

CFR 0444

R. B. Denney

1958

58

CENTURY FARM REGISTRATION

OREGON STATE FAIR -- SEPTEMBER 8, 1959

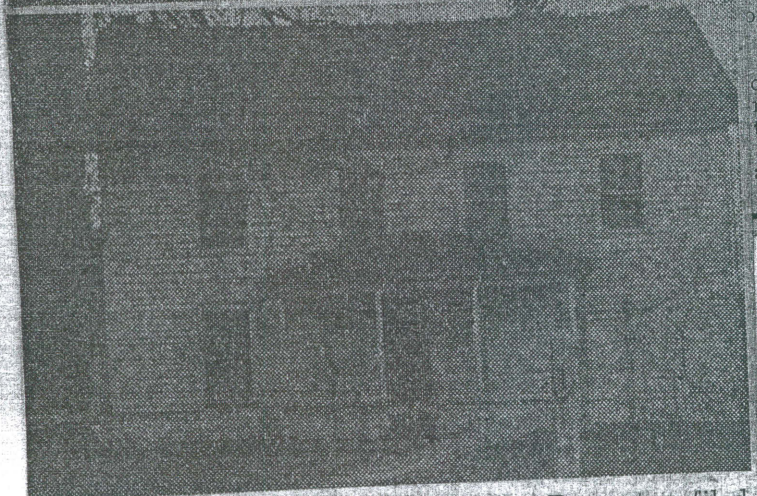
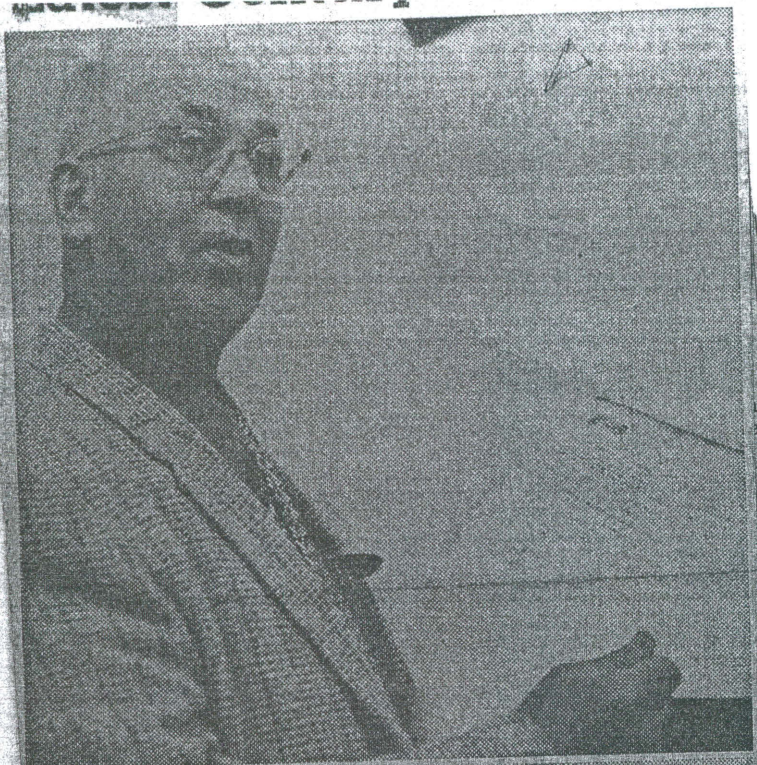
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- 1. Name: R. B. Denny
- 2. Postoffice Address: P.O. Box 247
- 3. County in which your farm is located: Washington
- 4. How old is your farm? 110. How old are you? 71.
- 5. Who founded your Century Farm? Thomas H. Denny
- 6. How many miles did you travel to come today? 52 miles
- 7. Did you receive a Century Farm award at last year's State Fair? yes
- 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? 0
 What are they? _____

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

CFR 0444

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DEED TO DONATION land claim near Beaverton, filed by his grandfather Thomas, is displayed by R. B. Denney, who still raises crops on part of the acreage. Bottom picture shows old Denney home, no longer standing.

(Sixth Washington county farmer to qualify for century farm scroll—his family's having farmed on same land for over 100 years—is R. B. Denney of Beaverton. Below, he

passes on a bit of the family history).

By **R. B. DENNEY**
March 10, 1949. Thomas H.
(Continued on Page 2)

Vie for Century Awards

BEAVERTON—Two Washington county farms qualified last week for the Century Farm contest, sponsored by the state department of agriculture and the Oregon Historical society.

Original owners still working the farm will be presented with an award at the State Fair this year. The Century Farm program will be a continuing event and farm owners will receive the honor each year as they are able to qualify.

Today, modern ranch-type homes almost completely surround the R. E. Denney farm located south of Beaverton city limits. Mr. and Mrs. Denney, who retired from the dairy business a number of years ago, live in the comfortable, eight-room home which they built in 1946. The donation land grant homesteaded by his grandfather, Thomas H. Denney, on Dec. 1, 1850.

