

**W. H. HANCOCK**

W. H. Hancock located in Tuscola for the purpose of handling broomcorn. Mr. Hancock had been associated with his father in one of the largest commission houses of Chicago which made a specialty of handling this product. He was the chief inspector and classifier of all broomcorn. He knew just where the best markets were to be found, so that if there be any inside prices he was always able to make them. Mr. Hancock leased the large broom corn warehouse on East Central Ave. The county was full of buyers, and Mr. Hancock did a large business and bought more good corn than any other one firm in the country. Such thoroughly wide-awake, progressive and honorable men are always in demand and are a blessing to any community in which they locate. Every city needs just such men and takes pride in giving them welcome.



**A scene at W. H. Hancock's Broomcorn Ware-House**



**Seeding  
Broomcorn**

### **FRED SCHEIDEMAN**

The large flour and feed business, which was established in 1893 by Capt. J. C. Walker, was purchased by Fred Scheideman in 1894. The flour exchange is the first one established in the city that gave to the public opportunities for purchasing the leading brands of flour manufactured in this country. Poor flour was the dearest article of food that can be placed in a house. If a man expects to get bread "like his mother used to bake," let him supply his wife with good flour. Among the brands carried in stock and for which this house is sole agent is Washburn-Crosby's celebrated "Gold Medal" brand, otherwise known as the "Best in the World." Other leading brands are "Pillsbury's Best," Shellabarger's "White Loaf" and others, all of which may be had for the lowest cash prices. Graham, rye and buckwheat flour and corn meal are carried in stock besides all kinds of feed. The house is also sole agent for Dr. Haas' Hog Cholera Medicine.

### **R. & J. ERVIN**

One of the firms in Tuscola enjoying a most extensive business is that of the grain, broomcorn and seed house of R. & J. Ervin, the foundation of which was laid in 1866. The firm was first known as Ervin & Davis, was subsequently, on the admission to partnership of E. C. Finney, changed to Ervin, Davis & Co. The firm first gave its attention to the wholesale broomcorn business, erecting a warehouse on Central Ave. just east of Niles, with a capacity of 500 tons. The growth of this business attests the enterprise of the men at the head of this firm whose sales and shipments of broomcorn extend to almost every state in the Union, New Brunswick, Cuba, Canada and South American states. They issue a monthly bulletin of prices to about 1500 of the leading broom manufacturers and commission houses of these countries and scarcely a freight train leaves Tuscola that does not carry from this house a consignment of broomcorn. The firm does a most extensive business in seed and carries on hand a large assortment of the best and purest stock that can be obtained. The capacity of their grain elevator is 30,000 bushels. During one season they handled about 400 tons of broomcorn.

### **W. E. MURPHY**

The interest of the large elevator and grain business of Bartlett, Kuhn and Co., is closely looked after by W. E. Murphy, who also deals very extensively in hard and soft coal of which he handles the out-put of the best mines of the country. Mr. Murphy has become quite prominent in business matters and is also a member of the board of education. As such he has shown quite an interest in schools and is among the leading spirits of the board. His prominence and standing in the community make him just the man to look after the interest of the company with whom he is connected, while his strict business, honor and integrity are a guarantee that the dealing of this house will be fair and as advantageous as the markets will allow.

### **J.S.CAMPBELL**

In February of 1960, J. S. Campbell was honored at the Tuscola Rotary Club in observance of his 93 birthday. Mr. Campbell was born on a farm near Murdock in 1867. For many years he was associated with a coal and ice business in Tuscola and later conducted a dairy business here.

### **GEORGE W. PRATT**

Since 1895 Mr. Pratt has been engaged in buying broomcorn in Tuscola for thirteen years. Mr. Pratt has become an expert judge on broomcorn and is one of the best informed men in the country. His broomcorn warehouse stores of to 250 tons. He is an honorable and respected businessman.

**HACKETT FAMILY HISTORY  
AS PERTAINING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FARMING INDUSTRY**

By Celeste (Archibald) Rogers, Joyce Archibald and Jim Hackett

Farming has changed dramatically since the Industrial Revolution. For centuries, animals, including oxen and more recently horses, were used as the main power source for most, if not all farming operations. With only two horse power available, the amount of ground covered was greatly limited.



**James Edward Hackett**  
1919 planting corn



Every activity was found easier to use animals for power as opposed to human strength. Horses were used to pull machinery, or, as in cribbing the corn, used to continuously walk in circles to power the tumbling rod that powered the corn dump that elevated the ear corn to the top of the crib – 1920.

