

CFR 0920

Eugene Evers

Deadline for filing applications - May 1, 1985

WASHINGTON

8

357-3915

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT:

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Ms.) Eugene Evers

Your address: Rt 2 Bx 232 Forest Grove 97116  
Street, Route, or Box Town Zip

Location of Farm: 1/2 mile E of Hwy 47 on Osterman Rd. Wash.  
Address County

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. Does your farm meet this qualification? Yes

Name of family member who was founder or original owner of farm \_\_\_\_\_

Peter Evers

Year founder settled on farm 26 April 1880 Where did he come from? Wisc.

Who farms the land today? Eugene Evers

Relationship to original owner? Grandson

Are any of the original buildings still in use? If so which ones? Yes, PART

of present home - but has been remodelled

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm one hundred years ago, please list:

Peter Evers was a cobbler by trade but kept a cow for home use and raised some grain + garden crops.

What do you raise on farm today? Dairy Farming - Sorghum + Grain

How many generations live on the farm today (Names)? 2

How many times has the original farm been divided? None

Do you declare that the statements made above are accurate and correct to the best of your knowledge? Yes

Please return form to:

Eugene Evers  
Signature of Owner

Elizabeth W. Buchler, Field Historian  
Oregon Historical Society  
1230 S.W. Park Avenue  
Portland, Oregon, 97205

CFR0920

ACK 5/24/85

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which \_\_\_\_\_  
(Owner's name and address)

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
County ~~Commissioner~~ Recorder

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

~~Please strike office not applicable~~

I married Albert Evers and moved on this farm.  
in 1916 and lived on it till now.  
my father in law Peter Evers bought this farm on  
april 26. 1880 and the Evers lived on it ever since.  
Mrs Albert J Evers.

Submitted by Anna M. Krieger  
(Name and Address)

July 1981

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I Anna M. Krieger, Evers born July 15-1888  
Born on my fathers farm, now called  
Eugene Evers farm R2 ~~32~~ B232

Anna M. Krieger



Hubert Bernards  
to  
Peter Evers

Know all men by these present that we Hubert Bernards of the County of Washington State of Oregon in consideration of Six Hundred dollars to us paid by Peter Evers of the County of Washington and State of Oregon do hereby bargain sell and convey to said Peter Evers and to his heirs and assign from the following described parcel of real estate to wit- Commencing at a post in the South boundary line of the Charles Conklin and wife Pauline land claim in Section 17, 18, 19, and 20 in township No One North Range N. thru West in the County of Washington State of Oregon. 9.21 chains East of the division corner between said Charles Conklin and his \_\_\_\_\_ wife. Thence North in the territory record twenty four chains and 50 0/0 links. Thence East 16 chains and 23 1/2 links. Thence South 24 chains and 56 1/2 links to a post in said South boundary line. Thence West in said South line 16.2 1/2 chains to the place of beginning containing 40 acres together with the (tenements) \_\_\_\_\_ and appurtenances \_\_\_\_\_ or in anywise appertaining and also all our estate right title and interest at (less) and in equity therein \_\_\_\_\_ including deed and \_\_\_\_\_ of acres to have and to hold the acres to said Peter Evers and his heirs and assign forever and we do covenant with the said Peter Evers and his legal representatives forever strat? the said real estate is free from all encumbrances and that we will \_\_\_\_\_ our heirs executives and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to said Peter Evers his heirs and assign forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons whatsoever claiming through or under us in Witness Whereof we have hereto set our hands and seals this 20th day of April 1880.  
Executed in pressence of \_\_\_\_\_ Hubert Bernards (seal)  
G.W.Purdin \_\_\_\_\_ (seal)  
Wm E.Smith

(X)  
State of Oregon County of Washington )) this certifies that in this 26th day of April 1880 before me this undersigned personally appeared the within named Hubert Bernards and Johanna Bernards and in examination made known to me the person described in and who executed the written instrument and acknowledged to me that here executed the same Johanna Bernards wife and the said Hubert Bernards and all examination made by me separate and apart from her said husband acknowledged to me that she executes the same freely and voluntarily and without fear \_\_\_\_\_ or complain \_\_\_\_\_ and in testimony \_\_\_\_\_ herewith at my hand to \_\_\_\_\_ last above written.