Initiative and perseverance were qualities possessed in large measure by Thomas H. Denney, who dismantled his sawmill in Indiana and shipped it to Oregon around Cape Horn. The sawmill set up in 1854 on Fanno creek turned out lumber for many of the early homes in Washington county, including the Fanno home which still stands and the Denney home on what is now Allen Ave. and Scholls Ferry Rd., and which is no longer standing.

Only a stone's throw from highway 217 is the Frank Fanno home built 100 years ago by Frank's grandfather, Augustus. Settling on the creek that today bears his name, the early day pioneer picked the spot because the water was pure enough to drink and there was a meadow clearing where you could see the sky without looking straight up. The course of the country then was the dense timber. Prized possession of the Fanno family is the Certificate No. 12 signed by President Abraham Lincoln granting Augustus Fanno and his wife, Rebecca, one section, 640 acres of land. The claim was registered in 1850.

This 100th year finds the Fanno family still farming 80 acres of the original farm where they raise hay and beef cattle. Their married son, Norman and his family also live on the place. Another son, George, is a student at Beaverton union high school, and a married daughter, Mrs. Viola McMaine lives in Portland. Mrs. Fanno conducts a nursery business, specializing in fuchsias and geraniums. The balance of the land was deeded to others in the family.

Today the giant manufacturing plant of Sawyers Inc. at Progress is on part of the original donation land claim. Buttermilk Hill and other housing projects occupy part of the land.

Visiting the Fanno family at the 100-year-old home, we learned the first onions and potatoes raised in Willamette valley came from the farm. Augustus was the first settler along the creek and his nearest neighbor was five miles away. Alonzo Fanno, Frank's father, was instrumental in getting cooperative telephones into the neighborhood.

The family feels a certain pride in its historical role. "I guess that is why we make the best of this old house where a long heavy beam running the full length prevents much remodeling," Mrs. Fanno mused. Taxes on the 80 acres average about \$1000 a year and since the farm doesn't produce it, Fanno is employed in Portland. Both Frank Fanno and his father, Alonzo, were born in the house.

The following data was learned from an interview written by the late Fred Lockley 20 years ago.

Augustus Fanno arrived on the creek in 1847, a widower with a four-year-old son, Eugene. His wife had died in childbirth after crossing the plains a year earlier. The family first settled at Linn City across the Willamette river from Oregon City.

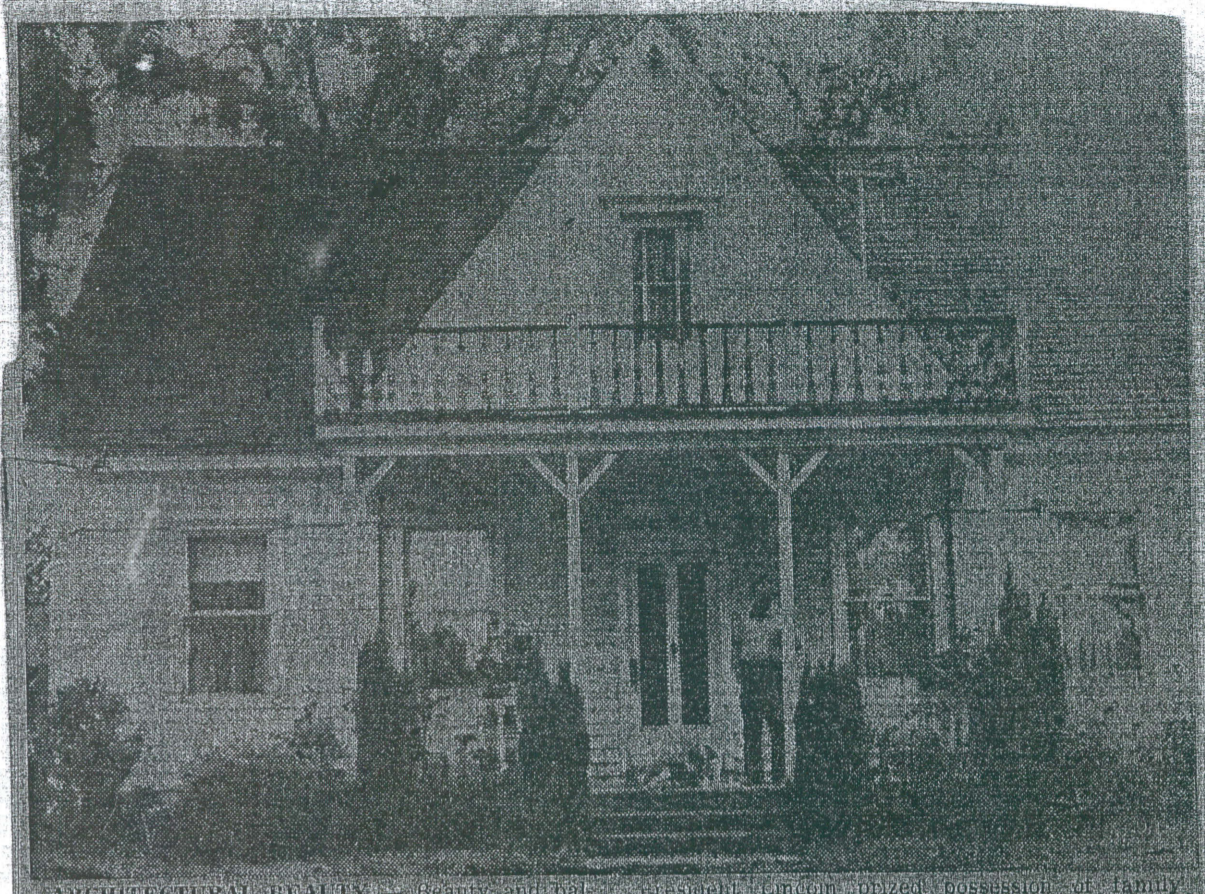
In 1849 he married Miss Rebecca Jane Denney, who was born in Kentucky in 1819. Augustus was born near Portland, Maine, in 1804 and went to sea, where he spent over three years voyaging out of Portland and Boston to the West Indies and around. He later settled in New Orleans and taught school. He was the first deputy sheriff appointed in Washington county, and also served as school director.

