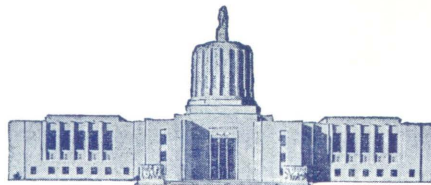


CFR 0256

Bertha L. Watson



STATE OF OREGON
OREGON STATE FAIR
SALEM

1507
XXX

October 12, 1959

Mrs. Bertha L. Watson
Shedd, Oregon

Dear Mrs. Watson:

Your letter of October 1, 1959 relative to your special parchment as a Century Farmer has been received. We are forwarding it to the Oregon Historical Society in Portland for their attention.

Thank you for writing us.

Sincerely,

OREGON STATE FAIR

Howard Maple
Howard Maple
Manager

HM:lw

cc Mr. Thomas Vaughan, Director
Oregon Historical Society

*Certificates mailed
11/23/59*

COPY

Shedd Ore

Oct 1 - 1959

Mr Howard Maple,
Manager State Fair

Dear Mr Maple As
I was late getting to
The Fair on Sept 5th
honoring The Century
Farmer so I did not
receive the special
parchment of The
Oregon Historical Society
I was told it would
be mailed to me, as
of now I have not received
it.

I attended the dinner with Mr
Watson, my daughter and grand
children
Bertha Lena Watson

CENTURY FARM REGISTRATION

OREGON STATE FAIR -- SEPTEMBER 8, 1959

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59

1. Name: Bertha Lena Watson
2. Postoffice Address: Shedd
3. County in which your farm is located: Linn
4. How old is your farm? 108. How old are you? _____.
5. Who founded your Century Farm? John Bateman
6. How many miles did you travel to come today? 50
7. Did you receive a Century Farm award at last year's State Fair? no
8. Do you have Century Farm land on both husband and wife sides of the family?
no
9. How many generations of your family live on the farm today? 1
10. How many exhibits do you have at the 1959 Oregon State Fair? none

What are they? _____

11. How many years have you belonged to the Oregon Historical Society or your county Historical Society? none

44 More Century Farms Discovered in Oregon

THE JOYS AND SORROWS, ambitions and achievements, as well as the civic and political contributions of Oregon's pioneer farmers thread through the answers to the simple questionnaire which was supplied to applicants of the 1959 program for Oregon Century Farm honors.

When the questionnaires were tabulated, following verification of 100 years or more of ownership in the same family, the Oregon Historical Society and the State Department of Agriculture—co-sponsors of this unusual tribute to continuous Century Farmers—announced that 44 more Century Farms have been added to the roles in Oregon.

This program was introduced last year as a Centennial tribute to the pioneers of the land. In 1958, 354 farms owned in the same family 100 years or more were discovered.

Adding the 44 farms of 1959 the total comes to just short of 400 farms in Oregon which have been owned and operated in the same family for as far back as 1843. The oldest farm which came to light in the 1959 program was in Yamhill county and on it lives Lewis R. Alderman, son of the original founder, Albert Alderman who settled in 1846.

Eleven counties participated in the program this year with Linn county supplying 10 farms or almost one-fourth of the total number. One of the Linn county farms, in the Roland district near Harrisburg, is co-owned by two sisters.

First From Tillamook

An unusual distinction even for that early day belongs to the first Century Farm from Tillamook county. The owner, Mrs. Bernice E. Wilkins of Bay City, recalls that the first boat built in Oregon, The Morning Star, was built and launched on the waterfront of the W. N. Vaughan land claim on Tillamook Bay. She is a granddaughter of the pioneer Vaughan, who settled in Tillamook county in 1852. The boat Morning Star II, which was launched in late July as a special Tillamook county feature of the Oregon Centennial celebration, is a prototype of the Morning Star launched on the waterfront along the early Vaughan's claim.

The donation land claim on which the two Jackson county Century

Farms this year are based, was settled by an early Oregon legislator who served in both the house and senate; and, in Yamhill county, the Century Farm of Mrs. Edgar C. Newell was established in 1849 by her father, Sebastian Brutscher, who was the first postmaster of Newberg and in whose home the first postoffice was located.

Mrs. Newell recites that the founder named the city after his native town of Newburgh in Bavaria, Germany, though the spelling has changed as any school child would point out.

