

ON SEPTEMBER 2ND.. "CENTURY FARMERS DAY" WAS OBSERVED AT THE OREGON STATE FAIR IN SALEM... WITH ADDITIONAL RECOGNITION FOR FILM..... THE OLDEST FARM IN THE STATE. TODAY WE VISITED THAT FARM.. DETERMINED BY THE RECORDS AVAILABLE TO THE OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY... THE ALEXANDER MOISAN FARM LOCATED NEAR BROOKS.

IT WAS ORIGINALLY A DONATION CLAIM OF 640 ACRES UNDER THE NAME OF THOMAS MOISAN, A FRENCH CANADIAN FROM MONTREAL. A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF THE HUDSON BAY COMPANY UNDER McLAUGHLIN, HE CAME TO FRENCH PRAIRIE.. STAKED HIS CLAIM AND THEN WENT ON TO CALIFORNIA. HE RETURNED TO ERECT THIS HOUSE IN 1856, FOR HIS BRIDE, HENRIETTA LONGATIN, WHOM HE MET AT FORT VANCOUVER. A WITNESS AT THE WEDDING WAS FRANCIS RIVET WHO ACCOMPANIED THE LEWIS AND CLARK PARTY TO THE OREGON COUNTRY IN 1805. THE EXISTING HOME OCCUPIED NOW BY ALVENIA LANIUS MOISAN.. A PRETENTIOUS DWELLING FOR 1856.. WAS BUILT OF SAWED LUMBER, PLANED BY 2 FRENCH MEN OVER A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS.

ONE UNUSUAL FEATURE ABOUT THE HOME.. IS THE 8X 8 FOOT COUPOLOW ON THE VERY TOP OF THE BUILDING. IT CONTAINS NOW.. A SMALL, HAND MADE DESK HOUSING SEVERAL BOOKS WRITTEN IN FRENCH AND ONE ENGLISH NOVEL.. "A STUDY IN SCARLET".. BY SHERLOCK HOLMES. MRS MOISAN USED TO SIT BY THE WINDOW AND WATCH THE STAGE COACHES, DRAWN BY 6 HORSES.. THRU A SPY GLASS.

THE FAMILY, THRU THE GENERATIONS.. HAS MAINTAINED THE FARM.. AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE TO ITS ORIGINAL CONDITION.

MEMBERS OF THE 4TH GENERATION..JERRY BARCHUS AND MARGARET
AND JOHN CAREY.

JERRY TOLD US HIS GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER TRADED TIMBER LAND
FOR ABOUT 65 ACRES OF BEAVER DAM. HE WAS CHIDED BY HIS FRIENDS
FOR TRADING TIMBER FOR SWAMP. HE WAS OVERHEARD TO SAY.. "MY
CHILDREN'S CHILDREN WILL DERIVE MANY TIMES THE VALUE FROM THIS
"SWAMP" THAN THEY EVER WOULD FROM THE TIMBER." THE LAND IS NOW
KNOWN AS LAKE LA BISH..ONE OF THE MOST FERTILE ACREAGES IN THE
NORTHWEST. THE LAND PRODUCES THE GREATEST PERCENTAGE OF ONIONS
RAISED IN THE STATE.

THE OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY HONORS THE MOISAN FARM AND FAMILY
AS PART OF THEIR PERPETUAL PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH AN IDENTITY
WITH THE PAST AND THE LAND WHICH HAS SUPPORTED THE PEOPLE OF
OREGON.