

CFR 0150

Emma G. White

Josephine County, Oregon

COUNTY COURT

GRANTS PASS, OREGON

JULY 24, 1958

STATE OF OREGON,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
SALEM, OREGON.

ATTENTION: GENEVIEVE MORGAN

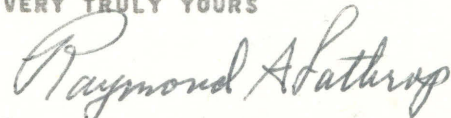
DEAR MADAM:

I HEREBY SUBMIT THE NAME OF EMMA G. WHITE TO BE RECOGNIZED
IN THE CENTURY FARM PROGRAM.

ENCLOSED IS A LETTER FROM MR. HAROLD H. WHITE, SUPERINTENDENT
OF SOUTHERN OREGON BRANCH STATE EXPERIMENT STATION SETTING FORTH
THE FACTS IN THE CASE. ALSO ENCLOSED ARE TWO COPIES OF EARLY
SURVEYOR'S MAPS ON FILE IN THE STATE LAND OFFICE. THESE SUBSTANTIATE
THE FACTS SET FORTH IN MR. WHITE'S LETTER.

I HAVE NO HESITANCY IN RECOMMENDING THE NAME OF EMMA
G. WHITE FOR THIS HONOR.

VERY TRULY YOURS



RAYMOND A. LATHROP
JOSEPHINE COUNTY JUDGE

RAL:MF
ENCS.

CFROISO

OREGON STATE COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE EXPERIMENT STATION
EXTENSION SERVICE

SOUTHERN OREGON
BRANCH EXPERIMENT STATION
5595 PACIFIC HIGHWAY SOUTH
MEDFORD, OREGON

July 23, 1958

Raymond A. Lathrop, County Judge
Josephine County,
Grants Pass, Oregon,

Dear Mr. Lathrop:

In response to your request the following historical data is submitted to be used as you see fit in your effort to have our old home farm, in the Illinois Valley near Cave Junction, included in the Century Farm Program.

That farm has been the home of some direct descendant of Samuel Wilson White continuously for 103 years.

My grandfather, Samuel Wilson White, together with his wife Cynthia McVey White and children including a son Alexander White, then 10 years old, left Cold Water, Michigan on March 16, 1852 by ox team bound for the Oregon territory. They arrived at what is now Hillsboro, Oregon in September 1852. They settled, temporarily in the Tualatin Valley. At that time, what is now Jackson and Josephine Counties was the metropolitan area of Oregon. Gold had been discovered around Jacksonville, Kerbyville, Sailor Diggings (later known as Waldo) and Browntown. These were settlements of 1500 to 3000 people each.

Being agricultural people Samuel White felt the family would be better off if located in a more populated area where there would be a market for his farm production. So in the spring of 1855 the family moved again by ox team to the Illinois Valley. There were only a few families, probably not more than 6 or 8, located in the valley outside the mining centers of Kerbyville, Sailor Diggings and Browntown, so Samuel White had practically free choice of land on which to exercise his donation land claim right.

2 - H. H. White July 23, 1958

He selected a body of fertile land located about 7 miles from Kerbyville, 8 miles from Sailor Diggings, and 6 miles from Browntown. Here he staked out his donation land claim (D.L.C. No. 37) in 1855, built a log cabin and a stockade for his livestock as protection from the Indians.

This donation land claim has been the continuous home of the White family from 1855 to the present time, passing from one generation to the next.

The original log cabin and stockade was built in the summer and fall of 1855. Then in 1862 a large two story, six room house was built. This was the family home for three generations. It was constructed from sugar pine lumber sawed by a sash mill, powered by a water wheel. The saw mill was owned and operated by Macklin Bros. and located on the banks of the Illinois River near Kerbyville. The lumber was free of knots, purchased in the rough at \$ 90.00 per 1000 board feet. Incidentally Timothy hay cut from the farm meadows with a scythe and gathered with a pitch fork sold at \$ 90.00 per ton. The old family home build in 1862 was destroyed by fire Jan. 25, 1955

In 1858 Samuel W. White and Dr. W. H. Watkins who then owned and operated Donation Land Claim No. 41 joining No. 37 on the West, constructed a ditch to Sucker Creek to bring irrigation water to their farms. That ditch has remained in continuous operation and is still used to provide irrigation water for the farms which are located within the boundries of the old original donation land claims No. 37 and 41.

