

THE WINN FAMILY

There is a remarkable circumstance surrounding the use of the name Winn. Three families by that name settled in the area in the early 1870's. The "Adam" Winn's, the "Couse Creek" Winn's, and the "Dry Creek" Winn's. No relationship could ever be established between them. Local interest is centered in the "Dry Creek" Winn's. About 1872, Jess Zacharias and Annie Winn bought 160 acres of land, and established a stage station on the road to Weston, from a man named Durant. 10 acres was in careless cultivation. Few people thought that wheat could be raised successfully on account of weather conditions and ground squirrels, but J. Z. Winn thought otherwise. He poisoned the squirrels, and from seed selection made in the Willamette Valley, developed a variety of wheat called "Red Chaff", that for many years was a leader in Umatilla County. It drew national attention and won the gold medal for wheat at the World's Fair in 1905.

Getting wheat to market in those early days was not easy nor was the reward great. Winn hauled his sacked wheat to the Columbia barge landing for 22 cents per bushel, about \$10 or \$12 per two-horse load; a round trip took 24 hours. When the railroad was extended from Wall Walla to Blue Mountain Station, the situation improved. During the years the family grew, and none of them strayed. From first to last their children were: Iley, Clarence, Henry, George, Albert, Lillian and Bessie. Such pioneers didn't depend upon emigrants to populate the country. That briefly is the story of the "Dry Creek" Winn's.

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