

CFR 0724

E. Riddell Lage (Lage Orchards, Inc.)

To qualify as a Century Farm a farm must have not less than 10 acres with a gross income from farm use of not less than \$500 per year for three out of the five years immediately preceding application for Century Farm honors.

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS--1976
(Rules Attached)
Deadline for filing application: July 1, 1976

PLEASE PRINT

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) Lage Orchards, Inc.

Your address: Route 6 ~~EX~~ Box 562 Town Hood River

Location of farm: Rt. 6, Box 562, Hood River, Oregon Hood River
(Address) (County)

Acres in your farm today: 284 1/2 Acres in original farm: 163 1/4

Does your farm comply with the definition at top of page? Yes

Name of family member who was founder or original owner of farm (please print): _____

Hans Lage

Year founder settled on farm? 1876 Where did he come from? Germany via Iowa

How many families have farmed this land? 6

Are any of original buildings still in use? No

Who farms land today? You? Yes A renter? _____ A manager? _____ Other? _____

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 Small
cleared area used for garden, hogs, dairy cows & feed for livestock.

What do you raise on farm today? Apples, Pears & Cherries

How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) Grandson, Great Grandson,
Great Granddaughter, and Great-Great-Grandchildren (4 Boys - 2 Girls)

Has the farm ever been rented? No How many times has original farm been divided? 7

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? Yes

Mail to: Oregon Dept. of Agriculture
Agriculture Bldg., Salem, OR 97310

E. Riddell Lage
(Signature of owner)

Submitted by E. Riddell Lage

(Name and Address)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hans Lage bought Milton Neal's homestead rights and moved onto our farm in March 1876.

The court house record does not show the transaction between Milton Neal and Hans Lage. The first record to Hans Lage in the court house is a United States Patent to Hans Lage dated Dec. 20, 1883 (xerox copy enclosed)

To substantiate the fact that my Grand father Hans Lage settled on this farm in 1876, I enclose the following. Hood River News item Feb. 19, 1976, yesteryears column, showing that 50 years ago the Pine Grove Grange honored Hans for having been here on this farm 50 years in 1926.

Excerpts from a story written by his daughter Laura (now deceased) in 1933 giving some family history.

A copy of a biography of Hans Lage which was published in a book about the Columbia River Valley in 1928 and was a result of an interview with Mr. Lage.

Today the farm is operated by Lage Orchards, Inc. This is a family corporation that was organized in 1960. This Corporation is owned and operated by Mr. & Mrs. E. Riddell Lage (Grandson), Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Lage, Jr. (Greatgrandson) and Mr. & Mrs. Kent E. Lambert (Judy Lage Greatgranddaughter)

We still farm $127\frac{1}{4}$ acres of the original $163\frac{1}{4}$ acre homestead.

176 Cent. Corres
(Lage)

May 11, 1976

Mr. E. Riddell Lage
Lage Orchards, Inc.
Route 6, Box 562
Hood River, OR 97031

Dear Mr. Lage:

In checking over your recently-filed application for 1976 Century Farm Honors, we note that Form A, "Certification of Ownership of Century Farm" was not included with the other materials mailed to this office.

It may be that this form was simply overlooked when you filled out the main application form, and gathered together the other historical data which was included with the application.

We will need to have a Form A completed and verified by any one of the members of the Hood River Board of County Commissioners or the county recorder for Hood River County. We are enclosing a copy of this form (and rules sheet, asking that you note Rule No. 10), and ask that you complete it and return it to this office so that your application may be complete.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter!

Sincerely,

Jim Hollon, Director
Information Services

bg
-Enclosures-

Entry No. 2

United States of America
to
Hans Lage.

UNITED STATES PATENT.
Dated Dec. 20, 1883.
Filed March 6, 1884.
Vol. I of Deeds, pg. 432,
Wasco County records.
Vol. B of Deeds, pg. 110,
Hood River Co. records.

Signed by the President, by his Secretary, and by the Recorder of the General Land Office; G. L. O. Seal attached.

