



Sam Turner
1894-1956



Nora Doherty Turner
1896-1978

Turner Ranch

Address:

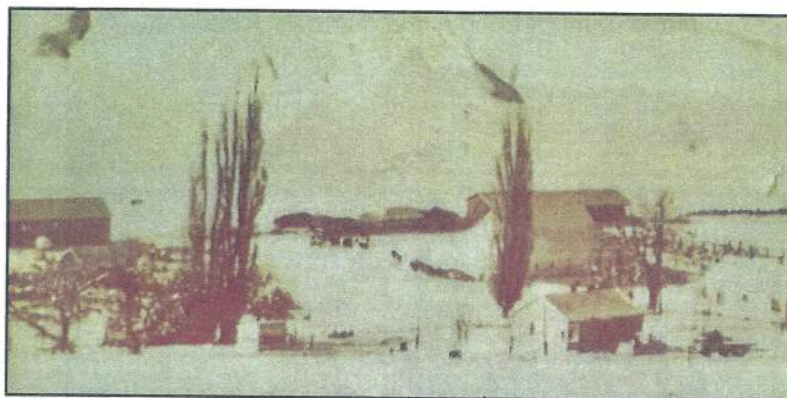
65708 Sandhollow Rd., Heppner, OR. 97836

Current Owner:

Todd and Melissa Lindsay

Ranching and Farming

Stories from the Turner history books include pioneers traveling from Missouri in wagons. Robert Willis Turner, referred to as "little Bob" fell out of wagons, had run-ins with wildlife and sometimes found himself eating cactus but finally reached and settled in California. In 1884 he married Mary May Shepherd whose family had also migrated from Missouri to what they called the "sunshine state" of California. Not long after the marriage Turner made a trip to visit his sister Luella who married W. G. McCarty and had settled in Oregon in an area called Sandhollow. During his visit he purchased 160 acres of farmland next to his sister and brother-in-law's farm. He returned to California to retrieve his bride and bring her back to Oregon. The two had well-respected teaching careers and were much criticized for chasing after a dream of farm life. Eventually he extended his initial homestead of 160 acres with an additional 3200 acres. The two of them were often referred to as True Pioneers, powering through rough winters, hard labor and many hardships raising sheep, cattle and grain farming. They always proclaimed themselves and their family of six sons and one daughter as blessed.



Turner Ranch

The managing of the farm went from RW Turner to Samuel Jackson Turner to Kenneth Jackson Turner whose College days were cut short by an early graduation due to the sudden death of his father Sam in the 1950's which brought him abruptly home to take over the farm.

Kenneth Jackson Turner, son of Sam and Nora Doherty Turner, was a 3rd generation farmer. His mother was the daughter of James G. and Catherine Doherty who both immigrated from County Donegal, Ireland and settled in Blackhorse Canyon. Catherine was a cousin of B.P. Doherty's wife Catherine (Little Katie) Callahan Doherty. B.P. Doherty was one of the first pioneer ranchers in Sandhollow. He built a large sheep and farming operation stretching from what is now the Bombing Range to the Sandhollow/Alpine area towards Buttercreek. Many of B.P. and Katie's siblings, cousins, nieces and nephews followed them to Oregon and established their own homesteads in the area. Nora was one of thirteen children. She married Sam Turner on June 3, 1926 and had three children: Samuel Jackson, Jr. who died at age 1 month, Jean and Kenneth.

Continued on back

Turner Ranch

Continued from front

Kenneth married Jean Ann Swanson in 1958. They had 4 daughters, Cheryle, Lori, Melissa and Sandra. Ken and Jean Ann expanded the farming operation over the years, to include irrigated agriculture, growing into a roughly 5600 acre diverse farm. Melissa and her husband Todd Lindsay took over farming operations upon the untimely death of Kenny in 2009 looking to continue the legacy of expansion and diversification with crops: wheat, mint leaf, garlic seed, potatoes, grass seed, hay and sunflowers. Their son Jacob Kenneth Lindsay has joined the operation following his earning an Agricultural Science Degree and is proudly the 5th generation to farm the original homestead.

Kenneth Turner was often referred to as "colorful". He was vibrant and passionate about farming, family and community. He was fearless and unstoppable when he made a decision to pursue something. He was one of the first farmers to implement irrigation, an idea many thought crazy and neighbors tried to stop. Because of irrigation he was the first to introduce new crops such as potatoes and garlic to the area.

Kenneth, (Kenny) was involved in numerous Church and community organizations. One of his biggest accomplishments being Turner Day Park above the local dam in Heppner, which he built with his tractor and most likely without the appropriate permits. He loved his antique Rumley tractor and driving it in the St. Patrick's parade every year. His spirit is strongly felt not only on the family farm but by everyone who knew him.

He and his wife Jean Ann would continue to be proud of the farm but more importantly their family who remain tight knit, and supportive of each other always.