

SFR 0017

William Hoyt

C7R 0177

Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation

Sesquicentennial Award Application

Date October 10 2008

Type of designation (please check) Farm Ranch

Legal owner / Applicant name William L. Hoyt

Mailing address of Legal Owner / Applicant Redacted for Privacy

Telephone Redacted E-mail address Redacted for

Contact name (if different than legal owner) _____

Mailing address of Contact _____

Contact Telephone _____ Contact E-mail address _____

Location of farm or ranch (which is the subject of this application):

County Lane

Distance 6 Mi. South from nearest town Cottage Grove

Township 21 Range 04 Section 13

Address or physical location of the farm or ranch (which is subject of this application): _____

Redacted for Privacy

GPS (Global Positioning System) Coordinates, if known: _____

(Please continue application on next page)

Sesquicentennial Award Application - Continued

Please provide the following information.

Founder(s):

Original family owner(s) or founder(s) Ira Hawley

Year this farm or ranch was acquired by founder(s) 1852

Year farm or ranch was awarded Century Farm or Century Ranch status, if applicable 1958

Who farms or ranches the land today? William L. Hoyt

Relationship of Applicant to original owner. Please explain lineage.

Great Great Grand Son

History of buildings:

Are any of the original buildings still in use? Yes No

If yes, please describe the buildings and their former and current use:

Are any of the buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places? Yes No
If, "yes", please describe:

History of crops or livestock raised on farm or ranch:

Please describe the early crops or livestock.

Cattle and Hay

How many acres were included in original farm or ranch?

360 +

How did the crops / livestock / use of farm or ranch change over the years?

Pasture improvement multi species grazing

(Please continue application on next page)

Sesquicentennial Award Application – Continued

History of crops or livestock raised on farm or ranch – Cont'd:

What are crops / livestock raised on the subject farm or ranch today?

Hay / Balage // Timber

Registered Cattle

Comercial Cattle

Sheep

Goats

How many acres does the subject farm or ranch include today?

Aprox 1500

How many acres are in agricultural use today?

All

The Family:

How many generations live on the farm or ranch today?

One

Please list names and birth years:

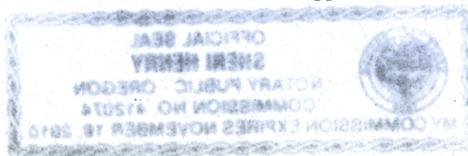
William L Hoyt

Please include a narrative of your family history. Please also submit historical & current photos of the property & family, as available. If photos can be provided in digital format at a high resolution appropriate for publication (300 dpi or greater), it would be appreciated.

Types of information to include in your family history narrative:

- From which city, state, or country original owner moved.
- Generational transfers of the farm or ranch property.
- Significant events in the family (births, deaths, marriages, etc).
- Any major changes to operations (methods of production, etc.).
- Additional information on crops, buildings, other changes from the original farm or ranch.

(Please continue application on next page.)



Statement of Affirmation

I, William L Hoyt,
hereby affirm and declare that the farm or ranch which I own at Redacted for Privacy
Redacted for Privacy, in the County of Lane, Oregon 97420
has been owned by my family for at least 150 continuous years, as specified in the qualifications for the
Century Farm & Ranch Program / Sesquicentennial Award, 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
Ranch / Sesquicentennial Award 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. By signing below, I understand that I am
consenting to the use of both information and photographs.

William L Hoyt 10-10-08
Signature of Owner Date

Certification by Notary Public

State of Oregon
County of Lane

Be it remembered, that on this 10 day of October, 2008, before me, the
undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, personally appeared the within named
William L. Hoyt, known to me to be the identical individual described in and who
executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me that William L. Hoyt 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.

[Signature]
Notary Public for Oregon
My Commission Expires November 16, 2010

Fees

Application Fee
(includes one certificate) \$ 25.00

Additional Certificates (\$15 each) \$ _____
Total enclosed \$ 25.00

Make checks payable to:
Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation or OAEF

(7/2007)

For office use only

Date Received 2008
Century Farm or Ranch ID No. if on File CFR017
Not on File _____
Application Approved? Yes No
Authorization GM
Century Farm & Ranch Program Coordinator
OHS Library
MSS 1604 Program ID No. SFR0017



Century Farm & Ranch Program

Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation

Janice Reed, Director

3415 Commercial Street SE, Salem Oregon 97302

Dear Director Reed,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the application for the Sesquicentennial Award. As Oregon prepares to celebrate its 150th birthday we are especially proud of our participation in Oregon Agriculture and stand ready to be part of its future.

