

(newspaper clipping, 1940)

The Rockenbachs and Success Go Hand in Hand

14 Children Never Caused Parents Trouble; Phil, the Youngest, to Be Graduated

When a hobby show was held last week by the Crystal Lake Woman's club, many members brought in parts of the hobbies they have followed throughout the years.

Mrs. A. O. Rockenbach, always willing to do her part in organizations, found herself somewhat perplexed as to a hobby. Fact is, she had never given much time to any particular hobby. But rather than go to the meeting empty handed, she picked up a picture of herself, husband and their fourteen children, depositing this on the table with the explanation to friends that "perhaps these persons have constituted my hobby." The picture proved one of the most interesting objects on the exhibit as Mr. and Mrs. Rockenbach and their 14 children comprise the largest family, and without doubt one of the most successful in Crystal Lake.

Mrs. Rockenbach was born in Palatine and Mr. Rockenbach in Deerfield. After marriage, they went on a farm near Prairie View where they resided for 27 years. Then they moved to their beautiful home on Virginia Street where they have since resided. There were nine acres of land with this place and this proved sufficient to keep Mr. Rockenbach busy with farm endeavors to which he had been accustomed. Ideal it was for their large family.

Success and Rockenbachs go hand in hand. Of the 14 children, all are outstanding in business and school work. Ten of the number are distinguished graduates of the Crystal Lake Community High school where they carved well-known names for themselves in their studies, athletics and school activities in general.

To ask Mr. and Mrs. Rockenbach what each of their children is doing is to hear a story of 14 children who are proving most successful and real citizens. Questioning further, one will find that Mr. and Mrs. Rockenbach are rightfully happy and thankful that none of the 14 ever caused a bit of trouble but instead brought cheer and comfort to them.

Here is a brief synopsis of the Rockenbach children, starting with the oldest, and what they are doing:

Esther is now Mrs. Mills. She resides in Mundelein and has six children, her husband being a farmer, locker plant operator and having other business connections.

Robert operates a garage at Grayslake, being married and the father of three children.

Ruth is married to L. A. Taylor of Crystal Lake and is the mother of four children. Mr. Taylor is in the multigraph business in Chicago.

Elizabeth is a registered nurse and assistant supervisor at Grant Park hospital.

George, who married the former Martha Woodbury, lives at Grayslake and is employed in his brother's garage.

Joe is coach and mathematics teacher at Roodhouse, Ill.

Shirley is a graduate nurse at Sherman hospital.

Ray is construction foreman for the Cyclone fence company and travels widely.

Lyle, nationally-known football hero at Michigan State, will be graduated in June and will go to Howell, Mich., this fall to coach and teach biology.

Mary, graduate at Ottawa University, is secretary, director of girls' physical education and substitute teacher at the grade schools.

Rodney is bookkeeper at his brother's garage in Grayslake.

Sarah is a telephone operator for the Illinois Bell Telephone company.

Dorothy is a student at Michigan State University.

Phil is a senior at the Community High school where he has excelled in his studies, starred in athletics and has been an outstanding leader in school activities "It will seem funny not to have a Rockenbach on the team," said Mr. Rockenbach as the list drew to a close.

Success. That word is most descriptive of the Rockenbachs.