

5404 N. Okemos Road,
East Lansing, Mich., 48823,
Dec. 26, 1968,

Dear Ray;

I had a letter from Mrs. Anderson in which she said that she had just talked with you and your wife and that you would write me. So I was anxiously looking for your letter. And needless to say that I was glad to make contact with you after all of these years.

Yes M. A. C. -- M. S. C. -- M. S. U. has changed over the years. As one man said following World War 2, "If you stand still long enough, they will build a building around you."

And our friend John A. Hannah (Alfred as we knew him) has been president about 25 years. He seems to be doing very well but may be pried out some of these times by some members of the state board who seem to be inclined toward Unions and Communism.

I was at the Mich. Contest in 1923 and 1924 where I got valuable experience and left there Nov. first 1924 and worked at carpenter work until the depression in 1930. I built a few brooder houses for Ernie Foreman in Feb. 1927, on his farm at Lowell.

During the early part of the depression I worked on three poultry farms and then ended up buying poultry and dressing and retailing it in East Lansing. When a contractor I had worked for a few years earlier asked if I could make my bread and butter at this I replied "Yes, if I don't use too much butter." And the butter was pretty thin and the bread too at times. But we made out without being on the welfare which got to be quite a popular occupation.

One of the best sayings that I heard from that period was this. It isn't what we have that makes us happy, it's what we are satisfied WITHOUT.

I should mention that we married Eugenia Van Syckel Aug. 5, 1926 and we have 3 children. Dorothy Mae born July 5, 1927; Gordon born Feb. 27, 1930 and Barbara Jean born June 17, 1943. The two older ones are married and we have 5 grandchildren.

In April 1936 I got on a special carpenter gang at the college to reroof several buildings and do a lot of repair work which had been neglected during the depression. We began to get on our feet that summer and the next spring we bought a two acre piece with a rather old house and moved there May 11, 1937. It was at 5404 N. Okemos Road and we have been there ever since.

During the winter of 1936 I read an article about New Hampshires. It told all of the wonderful things about them, and I knew they could not all be true but never less I pricked up my ears.

There was a chick show at the college in May that year and Andy Christie had an entry there. It happened to be disqualified for "down between the toes." Christie was one of the leaders in pushing N. H. at that time so I ended up by buying his entry.

And to my surprise I found that most of what I had read of N. H. was true. Fast growth, fast feathering, good egg production of large brown eggs that hatched better than 80 per cent.

In the spring of 1937 I got eggs or chicks from three other breeders in N. H. In 1938 I had my eggs custom hatched and sold a few hundred chicks to neighbors. They caught on so well that my sales doubled for a few years and in 1943 I started hatching my own chicks in 3 Jamesway No. 2940. They were used machines. I added a new one in 1945 and that year, the year the war ended, we sold over 52,000 chicks. Those machines done a wonderful job for us and made us some money and we were able to hang on to a nice little NEST EGG.