Speaking of school children, several of the Century Farms are sites of early schools in Oregon. And this historical fact shows the interest of the pioneer farmers in the education of their children and their neighbors' children.

Early Crops

What were the crops and livestock raised on these first farms—that is, raised 100 years ago? Most of the present day owners have a pretty good idea of what their forebearers did in an agricultural line. On most of the farms wheat, oats and hay were the major crops and this is not hard to understand because the horse was present on most farms. Beef cattle and dairy cows, too, are mentioned often.

One farmer recounts that a man who founded the farm upon which he lives had 30 horses and mules which he used in the farming operations. Another speaks of some orchards and, while orchards are not mentioned frequently through the Century Farm returns, they are mentioned more frequently than caneberries, although even as long ago as a century, some farmers were raising limited quantities of caneberries.

In Yamhill county, on the Alderman farm, a pear tree planted 109 years ago by the founder is still bearing abundantly and history records that this farmer operated two fruit dryers, the first established in that community.

Pest Destroyer

An interesting sidelight on the early orchards tells that instead of using sprays or dusts, as the farmer does today to combat pests, the pioneer farmer used candles over which he put a lampshade and then set them in pans of water. These were placed

under the trees during the night; by daylight the pans would be filled with moths which were thus drawn away from attack on the fruit.

Two farmers mention that hops were among the original crops grown on their Century Farms and several mention sheep and hogs.

On another farm, the present owner still unearths bricks giving evidence that at one time a brick factory or plant was operated there.

The diversification which has made farming in western Oregon so interesting and so successful was the secret which at least one pioneer operator early discovered. His grandson says: "We have never believed in having all the eggs in one basket so different crops have always been planted." Also this farmer says, "we have always believed in keeping up the land so there have been lots of sheep and clover on this farm." He recalls that to his own knowledge, for more than half a century, the farm has never been without sheep.

And one in particular is of interest because the owner points out there is a large hole in the ceiling upstairs where the children used to hide from the Indians when their parents were away!

First Job

Another Century Farmer, speaking of the Indians, recalls the first job the father got when he was a small boy was to go to Rogue River to fight the Indians.

But only one of the 1959 Century Farmers says that the original home is still in use. This house was built in 1853, the year after the farm was settled and the Century Farmer of 1959 is still making his home in this original house, which is located in Douglas county.

And, in Linn county, an original barn is still used. And in Marion county, one Century Farmer is proud of the fact that the original herb garden, started by his grandmother, probably a century ago, is still growing.

\$5 Per Acre

Perhaps you think of a donation land claim when you think of a Century Farm but all of the Century Farms do not stem directly from donation land claims. Or, let's put it

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THE CENTURY FARM at Shedd owned by Bertha Lena Watson, pictured, recently yielded this double-barrel sausage or meat grinder, a relic of pioneer days.

another way. Back in the days of 100 or more years ago farmers bought and sold land just as do our farmers today. The only difference is—or at least the major difference was—the price wasn't as high. For example, one of the original deeds shows that part of a donation land claim was purchased in 1857 for approximately \$5 an acre. Still another transaction was reported in Marion county when the grandfather of the present owner paid \$6.25 an acre for 100 acres of a donation land claim taken by another man.

Not many of the farms of today have the same acreage as they started with. Some of them are larger and some of them are smaller. For example, the largest Century Farm of 1959 contains 585 acres and the smallest one, only 4½ acres.

For the 44 farms coming into Century Farm recognition this year 12 were founded in 1852 and five in 1850, others ranged from 1846 to 1859.

Most of the relationships between the current owner and founder of the farm are either granddaughters or grandsons but there are some great, great grandsons, some grand nieces, with a scattering of other relation-

ships. Of the 44 farms, 20 are owned by women. Eight are owned by husband-wife teams.

Century Farms

A complete list of the Century Farms on the 1959 roll:

Benton county—Mrs. D. Ross Barclay, Route 3, Box 598, Corvallis.

Clackamas county—Rex and Clara James, Route 2, Box 305, Molalla.

Douglas county—Charles Henry Jones, Myrtle Creek; Mrs. Magdalene Nichols, Route 1, Box 7, Riddle; Raymond J. Nichols, Star Route, Box 1, Winston; Bruce Cunningham, Drain.

