

Inventory of the

**John P. Case**  
Naperville, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

**RC 86**

## INTRODUCTION

Joan Case donated her father's records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on January 12, 1980.

Property rights in the collection are held by the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 2.75  
Number of containers: 6 + 2 volumes  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 86

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection partially documents John P. Case's private farm practices and his participation in the organization of the Pure Milk Association from 1922 to 1965. Records include correspondence, minutes, reports, publications, and financial data.

The major portion of the collection contains financial record books used by Case to measure his farm productivity over a given year. Included are tabulations of crop, livestock, labor, and operating receipts and expenses dating from 1922 to 1965.

For related materials researchers may wish to consult the Pure Milk Association (RC 62), the Mid-West Dairyman's Company (RC 81), the DuPage County Farm Bureau (RC 87), and the North Corn Belt Seed Growers, Inc. (RC 90).

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

John P. Case was born on March 26, 1897 near York Center, Illinois. Educated at the University of Illinois and Hamilton Law School, Case completed a master's degree and became a successful dairy farmer operating 470 acres of land in DuPage County, Illinois.

As member and director of the Chicago Milk Producer's Association John Case was among those who pioneered the idea of creating a dairy producer's cooperative to improve dairy standards, increase product sales, and encourage dairy farmer cooperation. The result of their efforts was the incorporation of the Pure Milk Association (PMA), an organization eventually recognized nationally as one of the most successful milk producer's cooperatives in the United States.

In the twenty years that Case was active in the PMA, he served as district director representing the marketing interests of dairy farmers in DuPage County from 1931 to 1951. In

1933, Case served as the treasurer for the association and, in 1935, he was elected president, a position he held until 1938.

In addition to his dairy interest, Case became involved in the production of hybrid seed corn in the Naperville area. In 1938 Case, along with two other local farmers, established the Northern Illinois Seed Growers Inc. to produce and develop hybrids. The company changed its name to North Corn Belt in 1939 and in 1943 it became part of the Pfister's Associated Growers (PAG), an organization which maintained several hybrid seed corn-producing plants throughout seven states in the cornbelt country. John Case served as president of the association until 1966.

Case's established reputation as a national leader in the dairy and seed industries qualified him for executive positions in other ag-related organizations. Included were the following: Director of the DuPage Tuberculosis Association (1940), President of the DuPage County Board of Health (1951), Director of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America (1952), and President of the Illinois Association of Boards of Health (1962). Case continued his business responsibilities and agricultural operations until his death on July 26, 1975.

In 1922, John Case married Esther Penfold of Lombard, Illinois. They had five children who are now all living in the DuPage County area.

#### SUBJECT TRACINGS

Agriculture  
Case, John P.  
Dairying  
Family Farms  
Holstein Cattle  
Hybrid Corn  
Naperville  
North Corn Belt Seed Growers, Incorporated  
Pfister Associated Growers  
Pure Milk Association  
Seed Inventory

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Memorabilia, 1909, 1938, 1972
	2	Income Tax Returns, 1923-1945
	3	DuPage County Milk Producers, Minutes, 1924-1925
	4	Lisle Milk Producers, Minutes, Accounts, Membership, 1924-1931
	5	Union League, 1938
	6	PMA Correspondence, Poster, Clippings, 1924-1938
	7	PMA vs. Wheelright et. al., Brief, 1931
	8	PMA, History, 1933
	9	PMA, Publications, 1935-1952
Oversize	2 volumes	PMA, Publications, 1934-1936
2	1-4	PMA Minutes, Reports, 1929-1936
	5-6	PMA Minutes, Reports, Correspondence, 1936-1958
	7-8	Dairy Herd Records, 1922-1928
3	1-5	Dairy Herd Records, 1928-1942
4	1	Dairy Herd Records, 1943-1945
	2-5	Farm Account Books, 1927-1941
5	1-6	Farm Account Books, 1941-1959
6	1-3	Farm Account Books, 1960-1965