

**KENDALL COUNTY  
Historic Preservation Commission  
Historic Preservation Organization Meeting  
Plano Stone Church  
320 S. Center Street  
Plano, IL 60545  
5:30 p.m.  
February 19, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jeff Wehrli called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Elizabeth Flowers, Marty Shanahan (Vice-Chairman), and Jeff Wehrli (Chairman)

Eric Bernacki (arrived at 5:45 p.m.)

Absent: Kristine Heiman

Also, Present: Matt Asselmeier, Wanda A. Rolf, Scott Mehaffey, John Aman, Sarah Skilton, Tina Beaird, Kristin Lochner, Johanna Byram, Benn Joseph, Ken Wolf, Jeff Nakaerts, Sharon Lowy, Anne Sears, April Morganegg, Jeff Farren, Ken Donart, and Lisa Wolancivich.

**WELCOMING REMARKS**

Jeff Wehrli, Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission Chairman, welcomed the attendees to the semiannual Historic Preservation Meeting. Chairman Wehrli stated he liked to bring people together and talk about what they have been doing in their communities. Chairman Wehrli introduced the speakers for the evening, Pastor Tami Perryman and Benn Joseph.

**PRESENTATION AND TOUR OF THE PLANO STONE CHURCH**

Pastor Tami Perryman took the attendees to The Plano Stone Church. Pastor Perryman stated The Plano Stone Church became a historic site in 1991. Pastor Perryman spoke about the radiators breaking down last winter, which caused quite a bit damage from flooding to the basement of the church. The church is in the process of restoring the damage. The Plano Stone Church was one of the first churches in Plano built in the 1860's and it continues to provide services to Plano. The original stone sign is still in the church.

Pastor Perryman spoke about the history of the organ. Initially the organ was used at the Plano Theater. Later, it sold to the Plano Baptist Church. The organ was not reliable because in bad weather it did not play. Pastor Perryman stated the organ was sold to the church and they had the same problems with the organ. The church found someone who knew how to fix church organs and it was fixed. The church also upgraded the organ and added chimes.

The pews were hand built and the ironwork was donated to the church.

Pastor Perryman provided a history of the religion. In 1859, Joseph Smith III started the reorganization of the church. Joseph Smith III started printing newspapers with Herald House Publishing. Herald House publishes books, periodicals, and teaching materials on the beliefs of the church. Lewis Steward, a prominent businessman in the area, offered to cover ten percent (10%), for the building of the church, as he did for other churches. The church became reorganized in 1861 and was called The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS). In 2001, the name changed to Community of Christ.

The seal of the church was hand carved by Richard Young and devoted to Peace.

Post Covid, the attendance of the church decreased. The church members felt they were not able to handle the upkeep.

In 2005, the new stone above the church entryway was installed. The stone reads HOLINESS TO THE LORD. In the original stone, the letter N in Holiness was reversed. The stonecutter inscribed the new stone exactly like the stone he was given with the N reversed.

The congregation closed in August 2024 and moved to Marseilles, Illinois.

Pastor Perryman encouraged the attendees to visit the library, which had quite a bit of history on the church.

### **PRESENTATION ON THE TRIBUNE EXPERIMENTAL FARM FORMERLY LOCATED AT SILVER SPRINGS STATE PARK**

Benn Joseph, Head of Collection Services of the McCormick Library of Special Collections and University Archives at Northwestern University Libraries, stated that the Tribune experimental farm was a collection of farms owned by Robert McCormick between 1928 and 1953.

In 2020, Northwestern University Libraries acquired two thousand linear feet (2000') of archival records from Cantigny Park in Wheaton, IL. Part of the archival records included Colonel McCormick's creation of the Tribune Experimental Farm.

The Tribune Experimental Farm consisted of five (5) farms. Colonel McCormick purchased the farms and leased the land back to the original owners for one dollar (\$1) per year. The families were allowed to live on the farms free of charge. Frank Ridgeway, a writer and director, wrote many articles on the Tribune Farm, including aiding farmers and economic improvement. Schoolchildren also visited the farm. Sale of the crops was divided for Colonel McCormick to receive sixty percent (60%) and the farmers received forty percent (40%) of the sale of crops. Mr. Joseph spoke about the farmers using horses for farming and the horses had a specified amount of grain to feed on per day.

Mr. Asselmeier asked about a sign that said, "Follow the Tribune Farm signs from Yorkville" and asked if the signs were still in existence. Mr. Joseph said that he believes the signs are no longer in existence.

Some of the long-range plans that the Tribune Experimental Farm worked on in 1934 were Field Crops, Farm Management, and Methods of Improvement and How to Market Farm Products.

Colonel McCormick contracted with a milkweed company to grow milkweed on the Tribune Experimental Farm. It sold for fifty dollars (\$50) per ton.

Dr. Edith Farnsworth was interested in purchasing the property located on the Tribune Experimental Farm. The house was designed to be a weekend retreat for Dr. Farnsworth. It took two and a half (2 1/2) years to negotiate the price. Mr. Joseph has a document signed by Colonel McCormick and Dr. Farnsworth stating the land sold to Dr. Farnsworth for Four Thousand, Seven Hundred Sixty Five Dollars (\$4,765).

In 1953, Colonel McCormick decided to sell the farms. The experiment lasted about twenty (20) years. He sold them individually. Colonel McCormick passed away in 1955.

Mr. Joseph stated that there is a burned down house in Silver Springs State Park. There is a fence around it. Chairman Wehrli asked if the house was for the caretakers. The house was privately owned.

It was asked if Colonel McCormick had a business goal or a charitable goal. Colonel McCormick had a lot of money so he was able to make these kinds of ventures. Mr. Joseph stated that Colonel McCormick wanted to create more resistance against pests for the crops and animals.

Chairman Wehrli asked if farmers experimented on hybrid crops. Mr. Joseph said the farmers were working with hybrids. Soybeans were in the experimental stage that time.

### **DISCUSSION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURE SURVEY OF NA-AU-SAY AND SEWARD TOWNSHIPS**

Mr. Asselmeier stated that an application was sent to the State of Illinois to conduct an historic structure survey for Na-Au-Say and Seward Townships. There was a structure survey conducted in unincorporated Bristol and Kendall Townships a couple of years ago. The State has scored and ranked the application, but the State has not disclosed the score and rank. Mr. Asselmeier noted that the State has the funds to move forward with this project. The State did not know about funding for future projects in upcoming years. It was asked if the same methodology would be recommended as was used for the previous structure surveys. Mr. Asselmeier stated that he would recommend the same methodology as what was used for the surveys in Bristol and Kendall Townships; the results of those surveys were incorporated into the County's GIS systems.

Chairman Wehrli said that, if the survey was funded, the County would need volunteers.

It was asked what kind of format was done on the previous surveys. Mr. Asselmeier stated there was a history of the owners in chronological order. There was also a description of the property in terms of the size of buildings and noteworthy events if any.

### **DISCUSSION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS**

Mr. Asselmeier stated that the application deadline for the Historic Preservation Awards is on February 28, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. Applications should be submitted by mail to 111 W. Fox Street or to email them to Mr. Asselmeier. Applications will be reviewed in March and April. We would like to present them to the winners in May.

### **DISCUSSION OF CEMETERIES**

Chairman Wehrli stated that he would like to see some funding go toward cleaning up cemeteries, especially the older ones. Many of the cemeteries are cared for by the townships, but there are other, smaller cemeteries that have fallen to the wayside and he would like to get those cleaned up. Chairman Wehrli stated that they are looking into it and will have more information later.

### **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

Chairman Wehrli asked each guest to speak about themselves and which historical organization they represented. Each attendee introduced himself or herself and briefly spoke about their historic organization.

Ken Donart, Chapel on the Green Treasurer, wanted to share that they continue to make improvements and maintain the chapel. The chapel had four (4) chairlifts installed to make the chapel more ADA accessible. Mr. Donart stated this was made possible by a community foundation grant and chapel funds. Mr. Donart spoke about getting a historical marker for the Chapel on the Green, in connection with the Underground Railroad. The State will fund half of the cost of the historical marker. Mr. Donart says that they plan to have the unveiling of the historic marker. In January of this year, the Chapel on the Green had a very successful presentation for the Underground Railroad which was very well attended. Mr. Donart stated that the next event will be Sunday and will be on the history of Negro spirituals. Ida Ruth Allen will be making a presentation.

Lisa Wolancevich and Johanna Byram, Yorkville Historical Preservation and Kendall County Historical Society, stated they assisted the owner of the west block in downtown Yorkville identify their commercial buildings. They found an image of a hotel, which was the first commercial building in downtown Yorkville, from 1858. They found a plaque of the silhouette of the building and a picture of the hotel. Ms. Wolancevich stated that Kendall County Historical Society received a grant from the State of Illinois for One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000). She also stated there will be an electric car show in October.

Vicki Brown, Yorkville and Oswego Chambers of Commerce, said that this past Christmas, they had the businesses and other organizations decorate trees. They have grown so much they had to go into the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) building. People are starting to come back to their organization.

Jane Burke, Naperville Preservation Society, stated she is pleased with what Kendall County is doing to raise historic awareness. Naperville has buildings and subdivisions. Last year, the Beidelman Furniture building at 235–239 S. Washington Street in Naperville was designated a local landmark. It is the oldest operating business in DuPage County. Ms. Burke stated that Naperville is going to conduct an architectural survey of John Posey's midcentury modern homes, which has a very distinctive style. Ms. Burke stated that Naperville would like to survey the homes Mr. Posey built and publish the surveys in a catalog. Ms. Burke stated that Naperville is conducting a series of ten (10) lectures on how to get your house right in terms of historic character. The biggest challenge Naperville has is they do not have historic preservation incentives.

Anne Sears, the Plano Historical Society, stated they had to close the Plano Historical Museum due to heating costs. They plan to have a grand reopening in April. Ms. Sears stated they have an original 1886 reaper they are in process of restoring.

