

CFR 0852

Joseph Jay Scott

UMATILLA

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

turned in 1985

PLEASE PRINT

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) Joseph Jay Scott

Your address: Route 886 E. Highland Ave. P.O. Box _____ Town HERMISTON, Ore

Location of farm: Rt 1 Box 65 ATHENA UMATILLA
(Address) (County)

Acres in your farm today: 320 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):
WILLIAM H. H. Scott

Year founder settled on farm? 1872 Where did he come from? Illinois & Missouri

How many families have farmed this land? 3

Are any of original buildings still in use? No

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

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

What relation are you to the original owner? GRANDSON

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm 100 years ago, please list Wheat

What do you raise on farm today? Wheat & Peas

How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) None

** Has the farm ever been rented? Yes How many times has original farm been divided? None

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

Estate of Estella A. Scott
Jay Scott, Per. Rep.
(Signature of owner)

CFR0852

Submitted by Joseph Jay Scott, 886 E. Highland, Hermiston, Ore
(Name and Address) 97838

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I got this form at the County Agents Office in Pendleton and they said it would be ~~acceptable~~ acceptable.

* I do not own the farm. I have a life interest in the Estate & it is a trust to my mother's grandchildren I not only manage the farm I operate it.

** There has been a few years that the summerfallow has been rented to another farmer to grow peas, six since 1944.

Otherwise it has been farmed continuously by my family since 1872 when my grandfather homesteaded 2 quarters which make up the E. $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 15, Twp 4 N, R 34 E W M. ~~upon~~ upon my grandfather's death in 1908, my father, Joseph N. Scott, farmed it until his death in 1946. Since then I have been farming the place.

My grandfather migrated from Missouri to Marion County in Oregon at the age of 23 in 1864. Then came to Umatilla County in 1872.

(over)

Jay Scott

It is interesting to note that my father was born on the ranch in 1876 and I was born there in 1919.

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Estate of Estella A. Scott
Jay Scott, Per. Rep.
(Owner's name and address)
886 E. Highland Hermiston, Ore. 97838

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

William S. Hansel
* County Commissioner-Recorder

7/23/84
(Date)

*Please strike office not applicable

9/12/85

Scott land to be recognized as Century Farm

By Maxine Elder
Special to the Valley Herald

ATHENA—The land, a 320 acre tract, homesteaded 100 years ago by William H. H. Scott and passed down to the present owner, Joseph Jay Scott, will be recognized as a Century Farm tomorrow, Sept. 19, at the museum of the Umatilla County Historical Society.

The land has been worked continuously by the Scott family, and according to Scott, is one of the few if not the only Century Farm in the county having been strictly in wheat production.

Jay Scott knew the farm had been in the family for more than a century but since his grandfather, William H. H. Scott, did not record the property until 1892, there was no proof.

Now semi-retired, Scott said he has had more time for research

and last summer he came across his grandfather's obituary printed in the Athena Press in March 1908 which stated in "1872 Mr. Scott moved to Umatilla County where on Gerking Flat west of this city he took up the homestead which he developed into the splendid farm that has since been his home." This piece of evidence was sufficient to have his Century Farm officially designated by the Oregon Historical Society.

As was permissible, each of his grandparents filed on 160 acres under the Homestead Act. It was required the land should be improved, 160 acres be planted with trees, the other 160 acres to be built upon and farmed.

Scott found 1875 tax records which showed 12 acres under cultivation, six tons hay, two horses, three head of cattle, and 15 bushels "spuds" taxable. Across the road where John

Napolean B. Gerking, a brother-in-law, had homesteaded the same tax toll showed 30 acres under cultivation, 5 tons hay, two horses, 10 head of cattle and 15 bushels spuds. He also found it interesting that David Taylor, father of the famed Sheriff Til Taylor and grandfather of Tillman Taylor, Athena, paid taxes on 10 acres cultivated land, nine horses, 56 cattle, 60 bushels spuds and 500 pounds of butter.

William H. H. Scott, who homesteaded the land, left Illinois in 1855, moved to Missouri and crossed the plains to Oregon in 1862 where he settled in the Silverton area at a little place called Bethany. It seems that he left Missouri because of the turmoil between the North and South and attached himself to the Gerking family, marrying one of the girls and then migrating to Umatilla County. The Gerking's were parents of 13 children and another daughter married David Taylor, previously mentioned.

The Scott land, northeast of Athena, consists of wheat and pea acreage. The original house

was torn down but the old windbreak of locust trees still shelters the site of the present home.

Joseph N. Scott, son of the homestead couple, farmed the acreage from 1908 until his death in 1946. He served in the Oregon Legislature from 1923-25, perhaps longer, according to his son, and he fathered the Oregon Public Utilities Commission which he headed for years while continuing to operate the farm with the assistance of his wife, Estelle.