In 2002 our family celebrated its 150 year anniversary continually ranching in Oregon. As I write to you I represent the fifth generation of our family to operate on the same ground without interruption.

The founder and patriarch, Ira Hawley was born in New York in 1816 and was farming with his wife Elvira Riley Hawley in Rome Illinois in 1848 when Gold was discovered in California. Early in 185⁹, struck by the gold fever he and a friend headed for California. He did not return to his family until January of 1852, his first odyssey across the country is a story unto itself. He would later write that he felt gaining title to land in California would be legally burdensome and felt that Oregon held better promise. In the spring of 1852 he loaded his family of three young boys 9- 4- & 2 and his wife in a wagon took 5 head of cattle, the team and 2 saddle horses, joined a wagon train and headed for a new life in Oregon. They left on an epic journey and left a lasting legacy for our family. After months of travel and hardship, much of which we have documented, Ira set down "stakes" in our present location some six miles south of what is now the town of Cottage Grove. There are stories to numerous for this writing to tell about the crossing and the eventual final destination. He writes however that on the journey down the Willamette Valley in the fall of 1852 from Oregon City to what is now Creswell "all the good places were taken". Our ranch is now located on the spot which marks the division between the waters of the Umpqua and that of the Willamette Rivers, the old folks refer to us as the "ranch at divide", good water, good grass and what would become a crossroad for progress.

As did many others of his generation Ira had great vision for the future, he predicted the value of timber, mining, roads and the judicious use of Oregon's natural resource. Among his many accomplishments Ira is credited with building roads, providing a stage stop between Portland and Sacramento, hosting a community school and starting the first cattle drive up the Willamette Valley to markets in Oregon City, feeding the expanding Oregon population.

Ira and his wife Elvira had 12 children 6 of which lived to adulthood, five boys and a girl (I am proud to say that I am descended from his only surviving daughter Medora Ann Hawley Stockwell) Elvira served as the midwife for our area for many years and there are many stories of her heroic exploits too numerous to recount here. Ira and Elvira have been honored in the pioneer museum in Oregon City and mentioned in many books on the history of the Oregon territory. Before his death in 1901 he owned property in what is now Linn, Lane and Douglas County's and had dispersed family members to all corners of our State. He helped buy farms and ranches for many of his sons and grand children one of which was my Grandfather for whom he purchased a farm in 1889 near what is now Shedd Oregon. This farm was operated by my Grandfather until his death in 1971.

Following his retirement In the early 1890's the ranch was operated by Ira's youngest son James and his wife Alice Withers Hawley their wedding license hangs proudly in my living room to this day. James took us through some turbulent times. I will always be grateful to James and Alice Hawley for among other things they raised the orphan son of his sister Madora Ann Hawley Stockwell (1855 – 1888) who died of diphtheria. Her youngest son, four at the time of her death, was my Grandfather. Another amazing family tale! Following the death of James Hawley in 1930 the ranch was left to and operated by his daughter, my great aunt, Alsea Hawley (1891-1973). Born in 1891 Alsea brought the ranch through the great depression and WWII, she was open to the great innovations occurring in agriculture, and it was to her that the Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation Issued the Century Farm designation in 1958. Alsea took us into the Seed Stock business, purchasing the Canadian National Champion Polled Hereford Bull. The ranch would become one of the most widely recognized seed stock producers in the state. We were proud to be awarded premier breeder at the Oregon State Fair in 1985. Alsea died in 1973 and having no children she wished the ranch be left to her cousin raised with her as a brother, the orphan child of her aunt, my Grandfather Eugene L. Stockwell (1884-1971). Having pre-diseased her however the ranch fell to my mother Elizabeth Stockwell Hoyt (1923-1975) and her brother. My uncle having no wish to be a rancher and living out of state sold his interest to my father and for several years my parents who met at and graduated from the University of Oregon, operated the ranch in the tradition established by Alsea. In 1975 my mother was taken by cancer and the ranch is now owned and operated by my self, my father and my younger brother.

As the great great Grand son of Ira Hawley with my wife Sharon Michael Hoyt whose family are also Oregon pioneers and with out whom I could not cope, I have lived at "Divide" and operated "Hawley Land & Cattle Co." for the past 30 + years. We have diversified our operation to include the production of sheep and goats as well as cattle. Our operation is currently involved in cutting edge forage and livestock production. We now use new tillage tools which leave limited footprints, and allow us to grow forages that compliment the land and its occupants. While increasing production these new techniques require less conventional fertilizer and conserve water. We produce "natural" grass fed Lamb and beef sold in numerous Oregon markets. Our goats are used by several Portland metro communities and the U S Army Corps of Engineers for control of invasive weeds in environmentally sensitive areas. The goats serve the same useful purpose on the ranch. Much interest in this area has recently been generated, and we agreed to host a PHD project from OSU dealing with the grazing of goats to promote the natural control of invasive weeds. I am grateful to the Department of Rangeland Ecology at OSU for the opportunity to be part of such a study and I believe that it may lead to more use of natural grazing techniques for weed control. We are also a member of an Oregon forage group exploring innovative solutions to the challenges of forage production in 2008.