Issued upon Homestead Certificate No. 341 and Application No. 632.

Whereas There has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Dalles Oregon whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Hans Lage has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the North half of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and the South half of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section eighteen in township two north of range eleven east of Willamette Meridian, in Oregon, containing one hundred and sixty three acres and twenty eight hundredths of an acre, according to the Official Plat of the Survey of said land, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General.

Now Know Ye that there is therefore granted by the United States unto the said Hans Lage the tract of Land above described.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land with the appurtenances thereto unto the said Hans Lage and to his heirs and assigns forever....

Hood Ri

SIXTY YEARS AGO—1916

Our community is to have a spray plant. Mr. Newton and Mr. Fording have already commenced building on Mr. Newton's property. In a short time they expect to be able to turn out from 25 to 50 barrels a day. The product will be known as the Old Niagara Spray.

J. R. Nunamaker has purchased the 40 acre Stanton ranch in Odell and is already making preparations for a large crop of apples.

Among local residents who have recently applied for naturalization papers are Ernest H. Mauritson and Dr. H.D.W. Pineo. Mr. Mauritson was born in Sweden and Dr. Pineo in Nova Scotia.

FIFTY YEARS AGO—1926

Hans Lage, pioneer of this valley, will be the guest of honor at a reception in the Pine Grove grange hall. This event will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the day when Mr. Lage first settled on the ranch at Pine Grove which is still his home.

The Leonora, operated by Mrs. Leonra Huelat, is a specialty shop showing the better line in millinery, dresses, lingerie and accessories, where ladies can find a well-selected assortment of choice creations of each season's correct modes and be assured that each personal selection will not be duplicated as there is but one of a kind.

FORTY YEARS AGO—1936

Truman Butler fell about nine feet when he backed into a sidewalk manhole which had been opened as he talked with Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Peters Tuesday morning. X-rays disclosed that two ribs were cracked, a piece of bone was broken off his hip and a severe blow back of his ear were the most serious of his injuries. Latest reports are that he is recovering.

As soon as the debris of the recent costly fire on Second street can be removed, a modern two story structure is to be built, according to Mrs. C. A. Richards, owner of the property. The ground floor will be occupied by two commodious stores, which it is expected, will be leased to Marchbank Brothers and Charlie Gumm and his associates in the Hood River cafe. The upper floor will contain a series of modern apartments.

THIRTY YEARS AGO—1946

Around two hundred residents of the Hood River area were able to purchase one pair of nylon stockings each at the J.C. Penney Co. last Saturday. More than 300 others, who had helped to crowd the store for nearly two hours were unable to buy nylons because the supply was exhausted.

The Valley Builders, a new group of construction men of Hood River and Parkdale,

1095 205

TEARS AND CHEERS OF PIONEERS

BY

MRS. LAURA LAGE HENDERSON
BINGEN, WASHINGTON



*A Sketch of the Family of the late Hans Lage
who came to Hood River Valley
in March of 1864*



Reprinted from
THE HOOD RIVER GLACIER
MAY, 1933

father, Claus Hock enlisted. He was wounded in the battle of New Orleans.

After the war much hard work had to be done for reconstruction.

Under all these trying conditions, our mother grew to young womanhood. At the age of 15 years she lost her hearing through a sick spell, having the measles. Father and mother met in the bloom of youth and after a time of courtship, they embarked in the matrimonial ship on the sea of life, calm and peaceful and again rough and turbulent, but captain and mate came through this voyage to a peaceful shore.

A young married couple full of anticipation for a happy home, success and many friends was now a new beginning. Renting a farm in Iowa, although times were still hard following the close of the war, this beginning was good with a record of a little gain.