A portion of the farm is now leased for pea crops but Scott supervises the wheat operation. In the early years of pea growing after World War II Scott remembers the migrants, Mexicans and school boys—often up to 50 of them—working during harvest, working in two shifts in 24 hour days, seven days a week. Now the same acreage is harvested in two shifts with combines that strip and pod the peas.

Wheat harvest has undergone many changes since he took over the family farm. Combines sold

in the neighborhood of \$3,000 and harvested 1,200-1,400 bushels a day. Now equipment might run up to \$140,000 a machine and only put out about 6,000 bushels a day. High costs of equipment and larger farms and moneyed corporations have gobbled up most of the small family farms, he noted.

This year's yield is lower, due to drought and winter damage. Better years were nearly double to that being cut this year, Scott said.

Where the future lies puzzles Scott—140 million bushels of grain is in storage and that will probably increase to 170 million in another year. The expensive U.S. dollar and the various embargos are big problems for the rancher but "ranchers are gamblers," and he is already looking at next year's seeding.

Scott and his wife, Maxine, have made their home in Hermiston for the past seven years. They have three children, David of Gilroy, Calif., Douglas of Albuquerque, N.M. and Sally Harborth of Gillette, Wyo.



Joseph and Maxine Scott



An early threshing scene on the Scott farm.

AUG 1 1985

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1886

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It took a whole stable of horses to harvest wheat on the Scott wheat ranch near Athena in the early 1900s. Visible at the far left is Joseph N. Scott, son of the farm's founder and father of the farm's present owner. The farm was homesteaded in 1872 and is being honored this year for having been tilled by the same family for more than a 100 years. It is one of more than 800 'Century Farms' that have been designated by the Oregon Historical Society. Contributed photo

'Century Farm' gets recognition

By Bill Belt
Staff Writer

A Hermiston man's farm has been worked by his family for over 100 years.

Joseph J. Scott, 66, of 886 E. Highland will be honored later this year by the Oregon Historical Society for his 320-acre tract near Athena.

The owners of 85 Oregon farms are being added this year to the list of farms that have been worked by the same families for at least 100 years. The number of "Century Farms" now exceeds 800.

With 10 new Century Farms to its credit, Morrow County

leads the state this year. Next in line is Umatilla County with nine.

Joseph Scott's farm was homesteaded in 1872 by his grandfather, William H. Scott, who left Illinois in 1855, moved to Missouri and crossed the plains to Marion County, Ore., in 1864, moving later to Umatilla County.

His wife was a member of the Gerking family of 13 children who settled in the Willamette Valley. One of the Gerking girls married Dave Taylor, father of Til Taylor, legendary Umatilla County sheriff.

The family's historical farm is situated at "Gerking Flat" northwest of Athena. Crops consist of wheat and peas. The original house has

been replaced.

Scott surmises that his grandfather joined the Gerking family in their westward trek. His son, Joseph N. Scott, farmed the acreage from 1908 till his death in 1946. The present owner assumed the farm after his discharge from the service the same year.

Scott and his wife Maxine have lived at Hermiston the past seven years. They have three children David of Gilroy, Calif., Doug of Albuquerque, N.M., and Sally Harborth of Gillette, Wyo.

The portion of the farm devoted to peas is now leased out, while Scott supervises the wheat fields. In the post-war years Scott recalls that it took 40-50 hands to harvest the peas, a feat accomplished in

seven 24-hour days. Four persons were required to harvest the wheat crop.

Today 12 machines strip off the peas in two shifts -- a "stripper" removes the pods and the combine thrashes the vines in the field.

Scott bemoans the disappearance of the small family farm, gobbled up by larger operators. Combines, he recalls, sold for about \$3,000 shortly after World War II and harvested perhaps 1,200-1,400 bushels a day. Now the equipment might cost \$140,000 too much for small farmers, and harvests 6,000 bushels a day.

This year's yield will be low, about 55-60 bushels per acre, due to drought and (Continued on page 22)



Joseph J. Scott and his wife Maxine have a backyard garden at their home in Hermiston, but they do most of their farming at a farm near Athena. That farm was started more than a 100 years ago by Scott's grandfather.

Newspaper obituary gives historical proof

Joseph J. Scott knew his farm had been in the family for more than a 100 years, qualifying it for designation as a Century Farm.

But since his grandfather, William H.H. Scott, did not record his property until 1892, there was no proof.

No proof, that is, until Scott stumbled across his grandfather's newspaper obituary last summer. The obituary, printed in the Athena Press in March 1908, notes that in "1872 Mr. Scott moved to Umatilla County, where on

Gerking Flat west of this city, he took up the homestead which he developed into the splendid farm that has since been his home."

With that piece of evidence in hand, Scott was able to get his Century Farm officially designated by the Oregon Historical Society.

Scott is glad he doesn't have to wait until 1992, the 100-year anniversary date of the farm's recording, to receive the designation.

