

THE WIESENER FARM



**Lillian Rahn Kantiz ,
Carrie and Emelie Rahn
and Fritz and Fred Rahn**

**Aerial view of
Wiesener
Homestead
Burt and Darlene
Wiesener**



Boyd Wiesener on Combine

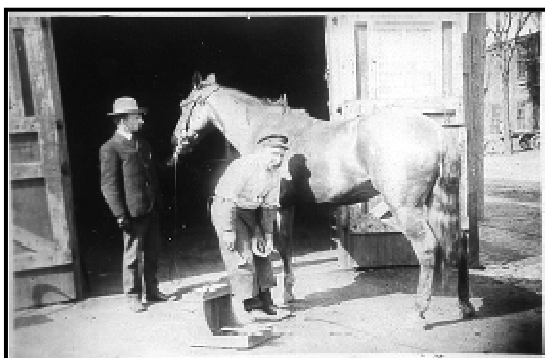


Harvest Day 2005

OUT OF THE PAST.....



Everett Kerns was appointed Douglas County Chairman of the Corn Hog Adm. under the Agricultural Adjustment Act until 1940. He was then owner and operator of Kerns Farm Equipment for seventeen years. He was appointed assistant postmaster in 1965 and passed away in June of 1966.



Horse Shoeing



High Quality Hatchery – 1935
Jim Kennedy, Jack Kennedy, Buck Sharp



The Hatchery

Pettitt Photo Service

**DEKALB SEED CORN COMPANY
1937-1999**



**F. Vern Wright – First Manager
DeKalb Seed Corn Plant - 1937**



**Delbert Grimm
Manager 1951-1977**

DeKalb seed corn company was established in 1937 and first managed by F. Vern Wright. The Tuscola location produced hybrid seed corn contracting between 5-10,000 acres with local farmers to produce the hybrid seed. Perry Stackhouse who managed the DeKalb plant in Marshall, MO, succeeded Wright as manager.

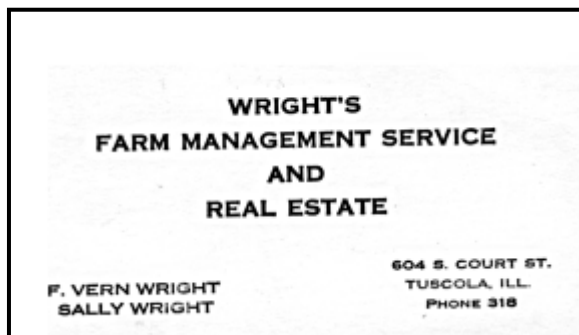
Delbert Grimm managed the plant from 1951 – 1977. During this time, the plant grew. New offices, warehouses and storage bins were added. Other managers followed until the closing in 1999 after Monsanto bought the company in the 1990's.



**Delbert Grimm
Checking corn**



Corn Detasseling Crew
Raymond Kingery, Maynard Kappes, Jim Wiesener,
Don Endsley,
Sonny Taylor, David Hausmann, Kelly Williams, Bob Wyatt



Sally Wright became the first female realtor in Douglas County in 1960.

After leaving DeKalb Seed Corn Company in 1941, Vern later created his own business of Farm Management for absentee owners. He taught an adult ag class in the evening at the high school for young men to become tenant farmers. These men and their families were placed on various farms that Vern managed. One of these tenants was Clarence Warters and his family, wife, Naomi, and sons, Steve and Mark. When Clarence moved to the Boggs farm, Vern and Clarence later installed a push button feeder system in 1960 and brought up 256 head of cattle from Texas and Kansas to be fattened up for market.





In the late 50's McQueen and McQueen operated a large chicken processing plant in Tuscola. They packed dressed chickens in ice and shipped them nationwide. The processing plant was one of Tuscola's largest employers until city fathers imposed a sewer tax based on water usage, even though most of the water was used to make ice which was shipped with the chickens. The tax amounted to several thousand dollars per month which ran them out of business.

