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NORTHERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

HISTORY 497 PROJECT: FARMING AND FARM FAMILIES IN DEKALB COUNTY

Oral History Interview
with

BARB MALE

25 November 1986

Willrett Road
Malta, Illinois

By Kelly L. Keister

NORTHERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

FARMING AND FARM FAMILIES IN DEKALB COUNTY

General topics of interview: Growing up during the fifties, early marriage, life on a DeKalb County farm, raising a family

NARRATOR: Barb Male*
DATE: 25 November 1986

INTERVIEWER: Kelly L. Keister
PLACE: Willrett Road, Malta, IL

PERSONAL DATA

Barb Male was born in Mount Vernon, Illinois in 1944. Her father, a welder, moved the family to Texas, then back to Mount Vernon, then finally to DeKalb County. She was educated at country schools in Malta and Mount Vernon. She met her future husband, Dale Male, while attending school in Malta, and kept seeing him after her family moved to Villa Park when she was in high school. After their marriage, the couple moved to the farm on Willrett Road, where Dale was born and where they farm today. The Males have five children.

INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS

Barb has a keen sense of how life has changed from her childhood to her children's. After the interview was completed, we continued our discussion on this subject and Barb expressed her reservations about the world in which her children are growing up. Her reflections on this appear throughout the tape and are very interesting.

The Male farm was bisected by the tollway. Though the couple opposed this they were powerless to stop it; as Barb explains on tape, had they refused to sell their land it would have been condemned and bought from them anyway. Both have strong feelings about this family farm and the prospect of further development along the tollway which could further consume their land.

*pronounced "May-lee"

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NARRATOR: Barb Male
DATE: 25 November 1986
LENGTH OF TAPE: 45 minutes

INTERVIEWER: Kelly L. Keister
PLACE: Willrett Road, Malta, IL

TAPE COUNTER NUMBER

SUBJECTS COVERED

001	Introduction
005	Family background.
020	Family activities.
029	Education.
035	Move to Texas.
040	Family celebrations--holidays.
044	Church.
058	First TV. Feelings about TV.
068	Friends and activities.
074	Mother's chickens.
080	Expectations (own and parents').
089	Meets Dale Male. Courtship after move to Villa Park.
096	Dale's background.
107	The Willrett Road farm. Acreage before and after tollway.
118	Crops and how sold.
125	Hogs and how marketed.
130	Canning, freezing, preserving food.
135	Income from farming. Comments on off-farm labor (Dale's).
153	Reasons for not holding a job off the farm.
165	Children (five) and their work on the farm.
170	Typical day for the family during planting.
197	Improvements on the house.
213	Evaluation of her work.
224	Family doesn't take meals together.
230	Feelings about her childrens' world.
252	Activities as a family.
265	Her sisters in suburbia.
270	Her feelings about the farm.
282	Activities with friends.
295	First telephone.
305	Expansion?
325	Prices. Correction: \$3.76/bu. for beans; \$1.49/bu. for corn.
340	Decision-making
370	Will sons be farmers?
395	Importance of college.
405	Barb's off-farm work.
429	Farm Bureau participation.
450	Future plans.
465	Recollections of first year on the farm.
508	More family activities.
518	What will happen to this land?
530	The tollway. Reservations about further development.
555	Reflections about women and farming.