The original donation land claim staked out by Samuel Wilson White in 1855 was divided prior to his death between two sons, Alexander White and James Richard White. Alexander White received approximately 182 acres much of which was in timber which he slashed and burned. Eventually his farm of 182 acres consisted of about 110 acres of crop land under irrigation and 72 acres of timber and brush land used for grazing.

3 - H. H. White July 23, 1958

Upon the death of Alexander White, January 18, 1916 his farm passed to his sons, Ralph A. White, Raymond E. White, and Harold H. White.

Ralph and Raymond White operated the farm as a partnership until about 1946 when Ralph retired from the farm. It was then divided again and Ralph White sold his portion leaving Raymond White as the sole owner of 91 acres. On July 6, 1958 Raymond White died leaving the 91 acre farm to his widow, Emma G. White. This is the portion of the old original Samuel Wilson White donation land claim that has been operated continuously by one of his descendants for 103 years.

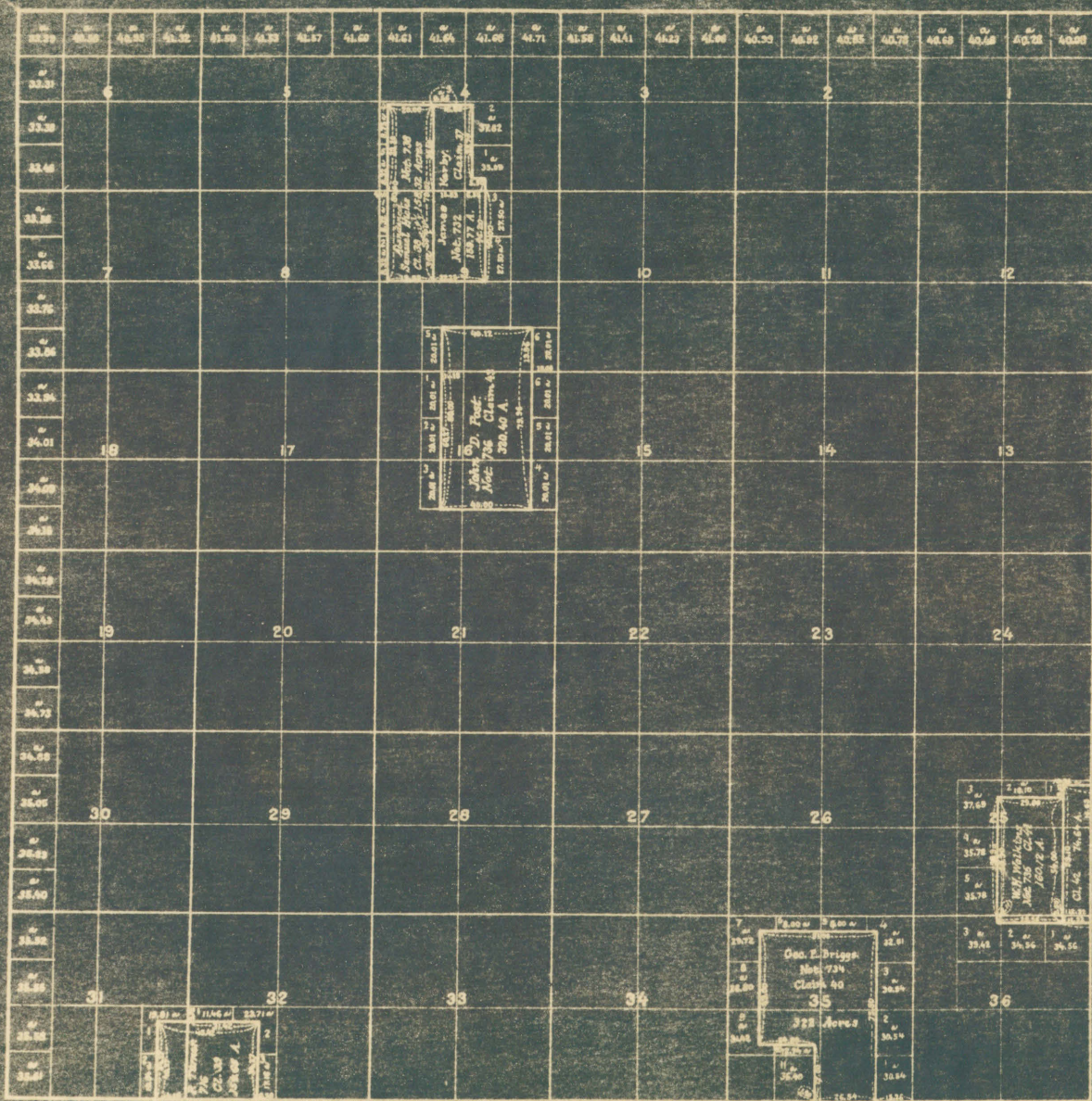
Yours truly

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "H. H. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H".

Harold H. White
Superintendent So. Ore. Branch
Experiment Station

HHW/za

Township No. 33 South Range No. 3 West of the Willamette Meridian, Oregon



Aggregate Area of Public Lands	21380.13
Private Surveys	1393.30
Add Error in Computations	1.42
Total Returns on Township Plat	22774.85

I certify the above to be a correct copy of the original plat on file in this Office.
 U.S. Surveyor General's Office
 Portland, Oregon, December 17, 1891

Wesley W. Carines
 Surveyor General of Oregon

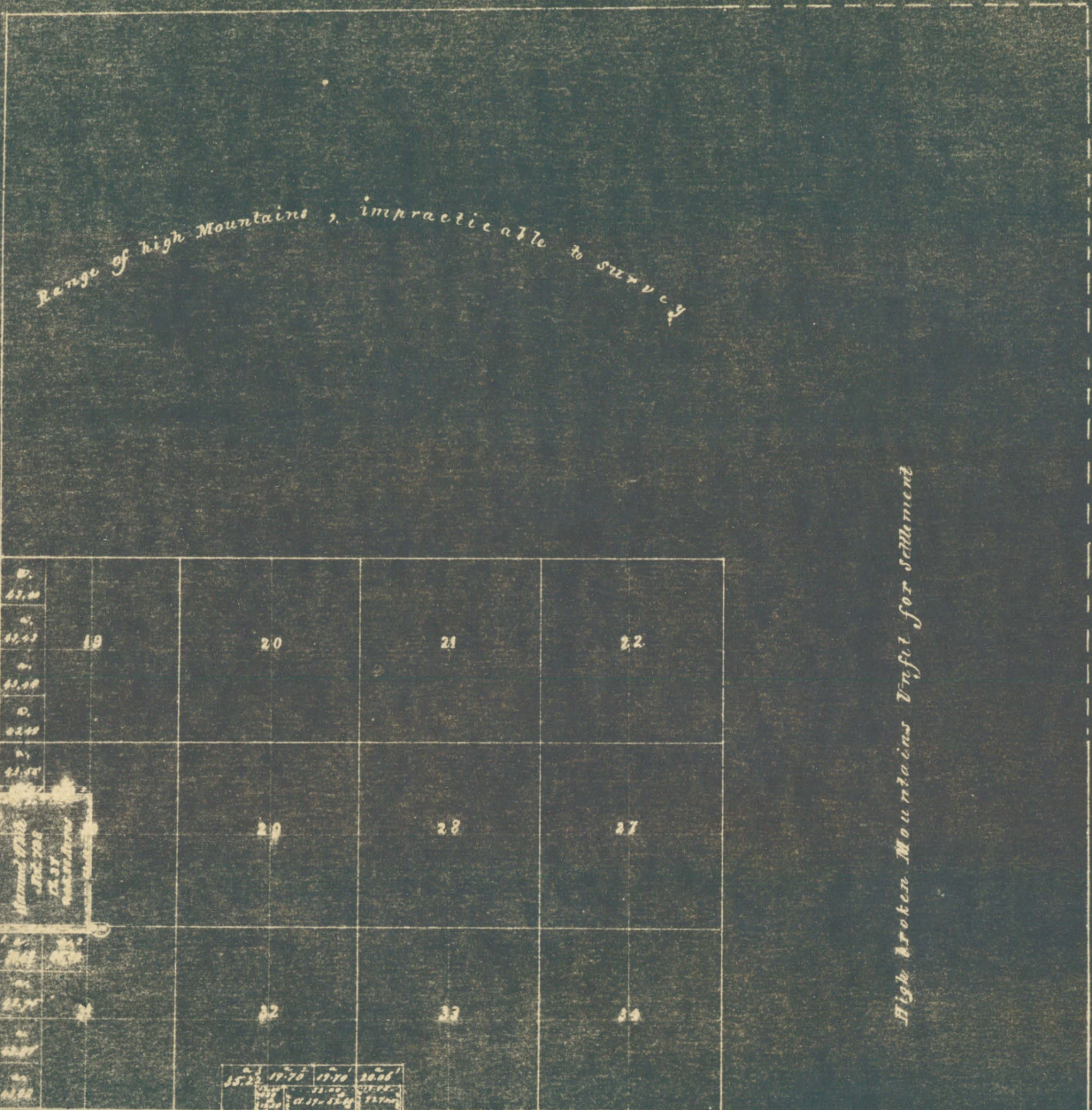
Scale 40 Chains to an inch
 Mean Magnetic Declination