"I never could have lasted (Continued on page 22)



William H.H. Scott homesteaded his farm near Athena in 1872. He was a well respected member of the community, as evidenced by the obituary printed by the Athena Press in 1908.

Aerial spraying gives farmers

(Continued from page 3)

the field and through someone's yard," says West. "We get angry calls from people who think they have pesticide flying through their property. I try to go around and talk to them too."

Aerial application hits its peak about this time of year. Business picks up for area sprayers in early spring and again in mid-summer. Winter months are the slowest. Most sprayers spend that time applying herbicide to winter wheat. Spraying work usually quits for the months of December and January.

Sprayers have a lot to look out for when the growing season demands fill their schedules to the hilt. A good applicator has to watch for powerlines and guy wires when they make low sweeps over fields, pivoting on one

wing to make a return run.

West usually makes an effort to survey a field from the air before he makes a run, looking for clumps of vegetation that usually tip off the presence of an unexpected guy wire.

"By doing nothing more than what was intended, the risks are nothing less than what the pilot makes of them," says Maahs. "We're out there doing the job as we are supposed to."

The greatest danger, according to both Maahs and West, is that a mechanical malfunction could force a sprayer down while working a field. That happened once to Maahs, who had an engine failure while spraying, forcing him to make a quick landing in the field he was working.

Though mechanical pro-

blems are the greatest danger, proper maintenance has held the incidents down to about one every three years, a good record considering the high number of hours the average sprayer logs.

West has accumulated quite a few hours since he began flying 25 years ago. West came to the area in 1970 to set up his spraying operation on Butter Creek Highway. His experience covered several states, including his home state of Nebraska where his interest in flying was sparked by his older brother's crop-dusting operation in Scottsbluff.

Gene Maahs says that he's kind of like the new kid on the block. He started aerial application in 1980. He purchased Inter-Valley Aviation in 1984 and changed the name to Ag Northwest. Maahs serves

farmers from his base at the Hermiston airport.

West and Maahs both operate a number of aircraft, employing pilots and

mechanics year round.

Other applicators operate similar firms in the area, helping make Eastern Oregon's landscape a productive one.



Lanny West does some of his best work at ground level.

Newspaper provides proof

(Continued from page 21)

that long farming it," he laughs. "I'm starting harvesting in the morning, and I don't know if I can even last through this one."

William Scott's obituary makes it clear the man was well respected. His funeral was one of the largest held in many years, noted the newspaper, which also described him as a "highly esteemed character of man, friend and neighbor."

Here are more excerpts from the newspaper clipping:

"... Minister Hoven preached a powerful sermon at the bier of the dead, and his eloquent words eulogistic of the splendid character of the departed pioneer citizen fell as a balm of solace on the grief-stricken family and friends of a man whom to know was to love, honor and esteem.

"The passing of W.H.H.

Scott from this life leaves upon the dial plate of the community in which he resided for so many years, an ineffable niche. It is indelibly marked there by his nobleness of character and the true worth of a man who stood as a man among men.

"Hospitable, kind and sympathetic, his handclasp was the lasting bond of true friendship, while his love for his family and regard for his friends was an attribute

resplendent in character that ever sanctioned and upheld all that was elevating to his fellowman.

"The editor's acquaintance with Mr. Scott extended over a period of nearly 18 years, and it seems to us that we have never known a better man. And from the many evidences of esteem in which he was held by all, there are hundreds who will say the same. Thus, in brief lived the man, W.H.H. Scott."



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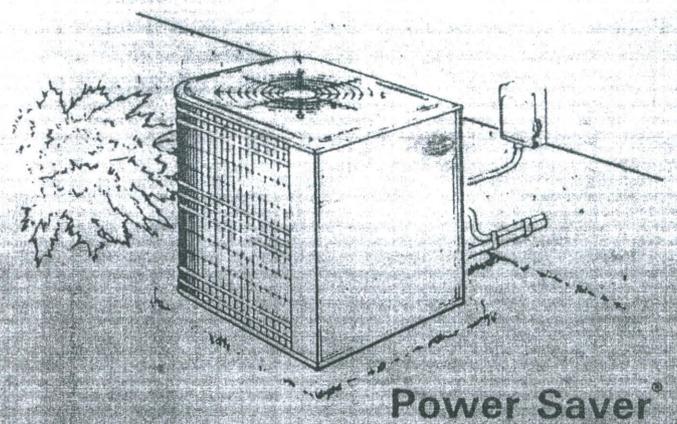
(Continued from page 21)

winter damage. The previous two years saw 90-100 bushels. Newer varieties of wheat have generally upped yields.

Scott also ponders the national wheat situation -- 140 million bushels in storage, enlarging to an estimated 170 million next year. The expensive U.S. dollar and the Russian embargo are big problems for the rancher.

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