In the summer of another year the first child was born. Meta Lage, a dear brown-eyed daughter. Mother was alone, father and grandfather were working on a neighbor's farm. On this occasion mother nearly lost her life. She had gone for help, but did not get very far, as she grew faint and fell by the roadside. Her own father found her in a very precarious condition, took her home, gave her first aid till father could get a neighbor woman to care for her. The baby became the joy of the home. Time went on with work and pleasure. Two and three more years, baby Emma and Celia also came into being to bless the home with cheers and cares. Sister Celia lived but a few months. For some unknown cause, her little heart grew faint and she slipped out of

life. This brought the first shadow of sorrow in the home, but with aching hearts for the loss of a dear baby, they had to continue with many duties about them.

Time went on in the same routine weeks and months with two little girls to make their hearts glad, for some day they would be a help.

Now in February 1875, a double joy came, for this time a longed for, dear son came to make his home with fond parents, who realized how much a son would be to complete the home. All is well with added cares to the family, and while interested in everything about them and their home. Then came the thoughts of the Golden West, and what there might be in store for them. Letters and reports that were received looked sufficiently favorable to make the move. In the summer of 1875 they decided to sell out their holdings in Iowa and go on to Washington, after the sale was made, bidding their many friends and Iowa, good-bye.

Father, mother, their three small children, mother's father, stepmother and half brother came by the Old Union Pacific Emigrant train to Sacramento, Calif., and then by small side-wheel ocean steamer over rough sea to Portland, Ore., a small village at that time.

The oldest child very sick from the rough voyage. A few days were spent in Portland, then by small river boat to White Salmon. This place of destination was reached on November 11, 1875. Here they reunited with mother's brother, Henry Hock, who had come a year before with the Suskdorf family. They made their abode in the old block house that was built here

during the Indian troubles in the late fifties. All is well now, for a new beginning. It took courage to come west in the early days of long ago. But they were qualified for the occasion, according to their faith, it was done unto them. There were no railroads, not even in Portland; no schools, no churches, no roads, no bridges, the nearest stores or business operations were at The Dalles, a small town, reached only by river boat, or over The Dalles state road from Hood River. Mostly Indian trails and Indians was the best to be seen in the new surroundings.

The beginning was in the wilderness. After a short time visiting with the Suksdorf family, father and uncle Henry Hock scouted the country through woods and Indian trails. Taking provisions, they went out into the Gilmer valley country on foot.

In the afternoon a big snow storm came over, they finally became lost in the storm and woods, night came upon them. They did not know what to do, then in the distance they thought they could hear the barking of dogs. They fired a few shots, which were answered by return shots. Then Mr. Gilmer, father of the present George Gilmer, set out with his dogs to meet the two lost men in the woods. He took them home to his humble log cabin which had a big fireplace, yet it was cold because the building was not chinked well, but it was a haven of rest to what it was under the trees in the storm.

Father and uncle were more than grateful to find such a good friend as they found Mr. Gilmer to be. They ate some of their provisions they had carried with

them and some barley coffee Mr. Gilmer had made for them. Straw beds were made on the floor for the two men where they slept in peace till morning. Mr. Gilmer wished for them to stay for a few days visit. A fatted calf was slaughtered, that there might be enough to eat.

The snow had gotten too deep for them to go any further, so they returned to their home in the block house.

After the snow was gone they started out again into the Camas prairie and Fulda country. This they did not like. Too much water standing in lakes and pools, land not well drained and would not make good farms, and also too far away from river transportation.

They return again, then just as soon as the weather would permit, they made a scouting trip to the Hood River valley. This they liked much better, yet it was all a wilderness, with only a few white families, also just at the beginning of a short time. They too decided this little valley would make a good home. Father buying the Milton Neal home-stead, right, 160 acres for \$300, with only one-half acre cleared for garden. Uncle Henry and grandfather Hock took up a homestead where the Old State Dalles road enters into the valley, known now as the Ordway place, or the Sears and Porter orchard.

On March 4, 1876, all moved to Hood River valley to begin anew. There was a small four rooms with attic, shanty, small barn and a few out-buildings on the place, with some repairs made quite a comfortable home.