Survey Designated	By Whom Surveyed	Group		Amount of Survey		When Surveyed	
		No.	Date	Ac.	Sq. R.	Begin	Complete

The Survey of claims in the above map of Township No. 33 South Range No. 3 West of the Willamette Meridian Territory of Oregon is strictly conformable to the field notes of the survey thereof on file in this office, which have been examined and approved.

Surveyor General's Office.
 Salem, O.T. August 24th, 1891.
 John S. Fisher
 Surveyor General of Oregon

Township No 50 South Range 7 West Willamette Meridian



Aggregate Area of Public lands	7722.62
Private Surveys	285.00
Add error in computation	1.00
Total return on Township plat	7722.62


7722.62

High Broken Mountains Tract for settlement

The above Map of the survey of claims in Township No 50 South Range 7 West of the Willamette Meridian Oregon is strictly conformable to the field notes of the surveys thereof on file in this Office which have been examined and approved

Surveyor Gen^l Office
Eugene City February 1862

W. W. Chapman
Surveyor Gen^l of Oregon



Shown here is the old family dwelling house on the "Century Farm," built in 1862 and lived in by three generations of Whites, including the farm's founder, Samuel Wilson White, his sons and grandsons and a

By **GEORGE CURTIS**

An Illinois Valley farm, its owners and former owners, were honored in an unusual way, when the land and homestead were officially designated by the Oregon Historical Society as a "Century Farm," the only one in Josephine County to so qualify. The present owners have been given a highly-prized certificate by the historical society.

The present farm, 91½ acres occupied by Mrs. Raymond White,

granddaughter. Shown posing in front of the house are Alexander and Sarah Elizabeth Tyner White and three of their four children. From left, the children are May White, then 15 years old, now Mrs. May Saw-

yer of 500 NW A St.; the late Raymond White, then 6, and Ralph White, 10. Ralph makes his home with Mrs. Sawyer but commutes daily to work on the farm. The picture was taken by the late Freeling W. Sawyer,

is a short distance south of the Caves Highway and several miles east of Cave Junction, part of Donation Land Claim No. 37, which contained 245.86 acres and was established in 1855 by the late Samuel Wilson White. The present farm qualified as a "Century Farm" by being continuously owned and occupied by the same family for 100 years or more.

