

CFR 0307

Dora and Marion Hunt

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS

STATE OF OREGON
COUNTY OF MARION

Location and size of farm

160 Acres

Sublimity Oregon

Present owner

Nora Hunt

Address

Sublimity Ore

Do you live on this farm and farm the land?

yes

Do you make \$150 a year or more from this farm?

yes

If you live off this land, do you manage the farm operation?

yes

Name and date of first generation owner

Geo W. Hunt

Sept 27 - 1860

Brief description of farm

Country Residence of Present owners and Operators of

The 160 Acres of the Original Hunt Located

History

In Whaldo Hills Marion Co Oregon

Original owner Geo W. Hunt Hunt signed by Pres. James Buchanan

Nora M. Hunt
Marion S. Hunt
Signature of present owner

STATE OF OREGON)
COUNTY OF MARION) SS

On this 26th day of June, 1958, before me, a notary public, the undersigned officer, personally appeared Dora M. Hunt and Marion S. Hunt, known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that they executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

Seal

Joy B. Dayal
Notary Public for Oregon

My Commission Expires Jan. 22, 1959



If you live off this land, do you manage the farm operations?

Name and date of first generation owner

Brief description of farm

History

Signature of present owner

60203

All in the family for over 100 years

By **CHERIE COPELAND**
News Editor

SUBLIMITY — When George Washington Hunt staked out his donation land claim here in 1850, about 90 percent of the nation's population was involved in farming.

Today, his great-grandson, Dale Hunt, who still farms part of that original claim, is in a dwindling minority.

Hunt's mother, Dora Rabens Hunt, still lives in the farmhouse that George W. and Elizabeth Smith Hunt

built some time before 1875. The farm was declared a Century Farm in 1958 for being owned and worked by the same family for 100 years or more.

George Hunt came here with his family from Indiana in 1847. He

struck out for the gold mines in 1849 but came back the next year to marry his stepsister, Elizabeth. He was 19 when he received the outright grant from President Buchanan to the 640 acres, or a section of land, located at what is now 14194 Silver Falls Highway SE.

Dora keeps that original grant in her safe deposit box in a bank, not wanting it to go the way of the special Century Farm sign that once stood near the driveway. Both the sign and post were stolen shortly after they were installed.

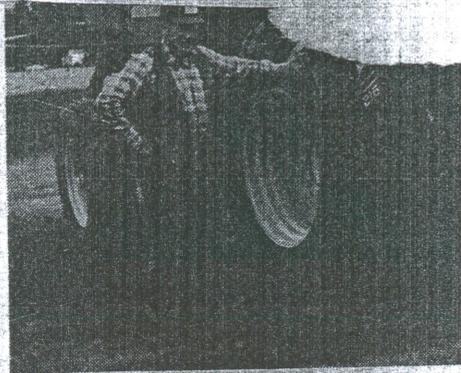
George and Elizabeth had four children. Jephtha Thomas Hunt would become a county judge and Sarah

Continued on page 7

SEE US FOR A QUALITY

HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE PROGRAM FEATURING:

- Competitive rates
- Credit for homes built 1968 or later



SUBLIMITY — Bob Doerfler, who works in the area, grows Highland Bentgrass on 1,500 acres. The area is renowned for its top-quality Highland Bentgrass. The supply of the fine turf seed is grown. Compared to what today's retired farmers work

, Dress Clothes, Play Clothes

McGregor, Fruit of the Loom,
Teksheen, Movie Star

ENTERTAINMENTS

All Year Long
Soundsign
ITT Telephone



SUBLIMITY — Dora Rabens Hunt holds her Century Farm certificate issued by the Oregon Historical Society. The parchment certifies that the farm has been owned and operated by the same family for 100 years or more. Photo by **CHERIE COPELAND**

with 1,500 acres producing the Highland Colonial Bentgrass variety.

The area surrounding the Silverton Hills is an ideal location, Bob Doerfler reports, for producing the blue-green leaved grass because of the heavy rainfall in the late spring and early summer months. The location here has almost twice the rain of other regions in the Willamette Valley, with an average amount of 50 inches a year. The dry months of August and September are an asset for harvesting, too.

Number of farms, acreage declining

Continued from page 6

Hunt Steeves wrote the historical "Book of Remembrance — Marion County Pioneers 1840-1860."

As a homesteader George Hunt specialized in sheep on the naturally grassy land. Dora says very little of it was in timber originally, lending itself to the grazing of sheep. George also raised grain crops and, like other farmers of the time, did general mixed farming.

The land claim was divided among the Hunts' four children, but Jephtha

the farmhouse where Dora lives today.

The farming technique on the Hunt land claim changed with Marion, grandson of the original owner. Marion introduced grass seed farming to the land, an enterprise that his son continues today on his parents' remaining 80 acres of the original homestead. Dale lives down the road from Dora on land that was not part of the original claim.