The buildings were all made of

HISTORY
of the
Columbia River Valley

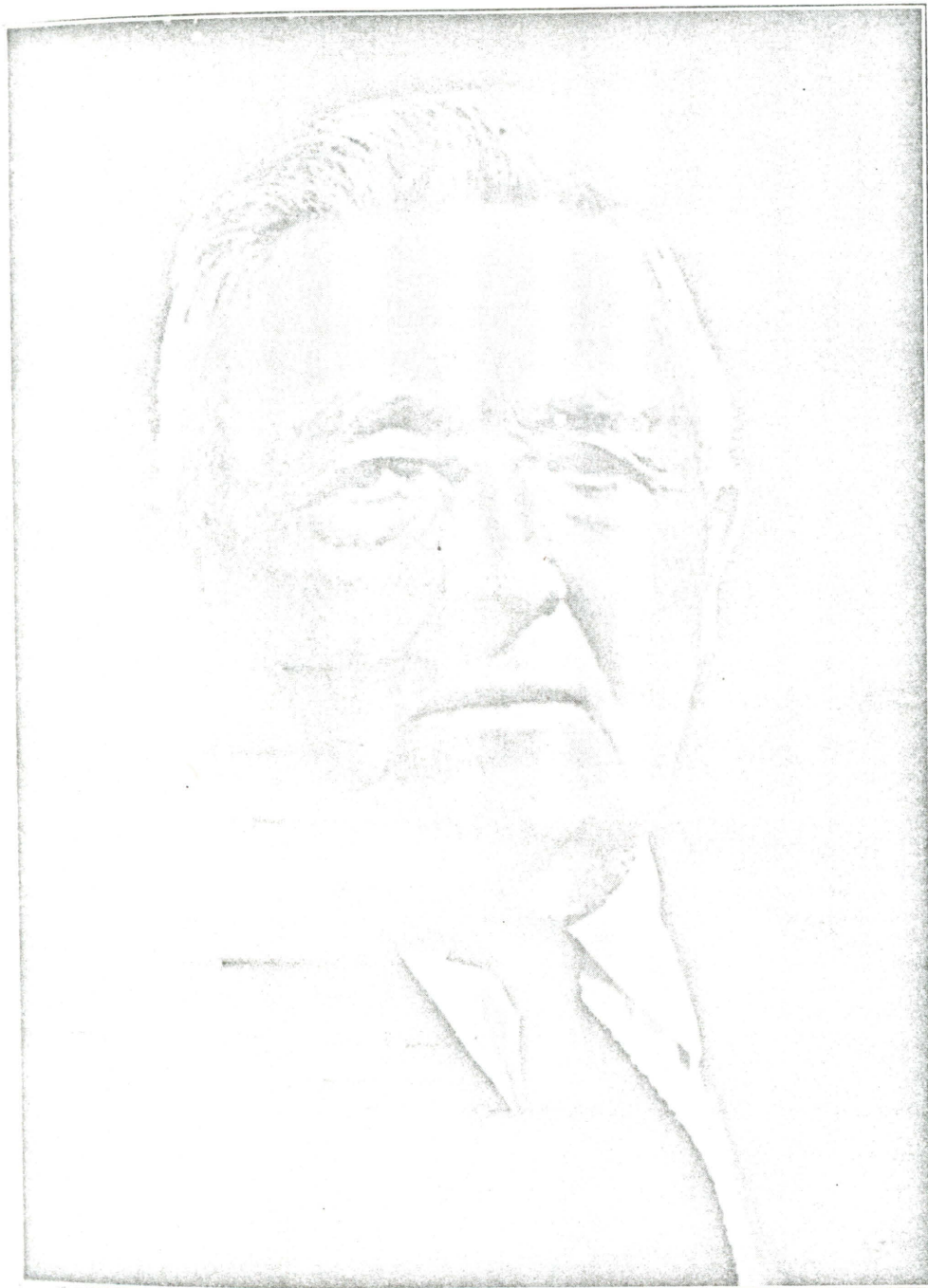
From The Dalles to the Sea

Volume II

Illustrated



CHICAGO
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY
1928



HANS LAGE

Mr. Ray was married in Newport, Oregon, to Miss Harriet A. Wass, who survives him. They became the parents of two children: Harold W., president of A. J. Ray & Son, president of the Ray-Maling Company and president of the Ray-Brown Company; and Dean G., who is assistant superintendent of the Ray-Maling Company.

