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State Fair to Honor 44 on Tuesday as Owners of Century Farms

SALEM, Sept. 7.—The cornerstone of Oregon industry — agriculture, will come in for extra Centennial honors Tuesday at the state fair.

Forty-four more present-day owners of farms continuously productive for a century or more will receive parchment certificates attesting to their uniqueness from Gov. Mark O. Hatfield.

The ceremony is the second successive year owners of 100-year-old Oregon farms have been so honored at the state fair. Tuesday's 44 honorees will bring to 398 the number of the birthday state's Century farms.

ORIGINATED last year by the Oregon Historical society and state department of agriculture, Century farm recognition goes only to present farm owners who are descendants of those who established farms that have been in continuous production 100 years or more.

Far from being a simple stunt, the Century farm program is contributing greatly to both Oregon lore and modern agriculture. Since its beginning, state historians have been bombarded with more information than they can even catalog concerning early farms



FRENCH STUDENTS at Catlin-Gabel school helped Oregon historians learn more about the state's farmers of 100 years ago by translating letters written by Thomas Moisan, who established oldest Century farm. Charla Woodworth and Carolyn Robbins at board have full support of teacher Suzanne Beattie's class in project. Century Farmers will be honored Tuesday at state fair.

and the people who founded the state of Oregon. fitting as well through lessons being learned through continuous use 10 decades more. Current agriculture is benefiting as well through soil test programs on land in

into the act. French students at Catlin-Gabel school last spring were pressed into service by the historical society to help translate and interpret letters written in that language by the state's oldest Century farm founder, Thomas Moisan.

"Such studies not only give us a glimpse of the past," said Thomas Vaughn, historical society director, "but help us acquire an insight into the future."

The fertile Willamette valley in Marion county still boasts the greatest number of Century farms—73, as well as the location of the oldest; that of Moisan near Brooks, established in 1842. Linn county added 10 more to swell its list to 65 and Yamhill county is third with 55.

OF THE 44 discovered this year and attested to by county judges through ownership verifications, 20 are owned by women. Most of these feminine farm owners are grand daughters of founders, but one is a great-grand niece.

Sometimes ownership verifications are difficult to trace. One of the most intricate claims was that of the Charles

great-grandfather. On the other hand, the Lewis R. Alderman Century farm near Dayton is the present home of one of the founder's sons.

Multiples of 160 acres were once common farm sizes because of donation land claims. But a century ago farmers bought and sold land in addition to acquiring it through grant. Only a few Century farms are intact. One has been divided 30 times. The smallest found this year is 4½ acres, the largest 785.

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