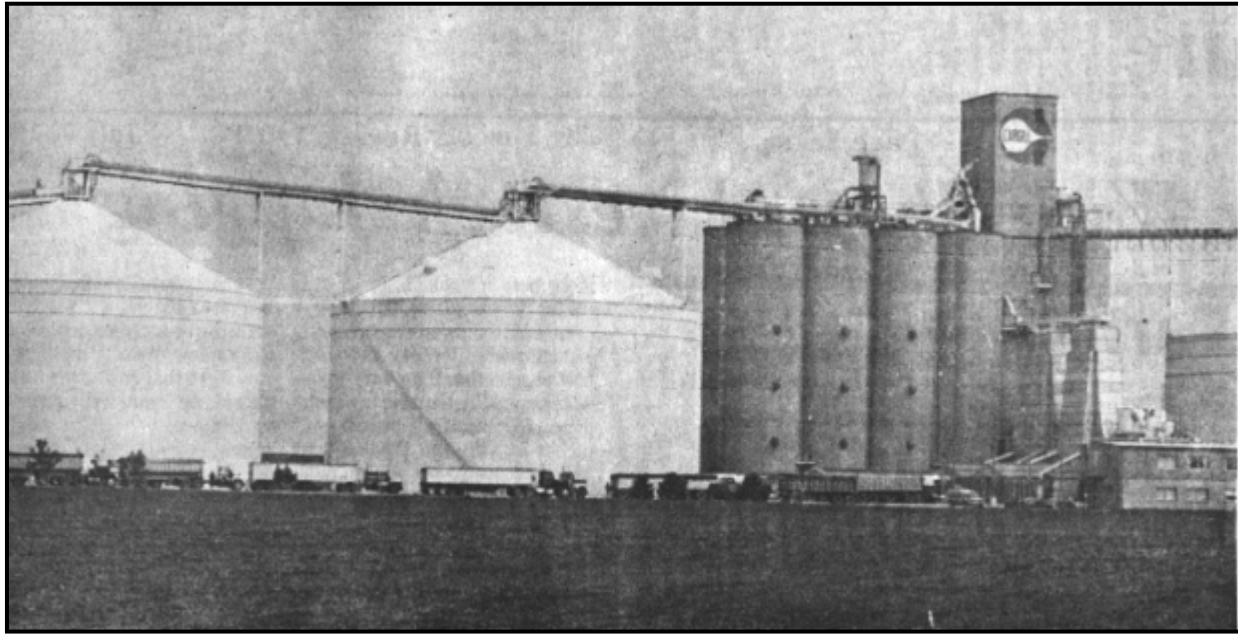


**Tuscola Feed
Mill**



Mr. and Mrs. St. Clair Helm, Jr. – 1970 – Sassafras Grove

Known as Hackett's Grove, this sassafras "plantation" was planted in the 1850's by Oliver and Merrill Hackett after they bought the four or five acres two miles east of Tuscola. St. Clair Helm bought the land in 1934. Sassafras is known to have a number of good uses. The dried bark of the root is boiled to make a tea for a Spring tonic – to thin the blood after a long hard winter. Sassafras pith is used in making a mucilage added to eye lotions for its emollient properties and the sassafras oil from roots and stumps is used chiefly in flavoring and perfuming and as a disinfectant.



Cargill, Inc. opened in 1969.

