Carl Stroh Jr. Is First Wayne College Graduate

BY GARY WESMAN

If we really do believe the adage, "education is our best investment," then Wayne General and Technical College has paid its first dividend.

The two-year branch college of Akron University, which won't even begin its second year of operations until the fall, paid the "dividend" last week in the form of the school's very first graduate. He is Carl Stroh Jr., a 34-year-old dairy farmer from Mount Eaton.

While Wayne College director Marvin Phillips would be the last person to suggest that the essential role of a university is that of a diploma mill, he was understandably proud last Friday to present Wayne General and Technical College's first two-year Associate Arts degree.

He was doubly proud to present it to Stroh, as both trace their beginnings in Orrville branch colleges back to the old Orrville Academic Center of Kent State University; Phillips as a professor and director, and Stroh as a student.

In fact, Stroh began his quest for a 66-credit-hour associate degree in a speech class taught by Phillips some two and one-half years ago. When Wayne General and Technical College came to Orrville last fall, Phillips made the transition to director and Stroh signed up to continue his education.

50 Credit Hours

During the first year of operation at Wayne College, Stroh completed some 50 credit hours toward his degree, in both evening and daytime classes. An additional 40 odd credit hours transferred from his Kent State studies, earning Stroh his diploma at the close of the spring term this year.

"Having the branch college in Orrville, the old Kent State branch and now Wayne General, provided me with the opportunity of commuting," commented Stroh on the convenience of having an accredited college within the county.

While at Wayne, he enrolled in all the general field courses and completed the usual required credits while majoring in political science. His curriculum included units of speech, English general science, and political science.

Continues Education

Stroh is currently continuing his education both at Wayne General and at the main campus in Akron.

"My goal," he says, "is to get my four-year degree and go into law school."

Being a family man — he lives at home with a wife, Carol, and four children — and being a dairy farmer, in particular, have made the road more difficult for Stroh.

As he puts it, "It makes it rough, farming during the day and then spending nights studying. But this college provides opportunities, not only for students, but for older people, too." Like me, a lot of people would like to go back to school, but can't bring themselves to Wayne College. It presents a heckuwan opportunity."

Goal Is Law

What would make a successful dairy farmer suddenly resume his education some 12 years after his high school graduation?

"It has always been my goal, even in high school, to go into law if I ever got a chance to go to college," Stroh answered. "Two years ago, people began telling me that I wasn't getting any younger, that if I was ever going to go, I'd better go soon."

Thus, Wayne General and Technical College has taken its first big step out of infancy in Carl Stroh, Associate of Arts. As more and more two-year graduates emerge from Wayne Col-