Jeff Nakaerts, Dickson-Murst Historic Farm in Montgomery, stated they have different events this year for children. These included tractor rides, a petting farm, and plowing with horses. The farm is working on a house and making it ADA compliant. The State recently conducted a survey of the Dickson-Murst Historic Farm. He stated that, once the house is ADA compliant, the Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission could have a meeting at the property. He said that they work quite a bit with the Kendall County 4H club. There is also booklet on how the farm was developed.

John Aman, Montgomery Historic Preservation Commission, discussed the restoration to the Settler's Cottage. He noted the challenges of getting children involved.

Tina Beaird, Little White School Museum, and Plainfield Library, noted that the Little White School Museum is turning one hundred (100) years old this year. The partnership they have with the Oswegoland Park District was running smoothly. Ms. Beaird stated there were some minor renovations done to the building. Roger Matile, who has been with the Little White School Museum, for over thirty (30) years, wants to retire. Ms. Beaird said that teaching local history in public schools is mandated by the State of Illinois. Bus tours keep coming to the Little White School Museum. The Genealogy Library underwent a yearlong renovation; it is online and digitized on the website. Tamarack Settlement has a cheat sheet on how to get into Kendall County historic records.

Kristin Lochner, Edith Farnsworth House, stated the House is currently open on Fridays and Saturdays. The main season opens in March. Ms. Lochner stated that this year people could have a pass that they could use for all four season. On March 30, 2025, the Edith Farnsworth House will have an exhibition with Truman Lowe, professor at the University of Wisconsin. He is the only indigenous artist with a building named after him. Ms. Lochner stated that Mr. Lowe's collection would be shown at the Edith Farnsworth House.

Scott Mehaffey, Executive Director of Edith Farnsworth House, stated that the Kendall County Historic Preservation was welcome to meet at the Edith Farnsworth House. Mr. Mehaffey stated the Edith Farnsworth House now has an exhibition person who creates videos. Information on McCormick farm history is onsite.

#### **DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETING(S)**

Chairman Wehrli spoke about future meetings; these will probably occur in July or August. Chairman Wehrli stated that the Kendall County Historic Preservation Committee has met in quite a few historic locations in the County.

Member Bernacki asked if there were any updates on the preservation efforts for the Tribune Farms. Lisa Wolancevich answered that she went on a video tour of the house. Ms. Wolancevich will be working with Helen Monroe who lived on the Tribune farm. Ms. Monroe kept a log everyday and had letters. Ms. Wolancevich found the log but not the letters. The letters were at Cantigny. Ms. Wolancevich will try to obtain the letters.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Bernacki to adjourn. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried. The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Wanda A. Rolf  
Administrative Assistant

Encs.



**KENDALL COUNTY  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONTACTED ON FUTURE MEETINGS REGARDING THIS TOPIC, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR ADDRESS OR EMAIL ADDRESS

NAME	ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)	EMAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)
Scott McHugh	Edith Farnsworth House	
Robert Shivers	K.C.B.	
JOHN AMAN	MHPC	
Marty Skanaka		
SARAH SKELIN	Oswego	
Tina Beavil	Oswego	
Kristin Lochner	Edith Farnsworth House	
Johanna Byrzn	Kendall County Historical Society	

**KENDALL COUNTY  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONTACTED ON FUTURE MEETINGS REGARDING THIS TOPIC, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR ADDRESS OR EMAIL ADDRESS

NAME	ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)	EMAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)
Ben Joseph		
Ken Wolf		
JEFF NAKAERTS	PLAINFIELD.	
Sharon Lowy	Yorkeville Chapel on the Green	
Anne Sears	Barco,	
April Morganegg	Yorkeville Chapel on the Green	
JEFF FARRER	Chapel on the Green	
Ken Donant	Chapel on the Green	



# **Community of Christ**

(Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)

## **The Early Plano Years**



## A little background...

- **1830** – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints organized in Palmyra New York by Joseph Smith, Jr.
- **1844** – Joseph and his brother Hyrum Smith killed by mob in Carthage, IL jail.
  - Many members follow Brigham Young to Salt Lake Basin
  - Several small groups remain in Midwest.

## A little background...

- **1859** - General Conference (near Sandwich) called for the printing of a monthly church paper to continue for “six months.” They didn’t want to commit to longer because they weren’t sure of the longevity of the “readership.”
  - Printed in Cincinnati, OH under editor Isaac Sheen until 1865 when Joseph Jr was appointed editor.

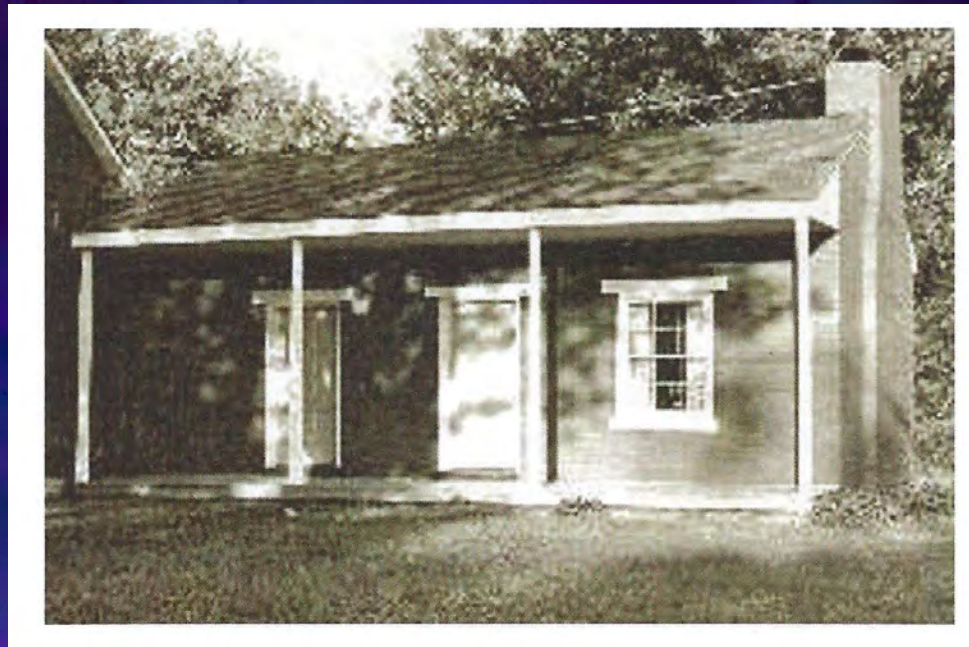
# A little background...

- 1860 – (April 6, 1860) conference in Amboy, IL
  - Establish RLDS Church
  - Joseph III assumes leadership of the church.



**April 21, 1861**

Plano congregation organized on in the home of James and Anna (Weeks) Horton.



- The home was on State Rt 34, but was torn down in 2004 in order to widen 34.



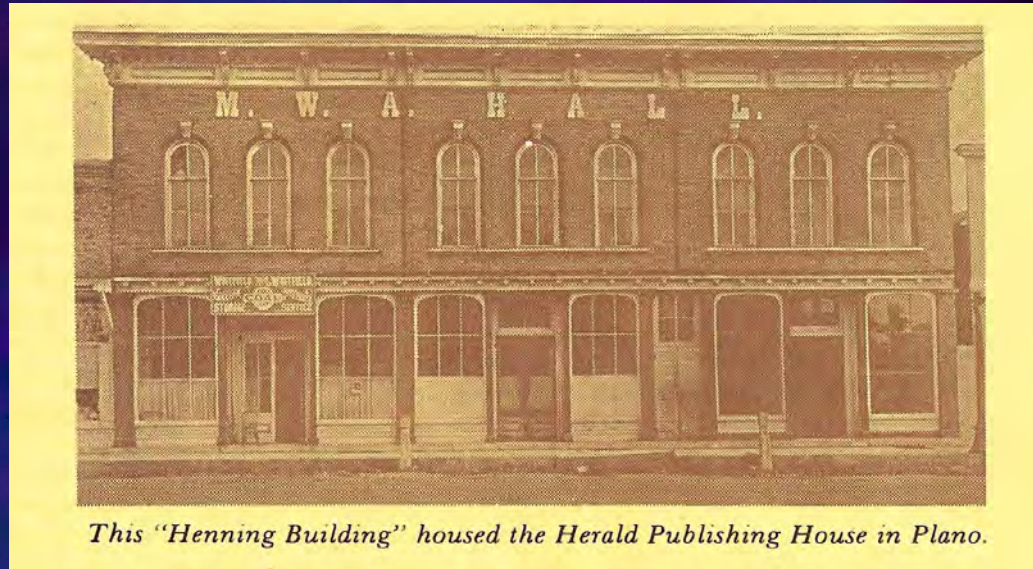
March 1863

Herald Publishing House operation moves from Cincinnati, Ohio to Plano, IL under the editorship of Isaac Sheen.

Purchase of the *DeKalb County Press*



With the help of Lewis Steward, the first home of the plant was a small 18 foot square rented room on the second floor of the Henning Block.



*This "Henning Building" housed the Herald Publishing House in Plano.*

The Herald expanded to eventually take over the entire West end of the Henning block (W John Street, next to Cielito Mexican Restaurant).



