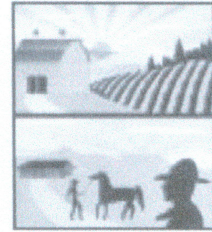


CFR 1069

Walter Gowlan Wells and C. Wilson Wells



Century Farm & Ranch Program Application

Date June 28, 2004

Type of designation (please check) Century Farm Century Ranch

Legal owner's name 1. Walter Gowlan Wells, 1802 Wells Dr., Hood River, Or.
2. C. Wilson Wells, 1880 Wells Dr., Hood River, Or.
(Please attach contact information if other than legal owner)

Mailing address c/o John M. Wells, Redacted for Privacy

Telephone Redacted for Privacy E-mail address Redacted for Privacy

County Hood River Location of farm or ranch (distance from nearest town) Pine Grove, 5 m south of Hood River.

Township 2 North Range 11 East Section 18

Original family owner(s) or founder(s) Jerome Wells

Date (year) this farm or ranch was acquired by founder(s) November 1, 1901
(Attach verifying documentation, see qualification #7)

Founder(s) came to Oregon from Moline, Illinois

Who farms or ranches the land today? Walter Wells ans Sons, LLC

Relationship to original owner (See qualification #5, please explain lineage) great grandsons;
Jim, Gary, John and Scott Wells

Are any of the original buildings still in use? Yes No Listed on National Register? Yes No

If yes, please describe _____

History of crops or livestock raised on farm or ranch The early farm had a small apple orchard. Jerome & Mary had chicken, cows and grew wheat, corn, millet & vegetables.

What is raised on the farm or ranch today? Today, we grow many varieties of tree fruits; apples, pears, cherries and peaches. (attached story)

How many generations live on the farm or ranch today? 2 grandsons; Gowlan and Bill **see below.

Please list names and birth years Walter Gowlan Wells: sept. 9, 1917
C. Wilson (Bill) Wells; Nov. 1, 1919

Please submit two or three pages of family history narrative, including, but not limited to generational transfers of the farm or ranch. You are also encouraged to submit photos of the property.

****while only one generation now live on the original 1901 property, the families of four great grandsons of Jerome live on adjacent properties making four generation on the extended wells farm (3rd-6th). there are 28 direct descendents of Jerome Wells living within 5 miles, representing the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th generations of this family.**

Statement of Affirmation

I, John M Wells
 hereby affirm and declare that the farm or ranch which I own at my father, Gowlan Wells and my uncle Wilson (Bill) Wells own at Redacted for Privacy
 in the County of Hood River,
 shall have been owned by my family for at least 100 continuous years, as specified in the qualifications for the Century Farm & Ranch Program, on or before December 31 of the current calendar year. Further, I hereby affirm that this property meets all other requirements for Century Farm or Century Ranch honors, including that the farm or ranch has a gross income from farming or ranching activities of not less than \$1,000 per year for three out of the five years immediately preceding making this statement. I understand that the application materials will become property of the Oregon Historical Society Library and be made available for public use.

John Wells

June 29, 2004

Signature of Owner's
representing the

Date

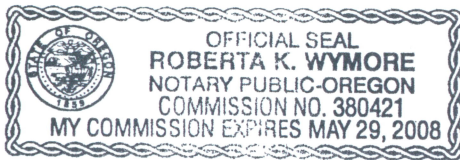
Certification by Notary Public

State of Oregon

County of HOOD RIVER

Be it remembered, that on this 29 day of June, 20 04, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, personally appeared the within named John M Wells, known to me to be the identical individual described in and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same freely and voluntarily.

In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year last above written.



Roberta K. Wymore

Notary Public for Oregon

My Commission Expires May 29, 2008

Fees	
Application Fee <i>(includes one certificate)</i>	\$ <u>50.00</u>
Additional Certificates (\$15 each)	\$ <u>15.00</u>
Total enclosed	\$ <u>65.00</u>
<i>Make checks payable to Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation or OAEF</i>	

For office use only	
Date Received	_____
Approved?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Authorization	_____
	<i>Century Farm and Ranch Project Coordinator</i>
OHS Library	
MSS 1604 Program ID No.	_____

June 28, 2004

Compiled and Updated by John Michael Wells, great-grandson of Jerome Wells

Sources from 'Pine Grove Memories in the Hood River Valley' by Pat Krussow, Walter Wells, Jerome Wells and Gowlan Wells family Histories p387-389, In 'History of Hood River County- 1852-1982.' by Hood River Historical Society. "Walter Wells and Sons" by Jeannette Cochran Wells p497, In History of Hood River County- 1852-1987.

