In 1926, two farm boys, business administration students from Marquette University, started a forty-year partnership. Bauer Mohr from Spring Prairie and Herman Bock from Columbus started in business by buying a stuffed octopus from a carnival stall and went on the road with their show. This side show venture was so successful that within a year they decided to start a new venture. On a whim they bought a few pair of wild northern Minnesota mink caught by an Indian. They learned feeding and breeding of mink and that decision blossomed into the Bock and Mohr Fur Farms at Rochester.

Originally located at the Mohr farm in Spring Prairie Township, they leased the George Ela farm north of Rochester with 2500 pens. Needing more land, the Rowe farm, east of the village, was purchased with room for several hundred additional pens.

The farms became the world’s largest commercial mink producers with a $120,000 annual business.

Through experimentation, the farms created the famous silverblue or platinum mink.

The former mink farm on Highway D is now a working farm owned by Joe and Ione Kojis.

Eileen Albright