

DAR MEMBERS: L-R, Mrs. Bertha Murray, Mrs. Hazel Bates, Mrs. Sanford Heilner, Mrs. Robert Harrison, Mrs. Hardy (Bertha) Murray.

Century Farms' Stories Told at Final Event Closing Local Bicentennial Days

The new century farm certificates for Baker County, which will be formally presented at the State Fair this fall, were written into Bicentennial activity here Sunday with public recognition and a few historical sketches about each told by descendants now on the pioneer places.

James R. Evans, co-chairman of the Bicentennial commission of the county, presided at the closing ceremony of Bicentennial '76 week-long activities here, and a 200-candle birthday cake was the focal attraction at the closing party.

Joining in the event were early contingent of Bike Centennial riders reaching Oregon from the East and Southeast part of the country and they joined in community singing led by Ron Christie, Associate Pastor of the Nazarene Church, and Ken Bailey, after piano music by teacher Tom Langston during picnic lunch.

The closing event was forced indoors from the City Park as the Big Country was drenched by the steadiest and heaviest general July rain in a number of years. The Soroptimist club ice cream social was rained out Sunday and a small attendance survived the change of plans moving the birthday party to the Extension building.

DAR Light Candles

Five daughters of the DAR organization lit the candles on the cake decorated as a map of the nation. They were: Mrs. Bertha Murray, district 1 chairman for Eastern Oregon for DAR and whose great great grandfather Wm. Pres-

cott was a signator to the Declaration of Independence.

Hazel Bates, whose ancestors six generations back came to America in 1707 from Germany and indentured in Virginia, finally being free to buy land in Virginia, and participate with the founding colonies.

Mrs. Robert Harrison, Mrs. Hardy Murray and Mrs. Sanford Heilner, all whose ancestry date back to American Revolutionary service. In addition, the Heilner family, it was commented, had been strong in the development of the community for more than 100 years.

County Judge Dennis Fuller presented Bicentennial certificates of service to Dr. Evans and Mrs. Peggi Timm who were named by the county court three years ago to head county celebration activities, including the Baker Centennial in 1974. A number of citizens and leaders and residents of this and other communities of the county

were praised for active participation in the Bicentennial observance.

Mr. and Mrs. Pug Robinson, especially were cited.

Century Farm Ceremony

Starting with the Century Farm recognition, Mr. Evans introduced the five families present of the six Century Farm nominations this year. Certificates were presented.

Joe McEnroe, who with his sister Mary Margaret Hansen represent the current generation interested in the family farm on Missouri Flat, related that his grand uncle immigrated to America from Ireland, homesteaded, was a bachelor, so sent for his nephews, one of whom stayed on and of whom Joe and Jim McEnroe are descendants — Joe and Mary Margaret's uncle and father. "We're very proud," said Joe of the Century Farm honor with the Irish background.

For whatever reason immigrants and pioneers came here to America and to the West, whatever they left could not have been too great, he said as a Bicentennial thought but what they built and what they

found in neighbors and friends and in cooperation was great.

Brent Perkins Jr. introduced his family and parents Mr. and Mrs. E. Brent Perkins told of the century family heritage and told of the old barn and grainery still standing on one of the places.

Harlan Wendt related that his grandfather came to Baker in 1862, noting that his father was a boot-maker and his father's brother a stone mason. His father eventually landed at Clark's creek, wed his grandmother in Illinois and they bought a place, 160 acres, from Jim Fleetwood paying him \$100 in gold. His grandfather raised potatoes and his grandmother tended to the vegetable garden business. The grandfather also had a saloon in the Burnt River community and hauled meat to Mormon Basin mines.

Howard Payton (third generation folk) introduced his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. John Payton and his family, including his wife and four children all of whom were present. The family farm is in Wingville, off of Brown Lane which runs north from Pocatontas pioneer community. He said his dad's mother was a descendant of Wm. Brown, and great grandfather Wm. F. Brown came from Ireland and bought 160 acres of the present place from Mr. McLean. The place originally raised vegetables for the miners at Auburn. The ranch is still owned by the family, including himself and wife and is a diversified farm.

On Missouri Flat and Slough

With three of the Century Farms almost contiguous and in the Missouri Flat neighborhood, Fred Warner, who with his brother Carl, farms the land of his folks, the E. J. Warners, told of the background of the brothers' operation. Their great, great grandmother, Nancy Jenkins, came from Illinois by wagon train, walking and driving cattle most of the way. She wed Jonathan (J. H.) Parker who came here from Canada and in 1872 he purchased land by patent from the state of Oregon for 120 acres, later acquiring more ground nearby as time went on, operated a livery sta-

ble where 1st National Bank is now located. Their son Carl Parker succeeded in the ranch operation. Their oldest daughter married a Wusler and a daughter of this couple was Mrs. E. J. Warner. Carl was not married and after him the pioneer property went to members of the family. Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Warner acquired her interest and purchased that of the others. Warner bought some land from the county in the early 1930's to add to it and about 160 acres were acquired from the E. J. Warners by sons Carl and Fred and they in recent years bought about 200 that had a one time been in the family and was returned to the land that has always been in the family.

Fred Warner in acknowledging the Century Farm certificate, commented both the pioneers and the Bicentennial commemoration effort. "This is the passing of an era," he pointed out, "and we are honoring those members of the families who put it all together."

He also praised the Bakerites who put time and effort into all phases of Bicentennial and for putting time and money into the 200th birthday commemoration of the nation's independence and the recognition of Baker county history as well.

"The families of over 10 percent of the original founders of our county are still here," it was pointed out, "a tribute to their founding work."

One new Century Farm, the Bill

Loening place, is getting its certificate this year but was unable to attend the county session Sunday. It is land on Muddy Creek. Mr. Evans urged any other county century family farms to contact the Extension Service and have eligibility checked before the State Fair ceremony. From now on it will be only every four or five years that 100-year-farms will be added to the roster, he pointed out.

Celebration Ends

With last week's activities, the third summer in a row for the week-long festival starting with Baker's centennial in 1974, officially brought to a close the American Revolution Bicentennial and coordinator Mrs. Hansen said that Liberty Corner will be closed soon. However, several activities which carry on Bicentennial endorsement will follow and the Commission itself will continue till year-end.

Baker OR

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Cott fought in the Battle of... and her dhs... came to America in 1667 and she, John Hart