

University of Illinois Student Life and Culture Archives

Allen Recordings of Agricultural History (Part 8)

UI Centennial Project

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Ralph Allen: It's most always the case, wherever you find a good man, there's one or more good women around. And we'll see what the circumstances are in this case. Now, Professor Joseph Blair, you have a photograph before you of a very charming lady and her husband. Will you please tell me about that case?

Joseph Blair: Well, this is Father and Mother, who came from Blair Atholl, Scotland, to the province of Nova Scotia, years ago. Well before I was born, naturally. And one of the interesting things to me is that my mother was a Blair before she married Colonel William Blair of Nova Scotia. They're both from Blair Atholl, Scotland. Well, they were not related, but they after marriage, of course, they commenced to come in, a few children at the time. And through the years, the family grew to be five boys and five girls, ten children. We were called purebreds in Nova Scotia because of the fact that our mother had the same name before marriage that Father had.

Well, we worked on the farm. We had a nice little farm in the Colchester Mallet, not far from the present town of Truro, about 80 miles inland from Halifax. The farm was known as a great potato growing section and stock raising too. So on the farm we learned to do all the chores that are associated with dairy cattle raising, sheep raising, and potato growing, of wheat and oats and so on. But it seemed to me that there were too many people on the farm, so as a boy, somewhere between 17 and 18, I thought it was a good idea to get away and leave more food produced on the farm for the rest of the children.

So went out of Halifax and helped to load a ship there. We headed from Halifax to New York, but we never reached New York because we got into a perfect storm. And after pounding around for four days and four nights on the Atlantic, we finally got into Boston Harbor. I'll never forget my first footing on American soil, on USA soil in Boston. I was too seasick to stand up. And even the wharf, to which the boat was tied was kind of wobbly it seemed to me, so I rested for quite a while before I went up into the city of Boston. And after staying there for a little while, I went down towards New York. I went into New York City, and to my amazement, I saw the great Brooklyn Bridge that had recently been opened. Being a farmer, I knew that there weren't, I could see, I didn't think there were enough of those, what they call wires, or the ropes, as some of them call it, to hold that bridge up. It was 40 years later that I learned that my guess was not correct, that they had to double the strength durability of those cables.

Well from New York I went over to Ithaca. It was the first day of April, April Fool's Day, in 1892, just 57 years ago, this coming April, that I stepped off the train and went by taxi down into the city of Ithaca. I was a farm boy and the city intrigued me, but the first thing that I had to do, because I was out of money, I had to get a job and I was able to get some very good jobs, pruning trees and grapevines and that sort of thing. It wasn't long until I met the dean of agriculture. And then a few days later, Liberty Hyde Bailey, who was known the world over for his many explorations in the wild country as well as in the cultivated sections of the world. Liberty Hyde Bailey is pictured as you know in the last month's January 17th, *Life* magazine. And it gives a very good picture of a man who is now 90 years old, a little past. There I became interested in my ability to do certain things, like pruning grapes. And he intrigued me into doing some chores for him.

I liked to work. He liked to see a man that liked to work, or a boy that liked to work. And one of that first experience where he introduced me to go into some of his classes, into some of the classes in chemistry and other departments of the College of Agriculture at Ithaca. And so I stayed there during a period of four years, and kissed Cornell University goodbye, for the time being at least, came over into Illinois. I'm finishing now, 53 consecutive years in the University of Illinois. The last few years they call it the retiring age, and I'm supposed to lie down on a shelf but I'm not built that way. I like to work today as I did on the farm in Nova Scotia. I like to meet the farmers, as I have today, at the farm and home make. I like to shake hands with the older boys and then the sons and the daughters of those that used to come here and take a degree from the University of Illinois some 30 to 40 years ago. So we've traveled a long way, and yet my home has been and will be in the beautiful country of central Illinois with headquarters at Urbana. I'm grateful for the opportunity I've had through these years for meeting thousands of farmers, many businessmen, and getting acquainted with these noted characters who have done so much for the development of the agriculture of the Central West. That's all for today.

RA: This is November 27, 1967. This is Ralph Allen Jr. speaking in his farm home, Allen Valley, Delavan, Illinois. A conversation will take place here with his older brother, Pascal Allen, and his wife, Edith Hatch Allen. Paschal is 86 years old. When he was born, the University of Illinois was only 14 years old. And he attended that institution in the early 1900s when it was still in its early youth. So he probably remembers a good deal of the growing pains that took place there while the university was starting its development toward the great institution it is today. Now I will let him elaborate on what he remembers about his early student days, and he can carry on this narration until he gets fatigued and then he can turn it over to his wife, Edith.

