

My vase with the Island Farmers - now known  
p. 12 The Best Rose Seed Rye in the Country  
- Russell Ford associate editor Farm & Fireside

"Farm & Fireside The National Farm Magazine  
December 1925 5¢ a copy

First seed sent over in 1909 by Joseph A. Rosen  
a Russian who had been taking work under Frank  
A Spragg prof of plant breeding at MSU

Joseph Rosen - 49, dr. of philosophy & a leader of  
efforts toward Jewish agricultural colonization  
lately undertaken by Bolshevik gov't.  
As a youth - anti monarchist sentenced to 5 yrs  
in Siberia as pol pris of Czar.

Escaped in 16 months went to Germany & then to  
USA.

Sent Spragg 2000 kernels of an unknown  
Rye raised around Riga Russia

kernels = long, plump, bluish green in color  
just enough to plant horse blanket size plot.

Spragg multiplied & saved. It proved to fill  
long heads to end and w wonderful short stiff straw  
put out seed in 1911

In next 8 years seed spread to nearly 1 mil  
acres in the. Doubled yield & qualities

1917 only 5% was up for seed fit to certify  
looked for place to provide pure seed year after  
year.

SMI Hutzlers tried it 20 bushels/ac compare  
to 9-11

Other farmers said they'd drown anyone who  
raised anything else on Island

## Rosen (cont)

1924 association passed a ruling that all Rosen sown for certified seed on mainland must be not more than 2 generations from Island Seed (Mich)

Aug Warner's <sup>engine</sup> Lenore son Lonzo age 12 steers like a pro tho he stands on a box to reach the wheel

80 people on Island 7 cars one for life saves winter wheelies on the inland lake sta 3

p 11 In the midst of woods = Hutzler clearings orderly fields, neat white cottage barn and granary. small fenced orchard and garden with border of roses & petunias

George Hutzler bronzed and wiry, lean tense type 50 yrs old

Louis - nice looking shy sort of boy in early 20's thoughtful grey eyes

George's father cleared 20 ac, he cleared 50

"He came to this country, my father, on a sailing boat. It took him six ~~ye~~ weeks. He became a sailor on the lakes living ashore in winter at Buffalo. He and my mother were married there. ... <sup>with</sup>

My father thought maybe lumbering would pay <sup>him</sup> more than being a sailor. He quit the lakes and made clear space enough to build a cabin on, there where the barn is now. I was born in that cabin in 1873.

But the boats began to burn coal and didn't come any more to our Island. We cleared those 20 acres, my father and I, before he died. I was about Louis' age then.

Rosen (cont)

I married the daughter of my nearest neighbor I built that cottage from my own timber Louis was born in 1902 His mother died when he was 12. We have been bucking it together Louis and I, fourteen years now"

Back in the cottage as clean as the cabin of a yacht.

pg 40 Geo says "One of us tends the horses, the other fellow takes the house that week. Two hours a day is plenty for good housekeeping - meals dishes scrubbing and all... Louis get the gentlemen some cakes and cider and show them our cup."

"See! - it has our name on it three times. If we win it once more it is ours. We get orders for our rye from states like California. One even came last year from South Africa."

Others have done all right too. Irwin Bush beat us for inter-annual sweepstakes one year and Mrs Johnson over the way grows the best red kidney and seed beans in the state. We have to do things together plant the same things & ship together at same time. Costs too much to charter a boat by yourself.

"You couldn't pay me to live in the city," says Geo Hutzler "I am used to the lake. I would miss it. Can you run down a sand hill?"

We get into his car 4 years old & not a scratch on it.

Seed business makes it more interesting. Used to go hunt after crops were in. Now busy until Christmas picking the peck of Rye we show at Che.

"Warden" 10 bushels over the screen and go over it grain  
by grain. My father picks for size, I watch the  
color. Two or three hours at a stretch is enough.  
It's awful hard on the eyes but interesting. And  
when the cup comes, then you feel like somebody!

"Most of the fellows my age have left the place  
- gone into coast guard or something. I went to  
Chicago myself, three winters ago, and tried to  
learn something in a motor school. But I couldn't  
eat right - felt bad all the time. It just didn't  
p 41 seem like I belonged there. I was glad to get back.

"My father says he's going to the Antwerp  
this winter even if he has to wait for the lake  
to freeze so he can walk back. He has never been  
there to see our Rye win. Neither have I. Maybe  
some day I'll have another seed farm, nearer  
to things. If I ever have a son I'd like for him  
to have a chance to go to school. I don't know  
just what I'll do. But I'll stay here with my  
father as long as he lives; that part's sure."

My visit with the island farmers who grow the Best Rosen Seed Rye in the Country  
- Russell Lord, associate editor of "Farm & Fireside"

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