

CFR 0886

Dick Hibberd

UNION

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS

Deadline for filing applications - May 1, 1980

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT:

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Ms.) Dick Hibberd

Your address: RT 1 Box 5 Imbler 97841  
Street, Route, or Box Town Zip

Location of Farm: Imbler Union  
Address County

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. Does your farm meet this qualification? Yes

Name of family member who was founder or original owner of farm Pharris Wade

Year founder settled on farm: 1883 Where did he come from? Ill.

Who farms the land today? 4th Generation

What relation are you to original owner? Grandson

Are any of the original buildings still in use? NO

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm one hundred years ago please list:  
Didn't Farm it till the 1900 Then went into Sugar beets

What do you raise on farm today? Reg. Polled Herefords / Wheat / Barley  
Oats / Peas / Grass Seed / Hay

How many generations live on farm today (Names)? 3 on Farm  
5th Generation from origin

How many times as the original farm been divided? 0

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

Return form to: Dick Hibberd  
Signature of Owner

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
1230 S.W. PARK AVE.  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97205

CFR0886

ack 4/24

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Dick Hibberd

Rte. 1, Box 5, Imbler, Or. 97841  
(Owner's name and address)

is applying for Century Farm Honors has been in his family continuously for

one hundred or more years.

R. NELLIE BOGUE, COUNTY CLERK

By

Deputy

Forest M. [Signature]  
County (Recorder) (Clerk)

Date April 9, 1985

AUG 8 1965

Allen's P-C-B Est. 1888

# Hibberd ranch joins 'century' elite

Final of three parts  
on local Century Farms

By Sarah T. Moore  
Observer Staff Writer

5087

**IMBLER** — Hibberd's Polled Hereford ranch, owned by the Dick Hibberd family of Imbler, joins a prestigious list of Century Farms in Oregon.

Fourteen working farms, with continual family ownership over at least 100 years, are now registered in Union County.

The Imbler wheat and cattle ranch is run by Dick and Laurose Hibberd's daughters and sons-in-law, Mary and Jim Cant and Carrie and Ross Bingaman. The Hibberd seniors are "semi-retired."

In 1861, four brothers left their parents and eight brothers and sisters in Iowa and joined a wagon train west, bound for Oregon in search of "cheap land."

"That's a couple of thousand miles," said Dick Hibberd, with a laugh. "One of those boys was my grandfather — Phares Wade."

In 1862 Phares and Tom Wade settled in Imbler; William stayed two years, then returned to Iowa. Aaron Wade settled in Wallowa County, later followed by another brother Sam, whose farm between Lostine and Enterprise was recognized as a Century Farm in 1980.

According to the Homestead Act in 1862, pioneers could farm and take title to 160 acres, called a quarter-section.

Within each section of 640 acres, a certain number of acres was set aside for a school. Once the school was built, the excess property, called "school land," was sold.

Each Ward brother homesteaded their allotted quarter section. Phares Hibberd also bought "school land," which became the basis of the present-day 2,700-acre Hibberd farm.

As other siblings ventured west, married and began

farming, they competed with one another to see who could build the largest home, Hibberd said with a laugh.

"Phares built the last one so it was the biggest — a 14-room house with 12-foot ceilings and fireplaces," he said.

Located near Willow Creek, the home burned down about 50 years ago, he said.

There are no original buildings left on the farm.

The ranch includes 1,200 acres north toward Elgin, 1,000 acres to the east and 640 around the home ranch, Hibberd said.

His brother Reid had title to the first homestead farm which marked 100 years in the family in 1962, but he never had it registered. It has since been sold out of the family, disqualifying it for Century Farm designation, Hibberd said.

"The Wards bought this land (where the present Hibberd

residence is located) in 1883," he said.

Phares worked the land until his death in 1894. The site of the present Hibberd residence was used as pastureland until 1900 when they began to farm it, he added.

In 1924 Hibberd's mother died, leaving 15-year old Dick, brother Reid and his father to work the ranch.

"I went to Whitman College (Walla Walla, Wash.) for a year and actually started ranching in 1927," he said.

In 1932 he bought registered polled cattle to start the herd that now numbers 200 on the ranch.

"I bought 21 cows, 14 calves and a 4-year old bull and paid \$750 for the whole bunch.

"It took me six months to come up with the money, and I was the first one in the valley who was able to buy them."

In 1939, he bought four head

from the original B.O. Gammon herd in Des Moines, Iowa.

Hibberds' Hornless Herefords have since become renowned in cattle circles throughout the world.

"I could walk into any (cattle) sale in the country and they would know me."

Hibberd, 77, has sold meat to markets in Japan, the Philippines, Canada and Hawaii. Twice he was named director of the National Polled Hereford Association, based in Kansas City, Kan., and is a member of the Hall of Fame of the Polled Hereford Association in Kansas City.

The Hibberd ranch recently was host to a delegation of Chinese learning about the cattle, wheat, alfalfa, and grass seed businesses.

Appropriately enough, the Hibberds passed on information even farther west — to new pioneers in farming.



Dick and Laurose Hibberd at their Century Farm in Imbler.

## Indians added color to century

In the early 1900s, Imbler still was the site of Indian treks to hunting grounds, Dick Hibberd recalled.

Living on a Century Farm, Hibberd has accumulated stories of generations living at the same location from the settling of the west to the present day.

His grandfather told of running to Fort Summerville when there were reports of Indians.

As a youngster Hibberd recalled watching Indians, in a two-to-three mile line, coming off the hills from Mt. Emily, walk straight across the valley, past his property on Striker Lane, and up over the mountains into the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

"Women carrying papoos-

es, horses pulling sticks with teepees — they were going to the mountains to hunt and fish for their meat for the winter," he said.

"That was quite a sight."

Hibberd said he also rode race horses in Elgin for a Umatilla Indian chief.

"I could ride better than the Indian kids could and he was proud of me.

"He asked me to join them up at the horse ranch (Red's Horse Ranch in the Eagle Cap) to go on a 'meat fill,' hunting deer and chinook salmon which they would dry and smoke for the winter. I wouldn't go because I was too scared to do it.

"I could kick myself now."