Paschal Allen: I went to the university in the fall of 1900. I graduated that spring from accredited high school in Delavan, Illinois, and matriculated. But I found that a good many of the agricultural students didn't have that advantage of high school and were kind of special students. They were building the agricultural building. Afterwards, Davenport Hall, I think they called it afterwards. The only one completed. And I registered. [Crosstalk] [Inaudible] And I told him that he was up there on the experiment station, up on the top floor. And we went

up there and that's the first time we ever met. [Crosstalk] And I sat there a little while and I left. And they were always there on my [inaudible] farmer's institute [inaudible] correspondence.

RA: And then to recollect, you mentioned before we got to recording about how you got registered. And you was placed in a position that just didn't [run clear?] before you. Do that again? The man with the name of Ward?

PA: Well, there was a Professor Ward. I guess he was he was the [inaudible]. He this man that took charge of me to get registered. And I took the required studies like rhetoric and a few other things that were required. And he put me down in soil physics. He was a teacher of that. So I found later that the work that we met there was in the University Morrow, down in the basement. The agricultural building was [improcessibility?]. The inside laboratory and things weren't complete. It wasn't in use. And I think probably that important at his office and different things in there. After Christmas, after the holidays, second semester, we moved in and we took soil physics and had a laboratory and different things there. And that was annoying but the building wasn't complete at that time. And biomechanics, that was another subject I had Dr. [Crane?] and he worked on that all himself. It seemed to be probably the first class for that. And he spent most of his time getting machinery. Well, we did start surveying and laying out tile. That's just nothing new. We had our [inaudible] and we went out and laid tile, laid out some tiles, and the city like civil engineers. And then during the winter, why he took us to the McCormick and Gearing and Champion Harvester something.

RA: Where was that, [inaudible]?

PA: Well, Gearing and McCormick were in Chicago, and the other was over down in Ohio. The Ohio trick was quite an elaborate affair. They took the whole agricultural school over there on a train. It was quite a trick. There's pictures taken of it, and I think they have the pictures. A picture of that whole [inaudible] used to be in Davenport's office. I don't know where it is now. I had one of pictures but it burned up when Father's house burnt. Lost that picture.

RA: What kind of machinery did they collect? Mostly [crosstalk] harvesting?

PA: Well, all kinds.

RA: Did they know how to operate them or-

PA: Oh yes, McCormick had the binders and different things. They had the [knotter?] half of the year or something like that. But he had the knotter. He was there one time and showed us this knotter he made. [Inaudible] they made one of their own. They had a different [inaudible]. And the champion they had [inaudible]. They even had a corn picker. I think that was... I don't know that's the daring or about afterwards, but the two went together. [Inaudible] bearing. But I had it rolled by horses and took one roll. And it's the same principle that they've got now, those snapping rolls. And the power was all horse, you know, had to drive... Probably very happy it wasn't too successful. It didn't have enough power. Was awful hard on the- five horses were tied to pull it. Had to have them strung out so they could put on more. It was hard to drive. And we had to have another wagon going alongside to get the corn, took another team and another man, and I never heard much about it until after we got the gas engines started and that changed all the machinery, the power of gas. He told me once about the difficulty of operating a crash machine, not that he thought of [inaudible].

RA: Well, Crane didn't know anything about machinery to get right down the bottom of it.

And they had some [inaudible] and he got a brand-new crash machine in there and a brand-new steam engine. We went out one day to crash and it was quite a new machine. In fact, he didn't know anything about it. The boys knew more than he did. Nobody could run the engine. They finally got one of the boys that knew about it to run the engine. He'd run it. He did a good job, but it's brand new and the bearing of the main got hot and he made them stop. He had to put water on it, cool it down. And then I know the teeth got [the kitten?] and so I knocked out one tooth and went through the machine. I told him I used to cut dams. I saw [the teeth can't do anything?] So we took it out and examined the cylinder and made it so everything was all right.

RA: Is that a self-feeding machine?