It had been the home of Samuel Wilson White, his wife, Cynthia McVey White, and their direct descendants for 103 years when it was entered in the Oregon Century Farms Program last year. The history of the farm was well outlined last July 23 in a letter from Harold White of Medford, one of Samuel Wilson White's grandsons and now superintendent of the Southern Oregon Branch Agricultural Experiment Station near Medford.

Letter Cites History

The letter, addressed to County Judge Raymond A. Lathrop, follows:

"In response to your request the following historical date is submitted to be used as you see fit in your effort to have our old home farm, in the Illinois Valley near Cave Junction, included in the Century Farm Program.

More than a Century

"That farm has been the home of some direct descendant of Samuel Wilson White continuously for 103 years.

"My grandfather, Samuel Wilson White, together with his wife Cynthia McVey White and children, including a son Alexander White, then 10 years old, left Cold Water, Michigan, on March 16, 1852, by ox team bound for the Oregon Territory.

"They arrived at what is now Hillsboro, Oregon, in Sept. 1852. At that time, what is now Jackson and Josephine Counties was the metropolitan area of Oregon. Gold had been discovered around Jacksonville, Kerbyville, Sailor Diggings (later known as Waldo) and Browntown. These were settlements of 1,500 to 3,000 people each.

"Being agricultural people, Samuel White felt the family would be better off if located in a more populated area where there would be a market for his farm production. So in the spring of 1855 the family moved again by ox team to the Illinois Valley.

Settlers Scarce

"There were only a few families, probably not more than 6

later the father-in-law of May. The house burned down Jan. 25, 1955.

(Courtesy Engraving)

acre farm to his widow, Emma G. White, with a partial interest to Mr. and Mrs. Harold H. White. "This is the portion of the old

or 8, located in the valley outside the mining centers of Kerbyville, Sailor Diggings and Browntown, so Samuel White had practically free choice of land on which to exercise his donation land claim right.

"He selected a body of fertile land located about 7 miles from Kerbyville, 8 miles from Sailor Diggings and 6 miles from Browntown. Here he staked out his donation land claim (D.L.C. No. 37) in 1855, built a log cabin and a stockade for his livestock as protection from the Indians.

"This donation land claim has been the continuous home of the White family from 1855 to the present time, passing from one generation to the next.

"The Original log cabin and stockade was built in the summer and fall of 1855. Then in 1862 a large two-story, six room house was built. This was the family home for three generations.

"It was constructed from sugar pine lumber sawed by a sash mill, powered by a water wheel. The sawmill was owned and operated by Macklin Bros. and located on the banks of the Illinois River near Kerbyville.

"The lumber was free of knots, purchased in the rough at \$90 per 1,000 board feet. Incidentally, timothy hay cut from the farm meadows with a scythe and gathered with a pitchfork sold at \$90 per ton. The old family home built in 1862 was destroyed by fire Jan. 25, 1955.

Irrigation Started

In 1858, Samuel W. White and Dr. W. H. Watkins, who then owned and operated Donation Land Claim No. 41, adjoining No. 37 on the west, constructed a ditch to Sucker Creek to bring irrigation water to their farms.

"That ditch has remained in continuous operation and is still used to provide irrigation water for the farms which are located within the boundaries of the old original donation land claims, No. 37 and 41.

"The original donation land claim staked out by Samuel Wilson White in 1855 was divided prior to his death between two sons, Alexander White and James Richard White. Alexander White received approximately 182 acres, much of which was in timber which he slashed and burned."

"Eventually his farm of 182 acres consisted of about 110 acres of crop land under irrigation and 72 acres of timber and brush land used for grazing.

