

CFR 0456

James A. Sewell

1958

CENTURY FARM REGISTRATION

OREGON STATE FAIR -- SEPTEMBER 8, 1959

58

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- 1. Name: James A. Sewell
- 2. Postoffice Address: 543 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Hillsboro
- 3. County in which your farm is located: Washington
- 4. How old is your farm? 106. How old are you? 78.
- 5. Who founded your Century Farm? Henry Sewell
- 6. How many miles did you travel to come today? 52
- 7. Did you receive a Century Farm award at last year's State Fair? Yes (2)  
1 for Wash. Co.
- 8. Do you have Century Farm land on both husband and wife sides of the family? No

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- 9. How many generations of your family live on the farm today? 1
- 10. How many exhibits do you have at the 1959 Oregon State Fair? No  
What are they? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 11. How many years have you belonged to the Oregon Historical Society or your county Historical Society? No

AUG 3 - 1959

# Linn Tops Century Farm List for '59

SALEM—Linn county, runner up among Oregon counties last year, now tops the field in 1959 Century Farm competition.

Linn county has ten of the 44 additional Century farms reported this year; Yamhill is a close second with nine. According to Thomas Vaughan, representing the Oregon Historical society, and Frank McKinnon, state director of agriculture, these farms reported in 1959 will be added to the 354 discovered in connection with this unique program last year.

Two of Linn county's 1959 Century farms are owned jointly by sisters. Benton county has added one such farm, that owned by Mrs. D. Ross Barclay, Rt. 3, Corvallis.

The new group of Century Farm owners — descendants who have stayed continuously with the agricultural pursuits of the farm founder — will be honored in a grand finale at the Oregon State Fair on Tuesday, September 8. At that time Governor Mark O. Hatfield will present the handsome parchment enrolling the farms in the archives of the Oregon Historical Society.

Eleven counties, four less than year, are included in the current list. All are from western Oregon, which leaves to date the three from Wasco county on last year's honor roll as the sole representative of that vast farming area which was settled later than the western side.

Besides Linn, Benton, Yamhill and Marion, the 1959 Centennial Farms are in: Clackamas, one; Douglas, 4; Jackson, 2; Lane, 2; Polk, 3; Washington, 5; and Tillamook, 1.

All continuous ownership verifications were made by the respective county judges, whose name along with the governor's, the sponsors and the state fair commission chairman will appear on the Century Farm parchment to be awarded at the fair.

The oldest farm this year (Lewis R. Alderman's at Dayton) is 113 years; 12 were founded in, 1852, five in 1850 and one or more of the others each year between 1846 and 1859.

Nine of the 43 farms still have some of the original buildings. In Douglas county, Century Farmer Raymond J. Nichols of Winston lives in the original house built in 1853 by his great grandfather.

Strangely enough, the women today outnumber men owners of these historic farm lands. Twenty women, most of them granddaughters but including one great grand niece, are on the list. Eight of the honors go to husband-wife teams.

Most intricate of all claims to trace relationship is that of the Charles S. Mullen farm near Newberg, whose Century Farm was founded in, 1852 by the half-brother of his great grandfather. At the other extreme is the Alderman farm on which the son of the founder lives today.

Not all the farms come down straight from original donation land claims. Even a hundred years ago farmers were buying and selling their lands—but not at today's prices. Mrs. Jessie B. Sewell at Hillsboro has the original deed in which farmers, by their marks, in 1857 transferred 318.95 acres or half of their donation land claim for \$1600 or about \$5 an acre. A year earlier in Marion county the present Arthur McKay Century Farm was started when James McKay paid \$1000, or \$6.25 per acre, for 160 acres of a donation land claim.

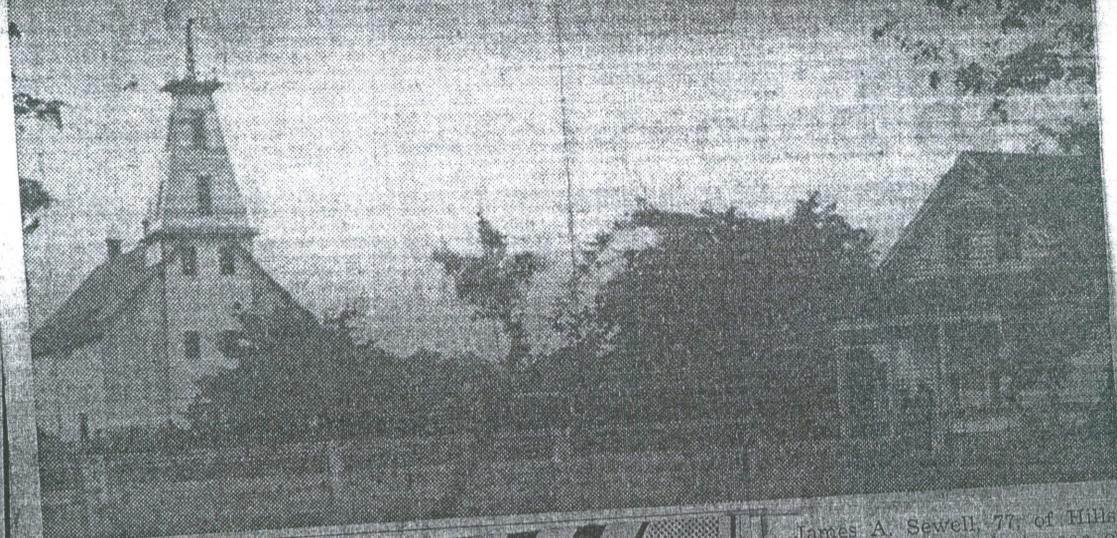
A few farms are intact, acreage-wise.