No, we pitched thing into it. [Inaudible] had self-feeders, self-feeding machine. But I don't know, I always wondered what people thought about machine handling. It seems like they like to have their different- a lot of new machines for farming, dairy, and...

RA: Who was president when they started this?

PA: Draper.

RA: What was your impression of him?

PA: I remember it was- he didn't, he was an Eastern man, didn't know much about agriculture. And I guess time he left, he began to see [inaudible] up on top of the ag building.

RA: What was that?

PA: I think the most of it is agricultural money that's supposed to be for agriculture and paid his salary and he used for different purposes. Had quite a time getting appropriations and things. Never got any from Draper. But I think afterwards he changed his mind and began to date some gal. The boys in school was a lot out of small towns, didn't have high schools and boys didn't come there, so they had a lot of special students. Those that did come had to go about five years before to get back to work.

RA: Which class were turned shirt horns?

PA: Huh?

RA: Which class were known as shirt horns?

PA: They were the boys that took the short courses cause they didn't know much about chemistry and they couldn't take [unknown] and other things but they could take-

RA: What other professors were there at your time?

PA: Well Kennedy was there. An [algebra?] man and he was quite a good judge of cattle, and he brought the International with each class and they seemed to win, but I think he was the judge. And I think Davenport didn't think much of it. And he finally, I guess he didn't study up in other things. Anyway, he went to Iowa. And he went there to Iowa once, the international on their judging teams. And those were-

RA: Were you in Dr. Bows class, you know him?

PA: Well, I took bacteriology, I mean. And that was kind of a new thing. And he taught that class. I took- they put me in landscape gardening, the first year, there's mostly seniors there. And Dr. Barrett was the teacher of that class. And-

RA: Dr. [Joseph Barrett?].

PA: The man is still there. [Crosstalk] I came in at that time and took some of the classes he did.

RA: And Father Allen, the boomer, certificated the graduation. It was signed by all the faculty members and all the trustees. And C.J. Burrow was on the faculty. And I used to say it, he was on the faculty when you was there in 1900. And he was on the faculty when I was there in 1908. He was a pretty long-lasting professor. Well, and reading over the trustees, the several of them that were on the original board when the university was organized and signed father's diploma. You want to rest around and let Edith take over? We'll give you a rest a while now, Paschal, and Edith Hatch Allen will take over and tell what she remembers about her acquaintance with the university.

Edith Hatch Allen: My uncle Miles Hatch was in the first graduating class. He afterward farmed for a couple of years on his father's farm and then moved out west to Washington Territory, where he again farmed. In a couple more years, he sent for his childhood sweetheart. He took the train and went to San Francisco where they were married, then took both up to Tacoma. Tacoma was always his hometown, and he was always interested in agriculture. He had his farm on Vashon Island, which is out in the bay, just in front of Tacoma. And on that island, he helped to found Vashon College, which was flourishing for quite a number of years but finally burned down and was not rebuilt.

He took some part in lumbering, which was an early industry out there. And for quite a number of years, he belonged to the state legislature. He acquired quite a little farm property. As an old man, when he no longer could farm actively, he took up his old algebra and worked again the problems for recreation. At the same time, his brother, Fred Hatch, who was in the second class, went to the university. They went together. They had not much money, so they had to make do with what little they had. Uncle Fred has told me they had one good overcoat between them, so they took turns going to church on Sunday.

Fred Hatch came home after graduation, and they farmed together for a year ago before Miles went out west. Fred Hatch married a girl that he met at university, Ann Reynolds, but she died after a few years, and he was by himself for quite a few years. He always had a companionship with his books. He was a great reader, and he loved to quote poetry, especially James Whitcomb Riley and others of that time. He was the first man to build a silo in our part of the world, and he also introduced alfalfa. He was a trustee of the university, and when I remember him as a child, he was very fond with little girls, and we were his only nieces, so he was always a great hand to come up and visit his mother, and there we would see him. He was always very kind and loving toward his little nieces.