1865

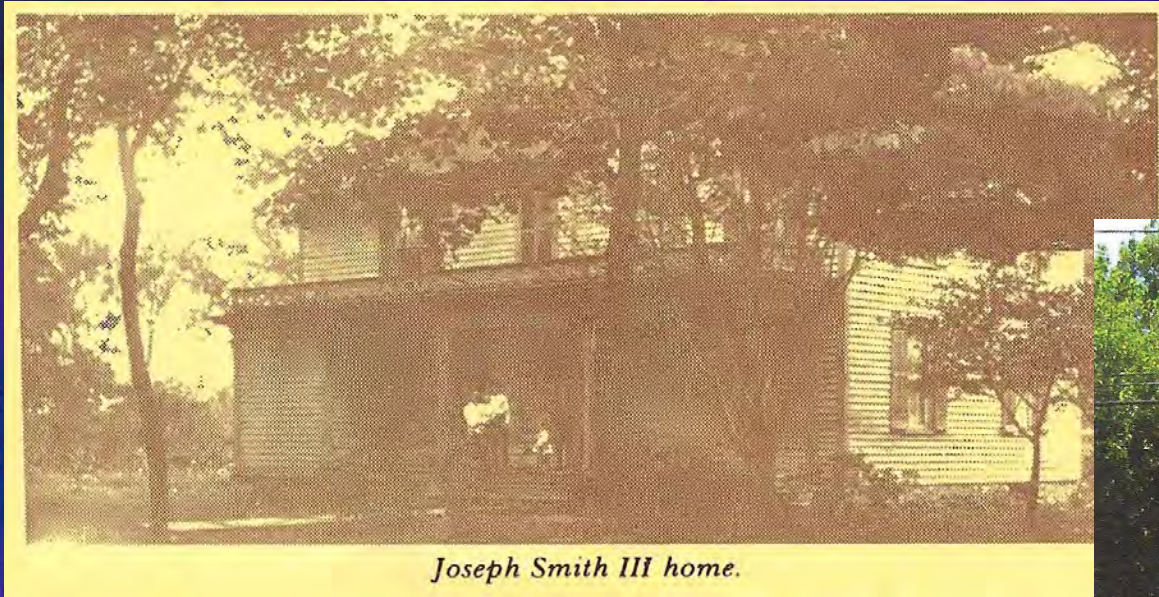
Joseph Smith III takes over as editor of *The Herald*.

1866

Joseph and his first wife, Emmeline (Griswold), and four children, moved to Plano. IL.



The Smith's lived in a house on the SE corner of Dearborn and Hale Streets which he bought for \$1,200.



Then...



and Now



1868

## **Construction of the Plano Stone Church**

Prior to the construction of the Stone Church, the congregation had been meeting in The Plano Academy.





**1868**

## **Construction of the Plano Stone Church**

- Property was donated by the [Gilbert Denslow] Henning family.
- Lumber donated by Israel Rogers



**1868**

## **Construction of the Plano Stone Church**

- Lewis Steward, son of Marcus Steward, and one of Plano's leading citizens, offered to cover 10% of building cost, just as he had done for other denominations.



1868

## Construction of the Plano Stone Church

- The stone came from the Post Quarry on the Fox River south of Plano (owned by Mr. Post) Footings, Cornerstones and plaque above the door came from Aurora.





## 1868

Work began on the church on March 18, 1868

Work halted in early fall when funds ran out.

Smith had a vision/dream that someone would offer him \$850.00 loan the next day during lunch. He told the story to workers at the Herald plant. At lunch, church member, Samuel Williams, made that very offer.

The church was completed and consecrated in November 1868



1868

First church constructed after the Reorganization of the church under the leadership of Joseph Smith, III (in Amboy, IL)

Oldest church in continuous use in Kendall County, IL



# The Pews

Church member brothers, William and Edwin Crum (iron founders) offered to make the ends and center pieces for the pews. Other church members sawed and planed the boards for the pews still in use today.



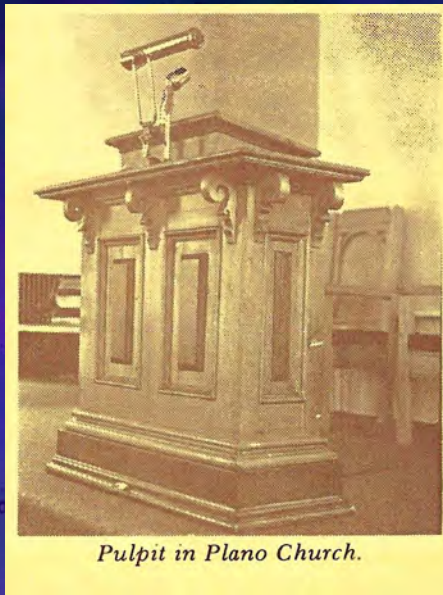


# The Podium

Podium/Pulpit was built by members in 1868

Two kinds of wood were used (cost \$10)

The pulpit was originally painted black. It was refinished in 1957-58 to match the pews and the organ.



*Pulpit in Plano Church.*





1869

Joseph Smith's first wife Emmiline "Griswold" Smith dies.

Soon after, Joseph marries Bertha Madison from  
Mission, IL.

They had 7 children, two of whom ... Frederick M. and Israel  
A. ... would also serve as presidents of the Reorganization.



# 1874

The General Conference of the church called for a committee to design a church seal. The committee was Joseph Smith, III, Jason W. Briggs, and Elijah Banta. The wooden seal in the Stone Church was carved by Richard Young.





1879

Further expansion took the Herald printing plant  
from the Henning building to a frame building  
a block north on Main Street.



1881

Joseph and family move to Lamoni, IA.  
Church headquarters and Herald Publishing  
move with him.

During Joseph's 15 years in Plano, he served as:

President of the Church.

Pastor of Plano church for 11 years.

Justice of the Peace for 10 years.

Village Trustee for 3 years.

President of the Village Board (Mayor)



## 1881 to 1938

1930 - The stone church did not have a basement originally.

1937 - Basement excavated by a team led by Joseph M.  
Blakely.

1937 - basement floor (cement) was poured.

1938 - steps built down to the basement.



# 1938 to 2001

1945 - The pipe organ, “Geneva,” was added in.

1956 – Organ gets a “facelift” and overhaul.

1999-2001 – Organ is expanded.





## Looking Ahead

Unfortunately, the congregation officially closed in August, 2024 with most remaining members moving to the Mission congregation in Marseilles, IL.

The Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation, along with the local church leadership, is exploring ways to bring the Plano's history back to life in the church while maintaining an active presence in the Plano community.

# Site of Experimentation: The Tribune Experimental Farm, 1928-1953

Benn Joseph

Northwestern University Libraries

February 19, 2025





Deering Library, Northwestern University

<https://findingaids.library.northwestern.edu/>





Photo by Nuccio DiNuzzo



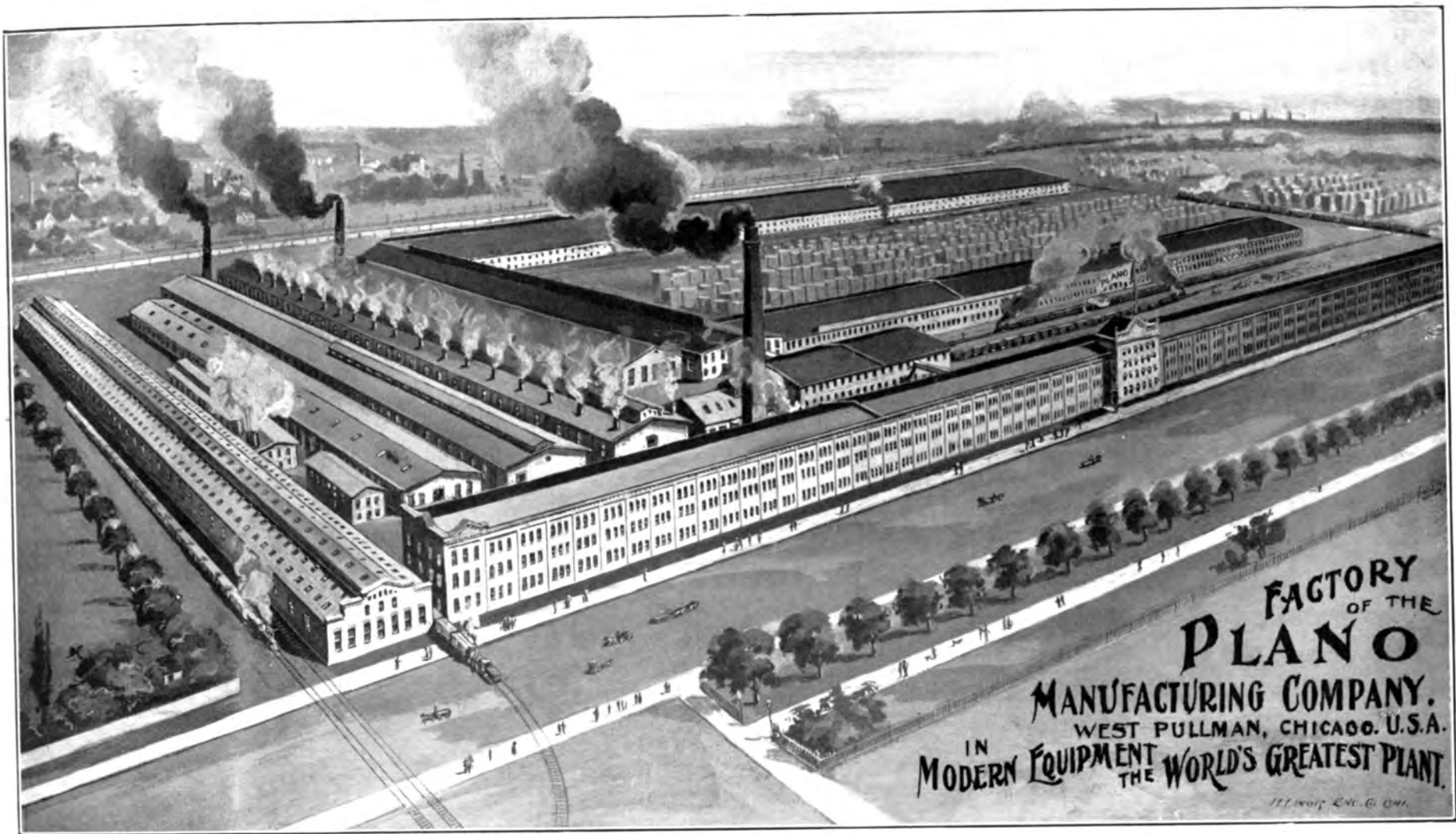
Colonel McCormick /  
Robert R. McCormick Museum, Cantigny Park