**James E. Hackett Farm – 1929**  
Rendering Lard

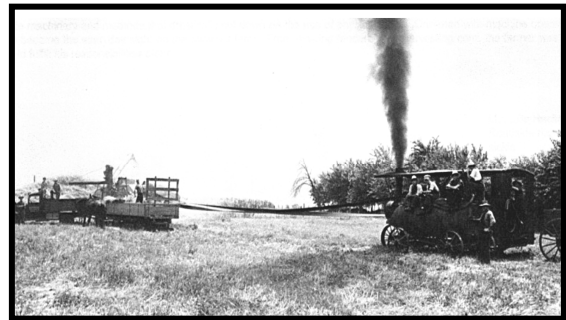
Using every part of the resources found on a farm was part of every day life. A quick trip to the store was not feasible; but rendering lard for cooking fat, for example, from butchered hogs, gave the family enough lard for the entire year.



At the closing of the 1920's, engines were replacing the animal for power on the American farm. Not all equipment had its own power source and many times the engine was used to "pull" the other machinery needed for that particular farm job. In harvesting oats, for example, the engine tractor pulled the sickle that cut the oats, then pulled the binder that was used to tie the cut oats into bundles. Men would then gather the bundles into shocks which were left in the field to dry. Horses pulled the rack wagons and the men loaded the dried bundles of oats onto the wagons. The full wagon was then brought into the threshing machine that was powered by the steam engine, which separated the grain from the straw. The separated grain was then loaded into the box wagon or truck bed and put into bins to feed the livestock and the excess grain was taken to the elevator for sale.



**Binder cutting oats for threshing**



**Harvesting oats; preparing to thresh**

The winter season moved attention from the fields to other important duties, including butchering hogs for future use. The animal was shot with quick, painless precision and then dipped into boiling water and scraped to remove the hair. The heavy, 2-inch thick wood tables were only used for hog butchering. Once the meat was cut, it was salted to preserve it and hung until used. The farm family now had enough food for eating and lard for cooking all year long, which meant survival during the Depression Era.

### **Butchering Hogs - 1936**





**George Rund Farm – 1940**

Kneeling: Harold Hackett, Ray Quinlan, Edwin Rogers, Harold Quinlin,  
George Kappes, Jimmy Hackett

Standing: Francis Archibald, Arkell Murbarger, Hobel Sigler, George Rund,  
Joe Rund, John Wolever, Ed Kerns, Weldon Hackett, Sr. Engineer: Montelle Hackett

World War II came upon us, and the manpower soon left to fight the global war. To survive, the farming industry had to create machinery and methods that drastically cut down on the use of physical labor. One-man-with-machine operations soon became the everyday sight on the Midwest farm. From mowing fencerows to harvesting corn, the farmer was now able to fulfill his responsibilities alone.



**Montelle Hackett – 1942 Roadside mowing with sickle**

By now individual farms were increasing in size while decreasing in manpower as the population continued to migrate to the cities and suburbs. Some were giving up hard labor of farm life to pursue careers in the city. Improved techniques for farm activities throughout the season were now a necessity as the farm grew and number of farmers shrunk. In the 1950's, common farm implements included the one-man mounted picker with attached wagon that would pick, shuck and load the ear corn – all in one operation. Harvest was faster than ever, but support man power was still needed to haul seed, maintain the equipment, drive the empty wagons to the picking locations and deliver the full wagons to the crib for storage.