In 1902, my parents went down to graduation. I was only a child, but I was taken along, and Uncle Fred was on the Board of Trustees at that time. The library building at the end of [Johns?] Street had just been completed, and the trustees were very proud of it. It was a beautiful building and had lovely murals inside. Some social affairs were held there. That was the year that the cyclone went through Champaign, just in time for graduation. We stayed at the Beardsley Hotel, which was a brick building, and it shook with the force of the wind. In the morning, my father rose early and found streets of Champaign barricaded with blown down trees, so he walked out to the university grounds, into the house, the old farmhouse, out near the cemetery where he had roomed as a student. He was quite a bit younger than his older brothers. He graduated in the class of '80. Both my parents were former students and also the parents of my husband. My mother and my mother-in-law roomed at the same house when they went to university. My mother went, not in September, as most students, but on the 1st of January and found it difficult to find the boarding place. So my mother-in-law, Eden, and Dr. Ada Smith, threw in, and they slept three in bed, so you know they were all pretty long-suffering young ladies.

RA: I've heard a rumor that your mother and my mother, when they were roommates, made a deal that some day one of their children would get married. Apparently that happened.

EHA: Yes, but I never heard that before. [Laughter]

RA: Maybe I shouldn't have spilled it yet.

[Muffled crosstalk]

PA: At the university, a lot of times, there were a lot of conventions, like the livestock feeders and the meetings that they had, and some interesting things cropped up that I've often thought about. One time they, some of the professors from Kansas University came over and began to tell us how to raise alfalfa in Illinois. They said that they should plant it, and if it didn't grow, just plant it again the next year, keep planting it, year after year, and after a while, they get good results, and it grows.

Dr. Hopkins, he explained a lot of things to them. After they had began to tell us how to raise alfalfa, he said that we should inoculate the soil in the first place. And that's the way to get it start. It seemed that they didn't know anything about inoculation or anything, and the way they'd always done, they kept showing it and trying it, so finally it began to grow. And that was a new thing, but Dr. Hopkins was, that's one thing about Dr. Hopkins. He was that way, he

knew about those things. So there's a lot of these things that the Department of Agriculture was another. They had some ideas about- Dr. Hopkins was a chemist, and he analyzed things, and the Department of Agriculture had some other ties about cropping potatoes in the moon and things of that kind that didn't- I know there were some bulletins that were published about, and they tried to shut Dr. Hopkins up on some of his ideas. I don't remember what ever happened, but that all died out after a while.

Another thing was that Dr. Hopkins analyzed corn. He took an ear of corn and analyzed every grain. He found that they were very much alike. And each year it was a little different. And that started a lot of breeding of corn. They had high protein corn, began to learn mechanical selection and that all started through Dr. Hopkins' ideas and what he did with his chemistry. That's really what he was in the beginning, was a chemist. He started the same thing with soils. When we started the next year, I had taken soil physics the first year, and I was put into a class of soil fertility, and Dr. Hopkins had that. And we had to prepare for that, but with my chemistry, I had to have soil... Our chemistry was [inaudible] qualitative, what's in the material and the other one was quantitative, how much was there. And by putting the two together, that's the way the soil was analyzed. And I don't know, I understood the thought, but nobody had ever analyzed soils before till Dr. Hopkins started doing it. And that's the way it was done.

And we didn't have any books because written out just what process to make, to do, to follow. And we had to measure out our soils and find out how much phosphorus is there and the different elements that was in there and how to go about it to get that. And a lot of it could be measured. We had to make up a solution of, that would really test acids and alkalis, and that's the way that was measured. And at the experiment station, they started analyzing soils that way, and the boys had to learn that and analyze the soil. Later on, I took, made a soil. Well, there was a soil survey, which was another thing, different kinds of soils. And Dr. Hopkins started the soil survey. And I took that up as my thesis. I surveyed, took all the different types of soil in our farm, which was more detailed. We belonged into the Wisconsin Glaciation, right at the terminal moraine. It was right on that edge of the Wisconsin Glaciation stock. And along below that, there's other kind of soil, eluvial soils. And I went into more detail than that and made a thes-, that was my thesis when I graduated.

We used to have a lot of meetings of the livestock men. They come there and we used to listen to the talks, different experiments. They used to argue. Some said that yellow corn was better than white corn. And some would laugh at them, and some seemed to be serious. Later on, they didn't know anything about vitamins. And afterwards I began to find out that some of those things had something to do with it. That if they didn't, that the yellow corn had a little, some vitamins that the white corn didn't have. And I always noticed in Henry's speech in feeding, there was all kinds of experiments from different universities, and some seemed to be carried out just the same, although they had different results. We didn't know anything about vitamins in those days. That was the same way here with the soils. We didn't know anything about bacteria. And that was the way with those people in campus growing alfalfa. They didn't know anything about the [nabules?] and legumes and things of that kind.

