

Jack Sauer: Third generation Illinois Valley farmer

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Jack Sauer's family have been farming in Kerby for three generations and for nearly 100 years. "I love this little valley, but I'll give you an example of how it has changed. I was standing in the grocery line and I said hi to a couple I didn't know," Jack said. "They just backed up and stared at me. You can't even say hi to strangers anymore. I'm going to stay down on the farm, mind my own business and stay away from most everybody. If you make the wrong statement somewhere, someone is going to pick it up and make trouble, so I just don't say anything." All in all though, Jack summed it up "Life's had its ups and downs, but it's been good."

Jack was born on the farm in 1929 and went to school in Kerby. He remembered his first teacher, "Mrs. Bumgarner tried to whip us

when we were ornery. She used a big ol' rope and it was a joke. She hit us, but she didn't use any force. Bessy Watts was another teacher. She'd straighten you up. One time a student, Laverne, was cutting up. Mrs. Watts always walked around like an army soldier carrying a yard stick over her shoulder. When she swung it at Laverne, he rolled out of his seat and the yard stick broke over the seat. I think she beat him half to death with the stump of it. He had it coming."

Jack had been married before his current wife Jo and has two sons, Dick and Gary, from that marriage. He married Jo in 1960 and they had one son Brett who died in a car wreck when he was young. "The sadness of losing a child never leaves you. You don't ever want to go through it," Jack said.

He met his wife Jo at an auction and asked her out to dinner. He said that when he met her, "I thought she was the woman I wanted." They've been together ever since.

Sauer's Flat is 240 acres and about 30 acres of it is farmed. Jack used to have cattle, but he quit that recently and now grows hay

on his property. "Until the grapes and the blueberries came along," Jack noted, "No one made a living just from farming. You had to go out and work at other jobs too. It's a good life, but these little farms don't bring in much money." Jack's two sons, have no interest in taking over the farm. Dick said, "Dad, don't ever ask me to come back."

Jack understands. He said that with all the restrictions that increase every year that farming just gets harder and harder. After three generations, the Sauer farm will pass out of the family. However, the neighboring farm, Nelson's Family Farm, also known as The "Cron" Stand owned by Jack's brother and sister-in-law, Keith and Jerry Nelson, will go to their son and his wife, Rhett and Linda. Jo and Jerry are twin sisters.

Jack said that although he is semi-retired, he has no interest in sitting around and watching television. He would rather go dig a post hole.

"Cave Junction used to be different. It was a very good community when I was growing up," Jack said. "Everyone had a job

and everyone wanted to work." Jack used to tell his boys that when he was young, when he came into town, often on his tractor, there was nobody on the road, or maybe just one or two cars.

Jack's grandparents, Nicholas and Caroline Sauer, were both born in Germany and migrated separately to America. They met each other after they had arrived and then moved to the Illinois Valley to farm in the 1800s. They traveled separately; Jack's grandfather came across the plains in a covered wagon in a wagon train and his grandmother sailed around the Horn. First they homesteaded in Selma, but the soil was too poor to farm. They then bought the property that is now known as Sauer's Flat in 1919. Jack's father, who was born in 1898, was 21 at the time.

Jack Sauer's parents, Chem and Evelyn Sauer, had three sons. The family farmed together at first, but there were squabbles between them, so they divided the land up into three different sections; the parents had one section, and sons, Morris and Chem had a section each.

The Archive Zone: by Hillary Mohr from the *Illinois Valley News* archives

This week we go back 25 years to Oct. 23, 1991. Haunted Highways II was open for a scare at Lorna Byrne Middle School. Dirty politics force resignation, grease fire destroys home and local boy sets town record for biggest pumpkin. Get ready to jump from the frying pan into the Archive Zone.