Land Divided Again

"Upon the death of Alexander White, Jan. 18, 1916, his farm passed to his sons, Ralph A. White, Raymond E. White and Harold H. White.

"Ralph and Raymond White operated the farm as a partnership until about 1946 when Ralph retired from the farm. It was then divided again and Ralph White sold his portion, leaving Raymond White as the sole owner-operator of 91 acres. On July 6, 1958, Raymond White died, leaving the 91

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Grants Pass, Oregon

original Samuel Wilson White donation land claim that has been operated continuously by him and his descendants for 103 years.

Other Land Added

Not mentioned in the letter is the fact that the founder, during the early days of the farm, acquired 74.64 additional acres, giving him a total of 320 1/2 acres.

After the land was divided among the founder's two sons, one of them, James Richard White, eventually owned about 218 acres, including 140 from the original land claim and two other 40-acre tracts. That 218 acres has been broken up among some seven or eight current owners. Of Alexander White's share of the original farm, a share amounting to 182 or 183 acres, Bert Easterbrook now owns 91 1/2 acres, purchased from Clyde Broeffle about two years ago.

Like other residents of the area, Samuel White and his family were under constant threat of danger from the hostile Rogue Indians during the Indian wars of the late 1850s.

During much of the period—especially when Indians were known to be raiding in the vicinity—farm women and children were taken to a community stockade at old Fort Briggs, near what is now the Bridgeview community.

During the danger periods, the women and children never left that stockade. Only the men left it and they only when necessity dictated. They managed to visit their farms—sometimes only at night—to feed and water their stock. Much normal work went undone, but those were rugged times and many of the white people considered they were doing all right if they stayed alive and kept their children and livestock safe.

None of the White family was harmed by Indians, but at least one close friend was killed.

Trees Still There

The first log cabin and stockade were located about a quarter-mile north of the present home of Mrs. Raymond White, on what is now Easterbrook property. A big pear tree—in full bloom when the farm was visited last week—and an apple tree, are still there. Both are 100 years old or close to it. Many of the trees planted in the Illinois Valley in the very early days came from a nursery near Waldo, operated by a man named Sibley.

gon to Oregon

The wagon caravan will leave

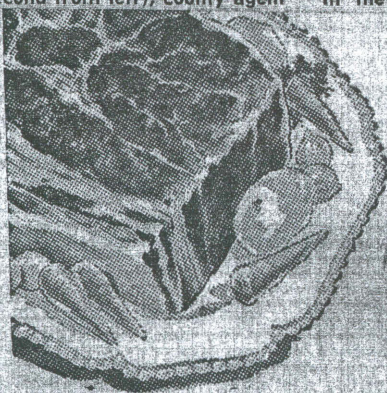
New State



Harold White (left) and his brother, Ralph, are posing on a plank laid across the White Ditch, which was used after more than 100 years.



This scene was snapped by a Daily Courier photographer last week in a field of winter oats on the "Century Farm" near Cave Junction. R. G. McCarty (second from left), county agent visited the field to take a sample of soil from land which has been farmed for some 70 to 80 or more years. Other parts have been farmed since 1855. In the picture, from left, are Jim McDermott, publisher of the Illinois Valley News; McCarty; Ralph White and his brother, Harold. (Courier photo and engraving)



ROAST

U.S. CHOICE GRADE

FRESH

PORK LIVER

NICE AND LEAN

GROUND BEEF

POLISH RINGS

Soil Tests Made At White Family "Century Farm" In Josephine County

Josephine County has only one known "Century Farm". The list was compiled recently after checking of the land records in all parts of the state.

The farm is located on the White School road, about a half mile off the Caves Highway. It has been in the same family ownership for more than 100 years.

Last week County Agent R. G. McCarty, and Ralph and Harold White, members of the family, visited the place and took soil samples. They were accompanied by representatives of the press and the accompanying photographs were made.

It is interesting to note that the early irrigation ditch shown in one of these pictures, which is still in use, is in the general area where the Sucker Creek district has been set up to provide storage water and to irrigate more crop land.