HANS LAGE

No citizen of the Hood River valley holds a higher place in public esteem than does Hans Lage, who ranks among the leading farmers of the valley. He located here over fifty years ago and, in spite of the privations and hardships of pioneer life, by his grim determination and persistence along rightly directed lines, has gained not only large material success, but also that which is of more value, the unqualified confidence and respect of his fellowmen. Mr. Lage was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, on the 18th of March, 1847, and is a son of Joachim and Abel (Weise) Lage, both of whom were lifelong residents of that country, where the father followed farming. They were the parents of seven children, of whom three are living, namely: Ferdinand, who lives in Davenport, Iowa; Trena, who still lives in Germany; and Hans.

The last named was educated in the public schools of his native land to the age of ten years, when he went to work, his program then being five months of work and ten months of schooling. He remained with his father until March 22, 1867, when he emigrated to the United States and proceeded at once to Davenport, Iowa. There he was employed as a farm hand for a few years and, carefully saving his money, he was then able to lease a farm, which he ran until 1875, when he sold out there and started for the Pacific coast, making the trip by railroad to Sacramento and thence by steamer to Portland. He spent some time looking for a location and having, while on a hunting trip, come into the Hood River valley, where he was caught and detained in a severe snowstorm, had an opportunity to view the country. So well satisfied was he with this locality that not long afterwards he paid the sum of three hundred dollars for the homestead of Milton Neal, comprising one hundred and sixty acres, located four miles south of Hood River. It was all woods and brush land, and after building a small house, Mr. Lage began the task of clearing the land and getting it in shape for cultivation, in which he was assisted by his sons. The place is now entirely cleared. Mr. Lage planted a small orchard, raised garden truck and had a few chickens, cows and hogs. In the fall he butchered his hogs, made good sausage and sold it in The Dalles for fifty cents a pound, also selling eggs and butter, and thus securing the ready cash for current expenses. He also worked out, taking hay for his pay at the rate of two hundred pounds for a day's work. He was one of the first farmers in the valley to raise hogs and cure the meat, which was always in demand among the settlers and which became a useful medium of barter. Later he planted more fruit trees and now has thirty acres in apples, pears and prunes, the remainder of the land being in hay, grain and pasture. As he prospered Mr. Lage made improvements on the ranch and in 1887 replaced the first modest house with a better structure, which in turn was replaced in 1913 by the present modern and attractive home, complete with all modern conveniences, and regarded as one of the finest farm homes in the valley. The other farm buildings are in keeping, including a substantial and well arranged barn, in connection with which are two large silos, and a milk room, in which all modern facilities are installed and operated by electric power. The farm is now under the active management of Mr. Lage's son, Edward E., who keeps a fine herd of registered Jersey cattle and a purebred sire. Edward is assisted by his three sons, Edward, George and Charles, who have been given an interest in the stock and dairy and thus have a personal incentive for their efforts in promoting the work of the ranch.

Mr. Lage has been married twice, first, in 1871, in Davenport, Iowa, to Miss Lena Hock, who was born in Germany in 1852. When two years old she was brought to this country by her parents, Claus and Gretchen Hock, who located at Davenport, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Lage became the parents of ten children, namely: Louise, the first born, who died in Iowa in infancy; Mrs. Meta Scobee, who was born in Iowa and now lives on a part of the homestead in the Hood River valley; Mrs. Emma Koberg; Henry, who lives in Santa Rosa, California; Mrs. Laura Henderson, who lives in Bingen, Washington; Benjamin, of Hood River; William, Edward, Alfred and