Receiver

Witness Wm. E. Smith  
April 26

\_\_\_\_\_  
clerk



Michael Bernards Amen all these things which records that we Michael Bernards and Peter  
 Bernards of the County of Washington State of Oregon in consideration of  
 Peter Bernards Sir Frederick Mullers to see paid by Peter Bernards of the County of Washington  
 and State of Oregon the last day of June 1880 and to see paid Peter Bernards  
 to his heirs and assigns forever the following described parcel of real estate to wit  
 Commencing at a point on the South boundary line of the Charles E. Mullers  
 and wife's section land tract in Section 17 N. 44 and 20. in Township 7 N.  
 One North Range. At this point is the Church of Washington State of Oregon.  
 92nd Section East of the division comes between said Charles Mullers and his  
 wife. Thence North in the County Road twenty four chains and 56 1/2  
 links Thence East Sixteen chains and 24 1/2 links. Thence South Twenty four  
 chains and 56 1/2 links to a post on said South boundary line. Thence West on  
 said South line 16 2 1/2 Chs to the place by my minutes Continuing on a line  
 together with the Township South boundary and opposite corner heretofore  
 running or as any wide offsetting and also all over estate right title  
 and interest at here and as equally therein released in discharge and  
 claim of claims to Thence and to Thence the corner to the said Peter  
 Bernards and his heirs and assigns forever and we do covenant with  
 the said Peter Bernards and his heirs and assigns forever that the  
 said real estate is free from all mortgages and that we will and  
 our heirs executors and administrators shall warrant and defend  
 the same to the said Peter Bernards his heirs and assigns forever against  
 the lawful claims and demands of all persons who at some time  
 through or under us or William Henry we have done or do  
 have and unto this 20th day of April 1880.

Witness my hand and seal this 20th day of April 1880.  
 Michael Bernards  
 Co. W. Bernards  
 Wm. E. Smith

State of Oregon County of Washington. This certifies that on this 20th  
 day of April 1880 before me the undersigned personally appeared the  
 within named Michael Bernards and William Henry. It is my  
 or ministerial motto knows it me to be the person described in and who  
 are and he without impediment and voluntarily at to me that he has  
 executed the said and William Bernards wife of the said Peter  
 Bernards on and in consideration made by me of the said and apart  
 from the said Charles Mullers acknowledged to me that she executed the same  
 freely and voluntarily and without any coercion or compulsion from me

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# Beginning the second century

## Evers' farm history records family tree

By STEVE LAW  
Of the Times

VERBOORT — For members of the Evers clan in this farming community between Forest Grove and Banks, upholding the family tradition has been a century-long endeavor.

Ever since Peter Evers bought the first 40-acre spread back in 1880, the Evers family has worked the land here, spanning three generations and earning the distinction of Century Farm status. (See related story.)

"There wasn't a foot of cleared space on the land (when Peter Evers started to farm)," said Gene Evers, Peter's grandson and present owner of a 200-acre dairy farm on the site. Gene described his grandpa's first farming work as "grubbing" — chopping down oak and fir trees which covered the lot, and hauling them to Forest Grove to sell as firewood.

Peter, his wife Antonia, daughter Petronella, and sisters Mary and Petronella all moved to the area in 1877 from Hollandtown, Wisconsin, a transitional settlement for Dutch immigrants on their way west.

Peter's granddaughter Florence Herinckx said farming was a bust back in Hollandtown, where the community clashed with nearby Indians and suffered frequent locust invasions.

"They used to sweep the locusts from the doorstep to the garden, they were that bad," recalled Florence, who lived with Grandpa Peter at the farm until he died, when she was 16.

Since she and her husband sold a nearby farm and retired to the Oregon coast three years ago, Florence has taken up the research and recording of the family's history with a passion. Florence said the family's first home was built from a blacksmith shop Peter tore down in Centerville, a nearby farming community which once vied with Hillsboro for county seat.

In those days, said Gene Evers, every settler farmed along with other trades and sidelines to make ends meet. Peter was an accomplished cobbler, and was known for making a fine dress shoe from French veal hide. No nails or metal of any kind was used, said Gene — only wooden pegs and boar's hair for thread.