Jackson county—J. D. and Letha Ross, 1571 Ross Lane, Medford; Margaret Ross Humphreys, 412 Haven Street, Medford.

Lane county—Stephen H. Ford, Route 5, Box 360, Eugene; Mrs. Frona Hills Hack, Route 1, Box 340, Springfield.

Linn county—Yates Sherer, Tangent; Mrs. Elsie Davis Bond, 1834 Fairmount Blvd., Eugene; Mrs. S. V. Barr, Route 1, Box 2862, Sweet Home; Mrs. Mabel J. Reagan, 417 13th Street East, Eugene, and Mrs. Vivian M. Forster, 1555 Laurel Heights, Albany; Loren J. Bond, Route 2, Box 362, Albany; Bertha Lena Watson, Route 1, Shedd; John Lester McFarland, Route 1, Tangent; Mr. and Mrs. John W. Alvin, 2560 South Santiam Highway, Lebanon; Mrs. Florence N. Harrison, Rural Route, Brownsville; Mrs. Stacy L. Neeley, Route 2, Albany.

Marion county—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur M. McKay, Route 1, Box 387, Woodburn; Arthur W. McKay, Route 1, Box 386, Woodburn; Chas. S. Mullen, Star Route, Box 59, Newberg; Mr. and Mrs. Willard F. Ramp, Route 1, Box 62, Brooks; Laverne R. Norton, Route 2, Box 64, Woodburn; James L. Cooke, Route 1, St. Paul.

Polk county—Verne A. Fox, Route 1, Box 286, Rickreall; Mrs. Florence Allen Ragsdale, Route 1, Box 179, Rickreall; Miss Bertha Catherine Allen, Route 1, Box 179, Rickreall.

Tillamook county—Mrs. Bernice E. Wilkins, Bay City.

Washington county—Sanford Roy Matteson, Route 1, Box 193, Gaston; Mrs. Jessie B. Sewell, 1st and Lincoln, Hillsboro; Mrs. Juanita D. Wainscott, Route 3, Box 473, Hillsboro; Butler L. Raffety, Route 1, Box 103, Cornelius; F. H. Bowlby, Sr., Route 2, Box 235, Cornelius.

Yamhill county—Keith Lamson, Route 1, Box 364, Willamina; Mrs. Rita Laws, Route 1, Box 247, McMinnville; L. T. Hutt, General Delivery, Yamhill; Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Stahlnecker, Route 3, Box 129, Newberg;

Russell Heater, Route 2, Box 312, Newberg; Mrs. Grant Heater, 503 E. Sherman, Newberg; Mrs. Edgar C. Newall, Route 2, Box 109, Newberg; Mr. and Mrs. Lewis R. Alderman, Route 2, Box 197, Dayton; Harold L. and Helen D. Mendenhall, Route 2, Box 79, Willamina.

COVER PICTURE

This reader-printer is one of the pair of modern devices introduced to effect savings and speed up work in the grade A milk usage audit program in Oregon.

Into it are fed microfilms which the auditor makes in the plant of records having a bearing upon these state studies. The microfilm camera and the reader-printer, now in use for several months, have slashed heavily into the time state men need to pour over original records.

Before their use, a large audit required presence of two auditors in the plant. Now one man goes into the plant, conducts what on-the-ground studies are necessary, takes the pictures and then gets out of the way.

The films are processed overnight and sent to the State Department of Agriculture offices in Salem where they are run through the machine you see on the cover. First step then is to study arithmetic accuracy of the figures. The same machine prints summary forms which are returned to the milk auditor working on this particular plant's records—and from there on out he completes his study.

D. P. Shoup, milk usage audit supervisor for the department, estimates the pair of machines will save roughly \$12,000 in the first year of use on this program. That's the salary of one man, plus savings in travel and lodging costs for all auditors.

Fertilizers, Limes and Mineral Quarterly Sales

April, May and June inspection reports to the State Department of Agriculture show these tonnages of fertilizers, agricultural limes and minerals sold in Oregon during the second quarter of the year:

Fertilizers—Total of 76,173.8 tons of which 59,603.8 tons were simples and 16,570 were mixes.

Agricultural minerals—Total 2,663.6 tons, including 2,282.8 gypsum, 9.5 borax and 140 tons soil sulphur.

Agricultural limes—Total 14,577.4 tons, including 11,440.5 tons limestone and 1,204.9 tons dolomite.