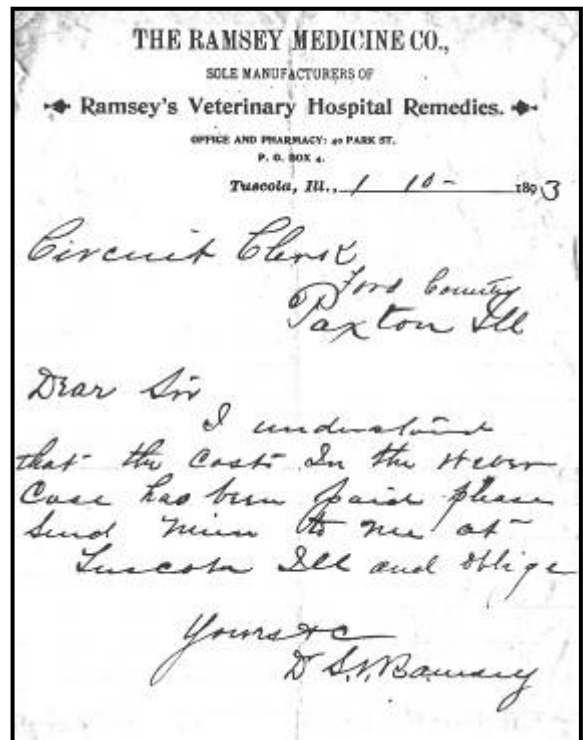
One of the first train loading buildings in the world. (Gibson City was the first) Capacity – 11 million bushels. Shipping 100 grain cars at a time several times a year to New Orleans, LA.

VETERINARIAN SERVICES

In 1895, the largest veterinary hospital in Central Illinois was that of Dr. S. V. Ramsey, located at No. 114 N. Parke St. The building was equipped to care for sick and lame horses. Dr. Ramsey was a graduate of the Chicago Veterinary College and was one of the most skilled physicians and surgeons in this area. His practice extended over the central and southern parts of Illinois and he handled some of the most difficult cases of treatment and surgery. His hospital was usually filled with animals undergoing treatment. Dr. Ramsey was a pleasant gentleman and always fully abreast of his profession. Historically most farriers (blacksmiths) and pharmacies in town would sell horse liniment and those famous “horse pills” when the need arose for animal care.

Dr. Robert Smith, D. V. M. came to town in 1949 and set up a mixed practice (small and large animals) until the business was purchased in 1988 by Sally J. Foote, D.V.M.

Dr. Foote conducts a small animal clinic now in what was Dr. Walter G. Steiner’s medical practice at the northeast corner of Sale St. and Parke St.





C.E. HEALY POULTRY CO. later called LODA PRODUCE CO. – 1937
 West South Central St., second building from corner of Main St.
 Abe Young, Chauncey Manwaring, Jess Fifer, Forrest Toney, Willie Moore,
 Earl Fifer, George Jenkins



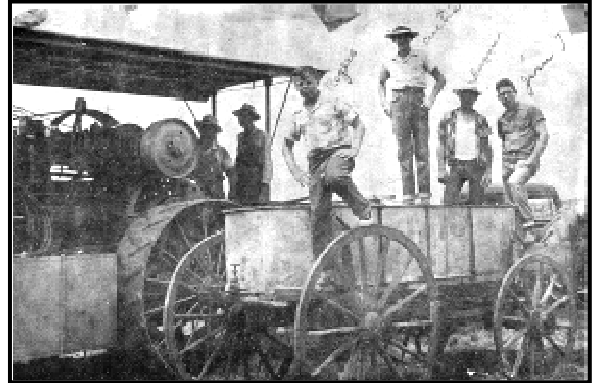
C. A. Vest Implement Store - 1949

C. A. Vest was the original owner of the Case Farm Machinery located on Sale St. The building then sold to Rosie Cler in 1953. Mark Dillavou and Lloyd McDaniel purchased the business in 1949 to 1955. The business was moved to Rt. 36 where the IGA is now. In 1955 McDaniel Brothers continued the business until 1968 when it was sold at auction.



**Charlie Ruethers Steam Engine
Tuscola Farmer's Days, 1966**

The big engine takes both coal and water as material and delivers power to the flywheel.