Grandma Antonia, who was part of the original Vandehey family which also populated the Forest Grove area, raised seven kids, and also supported the



photo by Brad Rickey

Carrying on a family tradition, Gene Evers feeds some of the 150 animals that make up the current herd on his 200-acre newly designated Century Farm

a nest egg of \$3,000, and decided to retire from active farming at age 50. The farm was turned over to two of his sons, Albert and Antone, who formed a partnership.

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stop along the road and put water in it, and the pigs inside would squeal, but we got a Baby Ruth candy bar for being quiet."



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Grandma Antonia, who was part of the original Vandehey family which also populated the Forest Grove area, raised seven kids, and also supported the family by taking in sewing jobs and working as a midwife.

Notes from Peter's diary written in 1887-88 reveal some of the ways the family survived, and the prices in those days.

....Mended boots for 15 cents.....Sold 20 pounds of bacon for \$2.....Bought a blue Sunday shirt, 25 cents.....Bought gun powder for 25 cents.....Brought sacks of grain to Centerville to make flour; earned \$2.....

At the time, the farm produced grain, potatoes, cabbage and other vegetables, which were often brought to the town of Forest Grove to exchange for groceries.

By the turn of the century, Peter had accumulated



Carrying on a family tradition, Gene Evers feeds some of the 150 animals that make up the current herd on his 200-acre newly designated Century Farm

photo by Brad Rickey

a nest egg of \$3,000, and decided to retire from active farming at age 50. The farm was turned over to two of his sons, Albert and Antone, who formed a partnership. Under their stewardship, rapid progress came to the Evers farm.

It was Albert's idea to get into dairy farming, recalled two of his 15 offspring, Gene Evers and Florence Herinckx. The two partners acquired more land, and eventually bought a herd of Holsteins, which weren't considered much of a dairy cow in those days.

Pete Evers, another of Albert's sons, said you could get a full bucket of milk from a Holstein, much more than from Guernseys and other dairy cows. But those milks were rich in cream, and in a full bucket of Holstein milk you could see a 50-cent piece lying on the bottom.

Later on, when fatty milk became less fashionable, the Holstein variety took hold. That proved the first of

many Albert Evers innovations, said his children.

He was one of the first farmers in the county to consider irrigating, recalled Pete. And when Albert leveled his land and diverted Dairy Creek water to flood the soil, said Pete, neighboring farmers said "he's crazy — take him to Salem," (the early equivalent of Dammasch).

In 1915, Albert succeeded in getting a generator-powered milking machine to work, another first. "That gave us electricity in the house, even though it was only a tiny little light bulb," recalled Florence.

Four years later, to accommodate old Aunt Meeka, who was going blind, the Evers installed an indoor bathroom, a rarity in 1919.

Earlier, Albert had brought the first work vehicle to the area, a model T truck, Florence recalled. "It got overheated every time it went up Canyon Road. You'd

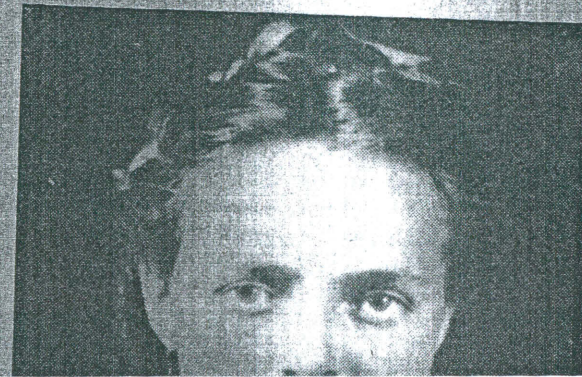
stop along the road and put water in it, and the pigs inside would squeal, but we got a Baby Ruth candy bar for being quiet."

In 1919, Antone left the partnership and bought his own grain farm. "Tone never liked to milk cows," explained Florence.

The cows required constant work, but Florence said the local farmers always found time for a Sunday game of baseball. One old-timer used to say that "everybody born in Verboort was born with a glove on," said Gene Evers, whose grandmother made baseballs out of leather and stuffing.

The old Verboort Beavers competed in a Tualatin Valley league, playing against teams from as far away as McMinnville.