### 1958 – two row pull (left) and mounted pickers



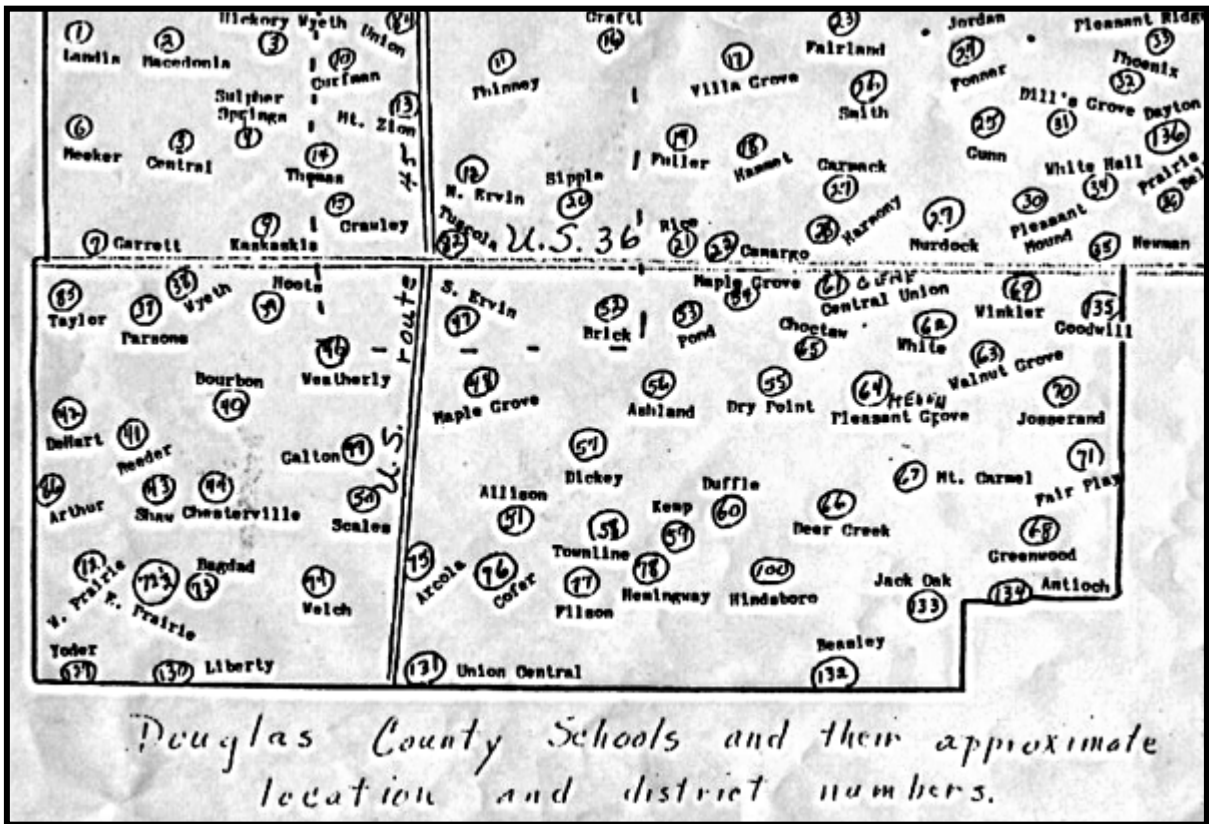
**Hackett Farms – 1958 - Corn Harvest**  
Carl Hackett, Bill Romine, Jim Hackett,  
Harold Hackett, Montelle Hackett, David  
Hackett, Weldon Hackett, Sr., Craig  
Hackett, Bill Taylor and  
Duke, the dog.

Today, many things have changed on the farm, but many things have stayed the same. Changes to assist the modern farmer include diesel engines, hydraulics, computers and satellites, just to name a few. These modern features allow the farmer to plant and pick up to 24 rows at a pass, process the seed for storage and deliver the grain in ¼ the time. However, no matter how big a farm is, farmers pool their resources, expertise and manpower to work together to produce the world's supply of food more efficiently than ever before---and improving every day.

**Harold Hackett Farm – 1995**  
David Hackett, Harold Hackett, Jim Hackett



## DOUGLAS COUNTY COUNTRY SCHOOLS



**Sulphur Springs School at Chicken Bristle – Oct 7, 1929**

1<sup>st</sup> row: Marjorie Burtner, Iola Phillips, Nellie Fifer, June Burtner, Helen Phillips, Walter Fifer, Geneva Dallas  
 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Edith Lowman, Jr. Howery, Wayne Kresin, Dallas Harding, Hallie Randolph (Hopkins), John Dallas,  
 Earl Kresin, Ruby Dallas, Earl N. Fifer

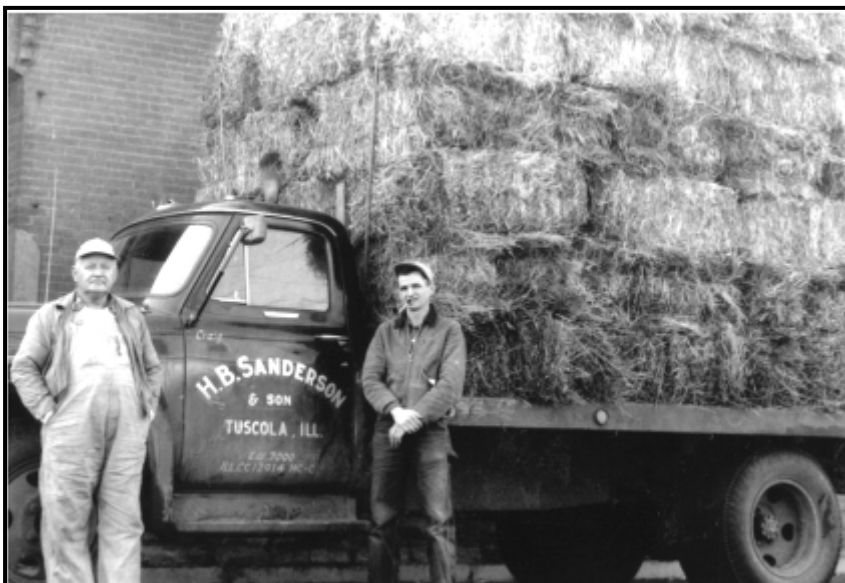
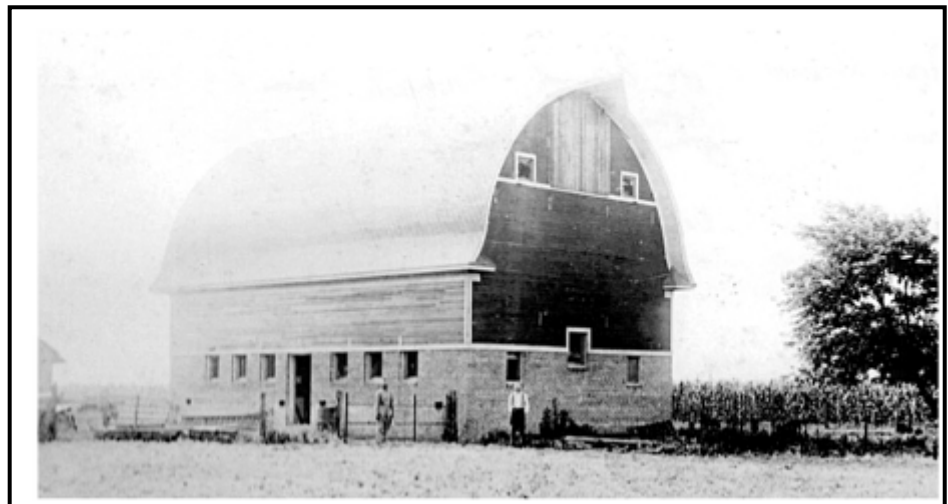