Firefighters knock down blaze fast. Grease in a pan left on a stove with a burner on is the most probable cause of a fire that caused an estimated \$56,000 damage to an Illinois Valley home and resulted in the death of two pets, according to the I.V. Rural Fire Protection District. Investigation indicates that the blaze Thursday night, Oct. 17 at 6285 Westside Road was in progress for at least 30 minutes before firefighters were phoned, the district said. The home is owned by Betty Marshall, who was reported uninjured. Some of her children and grandchildren reside with her, but were not at the house at the time of the fire, the district said. Mrs. Marshall had returned to the dwelling from a nearby field and discovered

burning grease. She attempted to extinguish it, but was unsuccessful. She returned to the field and went back to the house with a friend. The two of them tried to put out the fire. When their efforts failed, they went to a neighbor's house to phone for help, the district said. By then, flames could be seen on the roof, it was reported. Flames went into the attic of the residence because the stove pipe vented through the attic, instead of the roof according to the district. Twenty-five firefighters responded to the emergency. A dog and cat died as a result of the fire. As firefighters prepared to leave the scene after two hours, they found that a \$600 portable radio was missing. It apparently was taken from the front seat of the O'Brien pumper. The sheriff's office has been notified.

Public Works chief resigns in city of CJ. Robert W. "Bob" Pope of Selma resigned as director of the city of Cave Junction Public Works Department Tuesday, Oct. 15. He submitted his resignation to Mayor Rita Dyer. Pope said he

left the job "mostly because of pressure." He said there was too much "stress and strain" and that politics were involved. "I'd rather not elaborate," he said. Pope joined the city in June 1981 as utility worker I. He held that post until he was appointed public works director in July 1989, replacing James R. "Sully" Sullivan, who retired. City Recorder Suzanne Kirby declined to comment on the resignation. "It was between him (Pope) and the mayor," she said. Mayor Rita Dyer said Tuesday, Oct. 22 that she wished to make no comment. "I do not routinely discuss personnel

matters and I don't plan to discuss this," she said. During its meeting Monday, Oct. 14 the council held an executive (closed to the public) session to discuss personnel matters, but reconvened without taking any action.

Gourd-geous contest held. Soon-to-be 12-year-old

Arrin Farmer of Piller Lane captured the Great Pumpkin Championship and set a new record in competition sponsored by Treehouse Nursery of Cave Junction. Farmer's pumpkin weighed in at 151.5 pounds, surpassing the former record of 125 pounds.

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Annie's Halloween Bunny & Bats Organic Fruit Snacks \$5.99 ea. (Reg. \$7.79)	Asstd. Annie's Fruit Snacks \$2.99 ea. (Reg. \$5.49)
Asstd. Jovial Pasta Noodles \$3.99 ea. (Reg. \$5.89)	Surf Sweet Halloween Organic Fruity Bears \$5.99 ea. (Reg. \$7.69)

Deli

Small Soup of the Day \$3.59 ea. (Reg. \$3.99)	Large Grill Menu \$6.59 ea. (Reg. \$6.99)	Salad Case Bread Pudding Slices \$2.59 (Reg. \$2.99)
Grab-N-Go Prezzel Hoagie Asstd. meat, natural cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato, veganaise and mustard. \$4.59 ea. (Reg. \$4.99)	Breakfast Menu Breakfast Muffin \$2.29 ea. (Reg. \$2.69)	

Meat

Country Natural Pot Roast All natural beef. A slow cooking roast. \$5.99 lb. (Reg. \$7.39 lb.)	Al Fresco Chicken Bacon Just heat and eat. \$3.79 pkg. (Reg. \$4.59 pkg.)
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Frozen

Table 5 Asstd. Pizzas \$7.29 ea. (Reg. \$8.09 ea.)	Julian Bakery Paleo Bread \$12.89 ea. (Reg. \$14.29 ea.)
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Produce

Celery \$1.49 ea. (Reg. \$2.29 ea.)	Comice Pears \$1.99 lb. (Reg. \$2.39 lb.)
Garnet Jewel Yams \$1.69 lb. (Reg. \$1.89 lb.)	Bananas 89¢ lb. (Reg. \$1.19 lb.)

Bulk

Yummy Earth Organic Lollipops \$6.99 lb. (Reg. \$8.49 lb.)	Natural Sesame Crunch \$3.99 lb. (Reg. \$4.69 lb.)
Organic Unbleached Pastry Flour 79¢ lb. (Reg. 99¢ lb.)	

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