Jerome Wells married Anna Mary Stricker in 1875 in Mt. Carroll, Illinois. In 1891 they sold their Illinois home, livestock, tools, etc. and boarded a train for Oregon. Jerome was 38 years old. They had four children; Perry, 11; Warren Jr., 9; Maggie, 3; and Walter, 8 months. Walter Wells was born in Rock Island (Moline County), Illinois on June 27, 1890. There was snow on the ground in the Hood River Valley in March of 1891. Hans Lage came to pick their family up at the station with a team and sled to go to the Warren Wells' home (Jerome's brother). The Jerome Wells family rented several different homes (across from John Mohr, the Corum farm and Clelland farm) from March 1891 to 1894. Edward Wells was born in 1894 on the Clelland place.

The Wells brothers (Warren and Jerome) were looking for land to homestead. However, there were about twenty-five homesteaders in the Pine Grove area by this time even though there was no irrigation system. About the only land still available for homesteading in the Pine Grove area was on the east hills.

In 1894 Jerome decided the time was right for homesteading. He took up a claim on the hilltop. It required building two and a half miles of road from the Old Dalles wagon road to the home site. Then they built a two-story house and a pole barn. The closest water was some 1200 feet from the house. There they had two splendid springs; one for the house use and one for the animals. Life was a lot of hard work for the entire family. Jerome had land to clear and plant in wheat, corn, and millet. Mary and the children took charge of milking the cows, gathering the eggs and feeding 100 or so hens. She also churned the butter in her prized clear-glass barreled churn. The eggs were packed in bran to transport to the store to avoid breakage. The eggs and butter were traded for flour, salt, sugar, soda, etc. The rest of their food was raised or hunted. They carried buckets of water to raise cabbage, tomatoes, carrots, lettuce, beets, and peas. They also raised strawberries, gooseberries, currants, and raspberries. Warren, Maggie and Walter also picked wild blackberries, service berries, and wild black caps. These Mary would can for the winter. "The next we hear of the Wells family was in The Glacier on August 21, 1896, "Born in Hood River valley August 20, 1896 to Mr. And Mrs. Jerome Wells a twelve pound boy." So entered little Clifford Wells into this world." ('Pine Grove Memories in the Hood River Valley' by J. Pat Krussow). Clifford was the youngest of five boys and one girl in the Jerome and Mary Wells family.

In 1901 Jerome sold his place on the mountain. He bought a 160 acre homestead that belonged to Hugh Lacey for \$200. The sale included a Right-of-Way Deed for the newly formed East Fork Irrigating Company dated Oct. 28, 1901. The property was a half- mile east of Pine Grove School, so it was much easier for the children. It had a small house and out buildings on it, and some land was cleared, with about 3 and a half acres in orchard of every variety of apples.

Jerome's son, Walter did a great deal of carpentry in the valley starting at the age of 18, for \$2.75 per 10 hour day. He helped build about 40 buildings, including homes,

apple houses, and 10 gambrel barns in Hood River Valley. Walter married Beatrice Gowlan in 1916, a piano teacher at the Conservatory of Music in Portland. They had three children, Gowlan (9-9-17), Wilson (11-1-19), and Marjorie (7-15-23). He purchased 30 acres from his mother Mary Wells on March 15, 1920. "Back in the 1920's we made many thousands of gallons of cider. Cider apples then were selling for \$7.00 per ton. I went house to house selling apples and cider; 20 cents per jug, and 20 cents for the jug itself; - or by the keg or barrel." (Walter Wells, p388, History of the Hood River County).

Nearly all of the original 160 acres Jerome Wells purchased in 1901 from the Hugh Lacey homestead are included in the present farm operations. In the late 1930's, the partnership of Walter Wells and Sons was formed, consisting of Walter, Gowlan and Bill Wells. It became a year round continuous business with the work of raising apples, pears, and cherries, then harvesting, packing, storing and selling the fruit. One of the first ventures was to take loads of fruit by truck to markets in California, as well as eastern, central and southern Oregon. Walter, Gowlan and Bill were the primary truck drivers. The load of fruit was taken to Los Angeles every week and oranges and other fruits were picked up and delivered to stores on the way back. These trips were on Hwy 35, Hwy 101 or Hwy 97. We continue to truck fruit to Portland and other local Oregon markets today.

