

CFR 0466

Mr. Waldo B. Flint

U.S. Census Definition of a Farm: 10 acres or more with agricultural sales of \$50 or more a year; or, if less than 10 acres, sales of at least \$250 a year.

## APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS--1970

(Rules attached)

Deadline for filing application: July 1, 1970

## PLEASE PRINT

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) Mr. Waldo B. FlintYour address: Route # 1 P.O. Box 962 Town BearertonLocation of farm: 7 mi. West of Progress on Hwy 210 Washington  
(Address) (County)Acres in your farm today: 240 Acres in original farm: 550Does your farm comply with U.S. Census definition at top of page? YesName of founder of farm (please print): B.T. FlintYear founder settled on farm? 1865 Where did he come from? California.How many families have farmed this land? 3Are any of original buildings still in use? Part of 1 barn.Who farms land today? You? me A renter? No A manager? No Other? None

If you own the farm but live in town, do you manage the farming operation? \_\_\_\_\_

What relation are you to the original owner? Grandson.

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm 100 years ago, please list \_\_\_\_\_

Sheep + Grain + Apples.What do you raise on farm today? Grain + Cattle + PigsWalnuts + Filberts + Hay.How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) Myself - My twochildren and two grandchildren.Has the farm ever been rented? No How many times has original farm been divided? None

PLEASE list on separate page attached other historical facts you know about this farm.

Do you declare that the statements made above are accurate and correct to the best of your knowledge? YesWaldo B. Flint

Signature of Owner



Submitted by: Waldo B. Flint, Route #1- Box 962, Beaverton, Ore, 97005  
(Name and Address)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This place was bought by my Grandfather in Dec. 18, 1865 from the Humphrey Donation Land Claim. This was B. J. Flint. who had two sons, My father G. B. Flint & his brother Harry L. My Grandfather then gave part of the property to each son. My father gave me his share of the property and I am farming it.

State Department of Agriculture  
Oregon Historical Society

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Waldo B. Flint,  
Owner's name and address  
Rt. 1, Box 962, Beaverton, Oregon is applying for Century Farm honors,  
has been in his family continuously for 100 or more years.

Date:

June 22, 1970

Roger Thomsen  
~~\*County Commissioner~~

Recorder

Director of Records & Elections


\*Please strike office not applicable



than 100 years. Flint and his four children have talked a lot about the importance of keeping the farm in the family.

# Century farms

## *Progress takes effect on land of pioneers*



Waldo Flint of Scholls and Chester Robinson of Progress have special insight into the rich heritage of Washington County.

The two have lived their lives on land which earned the distinction of a century farm — acreage which was tilled by their ancestors more than 100 years ago.

The two long-time friends share common memories of their younger days — fishing in Fanno Creek, catching a train for Portland at Robinson Station and knowing every neighbor for miles around.

They remember well the days when Progress consisted of a blacksmith shop, a big fir tree and a general store. And they smile as they recall a sign on the back of a bus stop in the 1940s — “Watch Progress Progress.”

But the two farmers have seen a lot of

changes in the name of progress, and some have affected their lives dramatically. Farming has become economically unfeasible, they both agree.

Flint said his dairy business was only bringing in \$1,500 to \$1,600 a month, from which he generally had to pay the salaries of two employees. So he and his family now rent out much of their 500 acres to a farmer who plants grain and clover crops alternately with potatoes.

Robinson, 63, was hit by the high cost of farming and the squeeze of impinging development. As business and industry were established in the Washington Square area, the burden of taxes, which were almost doubling for several years, was added to the problem of high wages and low profits.

So he and his family sold most of their land, retaining a three-acre parcel where he and his wife, Evelyn, live in a house they built in 1955.

Three acres is enough for a garden, a few fruit trees and a little elbow room.

“So at least I can walk around and see what’s blooming,” Evelyn said. “I can’t stand to be cooped up in a little area.”

The Robinson family land had been divided several times, first when Chester’s great-grandfather died, then when his grandfather died and again when his father died. “But most of it stayed in the family until the 1960s,” he said.

