

NORTHERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

HISTORY 497 PROJECT: FARMING AND FARM FAMILIES IN DEKALB COUNTY

Oral History Interview
with

CLARENCE A. NEUJAHR

November 11, 1986

Rural Route
Maple Park, Illinois

By Terrence Zeller

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

FARMING AND FARM FAMILIES IN DEKALB COUNTY

General topic of interview: Small scale farming in the 1960s; farm life from the 1930's through the 1970's.

NARRATOR: CLARENCE A. NEUJAHR
DATE: November 11, 1986

INTERVIEWER: TERRENCE ZELLER
PLACE: Rural Route
Maple Park, Il.

PERSONAL DATA

Clarence Neujahr was born in Nebraska. After leaving high school he moved to Hampshire, Illinois where he worked picking corn and on a dairy farm as well. He later worked at the Wurlitzer plant in DeKalb. In 1943 he was drafted and served in the Pacific. Following the war he worked at DeKalb seed and then at NIU. He later worked for the DeKalb county highway department. He bought his farm in 1965, renting the land to others for four years and farming it himself for another four years while working building homes as well. He sold his farm in 1973. Mr. Neujahr is in his late sixties and has one son.

INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Neujahr's wife sat in on the interview and provided valuable information about life in the DeKalb area in the 1930's. Mr. Neujahr made several comments regarding the problems faced by the farm community today, the causes of those problems, and some possible solutions to them; but unfortunately not all of them were recorded. He is knowledgeable about farming and sympathetic toward its problems; but what makes the tape interesting is that it reflects the view of a man for whom farming was more of a business and less of a way of life.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

HISTORY 497 ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: FARMING AND FARM FAMILIES IN DEKALB COUNTY

NARRATOR: CLARENCE NEUJAHR
DATE: November 11, 1986
LENGTH OF TAPE: 48 minutes
TAPE COUNTER NUMBER

INTERVIEWER: Terrence Zeller
PLACE: Rural Route, Maple Park, IL

SUBJECTS COVERED

Side A	
000-100	Early life, work on dairy farms in the 1930's, purchase and sale of farm
100-200	Kind of crops, nature of farm operations, marketing operations, government policy, price of farmland, price of crops, farm machinery
200-300	Use of herbicides, pesticides, fertilizer, plowing techniques, career of son, schooling of son
300-400	Entertainment, vacations, background of wife, farming in the depression
400-500	Current farm problems, past farm practices, cars
500-600	Role of government, problems of agriculture today
600-660	Other crop possibilities for farming
Side B	
000-100	Land use -- now and in the future