When Gowlan and Bill were first working with their dad Walter in the thirties, the spraying was done with hoses, then with a small tank mounted on the old orchard truck. Three men did all the spraying with this sprayer. In the late 1930's, many orchardists went to stationary sprayers, which included pipes in the ground to standpipes in the field, to which hoses were connected to spray the trees. Today there are seven portable 500-gallon air blast sprayers that tend to our fruit orchards.

In 1954, Lorn Magnusen, (Marjorie Wells' husband) joined the partnership and was instrumental in selling our fruit until 1980 when he retired. Packing the fruit in the early years was done in the barn where Gowlan presently lives. They had 4-6 sorters and 8-9 packers. Lidding of wooden boxes was done by hammer and hand. In 1955, a new building was constructed by the railroad tracks on Mason Road, since a lot of shipping was then done by rail. Major additions have been made to the facility in 1964 (Controlled Atmosphere Storage), 1969, 1977, and 1988. The 1988 CA building was one of the first computer-controlled systems in the Pacific Northwest used for winter pears. Walter retired from the family farm in May 1974, but kept an interest by daily visits through the orchard and warehouse until his death in December 1981. In 1988, Gowlan and Bill semi-retired, but continue to visit the fields to watch the crop.

Walter kept his family busy with a diversity of crops. Strawberries were grown in the 50's and peaches in the 60's. Today our family farm grows many varieties; about 15 kinds of apples, 12 pears, 10 cherries and 8 different peaches. Besides the orchards and packing facility, we also operate a fruit stand called Pearl's Place. We are dedicated to growing safe produce while protecting our employees and environment. Walter Wells and Sons was the first tree fruit producer to join 'The Food Alliance' which promotes healthy produce. Presently, Gowlan's two sons; Jim and John and Bill's two sons; Gary and Scott work the farm. We grow, pack and ship fruit throughout the United States and for export to foreign markets. Hopefully, the family farm will continue to prosper for the next one hundred years, providing for the fifth, sixth, and future generations of the Jerome Wells Family.

To have and to hold the same, together with all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in any wise appertaining, to said Edward May, and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto set our hand and seals this 24th day of October A. D. 1901.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence

of us as witnesses:

J. T. Delk (Seal)

Geo A. Brodie

Mrs. S. E. Delk, (Seal)

A. E. McKiinter

State of Oregon)
: SS
County of Multnomah)

This certifies that on this 24th day of October A. D. 1901, before me the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared the within named J.T. Delk and Mrs S. E. Delk, his wife, who are known to me to be the identical person described in and who executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that they executed the same for the uses and purposes therein mentioned. And Mrs S. E. Delk wife of the said J. T. Delk, on an examination made by me, separate and apart from her said husband, then and there acknowledged to me that she executed the same freely and voluntarily and without fear, coercion or compulsion from any one.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and notarial seal the day and year last above written.

(Notary Seal)

Geo A. Brodie,

Notary Public for Oregon

Transcribed from Wasco County Records, Book 32 of Deeds, Page 520.

John Leland Henderson and wife

Warranty Deed,

To

Filed for record November 1st A. D. 1901, at 8 o'clock A.M.

Jerome Wells

Know all men by these presents that we, John Leland Henderson and Marian I. Henderson, husband and wife, of Hood River, Wasco County, State of Oregon, in consideration of Two Hundred (200) Dollars to them paid by Jerome Wells, of said County, State of Oregon, have bargained and sold, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and convey unto said Jerome Wells, and unto his heirs and assigns, all the following bounded and described realproperty, situate in the County of Wasco and State of Oregon.

