

CFR 0429

Billy Hindman



U.S. Census Definition of a Farm: 10 acres or more with agricultural sales of \$50 or more a year; or, if less than 10 acres, sales of at least \$250 a year.

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS--1973

(Rules attached)

Deadline for filing application: July 27, 1973.

PLEASE PRINT

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) BILLY HINDMAN

Your address: Route 1 P.O. Box 30 Town ELGIN

Location of farm: 8 1/2 MILES SE OF ELGIN UNION  
(Address) (County)

Acres in your farm today: 8000 Acres in original farm: 160

Does your farm comply with U.S. Census definition at top of page? YES

Name of founder of farm (please print): W. B. HINDMAN

Year founder settled on farm? 1872 Where did he come from? IOWA

How many families have farmed this land? THREE

Are any of original buildings still in use? No

Who farms land today? You?  A renter?  A manager?  Other?

If you own the farm but live in town, do you manage the farming operation?

What relation are you to the original owner? GRANDSON

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm 100 years ago, please list CATTLE + HAY

What do you raise on farm today? CATTLE, WHEAT, HAY + OATS

How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) TWO  
BILLY HINDMAN \* CODY JAY HINDMAN

Has the farm ever been rented? No How many times has original farm been divided? Two

PLEASE list on separate page attached other historical facts you know about this farm.

Do you declare that the statements made above are accurate and correct to the best of your knowledge? YES

Bill Hindman  
Signature of Owner



Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name and Address)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DURING THE FIRST YEARS THIS PLACE WAS HOMESTEADED, CHIEF JOSEPH AND HIS TRIBE CAMPED ON THE PLACE AND DUG CAMAS. GRANDDAD AND CHIEF JOSEPH WERE THE BEST OF FRIENDS.

WE HAVE THE ORIGINAL PATENT FOR THE HOMESTEAD, SIGNED BY PRESIDENT RUTHERFORD B. HAYES ON MARCH 20, 1877, FIVE YEARS AFTER THE HOMESTEAD WAS FILED ON.



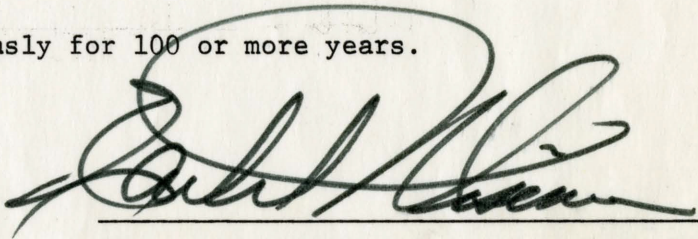
State Department of Agriculture  
Oregon Historical Society

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which BILLY HINDMAN  
Owner's name and address

ELFIN, OREGON is applying for Century Farm honors,

has been in his family continuously for 100 or more years.



\*County Commissioner

Recorder

Date: 5/17/73

\*Please strike office not applicable



LaGrande, Oregon

Observer  
(Cir. D 5,058)

AUG 31 1973

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1898

## Around the Grande Ronde 5064 Century farmers honored

Billy Hindman, Elgin, and Aldon Gray, Ove, are among 37 Oregon families who still operate farms their ancestors settled a century or more ago. They were honored today in a special program at the Oregon State Fair in Salem.

The century farmer program is co-sponsored by the Oregon of Agriculture

By RALPH HART  
Union County Extension Agent

and the Oregon Historical Society.

Hindman's grandfather, W. B. Hindman, came from Iowa in 1872 and settled on 160 acres east of Elgin. According to Billy Hindman Chief Joseph and his tribe camped near the homestead to dig camas. He and Chief Joseph became the best of friends. Hindman has preserved the original patent for the homestead, signed by President Rutherford B. Hayes, March 20, 1877, five years after the homestead was filed on.