So Dr. Hopkins brought a lot of that out. And I think he was way ahead of the Department of Agriculture. And we made great strides through his thorough way or working and just knowledge of chemistry and things of that kind.

RA: I'd like to hear some of your remembrance of the athletics activities. Probably remember the old [Bradford G.?] Huff.

PA: Well, all of a sudden, the [G Huff?] could make a ball team out of wooden Indians and they seem to have a pretty knew how to baseball, and they had a lot of good players. And I know the tour in the East, played all the colleges around there at one time, and they won all but one, that one year. [Lundgen?] was one of the pitchers, and Falkenburg was the other one that was very good, and they had...

RA: Remember any football players?

PA: Well we had a lot of good players. There was Stahl.

RA: Jake Stahl, I remember talk about him a lot.

PA: I think his name was Holland but he was always Jake. He played, he always played first base to begin with but... Artie Johnson used to be the catcher and when he left, Stahl, they put him in as a catcher, and he did good there. [Lundgen?] was the pitcher. Falkenburg was one of the star pitchers. Got a little wild sometimes.

RA: Well, they never heard of basketball then.

PA: They hadn't started basketball. That was a girl's game thought to begin with. Well, of course all the old players, [Rothkib?] was a good player and I [knew?] a lot of them at those times.

I stayed out my second, the third year, went two years, stayed out of here, and it kind of broke in, and then I went back so I really graduated- I belong to the class of '04 but I graduated about '05. A lot of the boys that started with me that had to go five years, we graduated at the same time.

RA: Seems to me J. C. Spitler was in your class, wasn't he?

PA: Well, I think he graduated in '04 and could have. He was one that [I grad?] through. And he was...

RA: Remember Frank [McElvey?]?

PA: No, he was a little later. [muffled: Cut it out].

RA: Well, we just about reached the end of the tape so probably we better consider this the end of this one. I think you've done mighty well [inaudible].

Professor William L. Burlison: [Inaudible] who for years [inaudible] the great [inaudible] experiment station in England. Then next there is Dean Mumford, who played such a large part in our agriculture program in Illinois. Dean Mumford was for years professor of animal husbandry at the university and then was dean for about ten years. Then next in line is our beloved Frank Mann, whose name is known throughout the country wherever soil fertility is discussed. And then next is Mr. [Ego?] who's not with us any longer but was one of the great farm managers of the central United States. Then right in the center, Ralph, is a very fine picture of your father. You might say this [inaudible] about his relationship to Mr. Mann.

RA: Well, their family is together that way. Recalls to mind that they've been together a good period in their lifetime. They were students at the same time at the University of Illinois. They graduated in the same year, 1876. And since then until their decease, they enjoyed incredible difference in opinion about agricultural problems like they did when they were students at the university because they were members of opposing political parties that existed in the university.

WB: I might also to mention, Ralph, that both Mr. Allen and Mr. Mann were members of our [inaudible] board in the department of agronomy since the board was established. They contributed greatly to our general growth and development. We looked upon them as sort of godfathers to the department. Then if we move on to the right in the picture, Dr. Hottes, one of the strong plant [inaudible] our time. Dr. Hottes is now retired but just as active as ever. He was deeply interested in soils and plant problems. Then we come to Mr. Eugene Funk, someone has said that a man of great memories. Mr. Funk, as you know, worked in the field of corn breeding. He leaded in many agricultural activities. He was one of the pioneers in the hybrid corn program. We just can't take that away from him.

Then, next to last, Dr. Lewis H. Smith, who for many years was a member of the Department of Agronomy. He spent much of his time helping to administer the department and of course he worked in the field of plant breeding. Then just to the very right you see about two-thirds of the face of Professor Rankin in the picture. We all remember him those early days when he pioneered [inaudible] and our agricultural college extension. We can't help but be proud when look at the picture of this kind and realize so many of the wonderful people who helped to make Illinois agriculture great. Now Ralph, why don't you finish up with a word [inaudible] try to picture.

RA: Well, yeah, there's one special attraction that the men of the kind [inaudible] undue modesty. Dr. Burlison, you fail to mention that you were in the picture yourself standing right next to father. But we won't embarrass you by talking too much about you but suffice to say that I've had unsolicited comments that you certainly are well thought out throughout the state. I would further like to mention the fact that two of these men were my early instructors or instructors at the time that I was a student here at university. I attended the Dean Mumford's first farm management class. I was in Dr. Hottes' class, and of course, I was under the scrutiny and super[inaudible] of Dean Rankin.