Charles, who are deceased. The mother of these children died in 1908 (and in 1912 Mr. Lage was married to Mrs. Karoline Augusta (Franz) Von Goerres, a daughter of Karl and Victoria (Finkenzeller) Franz, both of whom were natives of Germany, and died there. Mrs. Lage was married in 1876, in Germany, to Augustine Keller, who died there in 1896. They were the parents of eight children, Franz Joseph, Louise Victoria, Karoline Augusta, Karl August, Marea Hermina, Karl August (second), Mrs. Paulina Hermina Schneider, and Mrs. Elizabeth Victoria Calbeck, of Portland, Oregon. For her second husband she was married, in 1899, to Dr. Robert Von Goerres, who died in 1908, and they became the parents of a daughter, Elizabeth.) Mr. Lage now has the following grandchildren: Mrs. Zoe (Scobee) Williams, Dale Scobee; Mrs. Lena (Koberg) Imholz, Earl, Prince and Clara Koberg; Florence and Dimple Lage, the former deceased; Ruth (Henderson) Dickey, Dr. J. W. and Donald (Lage,) the latter deceased; Keith and Lenora Lage; and (Riddle,) George and Charles Lagé. There are also twelve great-grandchildren, namely: Betty Colleen Williams; Vivian, Hilman, Franklin, Howard, and Lois Imholz; Gorton and Donald Koberg; James and Donald Dickey, and Allan and Loree Henderson.

Mr. Lage has always given his political support to the republican party and has taken an active and effective interest in local public affairs. He served as road supervisor for twenty years and for many years as a member of the school board. In 1879, with D. A. Turner, F. M. Jackson, Clarence (Hock) and Henry (Hock,) he organized the first school district on the east side of the Hood River valley and Mr. Lage has assisted in the building of the fifth schoolhouse here, all being built without bonding the district. He is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of the Maccabees at Hood River. The Lage farm is unquestionably one of the best in the valley and is widely known for the progressive methods which are employed in its operation. It has every modern convenience and a fine supply of pure spring water is piped to all the buildings and houses. Mr. Lage is personally known to almost every resident of the valley and is held in the highest esteem. In marked testimony to this fact was the gathering of the entire countryside at Pine Tree Grange hall, on March 3, 1926, in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the day when he first moved onto his homestead. Despite his four score years, Mr. Lage is still in good health, retaining his physical vigor to a remarkable degree, and is spending the golden sunset years of his life amid ideal surroundings, secure in the love of those about him and the friendship of his neighbors, who have long appreciated his genuine worth as a man and citizen.

HARRY A. HACKETT

Harry A. Hackett, who is successfully engaged in ranching near Hood River, has spent an active and industrious life, yet not altogether devoid of excitement, and has been a witness of the splendid development of the Columbia River valley during the past forty-five years, and in which he has had a part. He was born in Colorado, July 20, 1861, and is a son of Nathan and Lavina (Thurston) Hackett, the former a native of Maine and the latter of New Hampshire. His father went to California in the gold rush of 1850 and there followed mining for three years, after which he returned to New England and was married. In 1858 he and his wife went to Colorado, where he was engaged in mining until 1871, when he came to Oregon and took up a homestead in the Hood River valley, where he lived until his death. His wife died in Portland, this state.

Harry A. Hackett attended the public schools in California, the district school at McMinnville, Oregon, and the schools of Portland. When sixteen years of age he began working on steamboats on the Columbia and Willamette rivers, following that line mainly until 1891, during which time he held captain's and engineer's licenses. For awhile he was employed as a fireman on the Oregon Railroad and Navigation line, and during that employment was firing on the train that was stalled in the Columbia river gorge for twenty-one days during the big snow storm of 1889. In 1891 Mr. Hackett bought a homestead right to eighty acres of land in the Hood River valley, about eight miles southwest of Hood River. The land was covered with timber and brush, but he cleared about twenty acres of it and planted an orchard. He lived there until 1905 when he sold it and moved to Hood River, where he bought

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which LiAge Orchards, Inc.
(Owner's name and address)
Rt. 6, Box 562 - Hood River, Ore. 97031

is applying for Century Farm Honors, has been in his family continuously for
100 or more years.