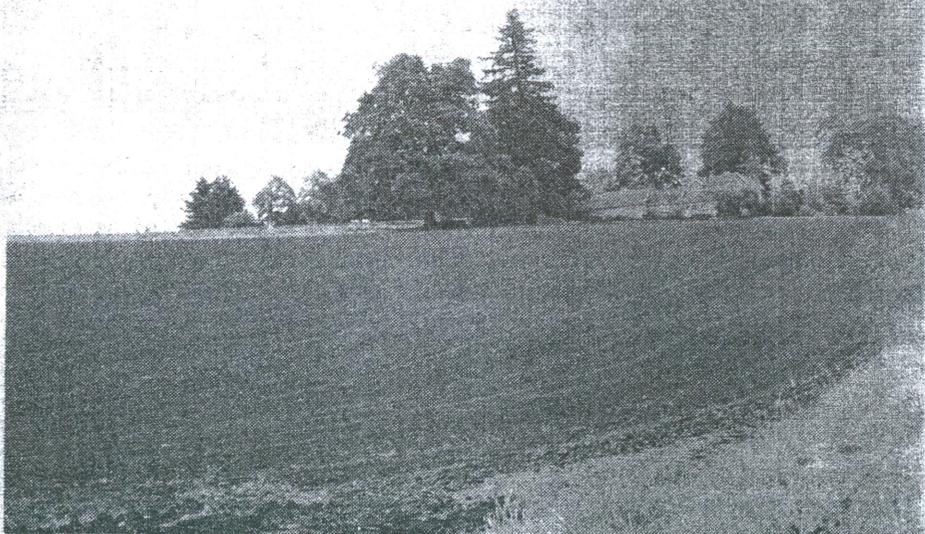
Dora didn't do any of the farm-

work, having "too many hired men to cook for," she says. She also admits that she "didn't like horses all that well," in an era when horses were a staple of farming operations. Marion farmed with horses for quite a long time, Dora says.

Things have changed, though. "The big machinery they use now makes farming so expensive," Dora observes. "It's getting harder and harder to stay on the land."

The number of farms in Oregon peaked in 1935, with a total of 64,800 statewide. Today there are 35,000 farms in Oregon. Likewise, the amount of land in agricultural production has dropped by three million acres in the past 30 years, from 21 million to 18 million.

"It would have been nice if we could have kept (the whole piece) in the family, but as things go, you don't worry too much about it, I guess," Dora says philosophically.



SUBLIMITY — The Hunt Century Farm was originally settled by George Washington Hunt and his wife Elizabeth in 1850 as a donation land claim. It has been farmed by their descendants — Jephtha, Marion and Dale Hunt — since then. The home, where Marion's widow Dora still lives, was built some time before 1875. George and Jephtha raised sheep on the land while Marion and Dale raised grass seed on it. Photo

by CHERIE COPELAND

bought out the others, retaining the entire farm as a single piece. Jephtha had four children, and again the land was divided four ways: to Dora's husband Marion Smith Hunt, to Helen Hunt Tate, Norris Hunt and Clarence Hunt.

The half of the original land claim that went to Clarence and Norris has left the family now, and Dora has sold half of the piece that went to her and Marion. The quarter section that went to Helen Hunt Tate is still held by her husband.

When Marion and Dora moved onto the old homestead in 1920 the original log cabin used by George and Elizabeth was still standing, though no

Tale Mountain from 1919

Gadabout

Home, Garden and Travel

By Lillie L. Madsen

Hunt Farm Already 9 Years Old As Oregon Assumed Statehood

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Garden Editor, The Statesman

SUBLIMITY — Oregon celebrated its first 100-year anniversary yesterday. The Hunt farm as such 2½ miles northeast of Sublimity—was nine years old when Oregon Country became State of Oregon.

The house, large, white and in very fine condition, lying well off the highway going from Salem to Silver Creek Falls, has housed four generations of Hunts in its more than 100 years of being.

George Washington Hunt, who crossed the plains with his family in 1850, was the first to claim this section of land from no-man's land. The rolling land, the snow-capped mountains to the east and north, the view of the wooded plains to the west toward the coast mountains, appealed to him. Almost at once he staked his 640 acres. Since then it has been owned by Hunts, providing a home for four generations.

Following the original owner was his son, Jephtha T. Hunt who was born in the house which was built before Oregon gained its statehood. Next in line was Marion Hunt, now owner of the old home.

His son, Dale Hunt, farming the land (sold down to less than 200 acres) and an adjoining farm, once part of the old section—was born in the pioneer home.

Mrs. Marion Hunt is also a descendant of a pioneer family, the great-granddaughter of Ben Stanton, who settled in the Rocky Point area, somewhat to the west of the Hunts. However, Mrs. Hunt was born Dora Rabens and lived up the road a piece from the Hunt farm. The two attended the same school and had, they said, "a speaking acquaintance" as youngsters. It wasn't until after World War I when Marion returned to his native countryside that the two "looked at each other."