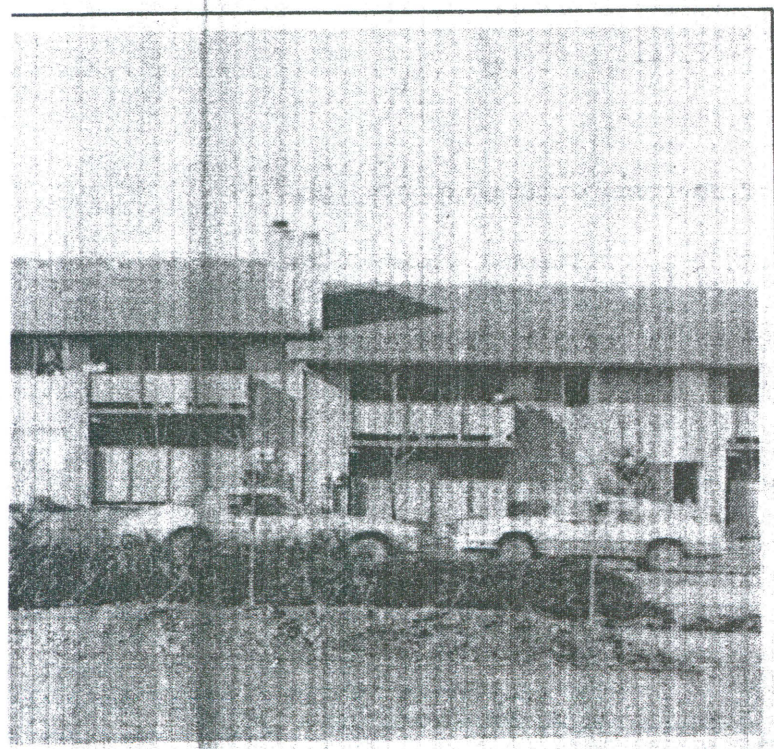
Chester’s great-grandparents, William J. and Emeline Barnum Robinson had originally purchased 320 acres in 1866, and they later bought some additional acreage from a squatter.

Chester, his brother, William, and his father, Harry, farmed and herded cattle on 600 acres which extended along the SW Scholls Ferry Road area from the railroad tracks near Portland Chain Manufacturing Co. to SW 121st Avenue and from near the GAF Corp. plant south to the area of SW North Dakota Street.

Development has now changed much of the acreage. “You used to be able to see from one side of it to the other, but now there’s too

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Century farm.



and his ancestors farmed more than a century ago.

Story by Susan Claybourn Craig  
Photos by David Owens



# Farms

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many obstructions," Robinson said.

The Koll Business Center on Scholls Ferry Road was recently built across from the area where the first house, a log cabin, was located. Apartment and condominium complexes nearly surround the Robinson home, which was built on the site where his grandparents had lived.

Increased traffic is the most annoying side effect to all that development, the Robinsons said, and the noise level is much higher than it used to be.

Chester said that when he's outside working, he can't hear Evelyn call him from the house. But when he was younger, his mother could "holler" when he and his brother were a half mile down the creek and they'd hear her.

Selling the farm wasn't a rash decision, according to Robinson. "It was something that we could see was coming for a number of years," he said.

"Economically we could see it coming. You could say we never really fought it. If somebody (a developer) would come up here, we'd listen."

Robinson doesn't look back at the sale of the farm with much emotion, but he said he does sometimes think of the way things were.

"Of course you think about the old days sometimes," he said.

"Dirt to me is more precious now," Evelyn added. "It just sort of seems like you've got to hold onto the soil as long as you could."

The 74-year-old Flint said it hurt him when people like the Robinsons lose their farms. "I see so much of it," he said.

He's determined that his family will hold on to their acreage. The land was recently divided between his four children at a cost of about \$130,000 in taxes.

"The children all like it," he said. "They want to keep it as long as possible as a farm, because when you let loose of it, it's gone for good."

Flint said some people wonder why he didn't give the land directly to his grandchildren to save the cost of transferring ownership again in the future. It takes time for young people to appreciate the value of land, he explained. His children "didn't have the love for the farm" when they were younger that they do today, he said.

Flint said his grandparents, Benjamin Talbert and Julia Lawrence Flint, paid \$10 an acre in 1865 for 240 acres on a Humphrey donation land claim. Benjamin Flint had traveled from Massachusetts to California, where he raised sheep for a while, and back to his home state to marry, before settling in Oregon.

The Flint family has since acquired more land, and the family still has about 500 acres called the Mid-Valley Farm, on Highway 210 between Progress and Scholls. Waldo and his children have talked a lot about keeping the farm in the family. It's agreed, he explained, that if one of his children wants to sell his parcel of land, he will sell it to one of his brothers or sisters.

His children have also reached a verbal agreement that if something were to happen to any of them, and their spouses were to remarry, the new husband or wife would not be entitled to ownership.

Having the farm, Flint said, has kept his family close. He calls himself one of the richest men in the country, family-wise, because he could call his children at any time and they would come right by to see him. His children and 11 grandchildren gather often for visits.

Flint is obviously proud of his family, the farm and the pioneer history of his ancestors' land. Two of the farm's original sheds still remain standing, he eagerly pointed out, and the driveway outside his house is shaded by a 101-year-old chestnut tree.

If Waldo Flint has anything to say about it, that tree will shade generations of his family for years to come.

GO



Hillsboro, Oregon  
Argus  
(Cir. W. 9,409)

AUG 10 1970

*Allen* P. C. B. Est. 1888

## Century Farm added to roster

Washington County farm of Waldo B. Flint of Rt. 1, Beaverton, has been added to Oregon's Century Farm list this year.

The farm is seven miles southwest of Progress on Scholls Ferry road.

It is one of 501 carrying the Century Farm designation since the program was started in 1958 by Oregon Dept. of Agriculture and Oregon Historical Society.

New Century Farmers will receive certificates at a program during the state fair.