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Lane County Has Numerous Century Farms

Lane County leads the state in the number of Century Farms to be honored this year by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Historical Society.

The county has 11 of the 42 farms slated for recognition during the special program arranged for August 31 at the Oregon State Fair, with the Century Farm Certificates presented by Gov. Mark Hatfield.

Approval of two more farms this week by the department of agriculture and historical society brings to 458 the total number of Century Farms since the program was inaugurated in 1958. One is in Grant County and the other in Linn County.

The only farm operated by the son of the original settler is located in Lane County and two of the county's Century Farms are among the three tied for the honor of being operated by the same family for the longest time.

The son still operating the family farm is Jasper Merle Nighswander, Route 3, Box 404, Eugene, whose father Francis Marion Nighswander, settled the farm in 1862. The father came from Ohio via California and homesteaded 160 acres. Approximately 145 acres of the farm are still owned by the son.

The two farms tying with one owned by Asel C. Eoff, Salem, for being in the family the longest are owned by John Arthur Stoneberg, Route 2, Box 433, Eugene, and Marvin M. Stongberg, P. O. Box 226 Coburg.

All date back to 1848.

The Stonebergs are great-grandsons of Mitchell Wilkins a former Oregon legislator who came from St. Jo, Missouri, where he erected the first warehouse and first dwelling house. He came to the Willamette Valley with an ox team in 1847, but did not stake out his 640 acres until the following year. Each of the great-grandsons now owns 250 acres of that claim.

Two of Lane County's Century Farms still have some of the original buildings.

The farm of Manley A. Spores, Rt 1, Box 93, Springfield, which is part of the farm settled by his grandfather, James Madison Spores, in 1857 has the house and part of the barn still standing.

The original barn still stands on the farm of Mrs. Ada B. Milliean, 13055 McKenzie Highway, Springfield. This farm's original settler was Robert Milliean, father-in-law of the present owner, who founded the farm in 1865. The farm is located in the Waltherville area.

The other six Lane County Century Farms, the present owners, the original settlers and date of settlement include:

Ray C. and Marjorie E. Bond, Route 1, Box 706, Eugene; settled by Allen and Rachel Bond in 1853.

Mabel Cox, 635 Maple Street, Junction City; settled by Solomon Cox in 1852.

Miss Alease (cq) Hawley, P. O. Box 604, Cottage Grove; settled by Ira Hawley and Elvira

Hawley in 1853.

Mrs. Tobias Jacobson, Route 1, Junction City; settled by John Woodridge in 1854.

Brochner and Arlene Cox Mikkelson, 174 Willamette Drive, Junction City; settled by Solomon Cox in 1852.

William W. Portar, 1351 Jefferson Street, Eugene; settled