While they started married life in the old home, they've "lived around a bit"—Eastern Oregon, Stayton, California—but always returning "home" and "now we're here to stay excepting for a few trips out," they agreed.

There are nine rooms in the old

house, with a narrow hallway in the center from which a stairway rises to the three bedrooms on the second floor. A fourth bedroom—in rose color—opens from the north of the hallway.

"I've been in quite a few pioneer homes, but this is the only one I've seen built with this hall arrangement," Mrs. Hunt said, as we wandered in and out of the attractive rooms, admiring color schemes, old pieces of furniture, delightful dishes.

Old Road Gone

"Everyone comes in the back way here. The house now faces wrong—built to face a pioneer road which once took off over that field but is no more," Mrs. Hunt explained as she greeted us. We looked out where she pointed, seeing only fields in the distance and a lovely lawn a small green house and huge maples closer at hand. The maples were planted by Grandfather Hunt, we were told.

We had entered through an attractive room, which the Hunts called their utility room—once an old porch, they said. From this we came into a family room which was dining room when the family was all at home, but which in earlier days was the family kitchen. A big braided rug—Mrs. Hunt's own handiwork—lay on the floor. A window, with the small panes of pioneer days, looked out to a patio which, the Hunts said, was another porch "stretched out."

From this room we turned to the left to the beautiful blue and knotty pine kitchen—once a "wash room and sort of summer kitchen." This is a large farm kitchen with a small table near a window overlooking another portion of the garden. "Marion and I eat here when we are alone," she explained. We could see why another portion of the garden was immediately outside.

Fireplace Still Used

Turning to the right from the family dining room, we crossed the little hall to the delightful green-carpeted and green-walled living room where a fire burned brightly in the old fireplace, unchanged since the original Hunt built it. It was lined with white rock, hand-hewn and found on the farm, Mr. Hunt said. Many memories of his early childhood centered around the fire place, he added.

There were matching green draperies at the windows. A bright red chair and gold cushions looked well with the light oak and maple furniture. A darker Italian chair and lots of books on shelves that "have always been here" added to the attractiveness of the room.

While we warmed ourselves at the fire, and looked out to the garden to the south and over the garden to fields at the west and north, the Hunts, in answer to questions told us of the house with its hand-hewn timbers and siding put together with wooden pegs. Many of the original doors, also made of siding, are still in use in the house. The old latch hardware for opening and closing has never been changed. The windows to the west and north have been broadened but the window to the south still holds the small-paned glass.

A bath room was added, partly from a porch and partly from an old closet.

Farmed 1100 Acres

At one time the Hunts farmed 1100 acres, chiefly grain and cattle. In 1940 some of the first Bent grass sold from the Waldo Hills area came from the Hunt farm.

"We didn't even know it was of any value when the seed was cleaned out of the grain and the buyer offered us \$500 for it . . . just like a find," Mr. Hunt explained.

Then followed years when almost the entire farm went into Bent

House Has Seen Four Generations



SUBLIMITY—Four generations of Hunts have lived in this attractive white house built nine years before Oregon was a state. It lies on a hillside on the Salem-Silver Creek Falls highway 2½ miles northeast of here and is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Marion Hunt. (Statesman Garden Photo)



SUBLIMITY—Mr. and Mrs. Marion Hunt take time out for a cup of coffee as they tell of the few changes they have made in their 109-year-old home. This is now the kitchen but was once the "wash" room. The small pioneer windows and the original door, made of hand-hewn siding are still in use. (Statesman Garden Photo)

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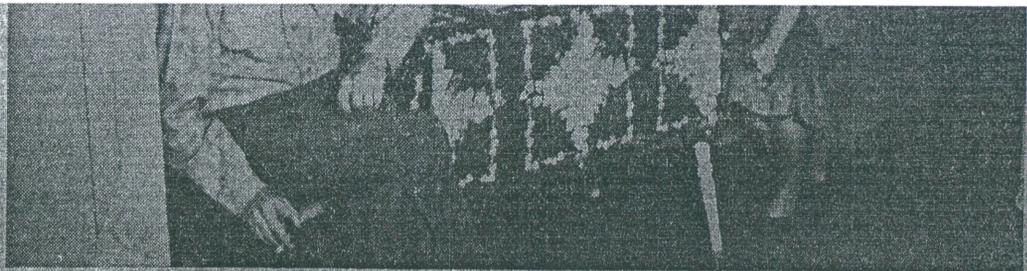
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Then followed years when almost the entire farm went into Bent grass, and the returns were good. But now Bent is on the black list. It isn't worth anything and we seem unable to get it off the fields," the farmer said.

Only the Hunts aren't really farming any more. They garden the garden with its spread of lawn and wealth of shrubs and flowers is large enough to keep them both busy.



SUBLIMITY—Mr. and Mrs. Marion Hunt take time out for a cup of coffee as they tell of the few changes they have made in their 109-year-old home. This is now the kitchen but was once the "wash" room. The small pioneer windows and the original door, made of hand-hewn siding are still in use. (Statesman Garden Photo)