

CFR 0350

Arthur W. McKay

Registered at Fair

59

CENTURY FARM REGISTRATION

OREGON STATE FAIR -- SEPTEMBER 8, 1959

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- 1. Name: Arthur W. McKay
- 2. Postoffice Address: RT. 1 Woodburn
- 3. County in which your farm is located: Marion
- 4. How old is your farm? 103. How old are you? 71.
- 5. Who founded your Century Farm? James McKay
- 6. How many miles did you travel to come today? 25
- 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? 2
- 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

STATE OF OREGON

Department of Agriculture

Inter Office Communication

Date May 28, 1959

To: Tom Vaughan or Judith Scharf

From: Gen Morgan

Subject: 1959 Century Farm Applications

I have one application for Century Farm honors which shows that the farm is rented to a son of the owner and this is the only time the farm has ever been rented. I don't know how you feel but, since the farm is rented in the family, I'm inclined to pass it.

In another case, the application of W. F. Ramp, at Brooks, shows the farm has been rented one time and, of course, gives no idea when. The founder of this farm was Harvey Smith, settled some time in 1850 - no exact date given. I think part of this same land received a Century Farm award last year as the original farm has been divided seven times. Of course, the thing that sticks me is the fact that this farm was rented one time, apparently not within the family. I'm inclined to stick to the rules on this but wonder what you think?

So far we have only three completed applications although several letters have come in asking for application blanks and we have referred them to the respective County Judges.

On second reading, I find that Arthur W. McKay, the man who made the application showing his land as rented to a son, sends a note that his son, Arthur M. McKay - besides renting Arthur W's land - owns in his own right 20 acres of land of the original James McKay land claim founded in 1856, so I suppose both of these people would be eligible. Arthur W. McKay has sent in the old deed to the place with the request that it come back to him, so we are making a copy for you.

*also by phone  
June 4 '59*

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AUG 3 - 1959

# Linn Tops Century Farm List for '59

SALEM—Linn county, runner up among Oregon counties last year, now tops the field in 1959 Century Farm competition.

Linn county has ten of the 44 additional Century farms reported this year; Yamhill is a close second with nine. According to Thomas Vaughan, representing the Oregon Historical society, and Frank McKinnon, state director of agriculture, these farms reported in 1959 will be added to the 354 discovered in connection with this unique program last year.

Two of Linn county's 1959 Century farms are owned jointly by sisters. Benton county has added one such farm, that owned by Mrs. D. Ross Barclay, Rt. 3, Corvallis.

The new group of Century Farm owners — descendants who have stayed continuously with the agricultural pursuits of the farm founder — will be honored in a grand finale at the Oregon State Fair on Tuesday, September 8. At that time Governor Mark O. Hatfield will present the handsome parchment enrolling the farms in the archives of the Oregon Historical Society.

Eleven counties, four less than year, are included in the current list. All are from western Oregon, which leaves to date the three from Wasco county on last year's honor roll as the sole representative of that vast farming area which was settled later than the western side.

Besides Linn, Benton, Yamhill and Marion, the 1959 Centennial Farms are in: Clackamas, one; Douglas, 4; Jackson, 2; Lane, 2; Polk, 3; Washington, 5; and Tillamook, 1.

All continuous ownership verifications were made by the respective county judges, whose name along with the governor's, the sponsors and the state fair commission chairman will appear on the Century Farm parchment to be awarded at the fair.

The oldest farm this year (Lewis R. Alderman's at Dayton) is 113 years; 12 were founded in 1852, five in 1850 and one or more of the others each year between 1846 and 1859.

Nine of the 43 farms still have some of the original buildings. In Douglas county, Century Farmer Raymond J. Nichols of Winston lives in the original house built in 1853 by his great grandfather.

Strangely enough, the women today outnumber men owners of these historic farm lands. Twenty women, most of them granddaughters but including one great grand niece, are on the list. Eight of the honors go to husband-wife teams.

Most intricate of all claims to trace relationship is that of the Charles S. Mullen farm near Newberg, whose Century Farm was founded in 1852 by the half-brother of his great grandfather. At the other extreme is the Alderman farm on which the son of the founder lives today.

Not all the farms come down straight from original donation land claims. Even a hundred years ago farmers were buying and selling their lands—but not at today's prices. Mrs. Jessie B. Sewell at Hillsboro has the original deed in which farmers, by their marks, in 1857 transferred 318.95 acres or half of their donation land claim for \$1600 or about \$5 an acre. A year earlier in Marion county the present Arthur McKay Century Farm was started when James McKay paid \$1000, or \$6.25 per acre, for 160 acres of a donation land claim.

A few farms are intact, acreage-wise.

Following are the owners of 1959 Century Farms in Linn county:

Yates Sherer, Tangent; Mrs. Elsie Davis Bond, 1834 Fairmount Blvd., Eugene; Mrs. S. V. Barr, Rt. 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, Rt. 2, Box 362, Albany; Bertha Lena Watson, Rt. 1, Shedd; John Lester McFarland, Rt. 1, Tangent; Mr. and Mrs. John W. Alvin, 2560 S. Santiam Highway, Lebanon; Mrs. Florence N. Harrison, Rural Route, Brownsville; Mrs. Stacy L. Neeley, Rt. 2, Albany.