Frank's mother, Ada Richards was born in Penzance, England and came here in 1872.

R. E. Denney has written the family history in the following interesting detail.

On March 10, 1849, Thomas H. Denney, a Kentuckian by birth and a resident of Indiana for a number of years, with his bride of a few months, Berilla King Denney, and several relatives, namely Robert and Rebecca Denney, brother and sister, and cousins, Dr. John L. Hicklin, James and Elizabeth

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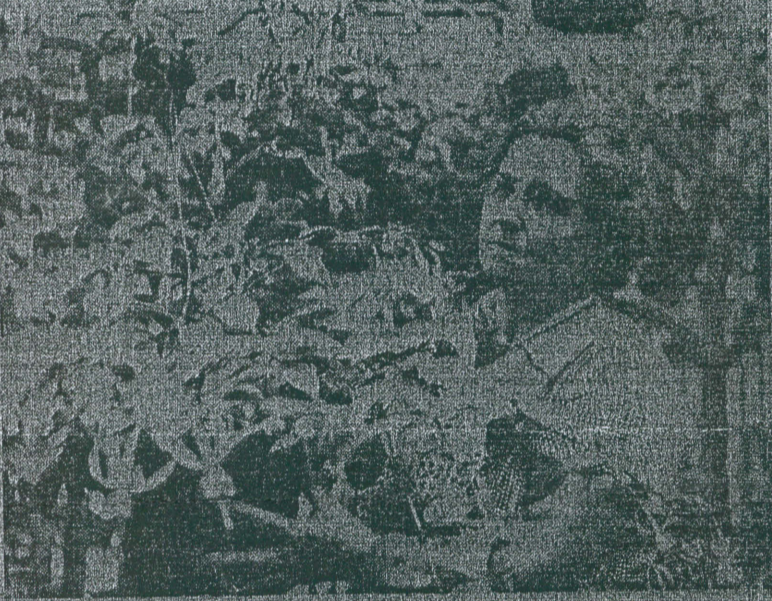
ARCHITECTURAL BEAUTY — Beauty and balance are emphasized in century-old Frank Fanno home just off Highway 217 near Progress. House was built by Augustus Fanno who registered 640-acre claim in 1850. Certificate signed by President Lincoln, prized possession of family which still farms 80 acres of original homestead. Fanno creek is named for family. **STAFF PHOTO**

It was most interesting to walk through his orchard and see and taste the many varieties of apples, plums, pears and peaches. Some of the old moss-grown trees are still standing in this plot near Whitford.

Thomas Denney lived well past 91 years. After his death the property reverted to the four sons and three daughters, Fielding, Lewis, King and Aaron, Burnett, Renie and Allie, who more or less did general farming.

For a number of years B. K. Denney and sons R. E. and T. B. were in partnership in farming and dairying. After the death of B. K. Denney, the sons continued in the dairy business for several years. T. B. Denney with a herd of Jerseys and R. E. with his sons Fielding and William H. developed a herd of Holsteins and a retail milk route.

Both R. E. and T. B. have now retired. R. E. Denney has deeded a number of acres of the original claim on which he resides. Berries and grain are the crops still being cultivated.



FUCHSIAS GALORE — Mrs. Frank Fanno holds fuchsia basket only one of beauties she grows in profusion at her home nursery. Specializing in both fuchsias and geraniums, the warm and friendly nurserywoman is especially busy in spring and early summer season with customers. She views life in the 100-year-old home with mixed feelings. **STAFF PHOTO**

Beaverton Valley News
July 24 1958

Washington Co.
Penny