In the 156 years since Ira Hawley founded our Ranch it as seen many changes. Statehood, Transportation, commerce and the advance of progres. We have been host to the overland stage line and the Interstate Highway system. Through it all we have adjusted to the changes learned, from our mistakes and tried to grow a sustainable ranching operation. The family has always kept the land first and tried to continue the legacy left to us by the founder.

During my stewardship of the ranch I have been privileged to serve as the president of our state breed association and the Douglas County Livestock Association. I currently serve as the president - elect of the Oregon Cattleman's Association. I have tried to be active in helping to move Oregon agriculture ahead in challenging times by testifying at the Legislature on relevant natural resource issues and working with those who wish as I do to see Oregon Agriculture and the livestock community be flourishing 150 years from now.

I am deeply committed to the Oregon Agricultural community in general and the Oregon livestock community in particular and I am very very proud of my heritage.

Thank you for including Ira's family in this project.

Respectfully,

W.L. (Bill) Hoyt

Hawley Land & Cattle Co.

Cottage Grove, Oregon

The Register-Guard 13 February 2009
<http://www.registerguard.com/>

This land is his land **OREGON'S SESQUICENTENNIAL**

BY NAT LEVY
The Register-Guard

COTTAGE GROVE — Bill Hoyt loads his red 1983 Toyota pickup truck with several bales of hay and takes off down the road. Slightly more than a mile north of his farmhouse, five horses and dozens of cattle wait patiently for their breakfast. When the old pickup rolls to a stop in the middle of the field, the animals form a circle around it.

Hoyt goes to cut the bales loose, but has forgotten his knife. He takes some car keys and loosens the hay. Half of it drops off the flatbed right there. The cattle and horses battle for their share while Hoyt puts the truck in a low gear. Then, standing on the flatbed, he begins sprinkling hay throughout the field, while the unmanned rig creeps along.

Hoyt is hardly the first from his bloodline to tend to this farm: The Hawley Land & Cattle Co. has been in his family for five generations and more than 150 years. The farm is one of five that will be honored Saturday at a sesquicentennial award ceremony in Salem sponsored by the Oregon Century Farm and Ranch program.

Hoyt, 55, is proud to receive the award on the state's 150th birthday, but feels the recognition should be spread around.

"It's not mine to get," Hoyt said. "I've only been around for 35 of the years. There's almost 120 (years) that went before me and those people really deserve most of the credit."

Not his first choice

Hoyt, who grew up in Montana and earned a degree in history and political science from the University of Montana in 1973, hadn't planned to become part of the farm's legacy.

But when his mother, Elizabeth Stockwell Hoyt, died in 1975, Hoyt said his only choices were to keep the farm in the family or sell it. He chose the former, and now owns the farm with his dad, William Hoyt II, who lives in California.

So why continue to operate the farm when there are other, more lucrative opportunities available to him? Hoyt says it boils down to family pride.

"I'm doing it because I don't want to be the last one," Hoyt said. "I can't bear to be the one who sells it."

Historic parallels

The history of the farm dates to 1816, the year Ira Hawley was born in New York.

Hawley moved west from his home state of Illinois in 1849 to take advantage of the Gold Rush and avoid a sagging economy.

In that respect, not much has changed in 150 years. Hoyt is also wrestling with an economic downturn, seeing the value of the farm's commodities — primarily cattle, sheep and goats — remain stagnant as other work costs keep rising.

Hoyt, who is also president-elect of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, employs several strategies that have worked for the previous operators for the last 150 years. The main plan for dealing with the economy, he says, is to "stay current" — always having some product that's not too far from market. That means, for example, having livestock that doesn't take several years to raise. Hoyt can sell lambs the year after their birth. With cattle, it takes more time.

Adjusting to change

His second strategy is to stay out of debt.

Finally, Hoyt wants the farm to be flexible in what it produces, and how much, in order to match the chaos of prices.

"No two years are the same," he said. "We don't know what prices will be this fall, let alone two years from now."