Jerry Routson
* County Commissioner-Recorder

6/29/76
(Date)

*Please strike office not applicable

SEP 16 1976

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

5064
\$300 and a Shotgun

Investment Still Paying-off As Lage's Mark 100 Years

Things do change in 100 years. Riddell Lage and his family have been a part of the changes around Hood River for the past century. Last week Riddell and his wife Athalie were in Salem at the State Fair to accept their "Century Farm" citation.

Early in the Spring of 1876, Hans Lage, Riddell's great grandfather, came to Hood River. He had been born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, March 18, 1847.

Hans immigrated to the United States in 1867, and settled in Davenport, Iowa, where he farmed for several years. After his marriage in 1875, he traveled with his bride by train to Sacramento, Calif. and from there journeyed by paddle-wheel steamer to Portland.

His wife's folks were living in White Salmon, and the young couple spent the winter of 1875 with them. During that winter, Hans started scouring the country side for a place to settle and start his family. He was almost set on a plot of land near what is Glenwood, Wash., today. The last consisted mostly of prairies so Hans thought it would be great to build a farm on. He wouldn't have to do much clearing.

Upon returning to the prairies that spring, Hans discovered they were flooded with water. Somewhat disappointed, he then decided to cross the river and look in Oregon

and found a piece of land in Hood River that he liked and could afford.

So he purchased 163 acres in what today is known as Pine Grove. The land cost him \$300 and a shotgun, and included a "sawed lumber" house and a natural spring. Riddell explained that the house was made of lumber that was cut near the place, and was one of very few non-log cabin homes in the area.

So, the Hans Lage family was underway in Hood River. The land clearing began, a project that would take nearly half a century. And most of it was done by hand. Riddell remembers as a youth helping to clear the land. They used drub hoes at first and blew stumps up with dynamite.

Hans planted the first family orchard in the valley. It had 27 varieties of fruit and was set up to provide fruit for his family over a better part of the sunny season, and into the fall. The trees and livestock like cows and chickens, made the Lage farm almost totally self-sufficient.

On occasion Hans would have to make the full-days journey to The Dalles to trade things like sausage and eggs for supplies the family needed that were unavailable on the farm. One time the family had a bunch of supplies sent from The Dalles. When the boat arrived with his supplies, they were left lying on the dock for the Lage's to pick up. The supplies for the Lages were left there but rising waters

of the Columbia consumed them during the night.

The Lage's also had a spring house in which they had their complete water supply. The house, which still exists today, is made of concrete and was also used for cold storage of milk, butter, eggs, etc.