**Frank Hartman Family  
1933**

1<sup>st</sup> row: Bertha Kleiss  
Hartman, baby, Catherine,  
James (Sonny), Frank and  
Barbara  
2<sup>nd</sup> row: Virginia, Charles,  
Dorothy

**1917**  
**Knobloch Farm**  
Left - John Knobloch  
Right - William  
Knobloch  
Now - 2006  
Baird-Knobloch Farm



**1955**  
**H. B. and Dale Sanderson Hay  
and Straw Contractors**  
H. B. father of Pauline Womack,  
Dale, Shirley, Charles (Sandy)  
and Mike

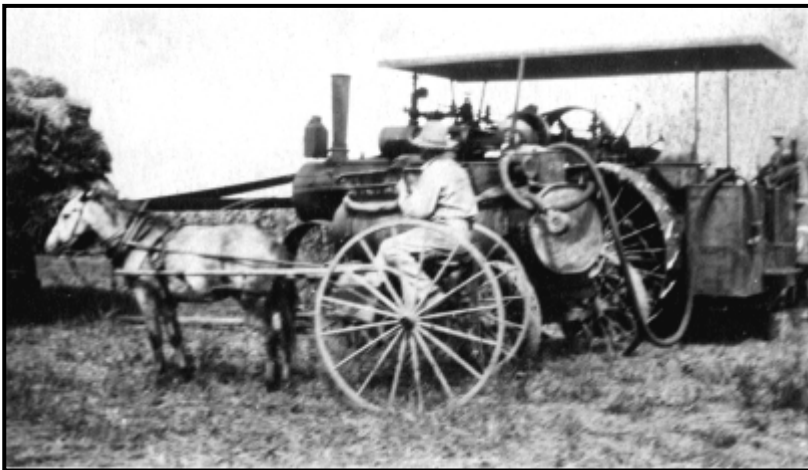


## PONDER FARM MEMORIES



### **Horse pulling contest at Ervin Park in early 1930's**

A new horse pulling record was set at this time. One of the horses was owned by John Ponder who has the reins; the other horse was owned by Wayne Steven who is walking beside the horses.



### **Harvesting the old fashioned way. One horse power!**



**Hauling to town**



**Dan Ponder and daughter, Pam.**



**Heirdom Stock Farm - Hans Heit 1902**



**Hans Heit Farm – Team of Horses  
1908**



**Threshing Machine – Heit Farm**



**H. Merle Seip on east side of barn**



**Merle Seip and Amos Albritton  
planting the garden - 1951**

**THE PLIGHT OF THE FARMER**



**30" deep soil crack in corn rows  
August, 1953**



**Jim, Janet and Judy Wright - 1952**



**Corn leaf blight - 1949**



**Corn planting - 1950's**



**Combining wheat and oats – July 1953**

**Steve Warters and son, Doug – CASE I H, MX Series Magnum Tractor 255 PTO Horse Power**  
Auto Temp controls, bucket seats, armrests, front, rear and side windshield wiper/washer, interior lights, power outlets, dome light and interior mirrors, cup holders, heated seats, carpeted, coat hooks, turn signals, in-row steering, 18 speed full power shift transmission.

