



Dan C. Doherty
1882 - 1939



Mary E. Doherty (Doherty)
1896 - 1929

Dan C. Doherty Ranch

Location/Driving Directions of Old Homestead Site:

From Lexington: Head north on OR-207 (Lexington-Echo Hwy) for 9.9 miles. Turn left at Bombing Range Rd. and continue for 2.5 miles. At Little Juniper Lane, turn left and continue for 3.4 miles. At Juniper Canyon Road, turn left (gravel) and continue for .8 miles. Site is on the right.

Land Coordinates of Old Homesite:

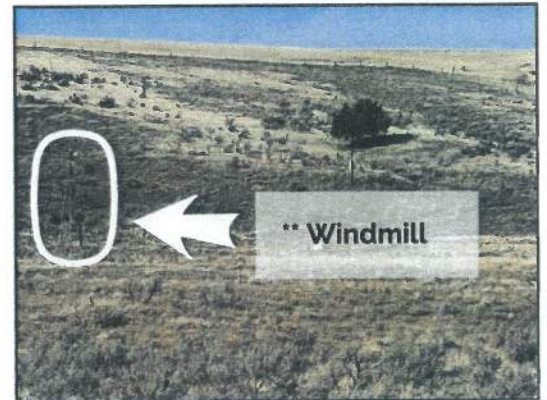
45.589611, -119.67638009 (google maps). 44° 35'22"N, 119° 40'35"W

Legal Description:

- Lots 1 and 2, Sect. 4, T1N, R25E (Juniper Canyon)
- Lots 3 and 4, Sect. 18, T2N, R25E (Ella)

Homestead Claim:

In 1916, Dan C. Doherty acquired a 160-acre homestead claim in Juniper Canyon from the Bureau of Land Management. A homestead claim allowed the settler to apply for ownership of up to 160 acres of public land if they had lived on the land for five years and could provide proof of cultivation. In 1922, Dan C. acquired an additional 112 acres to the northeast of Ella. Shortly before World War II, that portion of his 1922 homestead claim north of Immigrant Lane was seized by the U.S. government to make way for the Boardman bombing range.



Dan C. and his brothers, Neil and W.T. (Bill), acquired land in the Well Spring and Juniper Canyon areas and together, they ran a sheep business in the "Sands" country of northern Morrow Co. Each year in late Spring, the sheep were moved to summer pasture in the Blue Mountains. Altogether, five of Dan's siblings immigrated from Ballygorman, Co. Donegal in the early 1900s, including Charles, Neil, W.T., Dennis Francis, and Madge/Marjery (second wife of Long Ed Doherty). Dan C. married Mary Elizabeth Doherty, daughter of B.P. "Little Barney" Doherty and Catherine "Little Kate" Callahan. Mary Elizabeth died in 1929 at the young age of 33. Dan and his siblings are "Mary Willie" Dohertys, after their mother's family from Umgall, Co. Donegal.

Current Landowners:

Dan C. died in 1939. Following his death, the ranch livestock, including 1500 head of sheep, horses, mules and cattle, as well as tack, wagons and farm equipment were sold at auction. The property, however, remained in the family, passing to Dan's son, Bernard Joseph Doherty. Today, the property is owned by Randy Hughes (the Marquardt family of Lexington).

Homestead Buildings:

The house is gone, but a wooden **windmill/water pump and the remains of a cellar can be seen from Juniper Canyon Rd. Looking north on Juniper Canyon Rd., look for a single tree on the hillside. The windmill can be seen to the southwest of the tree. The remains of the old house/cellar, built into the base of the hill, are located between the windmill and the tree. The old homesite is on private property.

Ranching and Farming:

Dan C. and his brothers were pioneer sheep ranchers in Morrow Co. Today, the land is used for wheat farming and cattle grazing.