

land and use fertilizer like they should, he said.

Burns was “fortunate” because his father paid rent on farming land and didn’t have to sharecrop.

“At that time, there were very few tractors. Some few farmers owned tractors but we used horse, mule, plow,” he said.

Burns, a widower, has two sons and a daughter. One son, Burgess, worked on the Arsenal from 1950 to 1964.

“I hired in for 87 cents an hour as an ammunition handler,” said Burgess Burns, 54. During his tour of duty, he became a security guard and was a building inspector before leaving for an arsenal in Indiana.