The following letter from Harold White, superintendent of the Southern Oregon Branch of the State Extension Service, to Judge Raymond Lathrop, traces the history of Josephine County's only "Century Farm".

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Soil Tests Made At Century Farm

(Continued from Page One)

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Yours truly,
Harold H. White
Superintendent So. Ore.
Branch
Experiment Station
See Skimming Law

Northwest
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

SEATTLE • PORTLAND • BOISE

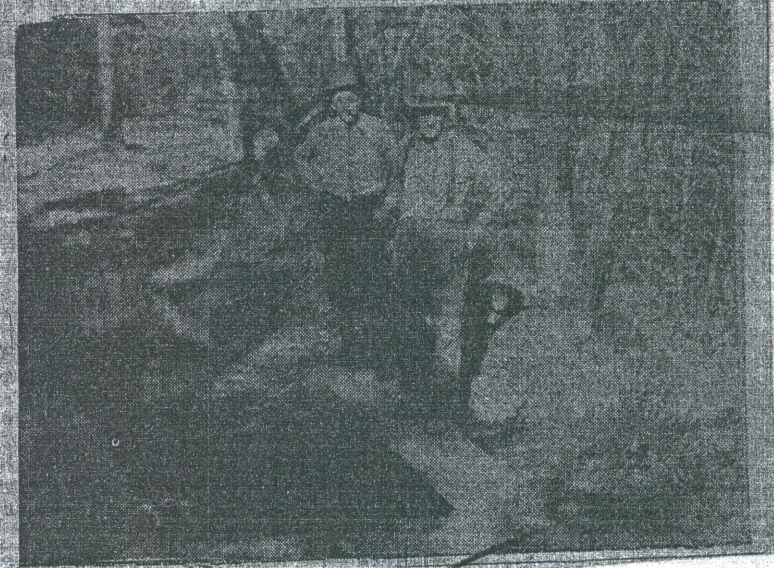
ILLINOIS VALLEY NEWS
Cave Junction, Oregon
Circulation 1216
APR 16 1959



This picture shows County Agent R. G. McCarty and Ralph and Harold White at the time they made an inspection and took soil test samples on Josephine County's only "Century Farm" last week. Here they were inspecting the woodlot on the place. Samples of the soil were taken here to show the contrast with fields which have been under cultivation through many years.—Illinois Valley News Photo.



In this picture are George Curtis of the Grants Pass Courier, R. G. McCarty, county agent and Ralph and Harold White, shown on one of the fields of the White farm, where soil samples were taken. The samples were taken to show the state of the soil fertility after 100 years of cropping. Harold White, grandson of Samuel White, the original settler on the land, is now superintendent of the Southern Oregon Branch of the State Experiment Station, and devoting his time to helping farmers get the best results from their land.—Illinois Valley News Photo.



In this picture Ralph and Harold White, grandsons of Samuel White, who settled in the Illinois Valley in the spring of 1855. They are shown standing by an irrigation ditch which was constructed to convey water from Sucker creek to the land in 1858 and is now more than 100 years old and still in use. This is not the oldest water diversion on Sucker creek but was one of the first few efforts at utilizing the water of the stream. The ditch was jointly constructed by Samuel White and his neighbor, Dr. W. H. Watkins. The original donation claim on which Samuel White settled was later subdivided but a part of the farm is still in the hands of the same family.—Illinois Valley News Photo.

See Skimming Law

Northwest
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

SEATTLE • PORTLAND • BOISE
GRANTS PASS DAILY COURIER
Grants Pass, Oregon
Circulation 7359
MAY 15 1959

Speaks at Grange Meeting
Harold White, superintendent of the Southern Oregon Branch Agricultural Experimental Station near Medford, and grandson of Samuel Wilson White, original owner of the only Josephine County "Century Farm," was the principal speaker at the open meeting of the Illinois Valley Grange last Thursday evening at the grange hall in Bridgeview.