Turn to CENTURY, PAGE 2B





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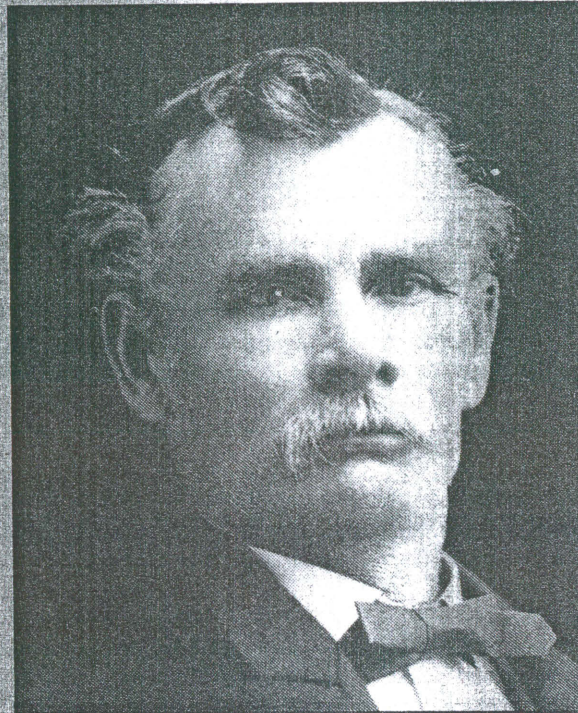
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Turn to CENTURY, PAGE 2B



Peter Evers developed acreage his family farms



Second generation farm owner, Albert Evers was proud of his second car, a 1908 Buick



Antonia Evers worked as midwife

## Fifteen Washington County farms granted Century Farm status

By STEVE LAW  
Of the Times

Back in the 1880's, farming was the predominant way of life here in Washington County.

Farmers toiled dawn-to-dusk, without benefit of tractors, pesticides, or a host of other modern conveniences which eventually raised farm productivity — and made possible the shift to an urban lifestyle.

Nowadays only a few hundred Washington County families work to produce food for the rest of us — but many of these are the direct descendants of the hardy souls who settled the area a century ago.

Next Tuesday, Aug. 6, 15 local farming families who have carried on the

family farming tradition from one century to the next will be honored by the Oregon Historical Society in a special ceremony at the county fair.

To qualify for Century Farm awards, members of one family must have continuously worked a farm for 100 straight years. Since 1958, when the program was started in conjunction with Oregon's Statehood Centennial, over 700 farms have been honored throughout the state.

This year, 90 Oregon farms were added to the Century Farms list, according to program coordinator Elizabeth Buehler, and Washington County had more new century farms than any other county.

Buehler said century farm status is an honorary designation, without financial reward. But she said many families

are proud of their historical heritage, and spend many hours combing through family records and researching documents at the county courthouse to prove their century-long tenure on the land.

"I think it's an excellent program to give credit to a viable industry in the county," observed OSU Extension Agent Arden Sheets, who works closely with area farmers. "With the turnover in real estate these days," he added, "I think it's a credit to the families to keep their property for 100 years. I hope they can keep it for another 100 years."

Here are the 15 new Washington County century farm owners, with each farm's founding date and founder in parenthesis:

• Donald R. Bateman of the Gales Creek area (1885, Swanton S. Bateman)

• Eugene Evers of Verboort (1880, Peter Evers)

• Echo Lilly Larsen of the Gales Creek area (1884, James Pisarius Lilly)

• Rolfe M. Simpson of the Cornelius area (1878, John Marshall Simpson)

• Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Logan of the Hillsboro area (1883, George E. Zimmerman)

• Harold C. Dersham of the Cornelius area (1878, Ulyses Jackson)

• Oscar and Alda L. Muhly of the Cornelius area (1884, Hulder J. Demmin)

• Mr. and Mrs. John K. Forsberg of the Forest Grove area (1883, James N. Shearer)

• Melba G. Gilbert of the Cornelius area (1884, Hulder J. Demmin)

• Louis and Charles Bateman of the Gales Creek area (1884, Charles Bateman)

• Norman and Barbara Goetze of the Cornelius area (1883, George F. C. Meyer)

• John Demory Schmeltzer of the Sherwood area (1878, Conrad K. Schmeltzer)

• Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Shearer of the Forest Grove area (1883, James Shearer)

• Arline E. Prichard of the Forest Grove area (1883, James Shearer)

• Mr. and Mrs. Aloysius VanderZanden of the Banks area (1881, John VanderZanden)