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NORTHERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

HISTORY 497 PROJECT: CHANGING FARM LIFE IN DEKALB COUNTY

Oral History Interview  
with

JOANNE

October 28, 29 and  
November 10, 1986

Personnel Office

Northern Illinois University

By Rosemarie Ostberg

## NORTHERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

### CHANGING FARM LIFE IN DEKALB COUNTY

General topic of interview: Farming background in LaSalle County as a child during the fifties and sixties and present position as a farm wife, employed at Northern Illinois University, with a husband who works on his Father's farm and also raises pigs and owns a small trucking company.

### PERSONAL DATA

Joanne was raised in LaSalle County as a farm child and attended Northern Illinois University starting in 1964. After graduation her first job was with Northern Illinois University and then she was employed at other jobs until she married and started to raise her three children on a forty acre farm owned collectively by her father-in-law and her brother-in-law and her husband. She was a homemaker for several years and her husband built up his seed corn business, his pig production and his trucking company, but finding them not able to produce sufficient income she started working again for the university.

### INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS

Joanne has some good memories of her childhood and doesn't feel that children suffered when they lived on the farm. She feels that all children expected less than they do today and wonders why it is that her children seem to feel so deprived. She would much prefer working at home being a homemaker and mother but feels all farm wives must work. After the interview she mentioned that a person who had not worked for twenty five years (a farm wife) has just had to take an outside job.

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INTERVIEW WITH "JOANNE" - FARM WIFE - OCTOBER 28,29 and NOVEMBER 10 1986

CHANGING LIFE ON THE FARM  
IN DEKALB COUNTY

Interview in Personnel Office at  
NIU

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