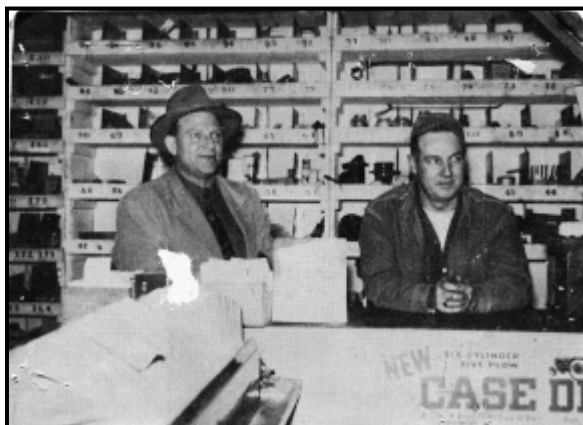
**Everett Meyer, Edwin Heit, Bill Rogers,
Curt McDaniel, Duane Dunn, Jim Teeters**



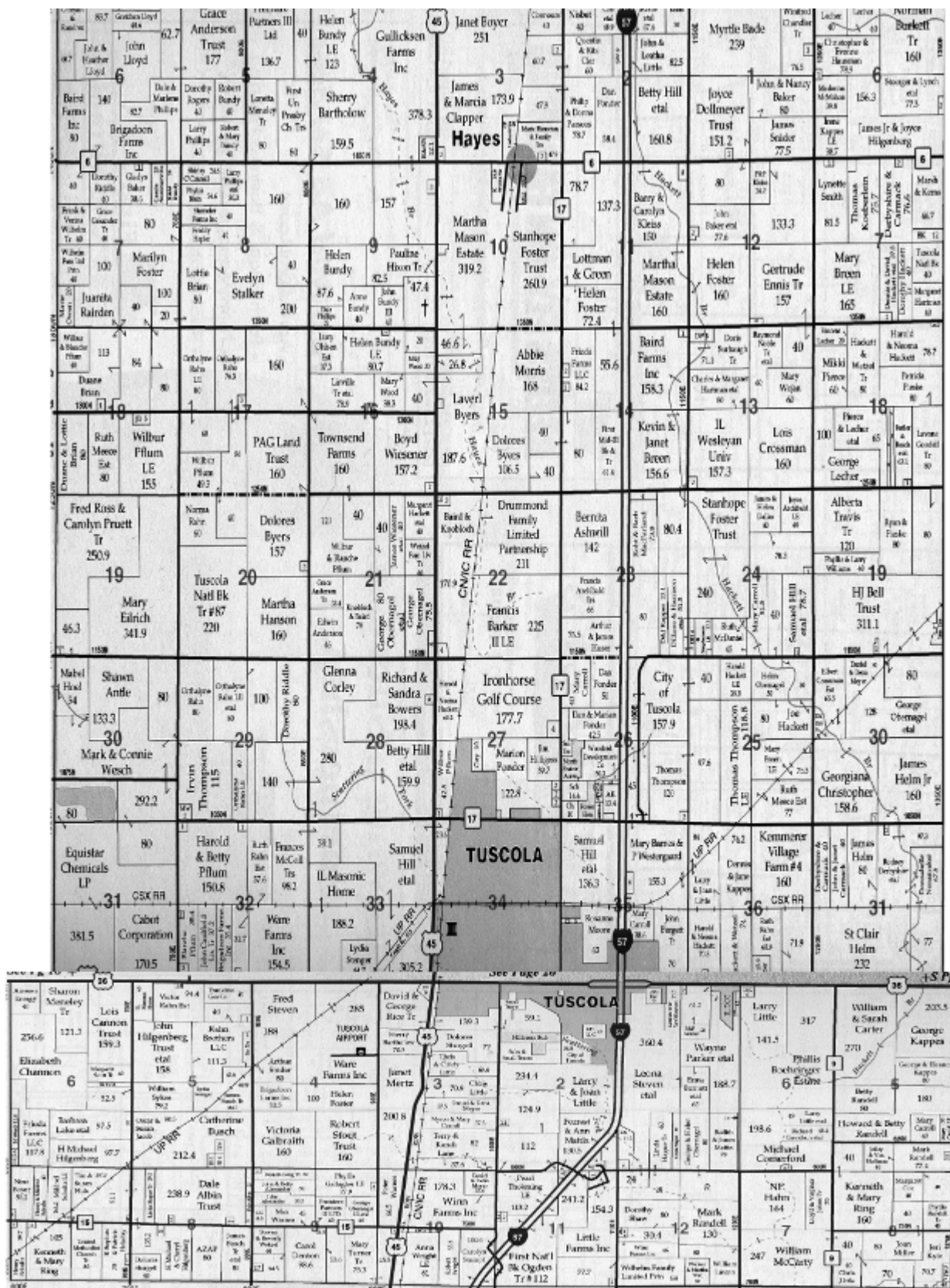
Rt. 36 Business Site



Lloyd McDaniel



Curt McDaniel and Duane Dunn





DOUGLAS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
900 S. Washington St.

Douglas County has an area of 417 miles, or 268,800 acres of rich, dark, fertile, flat soils. The dust storms of the 1930's awoke the American public to the magnitude of the soil erosion problem, and that awareness helped create the conservation movement. In 1937, Soil and Water Conservation Districts directors were given responsibility by an Act of the Illinois State Legislature for deciding what natural resource issues needed to be addressed. The Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1947. Early participants in the efforts to promote conservation were: John Q. Scott, Verne Reeder, Keith Dague, Paul Claussen, Manford Roller, Frank Vest, and Wayne Meyer.



Board of Directors – 1962

1st row: Lloyd Johns, Keith Dague, William Jones

2nd row: Herman Ramsey, Marvin Frahm, Wayne Meyer, Joe Fasig



Scattering Forks Commissioners and Wives

Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Ring,
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Huber and
Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Grimm
1967

RURAL AMERICA
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE – ADVICE TO THE CITY VISITORS
(Excerpts taken from FARMERS HOTLINE, July, 2004)

1. That farm boy standing next to the feed bin did more work before breakfast than you do all week at the gym. Don't mess with him.
2. Rural residents started hunting and fishing when they were seven years old. Yep, they too saw Bambi, but they got over it!
3. Any reference to "corn fed" when talking about rural women will get you whipped.... By rural women.
