



Robert Henry Rothert was born October 13, 1922 on the same farm his Grandpa had bought around the year 1880. Seven days later his father dies from an accident on the farm. Robert has an older sister and brother, both living. He has lived on the same farm all his life except for the time (six months) that his mother moved them to Pleasant Plains. Robert started farming in 1940 fresh out of high school. His first job and only job away from the farm for money was helping build the wooden elevator at Richland and for that he was paid the sum of .35 per hour. Corn prices today at the elevator are less than they were in 1946, back then corn sold for \$2.46 per bushel, and a new four-door deluxe 6 cylinder Ford was only \$1,600.00. He later served on the Board of Directors for the elevator for a number of years. In the past Robert has raised hogs, beef cattle and has had several milk cows from which he sold milk and cream. Robert has been a member of the Peter

Cartwright Methodist Church for 50 plus years. He has served on the official Board and Pastor Parish Committees, as well as being a Farm Bureau member for over 50 years. Robert married his wife, Jean, in 1947. She has always loved the farm as much as he does and they have worked side by side for 54 years. They have one son, who is now gradually taking over the farm as his weekend job along with his town job. Will he be able to keep the farm as a family farm until his son or one of his daughters takes over? Only time will tell.

2003 Recipient
Robert H. Rothert
Pleasant Plains, Illinois