Following are the owners of 1959 Century Farms in Linn county:

Yates Sherer, Tangent; Mrs. Elsie Davis Bond, 1834 Fairmount Blvd., Eugene; Mrs. S. V. Barr, Rt. 1, Box 2862, Sweet Home; Mrs. Mabel J. Reagan, 417 13th Street East, Eugene, and Mrs. Vivian M. Forster, 1555 Laurel Heights, Albany; Loren J. Bond, Rt. 2, Box 362, Albany; Bertha Lena Watson, Rt. 1, Shedd; John Lester McFarland, Rt. 1, Tangent; Mr. and Mrs. John W. Alvin, 2560 S. Santiam Highway, Lebanon; Mrs. Florence N. Harrison, Rural Route, Brownsville; Mrs. Stacy L. Neeley, Rt. 2, Albany.

# Washington

James A. Sewell is first local resident to respond to local search for century farmers—farm families who have worked the same land, or part of it, for over 100 years. Sewell claim lies north and east of Hillsboro. Below is old photograph of the original homestead near what's now Sewell road near Hillsboro airport.—(Hillsboro Argus photo)



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James A. Sewell, 77, of Hillsboro, quit farming last year on a piece of land which was operated by his dad and his granddad before him.

He is first local land-owner to qualify as "century farmer" in current search being conducted by state department of agriculture and Oregon historical society.

Object of the program is to honor all farm families who have worked the same land, or part of it, for over a century.

Sewell donation land claim lay slightly north of what is now Hillsboro airport and comprised 526 acres when Henry Sewell

(Continued on page 2)

IT PAYS TO TRADE IN HILLSBORO

...together right to any benefits run out at...  
 ...having their social security bene-  
 ...June 30 they run the risk of  
 ...disabled people wait until after  
 ...Sherman pointed out that if  
 ...said today.  
 ...sentative of the Portland office.  
 ...W. F. Sherman, field repre-  
 ...protection of their social securi-  
 ...until June 30 to apply for full  
 ...occurrence of their insurance have

(Due to changes of meeting date and other factors, some information in Local Farm Calendar may be obsolete. In such case, corrections will be appreciated.)

—o—

Union, 8 p.m., Laurel hall.  
 Laurel-Schools local, Farmers  
 Breeders association, 8 p.m., Roy  
 Washington County Holstein  
 post-club.  
 Aloha Grange, 8 p.m., Dessert

(Continued from page 1)

came to Oregon and took over the land in 1843.

Sewell, in addition to farming, was justice of the peace, county superintendent and Methodist minister.

**Father Made Tile**

His son James H. was a prominent Oregon figure, running 740-acre farm and operating North Pacific Clay & Tile Works on portion of his land and manufacturing bricks at what's now Shute park in Hillsboro.

Starting with an old mill he purchased for \$30, Sewell built his tile works into the state's largest, but closed it in 1895 when times were hard.

He was founder of the local grange and its secretary for 10 years.

Of the original holdings, James Sewell still owns 49 acres, of which a portion is being sold on contract. His sister Alice resides on part of the remaining land.

Sewell, in addition to dairying and raising hops, grain and hay, found time to serve "six, or seven" years as county road superintendent and was responsible for first laying of gravel base on many local roads.

He was also pretty fair shakes as a photographer, helping pay his way through Oregon State college with his pictures. Thanks to this avocation, he has complete pictorial record to document his stories of former days in Washington county.

All farm families wishing to qualify for century farmer awards—which will be in form of scrolls to be presented at state fair—are asked to submit affidavit of 100 years of continuous ownership to County Judge Joe Jaross by July 20.

Hillsboro Argus  
 May 29 1968

Calendar items for Local Farm  
 day afternoon for Thursday Argus—Fri-  
 Tuesday afternoon.  
**Tuesday, June 3**  
 West Union center, Farm Bu-  
 hall, 8 p.m., West Union school,  
 8 p.m., West Union school.