4. Feel free to take your \$600 Orvis fly rod to the pond, but don't cry when a flathead catfish breaks it off at the handle. Rural folk have a name for those little trout you fish for – bait.
5. It is called a "gravel road." No matter how slow you drive, you are going to get dust on your Navigator. Most "rural folks" have four-wheel drive because they actually need it. Drive yours or GET OUT OF THE WAY!
6. There is no "Vegetarian Special" on the menu. Order steak. If you prefer to graze on a Chef's Salad, feel free to pick off the two pounds of ham and turkey.
7. If you bring Coke into a rural home it had better be brown, wet and served over ice.
8. Rural people eat catfish. Carp, too – and turtle. You want caviar and sushi? It's available at the bait shop.
9. Many rural people own livestock. They are animals, they smell. Get over it. If you don't like the smell of livestock the even" numbered Interstates run east and west while the "odd" numbered Interstates run north and south. Pick one, and use accordingly.
10. The "Opener" refers to the first day of deer season. It is a religious holiday.
11. Write this down: Every person in every pickup waves.....it is called being friendly.
12. Yes, there are golf courses in rural areas. But, don't hit the ball into the water hazard. It spooks the fish.
13. The Highway Patrol Officer that just pulled you over for driving like an idiot....his name is "Sir"....no matter how old he is.
14. If your cell phone rings while a bunch of mallards are making their final approach, rural people will shoot it. Plan to turn it off as soon as you see barbed wire.
15. Rural people realize that you may have a sixty-thousand sports car you drive on weekends. They are not impressed. They have \$250,000 combines that are used three weeks a year.
16. Pull your pants up. You look like an idiot.