

CFR 0745

Mr. Hubert Gray

To qualify as a Century Farm a farm must have not less than 10 acres with a gross income from farm use of not less than \$500 per year for three out of the five years immediately preceding application for Century Farm honors.

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS--1976
(Rules Attached)

Deadline for filing application: July 1, 1976

PLEASE PRINT

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) Mr. Hubert Gray

Your address: Route 7606 McKenzie Hwy P.O. Box _____ Town Springfield 97477

Location of farm: 7606 McKenzie Hwy Springfield Lane
(Address) (County)

Acres in your farm today: 42 Acres Acres in original farm: 320

Does your farm comply with the definition at top of page? Yes

Name of family member who was founder or original owner of farm (please print): _____

Frederick L. Gray

Year founder settled on farm? 1861 Where did he come from? Pennsylvania

How many families have farmed this land? 3

Are any of original buildings still in use? Yes

Who farms land today? You? myself + son 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 Hogs, cattle, oats + wheat

What do you raise on farm today? cattle + sheep + Hay

How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) Hubert Gray + Flossie Gray Husband + wife

Has the farm ever been rented? no How many times has original farm been divided? 2

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

Mail to: Oregon Dept. of Agriculture
Agriculture Bldg., Salem, OR 97310

Hubert Gray
(Signature of owner) JUN 10 1976

Submitted by Hubert & Flossie Gray 7606 McHenry Hwy
Springfield Oregon (Name and Address)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

My grandmother & her first husband homesteaded this farm in 1853 it was the James C. Looney & wife Donation Land Claim. They proved up on the claim then sold it to a man by the name of Hackshaw. James Looney died and my Grandfather Frederick L. Gray married his widow Olive Davis Looney purchased the James Looney Donation Land claim from the then owner Hackshaw and parts of it are still owned by his descendants today. Frederick Gray purchased this in 1861 & immediately built a house & barn that are still in use. My grandfather kept all tax receipts & records of everything he ever sold. In 1876 wheat sold for 60¢ a bu., Oats 50¢, bacon 12½¢ lb. etc. He has receipts for taxes: 1862-14.94, 1863. \$14.92, 1864 \$16.64, 1865. \$19.93, 1867. 19.88, 1868. \$16.59. on 320 acres of land

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Hubert Gray
(Owner's name and address)

is applying for Century Farm Honors, has been in his family continuously for
100 or more years.

Frank A. Elliott
* County Commissioner - ~~Recorder~~

June 8, 1976
(Date)

*Please strike office not applicable

JUN 16 1976

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Hubert Gray is well acquainted with the 115-year history of his farm up the McKenzie Highway. He's willing to share some of the relics of that past with you at the Thurston Grange on Thursday.

By JIM GREGORY

When Hubert Gray talks about his farm on the McKenzie Highway just east of the Springfield Memorial Cemetery, his knowledge of the property spans 115 years. It was in 1861 that his grandfather bought the land from a widow, married the woman and built a house and barn that are still standing.

Although Gray and his wife Flossie presently live in a modern home, his two sisters reside in the 115-year-old house, which is in excellent condition, and Gray stores hay in the barn, which isn't in as good condition.

After 115 years a family can gather a great deal of memorabilia. Gray could probably fill a museum with what he has. Part of it, including tax records, an 1890 Meier and Frank catalog and bookkeeping records, will be displayed tomorrow at the Thurston Grange, 66th and Thurston Road. The display, assembled by Mrs. Gray, is part of a Bicentennial program sponsored by the grange. In addition to the Gray exhibit, Lane County historical museum's Glenn Mason will show slides depicting pioneer life in the Springfield-Eugene area. The 8 p.m. program will be preceded by a 6:30 p.m. potluck dinner, to which the public is invited.

Gray said his grandfather came to Oregon from the east "because he was 21 years old and full of adventure." The senior Gray earned his travel fare by working as a hunter for a wagon train.

On the trip west the wagon train was even attacked by Indians. Grandfather Gray got a few shots off and the wagon train made it through. Actually, says Gray, his grandfather was quite sympathetic to Indians.

Gray says his father recalls when he was about 7 years old Indians used to just walk into the house where they would be given

apples or other things by Grandmother Gray. Then, says Gray, they would leave without ever saying a word.

Grandfather Gray, as were most settlers of the time, was very self-sufficient. Gray said his grandfather hewed his own lumber for the house and barn. The timbers for the barn are 15-foot long.

The 1861 house and barn are quite a distance from the original road that led into Springfield, which at that time consisted of only a few houses. Gray said the Indians told his grandfather stories about canoeing in places where one wouldn't expect a river. So grandfather Gray built his house on a small hill and was never bothered by flood.

But others weren't quite so lucky recalls Gray. He says his grandfather tells the story of one settler who built his house on the river bank. Once the river flooded and many of the neighbors ("People that lived anywhere from Springfield to the last settlement up the McKenzie were considered neighbors in those days," says Gray) rushed down to the river to see if they could help the man. "When they got down there," says Gray, "They found him sitting on his roof pushing driftwood away from his flooded house with a pole. All he could say was 'I bet the people in Springfield are catching hell.'"

According to very detailed records kept by Grandfather Gray in the early days bacon cost 10 cents a pound, flour sold for \$2.50 for 200 pounds and taxes on the 412 acres of property came to about \$14.

Gray, who is semi-retired, still farms the land with the help of his son. From the looks of the modern equipment around the farm Gray's son can get things done a lot faster than the elder Gray could in 1861. But then, he has to pay a lot more than 10 cents a pound for bacon, too.