

CFR 0893

Kenneth B. Kooch

(Application missing)

La Grande, OR
(Union County)
Observer
(Cir. D. 7,800)

FEB 19 1987

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Kooch family settled farm 100 years ago

5037
ENTERPRISE — The fourth Century Farm in Wallowa County, according to Oregon Historical Society records, is owned by the Kooch family.

David Kooch emigrated west from Tennessee by way of Missouri and Kansas. The family settled first in Union County in 1875.

In April 1877, Kooch traded a "painted" colt for 160 acres on Alder Slope from an unidentified man.

During 1877, settlers in the Wallowa Valley were uneasy for fear there would be trouble with Chief Joseph's band of Nez Perce Indians. Many women and children were sent out to the Grande Ronde Valley and the men formed a volunteer militia and built a fort on Alder Slope.

The militia, know as the Captain D.B. Reavis Volunteers, was never put to the test. The Nez Perce left the valley without fighting and did not return.

David Kooch is buried in the Alder Cemetery near the home ranch. The ranch is presently owned by Kenneth, Donald Raymond (Cy) and Boneycycle Kooch.

Charles Wellman, administrative operations manager of the Oregon Historical Society, said the next Century Farm award period will be 1990. Families whose farms will qualify then may request applications by calling 1-222-1741.

Wallowa County's other three Century Farm's were featured in last Thursday's *Observer*.