

Newsletter

June 2024



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OBERY FARMS CELEBRATES 150 YEARS IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS

Metamora, Illinois – Obery Farms, a 6-generation family farm, announces its 150th anniversary. Obery Farms was founded on April 15, 1874 when Paul Obery, after immigrating to the United States from France, purchased 127 acres north-east of Metamora, Illinois. Today, Obery Farms and its 5th generation principals, John, Mark, and Joel Obery, grow corn and soybeans using the latest in technology, equipment, chemicals, and fertilizers.

“As a family, we are proud that 6 generations have lived and farmed these fields. That doesn’t happen very often,” said Joel Obery, 5th generation partner of Obery Farms. “One hundred and fifty years, you think about that, there are very few businesses that can survive 150 years, but a farm can.”

“Special, blessed, fortunate are three words that I could describe how I feel about farming ground that my father, his father and my great-grandfather farmed,” said John Obery, 5th generation partner of Obery Farms. “I hope the next generation can take it over, grow it, and prosper and build on what we put together.”

While Obery Farms has expanded into a thriving enterprise over the past 150 years, it has remained true to its humble beginnings, where hard work, a passion for agricultural excellence, and stewardship of the land have always been at the forefront. For the past century and a half, the Obery family has cultivated a legacy of trust and exceptional service that has become synonymous with the Obery name.

“Obery Farms expanded throughout the years by putting in a lot of time and effort and sacrificing to expand,” said Mark Obery, 5th generation partner of Obery Farms. “Farming today on this field that’s been in the family for 150 years, there’s a sense of pride in that.”

“My hope for the future is to continue the legacy and continue to build on what they have accomplished so far,” said Grant Reckling, farm worker, Obery Farms, and John’s son-in-law.

Obery Farms will celebrate its sesquicentennial throughout 2024 and is committed to preserving its rich heritage for generations to come.

Here’s a NEW FEATURE for the Newsletter. The link below is the trailer for the upcoming video for the 150th Obery Farms anniversary. To view it, Control-Click (hold down the Control button and click). To start, click the sideways triangle in the lower left corner. Can’t wait until the finished video is released!

[Obery150 - Teaser Trailer - Ten Thirty-One+® \(tenthirtyoneplus.com\)](http://Obery150 - Teaser Trailer - Ten Thirty-One+® (tenthirtyoneplus.com))



Paul Obery and his wife Catherine



Martin Obery, his brother Henry, and Sam Rife with Martin’s threshing machines taken in the early 1900s just north of the Abattoir



Walter, Eugene, and Eddie Obery



Eddie Obery working on the cattle truck



Eddie, Eugene, Elmer Obery



Eddie, Eugene, and their father joined with neighbors to help finish picking corn after a farmer was killed in a picker accident on a farm the brothers would later purchase and become the Obery Farms headquarters



1930 aerial of the Obery homestead



Edward at the homestead



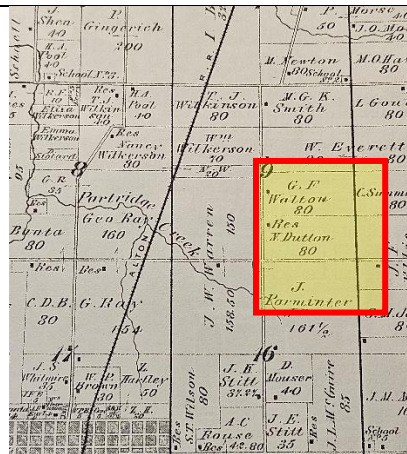
Eddie, pictured, and Eugene baled hay and shelled corn for neighbors



A True Family Farm



Eddie on the tractor with Kay, Ann, Joy, Sue, and Mark



Debris from Dutton Farm Site

The Irony... the 1873 plat above shows the home of Underground Railroad conductor Norman Dutton. His home sat on the east side of what is now CR 1050E just north of CR 1500N. This land is now owned by Obery Farms. John has found bricks and other debris (pictured above) from the site. In a later issue, we'll talk about the irony of this old homestead.



Metamora To Go Dial At 12:01 A.M. Tuesday

EMerson is New Prefix Assigned To Phones Here

At 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, July 22, Metamora will go dial.

At that time R. W. Rauh, president of the Metamora Phone Company, will pull a switch putting recently installed automatic dial equipment into use.

Rauh commented that "we hope to have everything ready for the 22nd. We will be moving office equipment to the new building this weekend."

The new equipment required for operation of the dial system is housed in a new \$20,000 building located at 220 N. Menard St. Installation of the equipment began early in April.

The prefix EMerson 7- plus four digits has been assigned to all the users in the local exchange. With the switch from manual to automatic phones users here will be able to place calls by dialing the last four digits of the number to be called.

Metamora and Germantown subscribers (DuPont 3-) will be able to dial direct by using their respective prefixes and the last four digits. The Germantown dial exchange went into use in 1956.

Of the 1,150 phones in the system 850 are in Metamora and 300 in Germantown.

Equipment for the new dial system was manufactured and is being installed by the Automatic Electric Company of Chicago. The equipment, it was stated, will give Metamora the finest type of dial service available.

With the cut-over to dial a total of 11 toll trunks will be in use for Metamora subscribers.

The Rauh family purchased the exchange here in 1945 and have made many improvements to expand and improve their service. Mrs. Rauh and their sons John, Glenn and Allen, are active in the company.

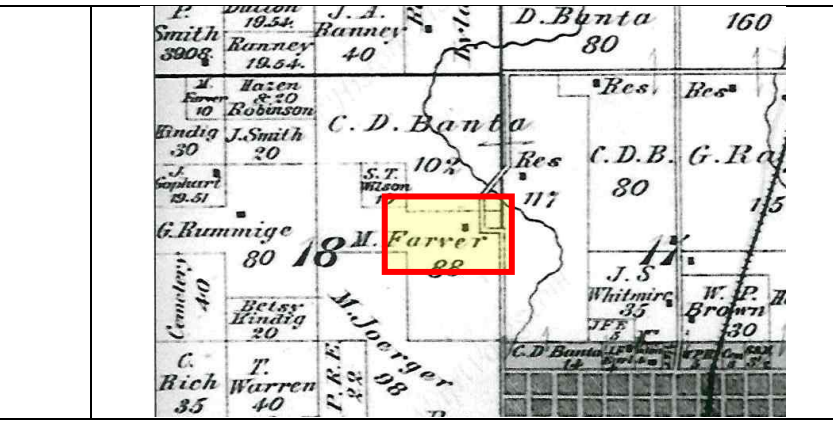
To the Rauhs the cut-over to automatic phones represents "an investment of over \$100,000" but also "a dream come true."

CUT-OVER TO DIAL PHONES
 Mrs. R. W. Rauh, left, and Mr. Rauh, center, watch as Glenn Rauh pulls insulators from the new dial equipment at approximately 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, July 22. A small group of local people also watched as the dial equipment was put into use.

Thanks to Glenn Rauh for the above story on MTCO's (Metamora Telephone Company then!) conversion to dial-up phones. Glenn said the old system was a total operator service. You picked up the phone and told the operator what number you wanted connected to. Thanks, Glenn for sharing and a special thanks for a long, outstanding service to the communities!

Operators. You may remember some of the operators – Carrie Grob, Eylme Rauh (Glenn's mother), and even Glenn in the evenings after school.

Following Up... Here's another picture of the Nuhn farm. Thanks to Jim Schrepfer for providing this old picture with family members. The homestead is in the middle of the plat on the right (on Washington Street – part of the golf course).



Contact Us
 Questions, ideas - Love to hear from you

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