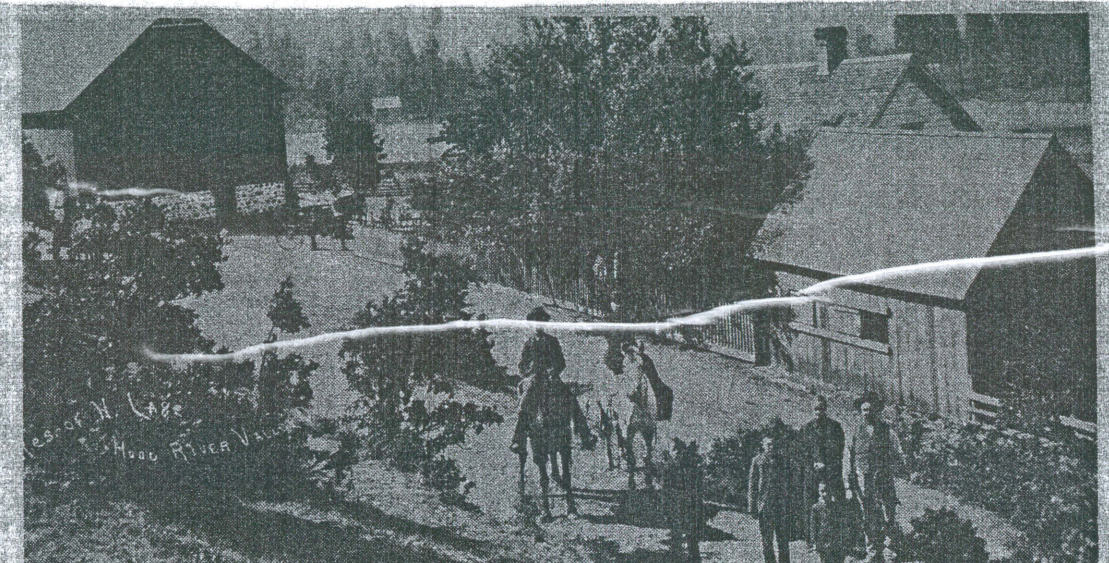
Edward E. Lage was born to Hans and his wife in 1883, the same year a golden spike was driven by the Union Pacific in The Dalles. "Dad was married in 1906 and was given five acres by his father," explained Riddell.

Riddell was born in 1908. The death of his great grandfather Hans left the land divided among all the heirs. Riddell recalls, "My dad and two of my brothers worked for years to pull the land back together."

Now, after years of growth and change, the Lage family orchard is heading toward its fifth generation. And it has grown—today it's 250 acres of orchards. It's really not just a family orchard any more either, now it's known as a family corporation.

Riddell, who claims he's semi-retired (which in his mind means he still works but just doesn't get paid regular wages anymore), is president of the corporation. His son Eddie Lage is vice-president and son-in-law Kent Lambert is secretary-treasurer.

Kent is married to Riddell and Athalie's daughter, Judy. They have another girl, Betty, in addition to Eddie. Riddell's first



name is Edward too, but he has always gone by his middle name, which was his mother's maiden name.

The award the family received recently is shown proudly by Riddell. The citation is certification by the Oregon Historical Society that the Lage farm is indeed 100-years-old. There are over 600 farms in Oregon that have received this honor to date. When the Lage's received theirs 65 others were presented, all signed by Governor Bob Straub and other state dignitaries.

"Grandfather would turn over in his grave if he saw the changes that have taken place," said Riddell. It used to take two days to make a round trip to The Dalles, now Riddell flies to Washington, D.C. every other month to serve on the Federal Farm Credit Board. And it doesn't even take half a day to make that cross-continent trip.

Things have changed. In the olden days the Lage's used to haul one or two 100-box cart loads of fruit to Hood River a day. The steep hills and rough roads made the going tough. "We just loaded one-thousand boxes on a truck today that will be in Chicago in a few days," told Riddell, "that's a real change."

The old concrete spring house used to keep fruit cold so it would last longer, back in Hans Lage's time. Now the Lage's have a new building with complete atmospheric control.

They can literally put fruit in a state of hibernation, so apples picked today can be served fresh in homes across the country next Spring.

They also operate cold storage that allows them to store fruit for canning up to Thanksgiving time. Originally all fruit was packed by hand in the field but now machines sort the apples brought to them in bins.

Originally all the labor was provided by the immediate family. Now, during busy harvest time the Lage's employ as many as 100 persons.

When migrant help first started to come to the valley, told Riddell, they pitched tents to sleep and live in. After a few years the Lage's began to supply frames for the tents, and eventually have worked their way up to what Riddell calls "apartments." These places have hot and cold running water, a refrigerator, stove, central showers and laundries, and thermostatically controlled heat, all supplied free to the workers.

From using your own hands to do all the work to using them to operate machines that today do all the work, that's progress.

The Lage's are proud of their family tradition in Hood River Valley, but they are waiting. Waiting for what? Well, Eddie Lage and Kent Lambert do have kids, but the question is, who will become the fifth generation to operate the Lage Orchards.