



Phil grew up on a 280 acre farm near Paris, Illinois growing all crops along with milk and beef cows, sheep and pigs. He graduated from Danville Jr. College with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture. His education brought him to northern Illinois for a job with Klehm's Nursery. After working with them for about five years, he then moved on to Motorola where he worked for 29 years as the Grounds Manager.

After leaving Motorola, Phil returned to his home roots in Chrisman, Illinois. He was able to build a new house on his Grandparents farm and lives there today. Although, he no longer lives in the North Eastern Illinois region he still remains a member of the club so he can keep up with old friends and, when the opportunity arises, he can join us at an event. He was recently able to join the club members at Grand Detour where it was great to see Phil and catch up on old times. Phil joined the club in 1993 as a result of attending a tractor show in Bartlett that was organized by the late Elmer Hecht. While at the show Phil met Elmer and soon was signed up for the club and invited to attend the next meeting. For those of us that remember Elmer, I can see him now convincing Phil about the benefits of the club. Elmer was a good spokesman and advocate of the club.

His 1947 John Deere A is the first and only new tractor his father bought in 37 years of farming. He ordered it in the spring of 1946 and took delivery in May of 1947. His father also soon bought a 2 bottom plow and a 2 row cultivator for that tractor.

Phil shared quite an interesting childhood memory with me during our time together. Phil was 10 years old and out in the field plowing with the A. The field that he was working in was somewhat uneven so turning at the end of the furrow could be tricky. Phil was gaining confidence as the John Deere A was handling the two bottom plow with ease. He began to think that perhaps he wouldn't even need to slow down to make the turn at the end of the field. As he tried to master that turn without touching the throttle, the tractor got away from him and started bouncing in and out of the furrow, throwing him off the tractor out into the road. As he looked up he could see the tractor on its side with the rear wheel still spinning. His first impression was that the tractor was still

moving towards him. He jumped up and ran the other direction soon to realize the tractor was not moving, however it was still running in gear with the wheel spinning. By this time his father was running towards the scene from another part of the field and Phil gathered himself enough to run over to the tractor and turn it off. By the way, the plow remained upright and in the ground during all of this. Once his father made sure Phil wasn't hurt they started the trek towards the house to call a winch truck to upright the tractor. As they got close to the house the impact of what had happened began to come clearer to Phil. His knees got weak and he started to collapse but luckily his father was there to help him stay on his feet and make it back to the house. Finally, the tractor was lifted on its tires and taken to the local dealer to be checked over for damage. After changing all fluids and a complete check over it was determined nothing mechanical was wrong. There was only a minor dent in the sheet metal. The tractor was back in the field within a few days and Phil is still driving it to this day. This incident, along with good memories of harvesting and hard work, made it fun for Phil to grow up on a working farm.

The next time you have an opportunity, please let Phil know that you enjoyed reading about his background.