



Phil Hirl Homestead

Legal Description:

W1/2 of the NE1/4, SE1/4 of the NW1/4, and NE1/4 of the SW1/4 of Section 12, Township 2S, Range 29 E W M

Homestead Claim/Original Acquisition:

September 11, 1900 Phil received a land patent claim for 160 acres in T2S, R29E, S12.

Current Landowner:

Merlin Hughes

Ranching and Farming:

- September 11, 1900 Phil received a land patent claim for 160 acres in T2S, R29E, S12.
- In 1906, Joe and Rose Doherty sold 2,880 acres to Phil for \$18,698 in T2S, R29E. In July of 1906, Phil acquired from Matlock an unknown amount of acreage for \$480 in T2S, R29E.
- On November 16, 1911 Phil filed a land patent claim for 80 acres in T2S, R29E, S9.
- The mortgage on the property was paid off in 1949.
- Phil Hirl (1868-1963) married Mary Ann Doherty (1868-1957) daughter of William Callahan Doherty.

Mary Ann (Callahan) Doherty's first husband, William Ruddy died as a young man in Ireland of appendicitis. Due to the poor potato harvest and severe financial limitations, Mary Ann left her three young children in the care of her stepmother and father and migrated to the United States to seek employment. She worked in a large hotel in Boston for nine years sending money home to Ireland for the care of her children. She was never able to return to Ireland and later traveled west to Oregon to live with her sister, Kate Doherty in Morrow County. Kate's husband was a successful farmer and several Irish relatives were sponsored by them.

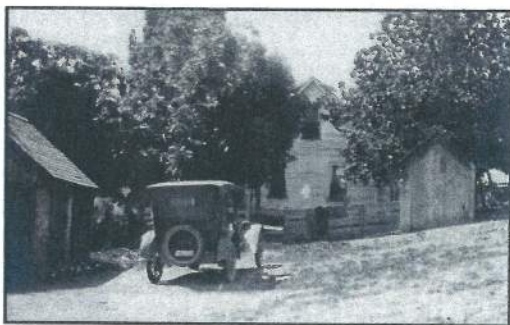
Mary Ann's stepmother, Mary, and Philip Hirl's mother, Rose, were sisters. Philip and Mary Ann were not "family related" therefore were able to be united in marriage. The Doherty farm and the Hirl farm were a "stones throw" away and Philip and Mary Ann knew one another growing up as children in Carndonagh, Co. Donegal, Ireland.

Phillip and Mary Ann were married and settled on his parents homestead. They later bought a farm in McDonald Canyon, Morrow County Oregon. Mary Ann's three children by her first marriage came to the United States as adults and stayed with her and their stepfather, Philip. Willy Ruddy worked for his stepfather and later settled in Pendleton, Oregon. Susan Ruddy married her stepfather's brother, Dan Hirl. There were no children born of this marriage. After Dan's death, Susan and brother Willy lived together on S. E. 3rd St. in Pendleton. Both died in Pendleton. Cassie Ruddy arrived in the United States around 1915 along with brother Willy. She spent a short time with her family before moving to Seattle, Washington with two of her cousins. She became engaged and married a young man with the same name of Ruddy. She died in childbirth and is buried in Seattle.

Continued on back:



Mary Ann Hirl (1868-1957) on front step at McDonald Canyon



Hirl Homestead



Phil Hirl (1868-1963)

Phil Hirl Homestead

Continued from front

Philip and Mary Ann's four children, Rose, Mary, Edmund, and Charlie attended a country school until they reached high school age. A house was purchased in Heppner, Oregon and the children lived in town during the school year to continue their high school education. As of 1999 the house remains and sits across the road from Vern Evans Sr.'s mobile home.

Philip and Mary Ann lived on a farm seven miles east of Heppner, Oregon on Hinton Creek belonging to Bill Francis during the 1940's. In 1949 they moved to Hermiston, Oregon with their son Charlie, daughter Mary and granddaughters Margaret and Juanita Hale.

Philip and Mary Ann remained in Hermiston until their deaths and are buried in Hermiston Oregon.