[cantigny.org](http://cantigny.org)



[en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org)

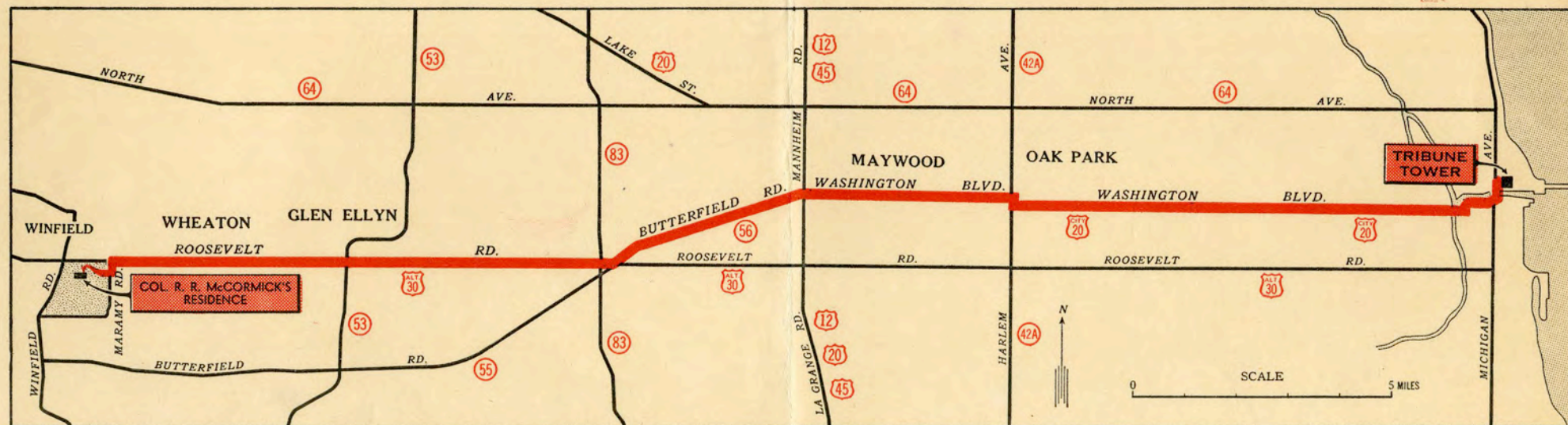


FACTORY  
OF THE  
**PULLMAN**  
MANUFACTURING COMPANY.  
WEST PULLMAN, CHICAGO, U.S.A.  
IN  
MODERN EQUIPMENT  
THE WORLD'S GREATEST PLANT.

111,000 sq. ft. G. O. 1911



## Motor Route to Cantigny Farm, Wheaton, Illinois



MAY 17, 1936.

**Tribune Farm's Plan for 1936**

**Field Plan of Experimental Farm Near Yorkville, Ill.**

**Legend:**

- Field Boundary Lines (Solid line)
- Field Division Lines (Dashed line)
- Field Identification (Numbered circles)

**Crop Identification:**

- CORN
- ALFALFA
- SOY BEANS
- OATS
- OATS SEEDING
- CLOVER
- TIMOTHY
- BLUEGRASS
- PASTURE
- WOODLAND

**Total Acreage:** 1,265

**Field Plan Details:**

- 1. CLOVER FOR PASTURE 25 ACRES
- 2. CORN 50 ACRES
- 3. TIMOTHY AND CLOVER FOR PASTURE 8 ACRES
- 4. CLOVER FOR PASTURE 25 ACRES
- 5. WOODLAND AND PASTURE MIXTURE: LESPEDEZA, KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS, MEDIUM RED CLOVER 24 ACRES
- 6. ALFALFA FOR HAY 15 ACRES
- 7. TIMOTHY, CLOVER & ALFALFA FOR PASTURE 45 ACRES
- 8. OATS 45 ACRES
- 9. WOODLAND PASTURE 5 ACRES
- 10. WOODLAND AND NATIVE BLUEGRASS FOR PASTURE 110 ACRES
- 11. CORN AND NATIVE BLUEGRASS FOR PASTURE 5 ACRES
- 12. CORN FOR SILAGE 7 ACRES
- 13. WOODLAND AND NATIVE BLUEGRASS FOR PASTURE 70 ACRES
- 14. CORN FOR SILAGE 6 ACRES
- 15. CORN AND NATIVE BLUEGRASS FOR PASTURE 5 ACRES
- 16. OATS SEEDING WITH MEDIUM RED CLOVER 12 ACRES
- 17. ALFALFA FOR HAY 10 ACRES
- 18. CORN FOR SILAGE 10 ACRES
- 19. OATS 65 ACRES
- 20. ALFALFA FOR HAY 15 ACRES
- 21. OATS SEEDING WITH MEDIUM RED CLOVER 50 ACRES
- 22. ALFALFA FOR HAY 20 ACRES
- 23. CLOVER FOR HAY 10 ACRES
- 24. SOY BEANS 30 ACRES
- 25. CORN 25 ACRES
- 26. CORN 150 ACRES
- 27. CORN 30 ACRES

**By FRANK RIDGWAY**

**TRIBUNE EXPERIMENT FARM** are entering their third year of conducting tests and searching for new and superior crops, breeds of animals, and profitable methods and practices in the production of live stock and feeds.

Managers of the two farms—one of 1,332 acres near Plano and Yorkville, Ill., and the other of 1,032 acres near Wheaton, Ill.—again are combining their efforts in crop adaptation tests. The general plan followed is to first try new crops and animals on a small scale at the Wheaton farm. Then crops that show promise in preliminary tests are grown on a field basis at the Yorkville farm.

Today the Yorkville farm manager announces his 1936 cropping plans, calling for the production of 1,265 acres in field and pasture crops—corn, (Continued on page 14)

By  
FRANK  
BIDWAY

**WISCONSIN** Experimental farms are entering their third year of contacting tests and searching for new and superior crops, breeds of animals, and profitable methods and practices in the production of five stock and feeds.

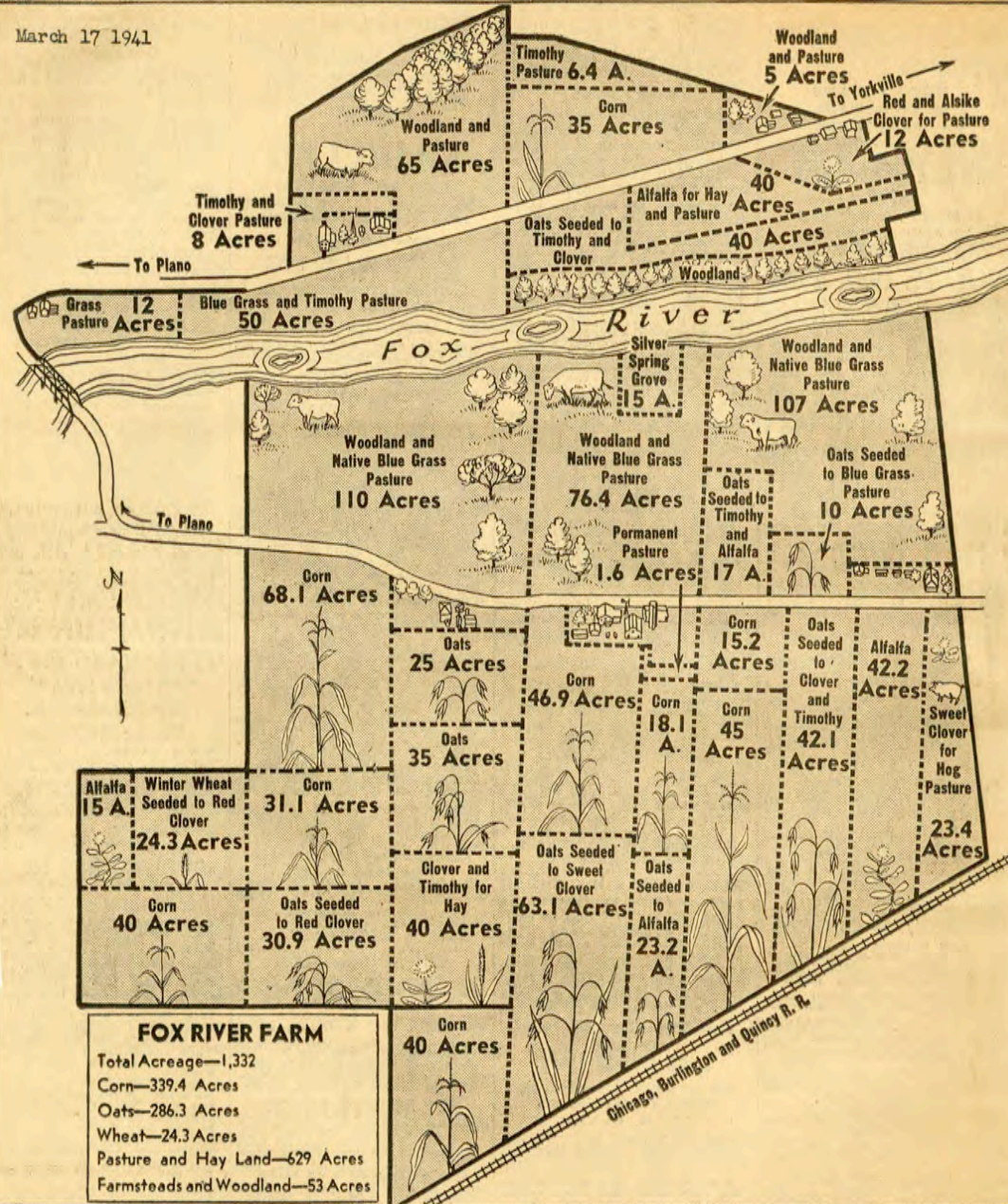
Managers of the two federal ones, 1,532 acres near Plano and Yorkville, Ill., and the other, 1,000 acres near Wheaton, Ill.—again are combining their efforts in crop adaptation tests. The general plan followed is to try one acre and sometimes two or three acres of each of the new crops and crop combinations on a small scale at the Wheaton farm. Then crops that show promise

in preliminary tests are grown on a field basis at the Yorkville farm.