Gray's grandfather, George Groot Gray, also homesteaded the original property in 1872. He crossed the plains in covered wagon in 1853 to Corvallis, and moved to Union County in 1861. He ran a pack train from Umatilla Landing to Walla Walla and to the mines in Idaho, Montana and British Columbia for five years. He married Sarah Jasper in 1874 and they had 10 children. Many of the family are presently living in Union County. According to Delda Smith, granddaughter, over 100 relatives attended a gathering at Hot Lake last year.

Elgin, Oregon  
Recorder  
(Cir. W-720)

AUG 30 1973

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Two Union County farm families reach century status in homes

● by Ethel Smith and Ken O'Toole

President Rutherford B. Hayes sounds like quite far back history, but Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hindman have in their living room a framed document signed by that dignitary. It is the homestead grant applied for by Bill's grandfather in 1872 and proven by five years of living on and improving it. Only then could it be finished. This year marks the 101st year of the Hindman family occupying the farm which began as 160 acres.

Bill is justifiably proud of his ancestor who built the beginning of his ranch out of the wilderness. He tells of how his granddad visited with Chief Joseph and his tribe when they camped in the meadow to dig camas roots, about one and a half miles from the home ranch. And in 1877 when there was a pretty bloody Indian uprising in the area, Bill Hindman never went to a fort for safety, his friendship was the only fort he needed. Young Bill has in his possession a letter written by the first Bill's brother, from Iowa City, Iowa, expressing his concern over the reports of the trouble with the Indians. This and other letters the Hindmans have are either

over or nearing the century mark and the penmanship is beautiful to behold.

The original William (Uncle Billy) Hindman was married and he and his wife were the parents of four children, two of whom died young with diphtheria. The son who lived, Luther, was the father of young Bill and two daughters, Vivian McIntyre, now of Tahoe Vista, Ca., and Marjorie Liesegang, of Hermiton.

Grandpa Hindman was a self-educated man. He became a schoolteacher, when he first came to the area he was 18, rode a covered wagon pulled by a team of oxen, he settled in Summerville where he freighted in the summer and taught school in the winter. One of his students was Bill Wade, a man remembered by many in Elgin as the town marshal here for several years. Mr. Hindman also became a member of the State Legislature, and he took saddle and pack horse and rode across country to Salem from Elgin to serve.

The original buildings on the home ranch were built of logs and the present house sits on the same

site as the first. Other buildings, log granary, smokehouse, barns and etc. have also been torn down to make room for more modern buildings.

The present Bill took over the running of the ranch at the death of his father in 1944. Bill was 20 at the time. He was married to Reta Follet in 1949, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.K. Follett. They have three children, all of whom have attended and graduated from the Elgin schools. Shirley is the oldest and attended Blue Mt. Community College in Pendleton. She is at home at the present. In 1966 she reigned as queen of the Elgin Stampede and in 1969 she was a princess on the Peddleton Roundup Court.

Scotty Bill is the older of the boys and is in Florida at this time. He won the Suicide Race at the Stampede in both 1972 and 73. Shirley won it in 1970, the only girl with that achievement at this time.

Cody is the youngest of the Hindman family and graduated from high school this spring. He was an enthusiastic member of the Vo-Forestry class at school last year and his dad is a member of the Advisory Committee for the class. Cody is also very active in the forestry aspect of the ranching enterprise.

The buildings and grounds on the Hindman ranch are immaculately kept, giving the appearance of a park, with the bright paint and the white fences. It all tells of loving care.

The Hindmans are charter members of the Elgin Stampede club; he belongs to the Oregon Cattleman's Association; is a member of the LaGrande Elks Lodge; and was Farmer of the Year on the state level at one time.

The Hindman family will be in Salem this Friday when certain families in Oregon are honored at the Century Farm Day presentation. It is cosponsored by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Historical Society, and certificates will be presented in cooperation with the Oregon State Fair. Congratulations, Hindmans, from the community.

### The Hindmans

William and Nellie Hindman with daughter, Grace, and son, Luther, stand superimposed over the home of the present William Hindman, wife, Reta, and children Shirley and Cody.