The South west quarter (SE 1/4) of the section numbered Eighteen (18) in Township Two (2) North of Range Eleven (11) East of the Willamette Meridian, containing 160 acres of land, more or less, according to the United States Surveys and Plat on file in the United States Land office at The Dalles, Oregon, and being the same land which the said John Leland Henderson purchased of Catharine Lacey, Guardian, of the minor heirs of Hugh Lacey, deceased, dated October 2nd 1901, and duly recorded in Records of Wasco County, in Book 32 of Deeds, reserving out of said grant, a right of way for a ditch or flume, over and across

said land, in accordance with the terms and conditions of a Right of Way Deed, executed by us in favor of The East Fork Irrigating Company, dated the 28th day of October 1901, and intended to be recorded,

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in any wise appertaining, and also all our estate, right, title and interest in and to the same, including dower and claim of dower.

To have and to hold the above-described and granted premises unto the said Jerome Wells and unto his heirs and assigns forever, And we John Leland Henderson and Marian I. Henderson, husband and wife, grantors above named, do covenant to and with Jerome Wells, the above named grantee, his heirs and assigns, that we are lawfully seized in fee simple of the above granted premises, that the above granted premises are free from all incumbrances, except said right of way for said Ditch and that we will and our heirs, executors and administrators shall warrant and forever defend the above granted premises, and every part and parcel thereof, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons whomsoever, except said right of way.

In Witness Whereof, we the grantors above named, hereunto set our hands and seals this 28th day of October 1901.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the

presence of us as witnesses:

Geo P. Crowell.

A. J. Graham

State of Oregon)
 : SS
County of Wasco)

John Leland Henderson (Seal)

Marian I. Henderson (Seal)

Be it remembered that on this 30th day of Oct. A. D. 1901, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared the within named John Leland Henderson, and Marian I. Henderson, husband and wife, who are known to me to be the identical individuals described in and who executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that they executed the same freely and voluntarily.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and notarial seal the day and year last above written.

(Notary Seal)

Geo. P. Crowell, Notary Public for the
State of Oregon, Residing in the City of
Hood River, said County and State.

