

Title Page & Abstract

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Illinois State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project
Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-019

Jacqueline Jackson, author of *Stories from the Round Barn*, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Illinois State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Feb. 25, 2008 and March 5, 2008

Location: Springfield II

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Michael Maniscalco, IL State Museum Oral Historian

Technical Support: cameramen, Robert Warren and Doug Carr, Illinois State Museum

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Michael Maniscalco and Linda Brand, Illinois State Museum
Rozanne Flatt, Volunteer, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Video indexed by: James Oliver, Illinois State Museum

Total Pages: 130 Total Time: 4:04 + 2:10 + 1:54 / 4.07 + 2.17 + 1.9 = 8.14 hrs

Session 1: Round Barn history and Jackie's childhood

Session 2: Life as an author and discussion on hybrid seed production

Session 3: Great depression and the demise of her family farm

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 08/04/2009.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

© 2008 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Jacqueline Jackson, *Oral History of IL Agriculture*, AIS-V-L-2008-019

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Jacqueline Jackson was born on May 3, 1928 in Beloit, Wisconsin, one of four children on a 650 acre farm started by her grandfather in 1909. It had fame as a dairy operation through Beloit College. The farm was famous for the Round Barn and several other dwellings and work buildings as well as for hybrid seed corn. She explained de-tasseling and de-suckering corn to produce hybrid seed. She told many stories of games the family invented for entertainment. She noted that the Korn Kurl, now cheese puff, was created by the farm hands on the second floor of the Round Barn. The farm had a large garden which fed the family and the workers. The root cellar held apples and garden produce through the winter.

In the second interview Jacqueline read a chapter of her book *Stories from the Round Barn*. She tells of her career teaching creative writing at Sangamon State University [Now U of I at Springfield] which awarded her two honorary doctorates She explained that she fell into the job when they were opening the university in the 1960's. Her works include 12 books of children's stories: a family history titled *Stories from the Round Barn*; and *Reading Writing Radio*, a radio program teaching creative writing for children.

She moved on to describe details of early hybrid seed production and her grandfather's involvement with Beloit College in the early days of hybrids. She recounted the dairy days, with details of breeds and feeds and the introduction of milking machines following the electrification of farms by the REA [Rural Electrification Administration] during the Great Depression. She told of hobos who congregated along the nearby railroad and of the gender roles in farming. She credited the Federal Land Bank plus incorporation for the farm's survival. The lack of an interested heir, the division of the farm by Interstate 90 and the spread of Beloit brought the end to her family's farm.

Topics Covered: Turtle Township, Rock County, IL: dairy operations; Beloit College; hired men; round barn; hybrid seed corn; alfalfa; oats; hay; corn de-tasseling; corn kurl; childhood games on the farm; gardening on the farm; farm root cellar; Sangamon State University; *Reading Writing Radio*; Guernsey cattle; Holstein cattle; bloat; surcingle; Rural Electrification Administration (REA); Empire Milking machine; Surge milking machine; Great Depression; Federal Land Bank; milk business Incorporation; hobos in rural IL; trains; gender roles on Illinois farms; women on the farm; Interstate 90; City of Beloit

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955