At the Yorkville farm, managers estimate that the average yield of the production of 1,203 acres in field and pasture crops—corn, soybeans, alfalfa, timothy, clover, and other crops—will be 100,000 bushels of grain, 100,000 bushels of hay, and 100,000 bushels of other crops.



March 17 1941



Planting plan for the Tribune Fox river farm. About half the harvest land is to be in grain crops and the other half in hay and pasture, which are needed for large Aberdeen-Angus breeding herd. Oats and wheat will be nurse crops for grasses and legumes. (Story on page 21.)







**This Memorandum Witnesseth, THAT** Lewis Thurow

of Kendall County, Illinois

hereby agree to SELL, and

agree to PURCHASE, at the price of One Hundred Seven Thousand One Hundred Dollars,  
the following described real estate, situated in Kendall County, Illinois: Part of Lot Three,

Section Two Twp. 36 N. Range 6 E. of 3rd P.M. Part of Lot Three, Section Eleven Twp. 36 N. Range 6 E. 3rd P.M. and Lot Four and Part of Lot Three, Three Section 35, Twp. 37 N. Range 6 E. of 3rd P.M. comprising 306 Acres and being all of the land in the farm occupied by Thurow as a homestead, together with all improvements thereon and appurtenance thereto.

Section.....Township.....North, Range.....East of the Third Principal Meridian. Subject to:

(1) existing leases, expiring March 1st, 1929

the purchaser to be entitled to the rents, if any, from the time of delivery of Deed; (2) all taxes and assessments levied after the year 1927 (3) any unpaid special taxes or assessments, levied for improvements not yet made; also subject to One certain agreement assigned to Public Service Co. providing for compensation for lands overflowed by building a ten foot dam at a site known as the Post Mill

Said purchaser has paid Two Thousand (\$2,000.00) Dollars,

as earnest money, to be applied on said purchase when consummated, and agrees to pay, within five days after the title has been examined and found good, the further sum of Fifty-five Thousand One Hundred (\$55,100.00)

Dollars, at the office of Clark and Trainer, provided a good and sufficient general Warranty Deed, conveying to said purchaser a good title to said premises with waiver and conveyance of any and all estates of homestead therein and all rights of dower, inclose or otherwise, (subject as aforesaid), shall then be ready for delivery. The balance to be paid as follows: Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) to be payable on or before five (5) years from date

with interest ..... at the rate of 6 1/2 per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually,  
to be secured by notes and mortgage, or trust deed, of even date herewith, on said premises, in the form ordinarily used by  
Chicago Title and Trust Co. A certificate of title issued by the Registrar

of Title of \_\_\_\_\_ County or a complete merchantable abstract of title, or a merchantable copy, brought down to date, or a merchantable title guaranty policy, to be furnished within a reasonable time. In case the title, upon examination, is found materially defective, within ten days after said Abstract is furnished, then, unless the material defects be cured within sixty days after written notice thereof, the said earnest money shall be refunded and this contract is to become inoperative.

Should said purchaser fail to perform this contract promptly on his part, at the time and in the manner herein specified, the earnest money paid as above shall, at the option of the vendor, be forfeited as liquidated damages, including commissions payable by vendor, and this contract shall be and become null and void. Time is of the essence of this contract, and of all the conditions thereof.

This contract and the said earnest money shall be held by Clark and Trainer  
for the mutual benefit of the parties hereto

In testimony whereof, said parties hereto set their hands, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A. D. \_\_\_\_\_

The said Lewis Tharow agrees to pay to Clark & Trainer a commission of five per cent (5%) on the purchase price of the property herein described and out of the proceeds hereof for their services in procuring this contract.

THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH. That the Grantor, JOHN

THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH, That the Grantor, JOHN STONE, a bachelor, of the County of Cook and State of Illinois, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and other good and valuable considerations in hand paid, Conveys and Warrants to Robert R. McCormick, of the City of Chicago, County of Cook and State of Illinois, the following described real estate, to-wit:

A part of Section three (3) Township thirty-seven (37) and a part of Sections one (1), two (2), and eleven (11), Township thirty-six (36), North, Range Six (6) East of the Third Principal Meridian and bounded as follows:

Beginning at a stone on the north line of Section two (2) which stands two and seventy-seven one-hundredths (2.77) chains west of the northeast corner thereof, running thence south ten (10) degrees twenty-two (22) minutes east 15.41 chains to the east line of Section two (2); thence south nine (9) degrees twenty (20) minutes east 23.61 chains to the half Section line; thence south seven (7) degrees thirty-one (31) minutes east twenty-two (22) and thirty-one one-hundredths (23.31) chains to the northline of the Fox River Branch of the C. B. & Q. R. R. right-of-way, thence south sixty-five (65) degrees, thirty (30) minutes west along the said north line of said right-of-way forty-five and sixty-nine one-hundredths (45.69) chains, thence north three (3) degrees thirty (30) minutes east ninety-nine and nineteen one-hundredths (99.19) chains to the south meander line of Fox River. Thence north eighty-one (81) degrees thirty (30) minutes east five and fifty-eight one-hundredths (5.58) chains, thence south sixty-seven (67) degrees two (2) minutes east eight and thirty-one one-hundredths (8.31) chains, thence north eighty-seven (87) degrees four (4) minutes east one and eighty one-hundredths (1.80) chains, thence north seventy-one (71) degrees fifty-seven (57) minutes east three and thirty-nine one-hundredths (3.39) chains, thence north fifty-eight (58) degrees forty-three (43) minutes east five and ninety-four one-hundredths (5.94) chains to an osage stake on the south meander line of said river, thence south ten (10) degrees forty-three (43) minutes east twenty-two and sixty-eight one-hundredths (22.68) chains to the place of beginning containing three hundred and one one-hundredth (300.01) acres of land more or less, and being all of the land owned by the heirs of the late Joseph M. Austin in said sections and townships, together with all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereto.

reserving all rights under and by A L S O the Copyright Convention Laws

Commencing at a point on the quarter section line which point is 21.69 chains west from the quarter section corner on the east side of Section 35, Township 37, North,



## This Indenture,

Made this 9th day of AprilA. D. 19 28 Between JOHN STONE

party of the first part and

JOHN J. PETRIK

party of the second part.

Witnesseth, that the party of the first part has demised and leased to the party of the second part the premises,

situated in

*the residence and land owned by the party of the first part*  
and State of Illinois, known and described as follows: Commencing in the center of Fox River Road at a point 14 chains South from the center of Section 34, Township 37 North, Range 6 East of the 3rd Principal Meridian; running thence East 8.10 chains; thence North 2 Degrees 45 Minutes East 55 Links to a large stone at the center of said road; thence North 84 Degrees 24 Minutes East along the center of said road 15.06 chains; thence North 11 Degrees 30 Minutes East 50 Links; thence South 9.95 chains to the North bank of Fox River; thence Westerly along the North bank of Fox River to the center of the Plano-Milbrook Road; thence Northerly along the center of said Plano-Milbrook Road, to where same intersects the center line of said Fox River Road; thence Easterly along the center of said Fox River Road to the place of beginning;

To have and to hold the same, unto the party of the second part, from the 1stday of March A. D. 19 28 until the 28th day of FebruaryA. D. 19 29. And the party of the second part in consideration of said demise, does covenant and agree with the party of the first part as follows:

FIRST.—To pay to the party of the first part as rent for said demised premises the sum of

One (\$1.00) DOLLARS.

and other valuable considerations, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, it being understood that this lease is part of contract dated February 4, 1928 between the parties hereto and that said Petrik is to occupy the premises known as his residence without further charge until February 28, 1929.

SECOND.—That he has examined and know the condition of said premises; and has received the same in good order and repair, and that he will keep said premises in good repair during the term of this lease, at his own expense; and upon the termination of this lease will yield up said premises to said party of the first part in good condition and repair (loss by fire and ordinary wear excepted).

THIRD.—That he will not sub-let said premises, nor any part thereof, nor assign this lease without the written consent of the party of the first part first had.

FOURTH.—To pay (in addition to the rents above specified) all water rents taxed, levied or charged on said demised premises, for and during the time for which this lease is granted.

The party of the second part hereby irrevocably constitutes Walter Senne or any attorney of any Court of Record, attorney for him in his name, on default by him of any of the covenants herein, to enter appearance in any such Court of Record, waive process and service thereof, and trial by jury, and confess judgment against him in favor of said party of the first part, or his assigns for forcible detainer of said premises, with costs of said suit; and also to enter the appearance in such court of the party of the second part, waive process and service thereof, and confess judgment from time to time, for any rent which may be due to said party of the first part, or the assignees of said party by the terms of this lease, with costs, and Twenty Dollars attorney's fees, and to waive all errors and all right of appeal, from said judgment and judgments; and to file a consent in writing that a writ of restitution or other proper writ of execution may be issued immediately; said party of the second part hereby expressly waives all right to any notice or demand under any statute in this state relating to forcible entry and detainer.

In case said premises shall be rendered untenable by fire or other casualty, the lessor, may, at his option, terminate this lease, or repair said premises within thirty days, and failing so to do or upon the destruction of said premises by fire, the term hereby created shall cease and determine.

All the parties to this lease agree that the covenants and agreements herein contained shall be binding upon, apply and inure to, their respective heirs, executors, administrators and assigns.

Witness the hands and seals of the parties hereto the day and year first above written.

