



February 17, 2018

To Whom it may concern;

This is to attest to and support the information presented by the Kessi family regarding the farming history of Section 23 and the surrounding area. As son and Trustee of the C. E. Jones estate, I have been able to provide actual deeds and water rights documents concerning the afore mentioned property. Cleda Jones, wife of C. E. was also able to help with memories and dates of some additional support information.

In 1920 C. E. moved with his family onto the neighboring property where they ran a dairy and shipped cream to Corvallis. Most of his early endeavors in farming started with helping the local homesteaders through the depression by doing chores in return for animals and grazing rights. This progressed to renting or leasing most of the surrounding properties including the section 23 area. He also acquired and developed grazing rights with the Forest Service to feed his growing livestock inventory. In 1929 he layed out of high school to help the family rent and farm the Fox Place on Sugarbowl Creek. By 1933 he was able to buy his first Property (KellyPlace , 40 acres, on Sugarbowl Creek) and in 1936 he added the home place at the confluence of Sugarbowl and Big Elk. He married in 1940 and family lore has it that he would buy a new property with each addition to the family (9 sons). The Adams creek irrigation project in sect 23 interested him and led to the eventual development of the gravity flow irrigation system that still exists. This allowed him to produce summer feed and expand his farming options, which included, on the Brooks site, the first commercial strawberry patch in the community. In 1954 the expansion continued with purchases in the Corvallis area and in 1959 the Harlan property was traded for additional Corvallis property, with express conditions of a 10 year lease back of the farming and grazing areas and an option to repurchase those lands after logging was completed. At the end of the lease period, C. E. opted to offer the buy back option and grazing leases to the Kessi family as it better fit their program than his at that time.

In summary, the history of this area was based on homestead farming and grazing, along with timber production .I'm glad to see this valuable resource being preserved and effectively managed for the future.

Sincerely;

Irvin E. Jones
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