

# Boring family farm honored

## Among four added to list

by CHRISTINE BIERMAN

Former Civil War Gen. Ulysses S. Grant was president and Boring not yet a town when William H. and Sarah Boring homesteaded 160 acres off of what is now Southeast Kelso Road.

That was in 1874. And, although the Borings were far from the first settlers here, the town came to bear their surname. Their farm too will bear a Century Farm designation soon.

The Boring farm at 28475 S.E. Kelso Road, now owned by Willard "Bill" and Frances Boring, will be one of four in Clackamas County so recognized at next week's fair in Canby.

Their farm, along with the Weddeler farm in Boring, the Sutter farm in Eagle Creek and the Peter Heater farm in Sherwood, will become Century Farms in a brief ceremony at 3:45 p.m. Aug. 14 on the county fairgrounds outdoor stage.

At 111 years of age, the Boring's farm ranks as the eldest of the four, according to Ken Fitzgerald, fair spokesman.

Clackamas County Historical Society President Hilda Minnickel will present the farm owners with plaques, which will serve as roadside markers, she said. Century Farms are designated every five years.

They must have stayed in the same family for at least 100 years, consist of at least 10 acres of farmland, and gross at least \$500 annually from farming for three of the last five years, said Chick Wellman of the Oregon Historical Society. Descendants of the farm's founders need not live there but must farm the land.

The Borings live and — and with their son, Bob — raise cattle on the 20 acres remaining in the family. The rest of the land has been sold over the years, Bill said.

"I guess the only thing you'd say that's original on the place are the maple trees," he said, looking out the living room window at three maple trees shading the front yard and Kelso Road. Five were planted in 1883.

All of the farm's original buildings—including a one-room school provided by the Borings from 1883-1904—are gone. The Borings' 31-year-old home replaces a two-story house that occupied the school site when its ownership reverted to the family.

The farm has seen six generations, since Bill's grandparents moved there west from Illinois by train, then by boat, in 1874. William H. Boring had fought in the Civil War and farmed his mother's property by then.

He had heard about the area from a half brother who settled here. Choosing between an 80-acre section north of Portland and a 160-acre piece in Boring, William and Sarah Boring



Bill Boring is dwarfed by three 102 year-old maple trees. his family's farm, homesteaded in 1874. They are the only physical reminder of the beginnings of

decided on the latter because of its size and fertility, Bill said.

They spent the next two years "proving up" on their claim by clearing and building. A framed deed to the section bears President Grant's signature.

With most of the land covered by old-growth timber and with no market for the wood, the Borings were forced to burn many ancient trees as they cleared the farm, Bill said. "It kind of brings tears to your eyes," he said.

The Borings grew food for the family on about 60 acres; they had sold the rest. Later, potatoes, dairy cows and strawberries were raised there.

When their son, Orville, born in 1879, was ready to attend school, they built one on an acre. It came to be known as the Boring's School.

The now-towering maple trees were planted around that time. "I've raked a lot of leaves from those trees," Bill grinned.

The area acquired the name "Boring" after the railroad came through, Bill said. The reason? "The only thing in the area that had a name was the school," he says.

Population growth dictated that the school be moved to a four-room building on Richey Road. Several years later (1910), Bill was born in the Boring's School-turned-home.

Orville whittled the farm down to 40 acres by the time of his death in 1957. Bill and his brother, Lester, divided the land in half. Lester sold his share. Bill obviously did not.

He maintained the place as a farm while working full-time in the Boring School District and the Sandy High School District. He retired in 1977.

Bill says he hopes—and believes—that the farm will continue to be passed on through the Boring generations.

His is one of some 85 properties in Oregon becoming eligible for Century Farm designation this year, he said. There are about 900 total in the state, Bill says.

The Century Farm program recognizes the importance of the family farm and laments their fading numbers, Minnickel said. "It is hoped that the Century Farms will continue to be in the family," she says.

"The family farms have been cut up into tiny little tracts. There are so few of them in the U.S.," said Minnickel.

She blames their disappearance partly on parents' failure to educate their youngsters about the value of land.

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**A. Three basic rules are: (1) maintain the natural con-**

**tours of your spine as much as possible; (2) always flex your knees when bending or lifting and (3) avoid torso-twisting. Here are some other hints: Squat the way a child does — or Orientals do — not like a baseball catcher. Keep your lower legs perpendicular to the ground, put your weight on your heels and go down only as far as comfortable — usually about chair-height for adults. When you walk, swing your arms and rotate your trunk. When sitting at a desk, keep your spine straight, your feet flat on the floor (or elevated on a book or two). When driving, women should not wear high heels. They elevate the ankle into an awkward position. Keep practicing good posture and good body balance. It will become more and more natural and help you save your back.**

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## Obituaries

### Tammy Newlands

Tammy Sue Newlands, 16, of Sandy, died July 31 from injuries suffered in an automobile accident.

She was born March 3, 1969 in Portland to Ronald and Susan Newlands. She grew up and attended schools in the Sandy area. She had completed her sophomore year at Sandy High School.

Newlands had worked as a hostess at the Tollgate Inn for the last one-and-one-half years. She enjoyed sports and gardening.

She is survived by her parents, Ronald and Susan Newlands, a sister, Elizabeth Newlands, and a brother, James Newlands, all of Sandy; and her grandparents, George and Wanda Lake of Gresham, and Tom and Etta Newlands of Fairview.

Services for Newlands were held Aug. 3 at the Sandy Baptist Church. The Sandy Funeral Home made the arrangements.

The family suggests memorial contributions to the Tammy Newlands Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 41, Sandy 97055.

### Jerry Hale

Jerry A. "Buddy" Hale, the son of Charity Hale of Sandy, died Aug. 3 at his Salem home. He was 44.

The funeral service was held Aug. 7 in the Sandy Funeral Home chapel. Interment followed at the Sandy Ridge Cemetery in Boring.

Jerry Hale was born on Oct. 13, 1940 in Pittsburg, Kan.. When he was two years of age, his family came to Oregon. They first lived in the Rockwood area until they moved to Boring where he spent most of his childhood.

He has lived in Salem since 1957.

He is survived by his mother, Charity Hale, Sandy; his brother, Gerald Hale, Sandy; and two sisters, Geraldine Detherage and Sherry Bennett, both of Boring.

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