

# Apple family does it all and keeps growing

By ERICK PETERSON  
For the Capital Press

The folks at E.W. Brandt and Sons like sharing the company's history and explaining the challenges of this year's market.

Allen Brandt, part owner with brother Dana Brandt, is the son of the founder, Everette W. Brandt, who along with his wife, Ada, started their operation in 1947 with 16 acres of peaches and cherries.

Their family had been farming in the area since 1908, and through ups and downs E.W. and Ada maintained a business that has been passed down to a new generation.

It was not until fairly recently that the greatest growth has occurred.

Allen Brandt remembers there were less than 20 acres when he completed college and returned to the family business in 1974.

"The rest is history," he said. E.W. Brandt and Sons expanded to around 1,200 acres in the following years.

He credits the growth to ingenuity and the desire of the company to do everything.

The company, he said, developed a reputation for high-quality fruit, which was made possible because it took control over not only cultivation and harvesting but also packing.

It has been a successful model so far, Allen said.

"We're still here, anyway," he said. "We're growing and hope to continue growing."

This optimism is shared by Allen's son, Joe.

"We're on this path of growth, and we plan on continuing," Joe said.

But this is a difficult time for the region's fruit growers, Ryan Moore, a Brandt sales executive, explained.

Washington produced a re-



Erik Peterson/For the Capital Press  
Ryan Moore, E.W. Brandt and Sons sales executive, stands next to a sign at the Wapato, Wash., company.

## E.W. Brandt and Sons

Started: 1976 (as E.W. Brandt and Sons)

Owners: Allen Brandt and Dana Brandt

Location: Wapato, Wash.

Crops: Cherries, peaches, nectarines, plums, apples, prunes, pears

Acres: 1,200 owned

the buyers are there, but if you can't get them on a boat and to the countries you want to get them to, it isn't going to do anyone any good," Moore said.

The option was to send the apples to domestic markets, places that already had a surplus, which has driven down prices.

In addition, trucking is a problem, as many small truckers have either gone out of business or joined with larger groups.

cord apple crop this year, he said, and other growing areas produced large crops, creating a flood of apples worldwide.

Most often, when apples are plentiful in Washington, they are scarce in other regions of the

U.S. Then, when they are bountiful in other places, Washington orchards are less productive.

On top of that, a port slowdown hampered the export market.

"The orders are coming and

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