

Vernonia Family Brings an Old Farm Back to Life *continued from front page*

camp cabins.

In addition to the home improvements, the Elys have done some other major work on the property since they acquired it. They moved in around Thanksgiving of 2006; in February of 2007 the old barn collapsed. Allen says he had previously secured the barn with two large 3/4 inch cables to keep it from

patio furniture.

Allen says he estimates the old barn was built around 1900 and says he remembers an older gentleman stopping by and saying that he helped put the tin roof on the barn after the war. "I asked him, 'Which war?'" laughs Allen. "He said, 'WWII.'"

The Star windmill that the Elys



In February 2006 the old barn on Ely's property collapsed. Jeff Ely rebuilt it by salvaging the roofing and exterior barn boards. He also recently erected an antique windmill. Photo courtesy of Susan Ely.

just installed was built by Flint & Walling and is a ten foot model number 1937, built somewhere between 1937 and 1953. Jack Finzel, who has an interest in antique steam engines and other old machinery, found the windmill (which did not include a tower for it) and purchased it at a swap meet in Brooks, OR several years ago. He recently found out that the Elys were looking for one and sold it to them. He then helped them install it. Jeff Ely built the tower and raised it in September with the help of Dennis Weller of Weller and Sons Logging. The windmill is fully functional and could operate a pump on a well; the Elys just like it because it looks good and don't have any plans to use it for anything else.

Finzel equates it to a type of yard art. "There's a certain 'cool factor,'" he says. "Every time I drive by here and I see it spinning it puts a smile on my face." The rudder has original printing on both sides and includes the manufacturer, Flint & Walling as well as the retailer, Mitchell, Lewis and Staver, which, according to Finzel, was a west coast hardware distributor. It even says Portland on it. All of the original

lettering was repainted by hand with enamel paint to give it a few more years of visibility.

According to research Finzel



has been able to uncover, the windmill has a unique

shaped blade. "Apparently this company had a wind tunnel available and did some experimenting with blade styles," said Finzel. "And they claimed that this particular blade style is 30% more efficient than the squared off edged ones that had previously been built."

According to Susan Ely the property is in farm deferral, which means they actively work to generate income through farming. The family has raised lambs and sold plants in addition to raising meat rabbits and chickens for eggs. They also have a horse and two Nubian goats, which are considered pets and entertainment. They are also growing strawberries, tomatoes, beans, peas, cucumbers, potatoes, onions, peppers, basil, spinach, lettuce and huge blackberries!

The Elys have re-created their own version of a homestead in Vernonia and are enjoying, and sharing the fruits of their labors. For them, it's a little slice of history and of heaven.

ATTENTION!

A panel of Veteran's advocates will present brief statements, updates, and address questions. The panel includes:

- ⇒ Columbia County Commissioner
- ⇒ Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs
- ⇒ VA Medical Center
- ⇒ Executive Director, Community Action Team
- ⇒ Veteran Services Officer, Community Action Team
- ⇒ Worksource Oregon
- ⇒ Portland Vet Center

Community Action Team Veteran's Services Presents:

The Veteran's Town Hall Meeting

October 25, 2012

7—8:30 PM

Columbia River Foursquare Church
555 Commons Drive, St. Helens
(across from the DMV)

We want to hear what You have to SAY!

There will also be

- Updates on Services available to Veterans in the County
- Mobile Vet Center (MVC) will be onsite
- Brochures/Information on Veteran's Benefits

For More Information Contact:
Phone: 503-397-3511
E-mail: gaclark@cat-team.org

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