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Meet the Merchant

Interview by Emily Lindblom elindblom@crbizjournal.com

Blackberry Bog Farm

Scott and Bonnie Thompson, owners, and their son, Andrew Thompson, in charge of nursery operations

40271 Old Highway 30, Astoria
 (503) 717-3676
blackberrybogfarm.com



Watch the video of the Highland cows, pumpkin path and more at crbizjournal.com

Could you both introduce yourselves?

SCOTT: I'm Scott Thompson, the owner of Blackberry Bog Farm.

ANDREW: And I'm Andrew Thompson and I run the nursery operations.

Could you tell me about the history of the farm before you bought it?

SCOTT: What we've learned about the history of the farm from our neighbors and from the seller of the farm, is the farm, as best as we can tell, was established in the 1880s. And it was significantly bigger at that time, it was 70 or 80 acres and now we're at about 30 acres. We were told that the main farmhouse, which was built in what we think was 1884, was built with onsite materials or materials that had been floated up Bear Creek from Svensen Slough.

The old highway, which is to our south, Old Highway 30, didn't go in until the 1920s. And the new highway, which is to the north, didn't go in until the 1960s. And so our understanding was that people would come to visit the farm by boat, and they would come to Svensen Slough and then up Bear Creek.



Andrew Thompson, left, and his father, Scott Thompson, at their farm in late September.

When the house was originally built, the bay windows and the front door actually faced to the north. And then later, we can see how it was shifted around. We believe that up until the 1970s, they sent milk to the creamery in Astoria. So it was a small dairy farm. People who grew up in the area remember them having Guernsey cows, in particular, a very large Guernsey bull that lived in the front pasture.

And it was owned from the 1920s until we purchased it in 2015, by the Pitkanen family – by three generations of Pitkanens – Willem, and then Einar, and then it passed to his daughter, Judi Pitkanen-Johnson.

Why did you buy this property in particular?

SCOTT: You weren't here for that where you,

Andrew?

ANDREW: I kind of was.

SCOTT: So we'd been looking to purchase a farm. My wife, Bonnie, is an integral part of the farm. And she wasn't able to be here for the for this today.

ANDREW: Actually, no, they were looking to purchase a house. Specifically, this just happened to be one of the houses that they ended up looking at.

SCOTT: We had wanted a farm for a long time. Well, I had wanted to farm for a long time. And my wonderful wife supports me in my habit.

Continued on next page



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