Glenn Mason, coordinator for the state's Century Farm and Ranch program, said the ability to adjust to changing conditions is the only way a farm can remain prosperous for 150 years. Farms have to adapt to new technologies, Mason said, but not depend on them.

Ira Hawley had to adapt in the early 1850s when figuring out where to settle. He decided to forgo the difficulties of securing acreage in California and instead headed north to Oregon.

A family legacy

After completing his first pilgrimage to the West Coast, Hawley returned in the fall of 1852 with his wife Elvira and their three sons.

The family traveled down the Willamette Valley, which Hawley described as the Promised Land, and settled at the farm's current location, approximately six miles south of Cottage Grove.

Hawley picked the area because, as he wrote at the time, "all the good places were taken."

Following Hawley's retirement in 1890, Ira's youngest son, James, and his wife, Alice,

ran the farm. James died in 1930 and left the farm to Alsea Hawley, Hoyt's great-aunt. She oversaw the farm when the Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation issued the Century Farm designation in 1958.

Alsea died in 1973, and the farm went to Hoyt's mother.

The farm has watched and survived extensive changes in the region, the most notable being the construction of Interstate 5 through the property.

Last in the line?

Hoyt operates the farm with his wife, Sharon. To get the best view of their property, Hoyt drives up to the family plot.

The cemetery, which is a family corporation shared with another family, sits atop a hill just north of the farm's entrance.

There, Hoyt can gaze upon the vast land holding, and reflect on the contributions of the previous four generations to own the farm.

Whether or not a sixth generation will take over the farm is an open question. Hoyt and his wife have no children, and no other young relatives have yet stepped forward. But when someone does, Hoyt wants it to be in good condition.

"My only hope is to leave it better than I found it."

SESQUICENTENNIAL FARMS

What: Five families will receive sesquicentennial awards from the Oregon Century Farm and Ranch program

When/where: 1 p.m. Saturday, Hearing Room F, Capitol Building, Salem

Where: The Capitol Building, Salem

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From: "FRED MICHAEL" **Redacted for Privacy**
To: <orcentury@juno.com>
Date: Fri, 6 Feb 2009 14:06:01 -0800
Subject: Emailing: Photo0002

Hoyt / Hawley
[on Memory Key as
Photo0002; 0003; 0004 d
0006]

Glenn,

This is the first of four photos from **Bill Hoyt/Hawley Land and Cattle Company**. Pictured is Ira Hawley on a horse, his wife, Elvira on the porch, with son Walter at their home in Divide. This house was a stage stop for the Portland to San Francisco Stage. Circa, 188? Three more photos to follow.

Sharon Hoyt

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Photo0002

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.



PHOTO #1 - HAWLEY

From: "FRED MICHAEL" Redacted for Privacy
To: <orcentury@juno.com>
Date: Fri, 6 Feb 2009 14:16:56 -0800
Subject: Emailing: Photo0003

Glenn, This is Ira and Elvira Hawley with grandson Eugene Stockwell (Bill's Grandfather). Eugene was raised by his grandparents after his mother, Madora Ann (Hawley) Stockwell's death. Circa 1994. Eugene was in the first graduating class of Eugene High School. Sharon Hoyt
The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Photo0003

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.



PHOTO #2 - HAWLEY

From: "FRED MICHAEL" Redacted for Privacy
To: <orcentury@juno.com>
Date: Fri, 6 Feb 2009 14:38:38 -0800
Subject: Emailing: Photo0006

Glenn, This photo is Bill Hoyt Jr., his wife, Elizabeth (Stockwell) Hoyt, daughter of Eugene Stockwell, son Charles on the left, and son Bill III, (my husband) on right. Circa, mid-1960's. Elizabeth is fourth generation of the Hawley family. Bill and Charles are fifth generation.
Sharon Hoyt

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Photo0006

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.



PHOTO #3 - HAWLEY

From: "FRED MICHAEL" [Redacted for Privacy]
To: <orcentury@juno.com>
Date: Fri, 6 Feb 2009 14:45:40 -0800
Subject: Emailing: Photo0004

Glenn, This is my husband, Bill Hoyt gathering cattle in the fall of 1999 on the Hawley Ranch. This is the last of the photos. I tried to span the generations, first through fifth. The only person missing is a photo of Madora Ann. If you would like a photo of her, let me know. Used my mother's computer. [Redacted for Privacy]

[Redacted] Thank you, Sharon Hoyt

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Photo0004

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.



PHOTO #4 - HAWLEY (BILL HOYT ON HORSEBACK)



[FROM GENERIC PHOTO]

"Bronco Busting" on an Oregon Cattle Ranch.



[FROM POST CARD]