

CFR 0219

Fred W. Mespelt

Albany, Oregon
July 1, 1958

I, Fred W. Mespelt, first being duly sworn, depose and say that at the present time I own and reside on a part of a parcel of land that was deeded to Edward Loat, on June 30, 1858, and this part that I still have consists of 160 acres, which is located as follows: Sec. 21 and 28 in R. 2 W of T. 10 S. situated in Linn County. O.T. of the said land $\frac{1}{4}$ part is on the north side and $\frac{3}{4}$ on the south side of the dividing line between Sections 21 and 28.

I further swear that Edward Loat was my grandfather by marriage. I further swear that the property that I now reside on was acquired by John Smith from Edward Loat about August 29, 1906. I further certify upon oath that my wife, Anna Mespelt was the daughter of John Smith and Martha Smith and that my wife Anna Mespelt, heired said property from her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. John Smith.

I further certify upon oath that my former wife, Anna Mespelt, died on October 3, 1953, and at that time I heired said property as husband and have operated said farm since that time, and am still residing on said farm.

I further certify that this farm has been in our family for a term of 100 years as of June 30, 1958.

Fred W. Mespelt
Owner

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of July, 1958,

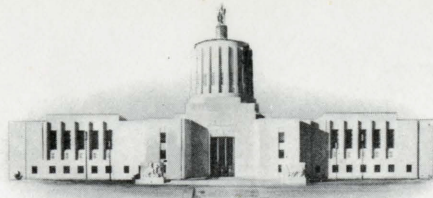
Marjorie L. Amos
Notary Public for Oregon

My Commission Expires: April 11, 1960



Fred W. Mespelt
Scio, Oregon
Rt. 3

July 1-1958
Accepted
B. S. Quaid
County Judge
Linn County Oregon



STATE OF OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SALEM

July 2, 1958

Mr. Thomas Vaughan, Director
Oregon Historical Society
235 S. W. Market Street
Portland 1, Oregon

Dear Mr. Vaughan:

Re: Century Farm Program

Enclosed is an affidavit, verified by County Judge E. G. Arnold of Linn County, for Mr. Fred W. Mespelt, Route 3, Scio, Oregon.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Buhla C. Grabow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Buhla C. Grabow
Secretary to Genevieve Morgan
Informational Representative

bg
-Encl.-



STATE OF OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SALEM
July 2, 1958

Judge E. G. Arnold
Linn County Courthouse
Albany, Oregon

Dear Judge Arnold:

In connection with the Century Farm Program, this will
acknowledge receipt of the affidavit of Mr. Fred W. Mespelt,
Route 3, Scio, Oregon.

Thank you for this affidavit.

Sincerely yours,

Buhla C. Grabow
Secretary to Genevieve Morgan
Informational Representative

bg
cc - Thomas Vaughan ✓

Linn

Northwest

PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

619 Henry Bldg. Portland 4, Oregon

STAYTON MAIL

Stayton, Oregon

Circulation 1594

JUL 24 1958

Century Farmer Honor Awarded to Scio Man

■ Fred M. Mespelt, Scio, among the 26 Oregon farmers who have qualified for the title of "Century Farmers of Oregon." In order to be eligible for this award, the recipient must be actively engaged in farming on a place occupied by himself and his family for past 100 years.

Century Farm honors will be presented at the Oregon state fair, which begins August 28. The program is sponsored by the Oregon Historical society and the state agricultural department.

CFR 0219
Loat, Edward
Link Co.

Centennial Farmer Fred Mespelt Recalls Log Cabin, 4 Other Houses on Homestead

By JOSEPHINE SOMMER
Democrat-Herald Correspondent

RIVERVIEW — Fred Mespelt, one of Oregon's Centennial farmers, pointed proudly off across his place to the acres of sweet corn and strawberries, as he reminisced about the past. Now there are 160 acres left of the original 320 bought by Edward Loat back in June of 1858. Though he will be 80 years old next October, Mespelt still farms a part of the place with his grandson, but most of it is rented.

He recalls five different houses on the place and three barns. The original house was a log cabin built by Loat. The first owner came from England, returned to marry a widow, Mrs. Anne Smith, then brought his bride and her two little boys, John and Alfred, back to America to make their home.