IN PRESENCE OF

SenneSenneSenne

THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH, That the grantor, John Stone,

a bachelor, of the County of Cook and State of Illinois, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00), and other good and valuable considerations in hand paid, conveys and warrants to Robert R. McCormick, of the City of Chicago, County of Cook and State of Illinois, the following described real estate, to-wit:

Beginning at the North West corner of Section Eleven (11), Township Thirty-six (36) North, Range Six (6), East of the Third Principal Meridian, thence South on the West line of said section 2640 links to the North line of the C. B. & Q. Railway right-of-way, thence North 61° East 5051 links, thence North 1° 30' East 9877 links to the South bank of Fox River, thence South 45° West 840 links, thence South 82° West 1052 links, thence South 83° West 979 links, thence South 1° 30' West 8830 links to the North line of Section 11, thence on the North line of Section 11, 1842 links to place of beginning, containing 300 acres, more or less, and situate in the County of Kendall and State of Illinois; also,

A part of the South half of Section Thirty-four (34), Township Thirty-seven (37) North, Range Six (6), East of the Third Principal Meridian, being a part of Sub-lot Fourteen (14) and all of Sub-lot Fifteen (15), of said Section 34 and described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing in the center of the Fox River Road at a point 14 chains South from the center of said Section 34, thence East 8.10 chains, thence North 2° 45' East 55 links to a large stone in the center of the road, thence North 84° 24' East along the center of said road 15.06 chains, thence North 11° 30' East 50 links, thence South 9.95 chains to the north bank of Fox River, thence Westerly along said river bank about 33 chains to the mouth of Big Rock Creek and near the bridge across said creek, thence North 65° West 1.40 chains to the east end of said bridge, thence North 25° East 10.13 chains, thence North 50° East 3 chains, thence East 4.50 chains to the place of beginning, containing 32 acres, more or less, situate in the County of Kendall and State of Illinois; also,

A part of the East half of Section Thirty-four (34), and a part of the West half of Section Thirty-five (35), all in Township Thirty-seven (37) North, Range Six (6), East of the Third Principal Meridian, described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing on the section line between said Sections 34 and 35 on the north bank of Fox River, thence Westerly along the north bank of Fox River 18.78 chains to a stake at the mouth of Rob Roy Slough, thence North



R E L E A S E

undersigned, Mack Scharfneck, of Plano, in the County of Kendall and

State of Illinois, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, by  
TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL OR MAY COME, GREETING;

Col. R. R. McCormick, the undersigned has received, released and fully  
over discharged, and by these presents does for himself, his heirs,

WHEREAS, MACK SCHARFNECK has been a trespasser and/or  
squatter on an island in the Fox River, the property of Col. R. R.  
McCormick, said property being described as follows:

An island in the Fox River, which river is bounded  
from the north by what was formerly known as the Petrik  
farm and on the south by what was formerly known as the  
Hey farm, both said farms being now owned by said Col. R. R.  
McCormick.

occurred from the beginning of the world to the date of this instrument.  
WHEREAS, the undersigned admits having trespassed on the  
said property, and admits that said property on which he was trespassing  
or causes of action in law or in equity arising out of or from  
was and is owned by Col. R. R. McCormick, and that said trespassing was  
the act of the undersigned on May 2, 1935, and that said trespassing  
without the consent or permission of Col. R. R. McCormick or his agents  
of the undersigned to release and receive Col. R. R. McCormick, his  
or servants, and

Tribune Company and his and its servants, agents and attorneys as fully  
WHEREAS, the said undersigned has been arrested under a  
as may be from every claim of every nature in regard to any matter or  
warrant issued by reason and because of said trespassing, and  
thing prior to the date of this instrument.

WHEREAS, the said undersigned has agreed not to trespass  
further on the said island, or on any other property of The Tribune  
this 23rd day of May, A. D. 1935.  
Company and/or Col. R. R. McCormick, and

WHEREAS, the Hon. Mr. Skinner, Justice of the Peace, has  
agreed that on the promise of the said undersigned to discontinue his  
trespassing, said action against the undersigned shall be terminated and  
dismissed, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the undersigned to release and  
discharge any or all claims or alleged claims against The Tribune Company,  
Col. R. R. McCormick and its and his servants, agents and attorneys.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of One Dollar  
(\$1.00) lawful money of the United States of America in hand paid to the

M. S.  
- 2 -

(COPY)  
Original sent to Mr. Wallace Clark

KIRKLAND, FLEMING, GREEN & MARTIN

Chicago

September 19, 1928

Colonel Robert R. McCormick  
Tribune Square  
BY TUBE

Dear Colonel:

RE: COLONEL ROBERT R. MCCORMICK  
FOX RIVER FARMS.

Your letter of September 14th, enclosing leases prepared in triplicate between yourself and Clarence Thurow and Ole A. Johnson respectively, which was addressed to the firm, was assigned to our real estate department and the leases carefully analyzed. The correspondence and leases have since been submitted to me and I have carefully examined them, together with the report prepared by the real estate department.

These leases are very general in form, as farm leases must necessarily be, but I wish to make the following comments:

(1) In accordance with your suggestion, we have added a provision to the Thurow lease provided for your right to obtain water from the well on the Hay place.

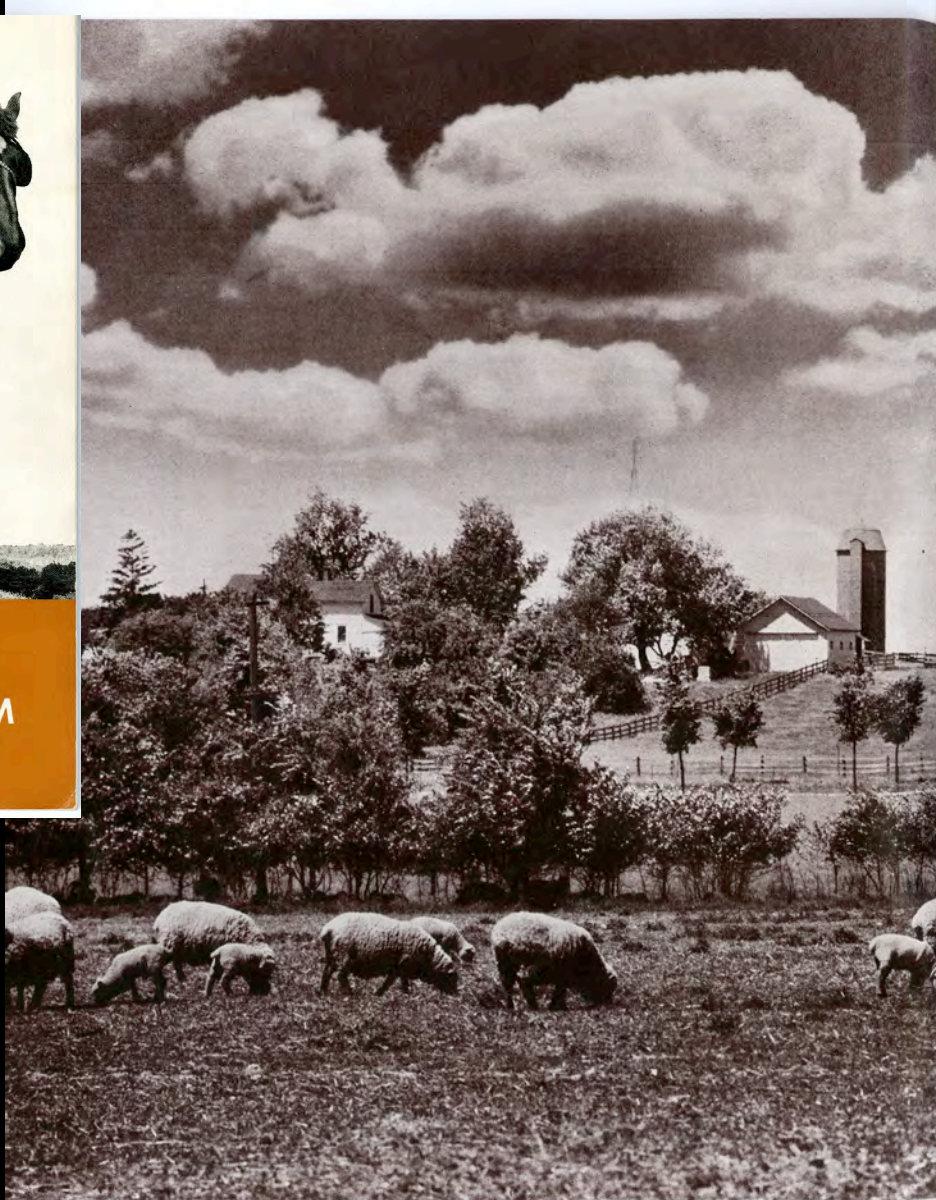
(2) Both leases provide that the horses necessary to be used for the cultivation of the land shall be fed out of undivided grain. No change has been made by us in this provision, but it has occurred to us that there perhaps should be some more definite limitation as to how many horses or how much stock are to be fed by the tenant out of this grain. Do you think that there should be any further limitation, and if so do you have in mind what it should be?

(3) The leases provide that a division shall be made at the time the crops are harvested or otherwise gathered and marketed and put in cribs or bins. This appears to leave open the question of whether the crops are to be sold immediately after threshing or whether they should be stored. It seems to us that you should have a voice in determining this, and I would like to know what you think about it.





**DAY BY DAY**  
**ON THE FARM**  
by FRANK RIDGWAY



**M**ATERIAL and pictures in this book were selected from "Day by Day Stories of the Experimental Farms" regularly printed in *The Chicago Tribune* since the early part of 1934 when tests of rare crops, live stock breeding trials, and new farm practices were started on the Tribune's farms in northern Illinois. This column deals with year around activities on the farms—one of 1,332 acres near Yorkville and the other of 1,000 acres near Wheaton, Ill.

The farms are dedicated to:

1. Aiding farmers in developing economic improvements.
2. Focusing the attention of the middle west upon better uses of natural resources.
3. Building good will between the city and country.