[Musical intro to *Prairie Farmer* "Dinner Bell" program]

Radio announcer: Hello, this is "Dinner Bell" brought to you by *Prairie Farmer*.

[National Anthem of United States of America]

Announcer: I hope that you folks are enjoying the day as much as I know Mr. [Page?] must be enjoying it today. The temperature is only 74, the humidity is 71, and you know Mr. Page is taking a little bit vacation up there in Michigan where I know he's having a fine time, and I hope that you folks are and I'm glad you're joining us on "Dinner Bell" today because we do have an interesting guest. We have a farmer from Denmark and we're going to hear from her shortly. We're probably going to have just a little bit of a serious point too because I'm just afraid that those corn boars aren't going to take Fourth of July off but then we aren't going to worry about it for a while because we have some fine music from the orchestra, the Grand Rapid Lettercarriers.

[Music] [Applause]

I want to say hello to all of you in Denmark. See, I say that folks because you know this program is recorded and we're going to present this recording of the entire "Dinner Bell" to Inge Schwensen, our guest today. She's going to take it back with her when she goes to Denmark and we understand a lot of folks in Denmark are going to hear "Dinner Bell." So we sort of wanted to say hello to everyone. And how about from the band too? All right, hello to everyone in Denmark. So now we have our farmer right here.

And we know we stood up for the National Anthem, which means a lot to us at all times, especially around the Fourth of July. And now let's everyone stand up for the National Anthem of Denmark.

[Playing national anthem of Denmark]

The national grange has sponsored a farm youth exchange, and they wanted to bring a young lady over from Denmark, an exchange student here to the United States, and give her a little chance to see our American agriculture, midwestern agriculture. The girl chosen was Inge Schwensen, who, well I better let her pronounce that town in Denmark. Would you tell us where you're from Inge?

Inge Schwensen: I'm from [unknown spelling].

Announcer: [Mybou?] okay. And Inge is 23 years old, she's from a family of five. She's been in the United States a month and a half, expects to be here six months in Midwest, and then six months in another state. I asked her and she said she'd kind of like to go out to California, but you don't know yet where you're going.

IS: No, I don't know.

Announcer: Well just kind of hoping for that. She's interested in the seen corn business so she went from Ralph Allen's farm at Delevan, Illinois to Ed [Lubbet's?] farm in Hanna City, Illinois and right now she's right in there among the cornfield. Now how did you get the tan that you have? The color in your face. Is that from swimming or is that kinda from working out in the field?

IS: Oh, I think I got it in the field.

Announcer: You've actually been doing the work out in the farm?

IS: Oh yeah, of course.

Announcer: You've been planting a little corn, doing some cultivating?

IS: Yeah, I've done it for the last months.

Announcer: Now is it ordinary for a girl to do a lot of the farming work in Denmark?

IS: No, it isn't ordinary but if you want to do it you can do it in Denmark.

Announcer: With a little special training.

IS: Yeah.

Announcer: Well, I want to get to the question I always ask. What's your first impression of America.

IS: Yeah, I can answer that question in one word: the traffic.

Announcer: Is that right?

IS: Yeah, I think every day you come over here and arrive to New York with [unknown] and look the first five minutes here in the United States.

Announcer: And all the cars. You don't have as many cars in Denmark. Are they mostly newer cars or are they pre-war cars?

IS: Oh, it's pre-war cars, most of them. If you have a car from '39, you have a new car in Denmark.

Announcer: Well, what kind of cars do you have there? Are they American? Are they British or French?

IS: Well, we have cars from many countries. Most of them are from over here. But the new ones, the newer ones, come from countries in Europe because we don't have money to buy them over here.

Announcer: Like French.

IS: Yeah. [crosstalk]

Announcer: What about the distance here? Now Denmark- how large is Denmark?

IS: Oh, I don't think you can ask how large Denmark is.

Announcer: I mean, how many miles?

IS: Yeah, you can see how small it is.

Announcer: Oh, I see. That's right.

IS: If you go north-south, you can go 225 miles in Denmark.

