

CFR 0653

Howard and Evelyn Smith

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Canby OR  
Wednesday  
Sep 10  
1980

Clackamas

Howard and Evelyn Smith, relaxing in their living room under a wall of photos of family members, were honored Monday by the Oregon and Clackamas Historical Societies with a Century Farm plaque for the property that has remained in the Smith family for more than 100 years.

# Century Farm honored

A Canby area couple was honored Monday night for their family's 100-year ownership of a farm near Macksburg.

Howard and Evelyn Smith were among three Clackamas County farmers awarded "Century Farm" plaques by the Clackamas County Historical Society and the Oregon Historical Society in ceremonies at Oregon City.

The Smiths are part owners of the familiar "Four Mile Farm" on Hwy. 170 near Macksburg Road, which includes a bright red barn complete with crowning weather vane. But the piece of property for which they were honored actually lies across the

highway north of Macksburg Road.

The land was deeded in 1878 by Smith's great-grandfather, Washington G. Smith, owner of the original Macksburg Store, which housed a popular dance hall upstairs and was a center of the community.

Washington sold the 103.92-acre plot to his son—Howard's grandfather James W. Smith—for \$1,200 in 1885.

"How'd you like to buy land at those prices," mused Howard)

James Smith, a county commissioner and one of the founding board members of the Clackamas County Fair, built the first house on the property. A baseball field and grandstand on the land

"where all the Fourth of July doings were held" was a cornerstone of the community, Howard recalls.

Originally a stand of timber, the land has been used over the years to raise wheat, potatoes, alfalfa, corn and peas. While all the original buildings are gone, a house built in 1908 is home to Howard's sister.

James passed the land on to Smith's father Chester. His son Clinton has two daughters and a son, and daughter Linda Buelna has one daughter, so the prospects of a second century of family ownership for one of the county's 64 Century Farms seem firmly established.



James W. Smith  
County commissioner

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