### HOW TO REACH THE FARMS

Visitors are welcome at the Tribune farms any day in the week. Guides are furnished at both farms. The Wheaton farm is 30 miles west of Chicago. It may be reached from Chicago\* by taking Roosevelt road (U. S. highway 330) to Maramy road, two miles west of Wheaton, and turning left one mile. The Yorkville farm is reached from Chicago over Ogden avenue to U. S. highway 34 through Naperville and Aurora to state route 47 and left to Yorkville. Follow Tribune farm signs from Yorkville.



# News of The Tribune Experimental Farm

By  
Frank  
Ridgway

## Strange Crops

July 30, 1935.

**F**IELDS, plots, and rows all have been labeled and numbered with new signs so that visitors will have no difficulty in identifying the foreign plants now being tested at the Tribune Experimental farm two miles west and one mile south of Wheaton.

veteran northern Illinois farmers, as well as city visitors, find many strange plants, including pyrethrum, safflower, and crotalaria, at the farm. On the plots here many visitors for the first time have seen cotton growing. The cotton plants in field A at the Wheaton farm are thriving.

Safflower made a good showing for the first few weeks, but has been injured somewhat lately by the weather and insects. This crop is making a much better start this year than it did last season when it was tried out at the Tribune farm near Yorkville. Last year the crop was almost a failure because of extreme dry weather. Safflower, commonly grown in Egypt and India, is a stranger in this part of the United States. It seems to do best in the spring wheat region of Minnesota, Nebraska, Montana, and the Dakotas. The crop is grown extensively in Russia.

Experts have found that the oil obtained from safflower seed appears to have possibilities in the manufacturing of paints, varnishes, enamels, and related products. The oil may be used in paint as is oil from flaxseed. It is not intended that safflower replace flax, even if it proves profitable.

Safflower seed as a source of oil may be used to supplement flaxseed. Normally flax production in this country is about half the national consumption, which indicates that there is need for the production of more oil producing seeds.

The safflower plants growing in field B, plot No. 1, rows 1 to 18, range from 12 to 18 inches high. The buds are beginning to form. The flowers are expected to open soon. The blossoms of safflower attracted attention last fall when they were displayed in THE TRIBUNE's loop office at 1 South Dearborn street. The petals of safflower blooms contain yellow and red coloring matter. The pigment of these flowers is said to be valuable in making lipstick and rouge.

Pyrethrum plants are from 3 to 6 inches high in plot No. 3. A small quantity of pyrethrum seed from Persia and another lot from Japan were started in the greenhouse at the farm in January. These are the plants that are making a fair showing. Seeds planted in the open plots this spring failed to come up.

Crotalaria, another stranger in northern Illinois, is being tested again this year. The juncea or fiber type of crotalaria will soon be waist high—the plants already range from 18 inches up to about three feet. In contrast to this tall growing crotalaria is the incana or forage type. Incana resembles some of the other legumes commonly grown in this region. In the plots today juncea plants are about twice as tall as the incana.

# News of The Tribune Experimental Farm

By  
Frank  
Ridgway

## Turkeys Grow Fat

November 8, 1937.

**W**ITH Thanksgiving only two weeks away, families on the Tribune's Wheaton farm are making preparations for celebrating with other American farmers the bountiful crop of 1937. Sixty-eight bronze and bourbon red turkeys are being fattened on golden corn from this season's harvest. They will be used during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

The farmers' wives already are searching for their favorite Thanksgiving menus cataloged in their memories and cook books. They will be able to start off with about the finest birds they have had to cook for many years. All summer the turkeys were allowed to run wild in the woods and pastures, where they fed on great quantities of vegetation and insects. For many weeks their craws were stuffed with plump grasshoppers. They will be finished on a liberal allowance of corn.

### Live Naturally.

The system regularly followed is to keep only enough hens and gobblers to produce birds for the farm. The number produced depends somewhat upon weather and natural feed conditions, because the hens are allowed to range just as wild turkeys, building nests under brush piles or bushes. As a rule none of the birds is sold. Most of them likely will be consumed on the farm this fall and winter. Last year, however, the season was extremely favorable and the hens camp up in the fall at fattening time with approximately 100 young turkeys. After the families had eaten all they wanted during the holi-

days 16 birds, averaging 10 pounds each, were sold.

The turkeys are expected to weigh more this season than last, which will offset to some extent the smaller number produced. If the poultry keeper has good luck in keeping the 68 birds raised to maturity, there will be plenty for roasting during the holidays and enough left for the breeding flock next year.

The farmers' wives are willing to join the men in experimental work by testing out favorite Thanksgiving menus. They invite TRIBUNE readers to make suggestions. Perhaps you have a pet menu for a Thanksgiving day dinner. It may be one handed down in the family for generations. Here's your chance to pass it along to others. Send your favorite menu with recipes showing how to prepare the "fixin's." Address the Agricultural Editor, CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

### Favorite Visiting Hour.

Turkey feeding time in the late afternoon has become a favorite hour for visitors who happen to be at the farm. Cameras are clicked many times when visitors catch a favorite view of the flock running in off the range or when they are down to the serious business of bobbing heads up and down over a freshly scattered batch of corn.

The turkeys and lambs now on feed were among the things of chief interest to the 1,608 men, women, and children who visited the farm in October. Large groups of school children continue to make tours over the farm. A party of 59 from the Progressive Play club hiked over the farm on Oct. 30. Between 11,000 and 12,000 visitors have registered at the Wheaton place this year.



CHICAGO TRIBUNE EXPERIMENTAL FARM

Possible Projects for 1934.

A. Field Crops

1. Alfalfa variety trials.
2. Lespedeza variety trials.
3. Malting barley trials.
4. Rare or unusual crops.
5. Pasture improvement methods.
6. Flax tests.
7. Corn variety and breeding tests.
8. Soybeans for hay, grain and green manure.
9. Crops to check erosion.
10. Treatment for quack grass and thistles.
11. New crops for nursing clovers to replace small grains.
12. Methods of combatting chinch bugs and white grubs.

B. Live Stock

1. Use of horses vs. tractors for power.
2. Breeding poultry for major market demands.
3. Crossing long wool and meat breeds of sheep to obtain more and better wool.
4. Use of milk products in animal feeds.
5. Feeding methods for cattle and hogs.
6. Value of increasing butterfat content of dairy herd production.

C. Farm Management Practices to Reduce Production Costs.

1. Economies and advantages in using various types of paints, posts, and other products.
2. Planning crops for minimum of slack time or peak labor loads.

D. Methods of Improving Markets for Farm Products

1. Study of possible revenue from woodlots.



## A. Field Crops.

1. Alfalfa Trials. A total of 40 acres of alfalfa is being grown, to determine best varieties or strains under northern Illinois conditions. Fourteen acres of this are sown with malting barley as the nurse crop. One seven acre plot near the picnic grounds will contain at least 20 regional strains or types side by side for comparisons. The types thus far include:
 

Utah Blue Jay Grimm	Minnesota Grimm
Montana Common	Michigan Grimm
Kansas Common	Turkistan (imported from Turkistan)
Lyman Montana Grimm	Ladak (new type from Montana)
Colorado Common	Hardigan (Michigan type of Grimm)
Utah (Bee Hive) Common	Hairy Peruvian (Peru via Arizona)
Oklahoma Common	Chilean (Chile via Arizona)
Idaho Common	Canadian Variegated
Idaho Certified Grimm	Cossack (Russian type)
Dakota 12	Blackfoot Certified Grimm (Idaho)
2. Lespedeza Trials. Several selections of lespedeza being tried, some inoculated to add nitrogen to the soil, and some without. Some of the rare strains, such as Harbin's lespedeza, selling for \$1 to \$2 per ounce, being sowed in rows for seed production. The crop is now largely a southern crop, but can gradually be adapted to northern Illinois, it is believed. Strains on trial:
 

Korean lespedeza  
Harbin lespedeza (strain of Korean)  
Lespedeza sericea (a perennial)
3. Malting Barley Trials. Two of the three leading varieties of barley selected by maltsters as that on which they would pay a premium, are being tried, each on a seven acre plot with an extra one acre sowed in the soybean field. Velvet, one of the three, adapted to Minnesota and the Dakotas and Montana. Those on trial at Yorkville are Wisconsin 38 and Oderbrucker. Very little barley is being grown this year in the cornbelt, due to chinch bug menace, and very little malting barley grown anywhere, most of the barley being for animal feed.
4. Rare or Unusual Crops. Small plots are being laid out in rows in which samples of special crops will be seeded early in May. Those showing promise will be encouraged and those maturing or showing practical worth will be sown in larger amounts in 1935. A sample of each kind of seed sown on the farm will be mounted under glass, (after being treated for weevils) and placed in a case in the information booth at the farm. It has been proposed also that a drawing of each plant should be mounted with the seed as a means of identification for visitors. Some of the crops to be grown include:

field crops 2.

new and rare crops include:

mile maize	Federita
white kaffir	waconia orange cane
safflower	Mammoth Russian sunflower
buckwheat	syrup cane (early amber)
broom corn	sudan grass
Russian seed producing hemp	sesame (small tan seeds, not black)
German millet	pyrethrum (type of daisy)
Japanese millet	crotalaria (legume)
Hungarian millet	derris (woody vine, roots of value)
Proso (type of millet)	Hubam (annual sweet clover)
White Wonder millet	hemp for fiber
Reed canary grass (phalaris)	easycook beans
14 kinds of soybeans	cowpeas

5. Pasture Improvement Methods. Pasture lands now constitute about one third of all tillable farm lands in the corn belt. Mostly in rundown condition. Plot of 20 acres with gullies being used. Some is heavily manured, other lightly treated and some without fertilizer for comparison. Has been tilled on surface and sown to varying amounts of a pasture mixture of 35% Kentucky bluegrass, 30% timothy, 20% red top, 10% red clover and 5% alsike. Highest rate of seeding, 18 lbs. per acre.  
Another test will be run using pastures alternately with wastes from field crop areas. In some fields, a wide margin of grass is being left for bird cover, grazing in extreme drouth and convenience in farm tillage. In one pasture sudan grass and soybeans will be planted together, - harvesting one crop of sudan hay and pasturing remainder late in fall, balance plowed under.
6. Flax Tests. Twenty-eight acres sown to Bison flax on April 18 for seed as a crop to substitute for oats or wheat, both of which are low priced yet needed as nurse crops or in rotations. Flaxseed is bringing better prices than oats and is now on an import basis so that expansion of acreage is possible. Trying it also as a nurse crop for clover or alfalfa on 20 acres with early harvesting planned when work is slack on farm. Can be seeded early in April, since it is a cool weather crop. Seed produces linseed oil and a meal for animal feeds.
7. Corn Variety and Breeding. Planting small plot soon after May 1 to every kind of corn which might mature in this region, including high producing hybrids, those resistant to chinch bugs and others indicating resistance to corn borers and to drouth as well as diseases. Fifty-five acres also planted to varieties from various state experiment stations developed in tests and now being tried on farm scale.