Announcer: Dr. Holland, how long is the state of Illinois? Almost 500 miles. And Denmark's about 225. So you can drive across Denmark in about-

IS: 5 hours.

Announcer: 5 hours.

IS: We can't drive so fast over there. And we don't need to.

Announcer: What's your speed limit over there?

IS: 40. It's 40 miles an hour.

Announcer: When you were in Chicago, when you were leaving Chicago, did the town seem kind of big, a little bit long?

IS: Oh yeah, it did. I went by bus and when I came to Chicago, I wasn't even tired. When we started from Peoria, I took a nap and when I woke up, I was still in Chicago. [laughter]

Announcer: Took a nap and still in Chicago, huh. After you've been here a little while, what do you think about our Illinois way of life?

IS: I'm surprised the high living standard over here. I'm surprised that so many people have a car. They can go where they like to and...

Announcer: Most farmers, they do have a car.

IS: They don't have one car. They have two or three cars.

Announcer: Well, that's true. A little bit of trucking business in there. Well, we are, of course, proud of our standard living here in the Midwest and we wish it were true all over. Did you notice any other thing about our standard of living as you talk about the food and the storage you mentioned when you were visiting.

IS: I was surprised when I first came into one of your stores. All the things you could buy, and you find it, it wasn't surprising for you, but it was for me.

Announcer: Find such a variety of foods.

IS: Yeah.

Announcer: Well, you said that the water is rationed, which is, anyway, it's ration over there in Denmark, and how much butter do you get? If you eat butter on your toast in the morning you say that's all the butter you have all day?

IS: Yeah, even-

Announcer: Just butter on your toast in the morning, that's all the butter you get all day long?

IS: Yeah, but then we can get the margarine and we can have [bread?]-

Announcer: You make out all right.

IS: Yeah, we make out all right.

Announcer: What size farm do you live on in Denmark?

IS: I live on a farm 380 acres.

Announcer: That's a little larger than average, isn't it?

IS: Yeah, it is. The average farm is about 70 acres or a little smaller maybe.

Announcer: How does your farming compare with ours?

IS: We don't raise the same things as you do over here. The same crops. We don't raise corn and we don't raise soybeans. Instead, we raise [alliums?] and sugar beets, [oats?] and things like that.

Announcer: How about the labor? How many people do you have working on your 380 acre farm?

IS: Yeah, we have eight families working on the farm all year around. The men work all year around.

Announcer: In the sugar beets?

IS: Yeah, and other things two. But two of the families work in the dairy barn.

Announcer: How many dairy cows do you have?

IS: We have 70 dairy cows.

Announcer: And there the entire family works on the farm pretty largely?

IS: No.

Announcer: I mean the hired families.

IS: No, the hired families, only the men work except in some [inaudible] when they work in the sugar beets.

Announcer: You said that you noticed here that we don't do much hoeing. Most of it's done by tractor. There you have to do quite a little hoeing.

IS: Yeah, we use hand work for our sugar beets.

Announcer: We're glad of that. That we don't have to hoe our acres and acres of corn. Well, how about tractors?

IS: Yeah, we have tractors many tractors in Denmark now, but in the last few years we have got them, most of them. At home we have two tractors: a John Deer A model, and a Ferguson.

Announcer: We are familiar with those. You also said that those came through the Marshall Plan, didn't they?

IS: Yeah, John Deer came. Most of the American tractors will come during the Marshall Plan because we don't have the money, we don't have dollars to buy machinery.

Announcer: Oh, we wonder about that Marshall Plan here. Just how it works in practice over there. You actually went to your dealer and paid the regular price for that tractor that came through the Marshall Plan.

IS: Yeah, we did that. All the instruments we buy during the Marshall Plan that is a little [inaudible] so we can't see where we get from.

Announcer: Now we found out a little about the agriculture in Denmark just briefly. We've got a fellow right here who can tell us quite a bit about the agriculture of Illinois and that is Charlie Ray, who is with the Department of Agriculture, and he is the foods and dairy specialist here in the state. And could you just kind of tell us a little bit right now to folks of Denmark what we're proud of here in Illinois?