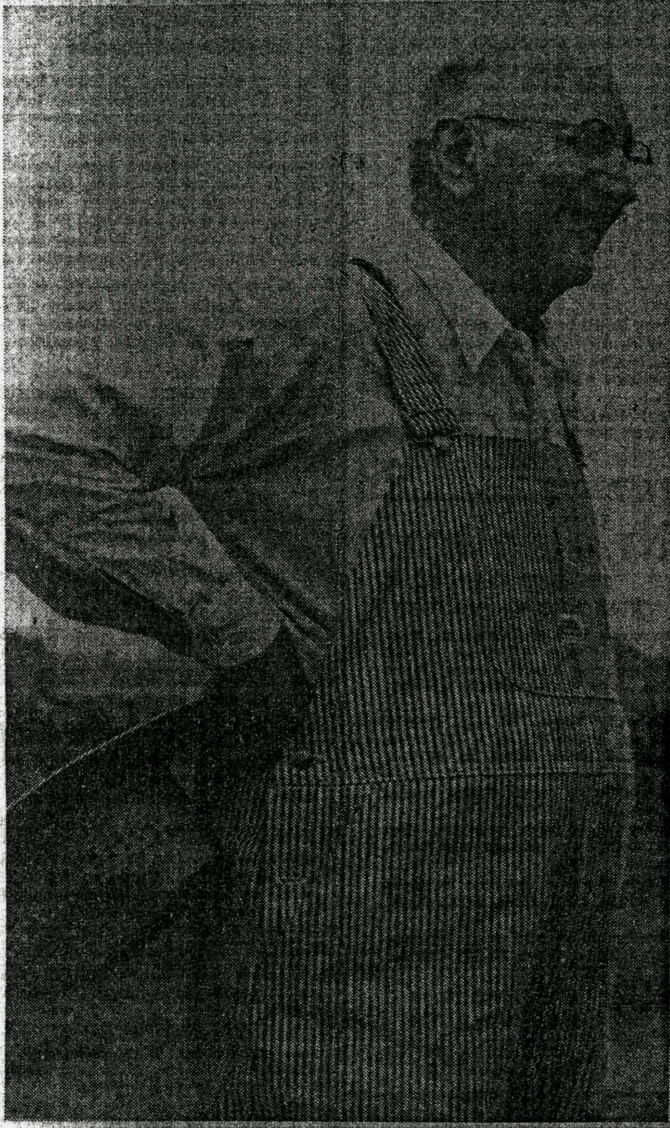
Grapevine Remains

A grapevine that was planted by that log cabin 100 years ago, still grows on a trellis just west of the house now occupied by Mespelt and his daughter, Mrs. Wynona Kelly and her son Don.

Older residents of the community recall "Grandpa Loat" as a kindhearted man who was a good stepfather to the two little boys. Speaking of him brought to their minds a picture of him as he looked in his late years, with his long white hair and beard making him a distinctive figure. He died on Jan. 12, 1904, but he had divided the place between John and Alfred Smith before that. The part now owned by Mespelt was recorded to John, Dec. 27, 1876.

Wife Inherits Farm

John Smith died July 25, 1906, leaving the place to his wife, Minnie, and to their three children, Anna V., Edward Loat, and Ernest. She too died on the home place but not until May 1, 1949. Mespelt has many pleasant memories of his visits with John, even before his courtship and marriage to his daughter, Anna. During their years on the place, the



FRED MESPELT: His Farm Has a Past

(Photo by Lucille Thurston)

Smiths built onto the log cabin and built two other houses.

Hop picking time brought a "gathering of the clan" to the Smith home, as the Fitzwaters, Waddles and other relatives ar-

rived to spend a night, gather fruit from the big orchard, and then journey on to the hopyards in the Independence area. Minnie Smith and her children accompanied them for the rest of the

trip and the weeks of camping and picking. Another overnight stop-over on the return trip home, filled the barn and every available sleeping spot.

Farm Deed Recorded

The farm was recorded to Anna V. and Fred Mespelt in August 1910. Here they reared their three daughters, Waunita (Mrs. Joe Kitchen, Salem), Wynona, Mrs. Ernest Kelly), and Opal (Mrs. Dick Carlson, Portland), and made an ever welcome vacation spot for all of their grandchildren. He recalled a wooden pump, used for many years, was still in use when they moved there. The Mespelt property, where Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Mespelt and daughter now reside, on Hungry Hill, had been the home of Fred and Annie and the girls until 1910.

In 1923 they built a home which they lost by fire on Aug. 27, 1944. The barn caught fire first, from hay combustion, then spread to the house which also burned to the ground. The couple was alone by then, and built a cabin in which they lived until 1946 when they built the punice block house in which he still lives. Mrs. Mespelt died in 1953. Her brother, Edward, also died on the home place, in 1936.

For five years, from 1931 to 1936, Mespelt hired a farm manager to run the place while he went to Medfra, Alaska, to work in a gold mine owned by his brothers Dolph and Charles. His wife joined him there for a year of his stay.

He has taken an active part in community and county activities all of his adult life. As the only remaining charter member still active in the Riverview Farmers Union, he was presented by the local, a hand-drawn scroll, made by Mrs. Leo Metcalf. He received it at a banquet held at the community hall June 5, 1953. When the local was organized on Feb. 16, 1915, Mespelt was elected vice president.