement of: Wayne Gillies-- Evergreen Farms, Emerald - Continued Page - 3

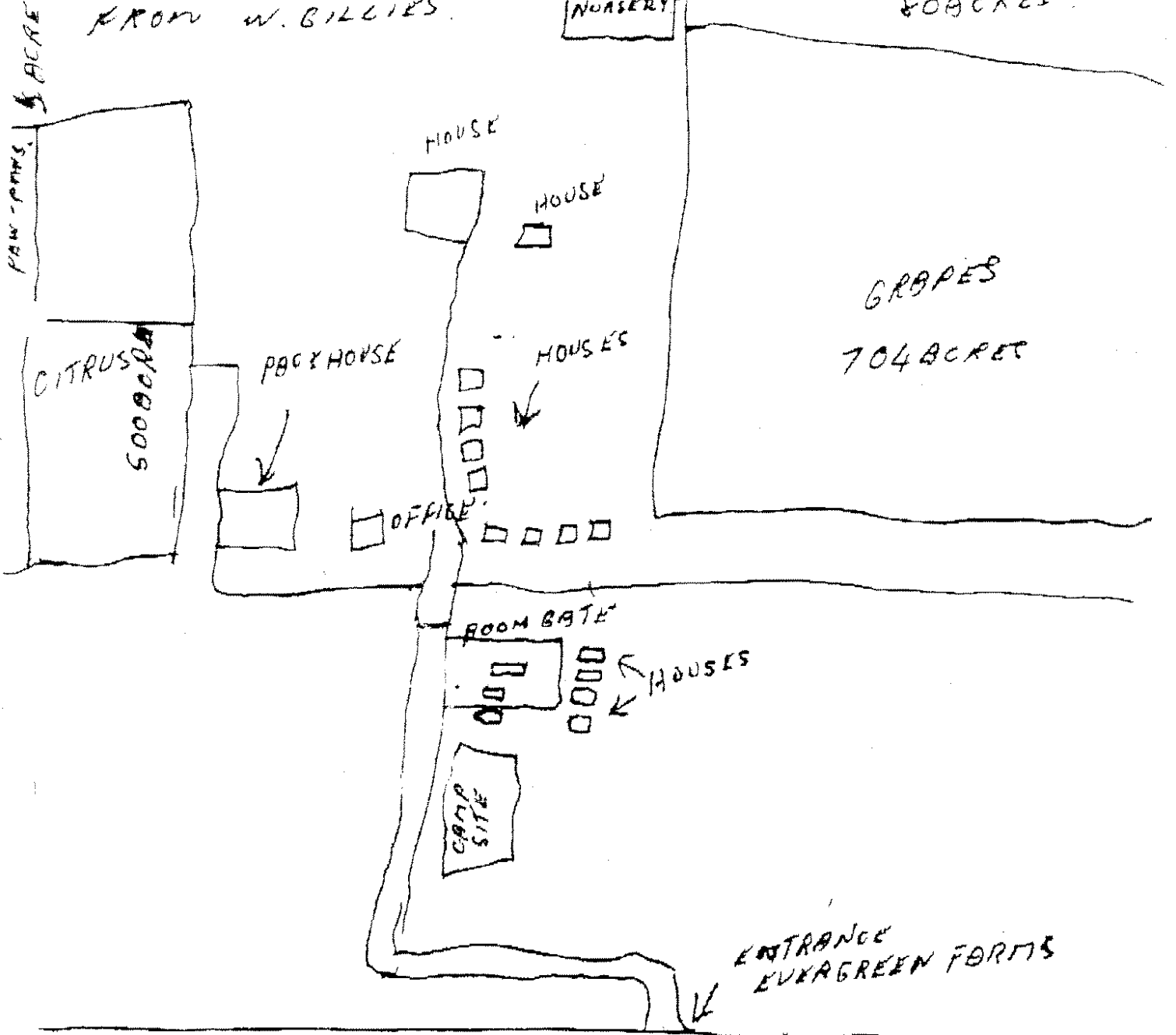
- 9. I asked Mr Cea about the quarantine aspect of the cuttings and seeds and he indicated to me that he would worry about that, if and when Quarantine found out. He stated that he would pay the fine and let the plants grow out of their quarantine time. I supervised all the grafting of the cuttings and planting of seeds that Mr Cea told me he had brought into the country.
  
- 10. Mr Cea has told me that he has invested an amount of \$80,000,000 into the development of the property.

Signed: W Gillies  
 Date: 17/7/01

Witnessed: A Taylor  
 Date: 17/7/01

Mark Lawrence

32468651  
TO PONY YOUNG  
FROM W. GILLIES



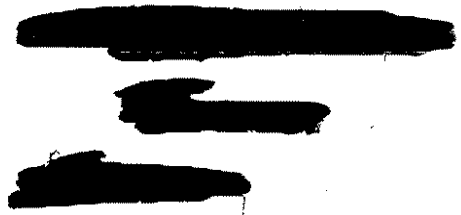
← SPINDSURE

GREGORY HIGHWAY EMERALD →

GREG RICHARDS  
LOT 47 KIRSTEN DRIVE  
M/S 1033  
CURRA QLD 4570

GERRARD MILLERS  
PH 5486 1135  
M/S 115 JENSEN RD  
LOWER WONGA  
QLD 4570

1ST - 5 EAST  
10TH - 18  
20TH - 20  
LYCHAB 183 15TH ROW SOUTH



PEC 88

*[Faint, mostly illegible text and markings at the bottom of the page, possibly bleed-through or a second page's content.]*