Transcribed from Wasco County Records, Book 32 of Deeds, Page 521

G. L. Harpham and wife

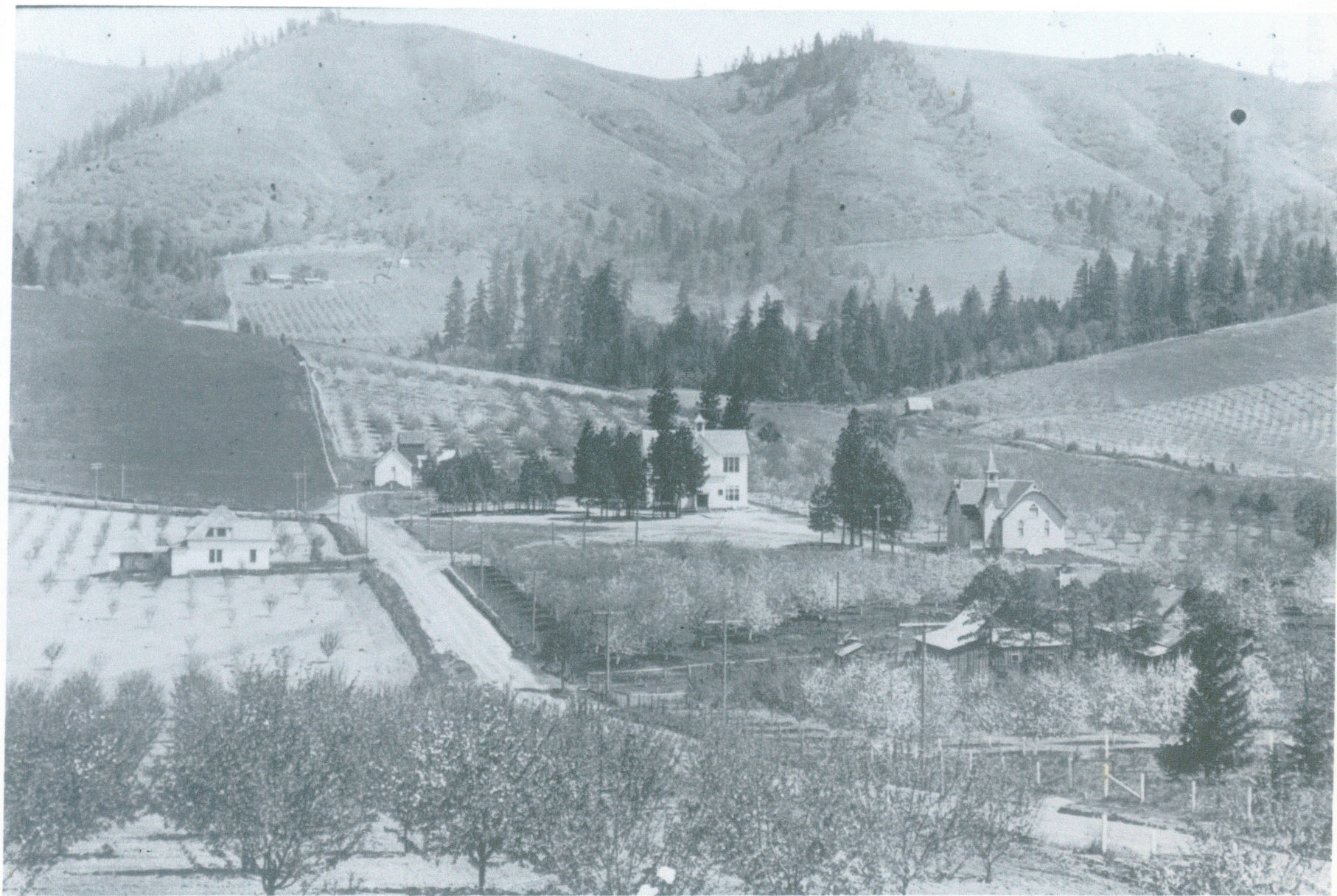
To

C. L. Rogers,

Warranty Deed,

Filed for record November 4th A. D. 1901, at 8 o'clock A.M.

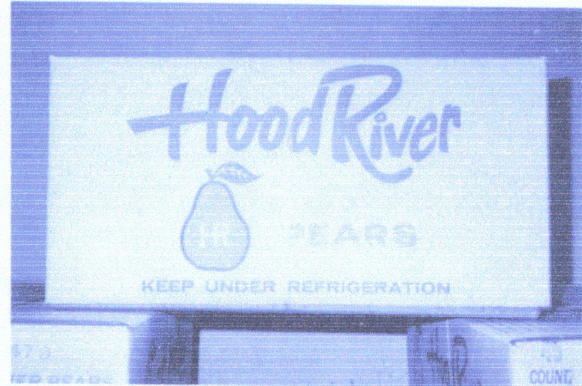
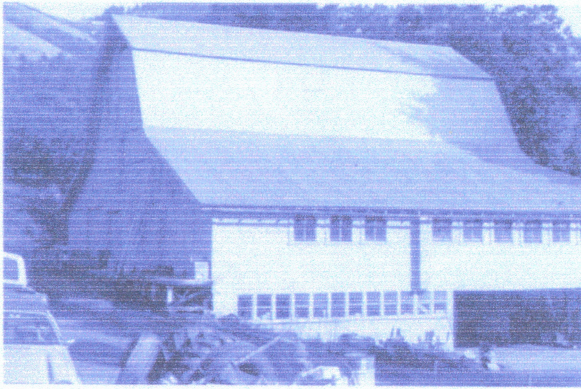
Know all men by these Presents, That G. L. Harpham and Sadie Harpham, his wife, of Biggs County of Sherman, State of Oregon, in consideration of One (\$1.00) One Dollar and other valuable consideration Dollars, to them paid by C. L. Rogers, of Hood River, County of



This photo was from Walter Wells. It was taken in 1907 of the south pine grove area. Above the church and school the line of fir trees was cleared by hand, horse and dynamite, by Walter Wells and sons. It is now planted in orchard.



WALTER WELLS AND SONS



Walter Wells purchased 30 acres from his mother in 1920, four of them in orchard. From that nucleus has developed the present nearly 300 acres, which are farmed today. Nearly all of the original Jerome Wells (Walter's father) homestead has been purchased and is now included in the present farm operations.

In the late 1930's, the partnership of Walter Wells & Sons was formed, consisting of Walter, Gowlan, and Bill Wells. Along with the work of raising apples, pears, and cherries, then harvesting, packing, storing and selling the fruit, it has become a year-around continuous business.

One of the first ventures was to take loads of fruit by truck to markets in California, as well as eastern, central and southern Oregon. Hall, Haas and Vessey in Los Angeles was one of the largest outlets for us. Walter, Gowlan and Bill were the drivers, with the help of Leonard Seaton, and several others that went occasionally. The load of fruit was taken down each week, and loads of fresh produce and fruits picked up and delivered to stores on the way back.