Chicago Tribune  
THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

Sept 21 1940



Dear Neisz

Do you think an article on the digestive processes of the different animals would be interesting?

The various stomachs of the ruminates— that a horse hasn't any bowel, and that the pig is the most nearly alike to a human— if that is so.

→ *Diaries for Sept. 25 + 26.*

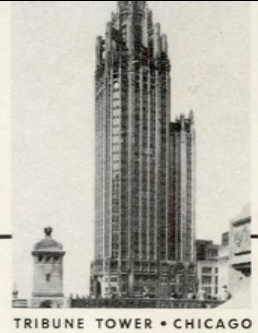
Sincerely

MR HOMER NEISZ

B

Chicago Tribune  
THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

May 19 1939



Dear Neisz

There is a lot of mustard this year.  
Is it bad enough weed to make it desirable to pull it - the only way it can be gotted rid of?

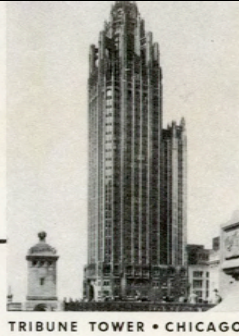
→ *Story June 5.*

Sincerely,

Mr. Homer Neisz

Chicago Tribune  
THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

May 11 1939



TRIBUNE TOWER • CHICAGO

Dear Neisz

The cows went out on grass today. Note the change  
in the milk.

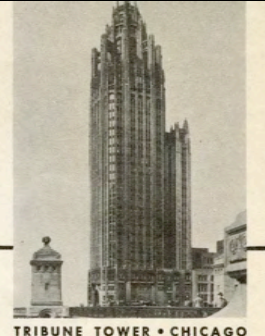
Sincerely

*R. M. C.*  
B

MR HOMER NEISZ  
LOCAL ROOM

*Story for May 23*

5/13/39  
Chicago Tribune  
THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER



TRIBUNE TOWER • CHICAGO

August 9, 1939

*Mr. J. L. Maloney*

Dear Pat:

A story on the increasing use of hybrid corn since Wallace  
(has been in office.

*→ Story for  
Aug. 13.*  
mg

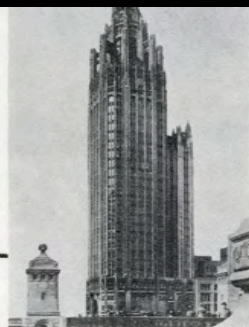
Sincerely,

*m.c.*



# Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER



TRIBUNE TOWER • CHICAGO

April 2, 1951

Colonel Robert R McCormick

Dear Colonel McCormick:

Clarence reports he has lost the first two litters of spring pigs (12 pigs per litter) to a disease the veterinarian has diagnosed as transmissible gastroenteritis. This is a virus infection which crops up every spring but outbreaks seem to be somewhat more wide spread this season in Illinois and Iowa. The agricultural colleges are experimenting with various anti-biotics to try to halt the disease but thus far have had no success.

I have scheduled a farm column on this subject.

Sincerely,

Richard Orr

jp

# Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER



TRIBUNE TOWER • CHICAGO

March 11, 1937.

Mr. Charles Rush,  
Kirkland, Fleming, Green,  
Martin and Ellis,  
33 N. La Salle Street,  
Chicago.

Dear Mr. Rush:

Colonel McCormick wants a contract prepared that will protect the Wheaton farm in growing milkweed for experimental purposes. I think here are all the facts:

Edmund F. Hoskins, 117 N. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, has agreed to pay to Carl Henderson, manager, Tribune Wheaton experimental farm, Wheaton, Illinois, the sum of \$50 a ton for milkweed plants, dry weight. The payment is to be made at the time the weeds are delivered. The Tribune farm is to grow the milkweeds from roots that will produce a crop for harvest this year (1937). Mr. Hoskins also agrees to pay extra for the labor in removing the pods from the milkweeds. The weeds are to be turned over to Mr. Hoskins at the farm. In other words, Mr. Hoskins is to pay whatever transportation cost there may be for moving the weeds off the farm. *one acre of*

Carl Henderson will sign the contract as the Colonel's agent. I suppose you have precedent for this.

Mr. Hoskins has agreed to furnish the farm satisfactory evidence that he will be able to pay for the weeds. Have you a suggestion to make that would guide us in securing the necessary financial reference that would protect the farm?

I would like very much to have the copies of this contract sometime between now and Saturday.

Very truly yours,

Frank Ridgway,  
Agricultural Editor.

RB.



September 15, 1952

Dear Eddie

If we have any poison on the farm,  
see that it is locked up and only one man has the  
key to it.

Sincerely

Mr. Eddie Edwards  
R.R.No 2  
West Chicago, Illinois

b

# Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

TRIBUNE SQUARE

CHICAGO

November 28, 1936

Dear Corpening:

See what you can find out about  
this man Davis .... how good he is and how much  
he knows.

Yours sincerely,

M/m

*Edwin B. Penwalt*  
*Go Am Democrat*

*Edwards Payton*  
*Edwards Sun -*  
*James Wilhelm -*



C  
O  
P  
Y

Colonel Robert R. McCormick  
Tribune Square  
Chicago, Illinois

OK

Dear Colonel McCormick:

The lady Dr. Farnsworth on the staff at Passavant hospital is very much interested in the building site North side of Fox River at the extreme western end where the road leading off the north end of bridge (River) forms the boundary of the original small Petrik farm which I believe consisted of about 30 acres.

Of this tract she desires as I understand the extreme west end of this small tract or about 7 or 8 acres or there in. Which would leave the pasture with the Rob Roy Creek between North river road and river available for a herd of cattle such as we have for use which is very essential to the pasture and year around watering for our live stock.

As a building site and is a desireable one consisting of a certain amount of acres up to 8 or 9 acres or even up to 6 or seven acres the price per acre with the buildings seems that you should have at least \$5000.00 to \$7000.00 for the 6 or seven acres. And her needs may require a few more acres.

As further comment the purchaser who I know introduces herself as Dr. Farnsworth desires the beauty in this small tract to build.

The buildings that are there now are in good shape at present.

The party also feels secure as to adjoining land would not be cause for anything other than a quiet and desirable surrounding.

Sincerely,  
(signed) Clarence Thurow

CW  
11/28/44

8 acres - 500.00  
Sup 8809  
AL 1059

EDITH B. FARNSWORTH agrees to buy at the price of FOUR THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$4,765) the following described real estate, in Kendall County, Illinois: by buyer, the further sum of FOUR

That part of the South 1/2 of Section 34, Township 37 North, as Range 6, East of the Third Principal Meridian, described as follows: Commencing in the center of Fox River Road at a point 14 chains South from the center of said Section 34, running thence East along the center of said Road 236.13 feet; thence South along a line parallel with the North and South center line of said Section 34, 582.61 feet to the North bank of the Fox River; thence Westerly along the North bank of the Fox River to the center of the Plano-Milbrook Road; thence Northerly along the center of said Plano-Milbrook Road to where the same intersects the center line of said Fox River Road; thence Easterly along the center of said Fox River Road to the place of beginning, containing 9.53 acres, Illinois, as evidence

and ROBERT R. McCORMICK agrees to sell said premises at said price, and to convey to buyer good title hereto by warranty deed, with release of dower and homestead rights, subject only to: Buyer, within

- (1) Special taxes or assessments for improvements not yet completed;
- (2) Installments not due at date hereof of any special tax or assessment for improvements heretofore completed;
- (3) General taxes for the year 1945 and subsequent years;
- (4) Building lines and building and liquor restrictions of record;
- (5) Zoning and building laws or ordinances; and
- (6) Roads and highways, if any.

General taxes for the year 1945 are to be prorated from January 1, to date of delivery of deed. If the amount of such taxes is not then ascertainable, prorating shall be on the basis of the amount of the most recent ascertainable taxes.

the parties hereto, and after consummation the canceled contract may be retained by the escrowee.

This contract shall not be assigned by the buyer unless she shall have obtained written consent from the seller to such assignment.

Dated the 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1949.

*Conceded*  
Edith B. Farnsworth (SEAL)  
Robert R. McCormick (SEAL)



~~Check deposited in Lake Shore Bank~~

Check deposited in First Natl Bank glb

May 27, 1953

Colonel Robert R. McCormick

Dear Colonel:

Herewith is check in amount \$56,000 from Lake Shore National Bank, representing proceeds from sale of Thurow farm mortgage at par.

This is wind-up of Kendall County farms.

Sincerely,

*W A Larson*  
W A LARSON

- All properties had been sold off by 1953; McCormick died in 1955.
- Large portion of former Tribune Experimental Farm transitions to Silver Spring State Park in 1969.

- How to access this collection?
- One-on-one research consultations:  
[specialcollections@northwestern.edu](mailto:specialcollections@northwestern.edu)
- Reading room open M-F, 10am-4pm by appointment
- No big digitization plans currently but there is a high likelihood that parts of this collection will be digitized in the future



Benn Joseph  
Northwestern University Libraries  
[benn.joseph@northwestern.edu](mailto:benn.joseph@northwestern.edu)



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