

CFR 0907

Edward A. and Meta H. Elligsen

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.

CFR0907
See CFR 1006 for more info.

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS--1976

(Rules Attached)

Deadline for filing application: July 1, 1976

PLEASE PRINT

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) Edward A. & Meta H. Elligsen

Your address: Route 23765 S.W. 65 Ave P.O. Box _____ Town Tualatin

Location of farm: Frobase Road, Tualatin Washington
(Address) (County) ⁹⁷⁰⁶²

Acres in your farm today: 40 Acres in original farm: 320

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): _____

George Papenberg George Papenberg

Year founder settled on farm? Oct 1, 1866 Where did he come from? Hanover, Germany

How many families have farmed this land? 4

Are any of original buildings still in use? no

Who farms land today? You? yes A renter? _____ A manager? _____ Other? son

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

What relation are you to the original owner? grand nephew

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

hogs, cows, horses, sheep, grain

What do you raise on farm today? grain and hay, crimson clover

How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) We do not live on this farm, no buildings

Has the farm ever been rented? no How many times has original farm been divided? 2

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

Meta H. Elligsen
Edward A. Elligsen
(Signature of owner)

Submitted by Edward A. + Meta H. Ellingsen
(Name and Address)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Form A - Century Farm Program

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Oregon Historical Society

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Edward A. + Meta H. Elligsen
(Owner's name and address)
23765 S.W. 65th Ave. Tualatin, Ore.

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



June 1, 1976
(Date)

Roger Thomssen
County Washington Recorder +
Director of Records + Elections

~~_____~~

Wilsonville, Oregon
Times
(Cir.W.)

SEP 15 1976

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

Uncle's largesse gave Elligsen Farm its start

By DOUG SWANSON

New roof

The last turn in the road as you near Elligsen Road Farm belongs on the European grand prix circuit, not in the American countryside. Tight and narrow, a horse and buggy could handle it easier than a car.

And for years, it was exactly that—horses drawing carriages and wagons—that went around the turn in the country trail that became known as Elligsen Rd., named after the family that has run Elligsen Farm for the past 100 years.

Ralph Elligsen, the descendant of the German immigrant who originally bought the 480 acres in 1866, farms his parcel of the land now and lives there with his family.

The Elligsen home is well preserved, but its site, only 30 feet from the road, hints at its age. When it was built—sometime prior to 1885, for Ralph's father, William, was born in its front bedroom that year—nothing louder nor faster than a horse would go by. Now, cars and pick-ups zip along at speeds only locomotives could reach a century ago.

Three way split

A deal between a brother and sister in 1876 was the beginning of Elligsen Farm. But how that deal came about is a story in itself.

In 1847 George Papenberg and his sister, Louise, left Hanover, Germany for eastern Canada. While on the boat, Louise met a Berliner, Zacharias Elligsen. Louise later married Zacharias, and the couple settled in Canada.

In the meantime, brother George was lured to the California gold fields, but like many others, had little success. A friend was moving to Oregon, and George helped him make the move north. Once in Oregon, though, George decided to stay on. He bought a small farm in Eugene, then eight years later, in 1866, purchased 480 acres between Tualatin and Wilsonville for \$3 an acre.

George never married, and after 10 years on the farm, he wrote sister Louise, now widowed with seven children. George suggested she come to Oregon and keep house for him, and in return, he would give each of her sons 80 acres of land. Louise agreed, and George, Frederick and Zacharias Elligsen began what is today Elligsen Farm.

Ralph Elligsen today farms the original 80 acres that Papenberg gave to his grandfather, George.

Edward and Meta Elligsen own another portion of the property, which along with Ralph's has been certified a Century Farm by the Oregon Historical Society. Mrs. Maude Elligsen also owns a section of the original Papenberg property, but she has not applied for Century status.

Registered Angus cattle and Romney sheep, as well as Australian shepherds, are on Ralph's farm today. Right now the barley, oats and cloverseed are being harvested.

Although not as old as the house, the barn is probably the most interesting building on the farm. It was built in 1905 to replace the original barn, but many of the timbers are from the first structure.

Trees from the farm were used to build the barn. They would be taken down, then hauled by wagon to a sawmill and cut into lumber.

According to Ralph, the barn was framed on the ground. Then, when it came time to raise the walls, neighbors came to lend a hand and predictably, join in a barn raising party later.

The barn is a massive structure. The foundation, laid by a German stonemason for \$1 a day, is 22 inches thick. (Code today is six inches.) Some of the boards are 20 feet long, yet don't have a knot in them. The beams, some 60 feet in length, are solid pieces chopped from tree trunks.

"It'll probably stand there forever as long as you keep a good roof on it and it doesn't burn down," says Ralph. The barn is now on its third roof, a galvanized steel cover that Ralph put up.

The farm has changed somewhat over the years. When Ralph was young, there were 15 milk cows ("We sold the cream and gave the skim milk to the pigs") and 4,000 chickens. There was a smokehouse on the land at one time, too, but it has been torn down.

1949 earthquake

Ralph's father, William, passed on some of his early memories to his son. One was of a blacksmith named Colberg.

"Dad said that guy's hands were so calloused he could pick up a red hot iron with bare hands," he relates. "There's more poetry than truth in that, I suppose."

William also remembered traveling down to Willamette to buy shoes—lace-up boots, actually—for the seven member family. The bill, Ralph says, would come to \$7.

The farm originally got its water from a spring, which would feed into a tank. But an earthquake in 1949 cut down the supply, and the Elligsens had to drill a well.

"It was a pretty good shaker," recalls Ralph. "I remember my mother ran out of the house. She said the whole house shook."

"It rumbled real good; it knocked some of the pictures off the walls."

Down the road toward Wilsonville is a church that used to be called the German Reformed Church, according to Ralph. Grandfather Elligsen had a hand in building it—he was a carpenter, and helped put up many of the local barns—and it is in that church's cemetery that George Papenberg and Louise Elligsen are buried.

Chapman

George Papenberg farm Washington D. CR 9907