At that time, there was one truck for the long haul, one truck and a "run-a-about" on the place. Today, though we no longer make the long trips, there is one big truck and smaller ones for various sized loads to haul fruit to Portland, and other outlets. Also there are two smaller trucks for local use.

When Gowlan and Bill were first working with their Dad (Walter), in the early 30's, the spraying was done with horses, then with a small tank mounted on the old orchard truck. This sprayer accommodated three men to do all the spraying. All of the cultivating, (discing, springtooth harrowing, etc.) was done with horses.

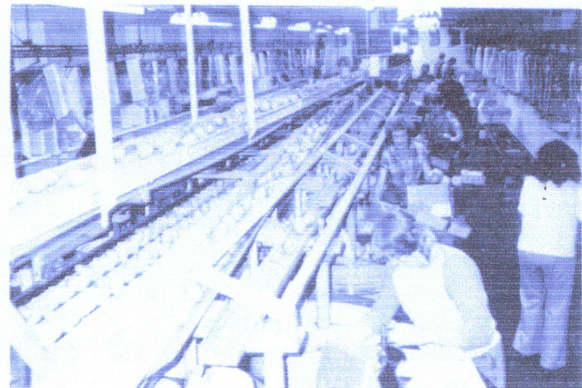
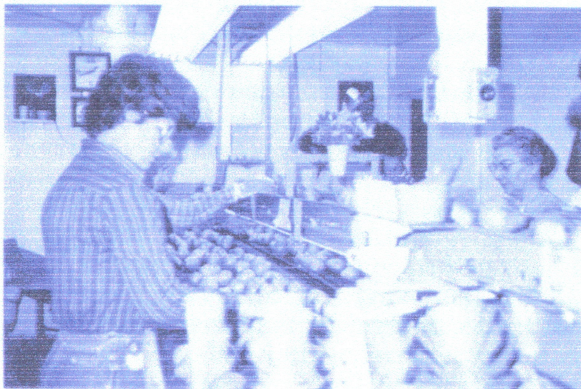
In the 30's, many orchardists went to stationary sprayers, which

included pipes in the ground to standpipes in the field, to which hoses were connected to spray the trees. Our spray program has gone from the stationary tank (late 30's to early 40's) which kept six men busy pulling hoses, to the present four speed sprayers, which still seem to keep them busy!

Packing was done in the "barn" on the home place, where Gowlan now lives. This was a 4-6 sorter, 8-9 packer operation. All lidding was done by hand. In 1955, a new plant was constructed by the railroad on the Mason place, since a lot of shipping was then done by rail. Included was a cold storage; prior to this we had rented storage space. This building uses 8-10 sorters, 16-18 packers, plus the various warehousemen. Daily production runs between 2300 and 3100 boxes, depending on the type of fruit run. This storage holds 118,000 boxes of fruit.

In 1964, the need for a larger dryer encouraged remodeling, so at the same time, a room was added to accommodate 4 controlled atmosphere rooms, (20,000 boxes), plus 20,000 boxes regular storage. As the acreage and production increased, so did the need for even more storage space. In 1977, another room was added so that now we can store nearly a quarter million boxes of fruit. This building complex, started in '55, was constructed mostly by family members and ranch employees.

In 1954, Lorn Magnusen, son-in-law of Walter, joined the partnership, and was instrumental in selling, until his retirement in 1980. The founder of this family farm, Walter Wells, retired in May of 1974, but kept an interest by daily visits through the orchards and warehouse until his death in December, 1981. Today, Gowlan and sons, Jim and John, and Bill with sons Gary and Scott, are the nucleus of the Walter Wells & Sons operation.



WALTER WELLS AND SONS



Left to right are Gowlan, John, Jim, Gary, and Bill.



Walter Wells and Sons Packing Plant.



The Wells orchards, shown above, are spread across the hills of the Hood River Valley. In addition to red pears, apples are also grown.



These are labels used on the old wooden apple and pear boxes for years. The labels had to be pasted to the end of each box. With the advent of the cardboard box, of course, the label is printed right on the box lid as it is made. VIEWMONT brand is a label used by Walter Wells and Sons since the mid 1930s.