Charlie Ray: Well, from the standpoint of dairy here in Illinois, of course we're proud of our great flow of milk production, especially around the city of Chicago. Also, Illinois ranks second in the United States in cheese production. I like to pay tribute, however, to Denmark, although a small country, Illinois and America together have received some ideas from Denmark that's been very beneficial to us. Soon after Dr. Babcock invented the Babcock test, Denmark was first to make good practical use of it in testing the individual cows in the herds. They developed the cow-catching associations long before America did and developed it to the extent that we have now very widely in use in America, known as the Dairy Herd Improvement Association. Also, Denmark first developed the artificial breeding of dairy cattle. Professor [Praer?] in New Jersey went over to Denmark and copied the mechanics and come back to the country and established the first artificial breeding association in New Jersey, and now it's very general in the United States. Also, the Danish system of judging has been largely adopted by the 4H clubs and Future Farmer shows in this country.

Announcer: Now we should say that's where they take not just the top animal for the blue ribbon but where they take all of the superior nature for the blue ribbon.

CR: That's right.

Announcer: Inge, you said you don't give blue ribbons for prize animals.

IS: No, we don't give exactly a blue ribbon, but they get a piece of paper where they can read how good their animals were.

Announcer: You get more of a plaque rather than a ribbon.

IS: Yeah.

CR: Before I forget it, I want to say that all exchange students in the state of Illinois are invited by Director Roy Young, the Department of Agriculture, to be part of the Illinois State Fair on Farmer's Day, Friday, August 18th.

Announcer: Fun. Will you be able to be there Inge?

IS: Yeah, I hope so.

Announcer: All right, well, good. Say, if you have some questions- say congratulations to Denmark on those things. Would you like to ask Inge few questions?

CR: Do you milk the cows in the barn or like now Holland I understand they milk them out in the open very largely in the summertime? Do you milk them in the barn in Denmark?

IS: Yeah, we milk them in the barn mostly because we use the milking machines. But in some of the big farms, they will milk them out in the fields and have a [time of day?] for milking machinery.

CR: And do you have a lunch in the middle of the [morning?] and afternoon over in Denmark.

IS: No, not anymore. We work so many hours now that we don't do it.

Announcer: Well, we've heard a lot about those Danish pastries. Are they really good?

IS: They are. [crosstalk]

CR: Where did you learn to speak English so well?

IS: I learned it in the grade school. We didn't learn so much to speak it but we read it and wrote it and then we tried to learn as many words as possible.

CR: Then you went to high school also in Denmark?

IS: Yeah, I went to high school too, but I didn't learn English in high school because I chose other things. I chose mathematic and chemistry.

CR: I understand you have no brothers and you want to take over the management of your father's farm, is that right?

IS: That's right.

CR: And you have to show that you're experienced and capable of being a farmer in Denmark before they allow you to operate that farm, is that right?

IS: Yeah, that's right. To be a farmer in Denmark, it's most times that it's most common for boys of course and they will go to different farms. They will not work on their father's farm alone. They will go to five or six different farms and stay one year on each farm and they have to go to an agriculture school before they can say that they are, that they can have a farm in Denmark.

CR: You think there'll ever come a time we have to have a license to farm in Illinois?

Announcer: I don't know if that will be true or not.

CR: Our department issues licenses for a lot of things but we haven't gotten down to license to farm yet.

Announcer: We have a fellow sitting here that wants to farm. You think he looks qualified?

CR: He certainly looks husky enough.

Announcer: He certainly does. We're gonna talk to him pretty shortly. I was wondering here if we could ask Inge a little bit about her pleasures on the weekends. Do you have parties over there similar to ours? What's your recreation like in Denmark?

IS: Yeah, we have parties. I suppose they are like yours over here. We go and dance much more than you do, I think.

Announcer: Well, do you have square dancing?

IS: No, we don't have square dancing but I have tried now.

Announcer: You'll have to learn to square dance for sure. Well, how about dating over there? Courtship, how is that? Is it different from ours?

IS: Yeah, it's much different. We don't have so much dating. We go in a crowd and we have friends and we dance together. It isn't so much dating.

Announcer: Well, a fella doesn't call up a girl and go out and pick her up and go to a dance?

IS: No, see it is a little difficult trying to because you've got to go by bicycle. [laughter]

Announcer: You don't have bicycles for two?

IS: Yeah we have- [laughter].

Announcer: Doesn't work quite as well [crosstalk]. Well now I wonder if we could get down to the serious part here about what you're gonna take back to Denmark from the United States. What ideas?

IS: Yeah, I am especially interested in...