



Spring 2009

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Farm Memories: a Vanishing Life



by Clarence Eull

Three generations of Eulls have been stewards of the land; beginning in 1877 when Michael Eull homesteaded his piece of property and built the original 16 x 28 log house. The sequence of family succession continued into the next century. Clarence was born in 1932 and raised in the same house as his father, Jacob. He was the youngest of nine.

Clarence has fond memories of the farm. We didn't have electricity in the 30s and 40s. There was a gas ceiling lamp over the kitchen table, and also one in the southwest corner of the living room. We always used the lamp in the kitchen, but I remember the living room was only lit up on special occasions. The first farm grainary and hog barn were built in 1918 when the log house, barn, chicken and milk house were torn down.

My Mom made a lot of my school clothes; most of the shirts and overalls were sewn on a paddle sewing machine. A neighbor lady helped her make a snowsuit for me out of a big overcoat my Dad got from an uncle. It was a two-piece suit. I never really liked it very well but it kept me warm walking to school.

In December of 1941 Dad bought the 80-acre farm across the road from us. The farm had been rented out for about ten years, as were many of the farms in the neighborhood that had been lost during the Depression. In the early forties to 1950, most of the farms were bought up and were back to private ownership. Our homestead was 52 acres. The purchase increased the farm to 132 acres. The dairy cows and horses were then kept at the other farm since there was a big barn there. We had a log barn on the home place which housed our young stock. We also had about 30 sheep and 250 laying hens.

Meetings for 2009

June 1, 2009

June 29, 2009

August 3, 2009

**Meetings 7: 00 at
City Hall.**

Anyone is welcome

Special Points of Interest

- **Farm Stories**
- **Membership Dues**

Created by:
Genny Kieley

Farm Memories by Clarence Eull

Continued

After school our evening chores were to carry wood in for two wood stoves. Wood for the kitchen range was put in a wood box behind it. The larger wood for the heater in the living room was kept on the porch. All our drinking water was also carried in from the well, and a reservoir on the kitchen range was filled with warm water, which was used for washing along with heating water on the stove. Monday was the usual washday for clothes. We had a cistern under the house in which the rainwater drained into from the rain gutters. This was our source of soft water, and was used only for washing. We had a small cistern pump by the kitchen sink, from which we filled a large copper boiler and heated the water on the kitchen range. The heated water was then poured into the washing machine that was hand operated with a wood handle to activate the agitator. There was a wringer on the wash machine and also a mounted wringer on the wash-tub stand used for rinse water - both had to be hand-turned. Since we didn't have electricity, the only appliance we had was a battery-operated radio. I cannot remember being without a telephone, and was told we had a phone for many years before I was born.



Taking care of the sheep was a chore I took over after I was about 12 years old. Lambing time in the early spring made it difficult to save the lambs; especially in cold weather, when the ewe wouldn't take them. We had several sheep killed by dogs one summer night and after that I always worried whenever I heard them cry during the night. At age thirteen I helped with chores on the other farm. We milked sixteen to eighteen cows by hand. I usually milked four or five cows each day. The milk was separated and only the cream was sold. The skim milk was fed to the calves and hogs. The cream was taken to the St. Michael Creamery three times a week. Dad took turns with two neighbors.

In 1945 we got electricity on both farms. Of all the improvements I have witnessed on the farm, this by far was the greatest. Just to switch on the lights for the first time was an unforgettable experience. And then all the conveniences like the appliances for household use; the first use outside was an electric motor and pump-jack at the well. We no longer had to rely on the wind to pump water for the cattle or for inside the house. But I think the best memory of this convenience was the happiness we shared as a family, and especially for Mom and Dad who had lived without this all their life. Christmas shopping for the next several years was fun. There were so many things to buy for the home. I can't forget to mention the lights on the Christmas tree the first year were spectacular.



In the spring of 1946, Dad bought our first tractor at a neighbor's auction. It was a 10-20 McCormik Deering on steel wheels. This tractor was used only for plowing and working the fields before planting. We had two teams of horses with which all the seeding, corn planting, cultivating and haymaking was done. After the seeding and planting was done, we were busy cultivating and making hay. Most of the hay was put up as loose hay, using a hay-loader that was pulled up in the mow with a hay carrier on a track. Balers came in use in the late forties and early fifties. The grain was cut with a binder and shocked in July and then threshed after drying for a week or so. The corn was also cut with a binder and shocked. Then later in the fall it was put through a corn-shredder, separating the cobs from the stalks. The stalks, or fodder, were then fed to the cattle. Gregor Barthel, a close neighbor of ours, owned a thresh machine and a corn shredder. Six to eight farmers would help each other in a threshing ring, as they were called.

In the summer of 1949 we started to prepare a site for a new barn on the home place. The log barn was taken down, and we moved other buildings. Early in the fall we dug the foundation trench and poured the concrete footings. We hauled a lot of smaller fieldstone which was used in the foundation. This was all manual labor. No backhoe for trenching or ready mix for the footings. We had cousins and uncles of both Mom and Dad's side help us. Most of the labor was just volunteer help. We would always help each other.



In July we started the task of cleanup and salvaging the materials from the barn on the other farm. After the storm, this job was held up until our new barn was nearly finished. On July 24th, Dad passed away suddenly while helping with the cleanup. We had just finished the interior concrete work in the new barn three days prior to his death. Dad never got to see cattle in his new barn, which he was so enthused about.

In 1951 we made some improvements on the farm. A new well was put in, with waterlines to the house and barn. We also installed water cups for the cows and purchased a two-unit surge milking machine. A lot of work was done on the house and outbuildings. In 1952 I bought and moved an 8' x 14' frame building to the farm to be used for a milk house. It had been used as a woodcutter's cabin on a forty-acre parcel just west of our farm. It was our grade A milk house until 1969, when it was converted to a playhouse. In early March we removed the old screen porch on the south side of the house and built a new 8 x 16 enclosed porch. There were several other repair jobs done on the interior of the house.



Can you identify this farm?

St. Michael Historical Society

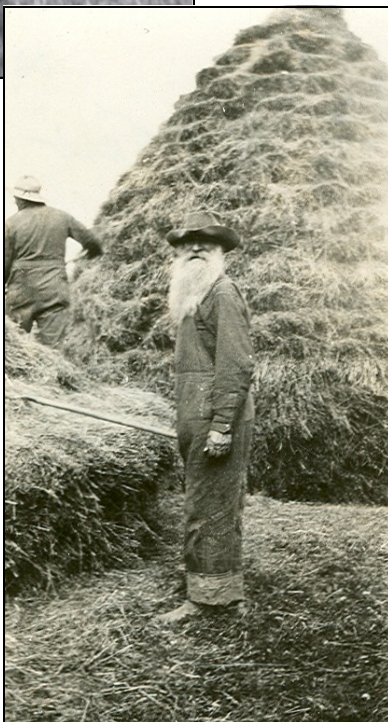
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St. Michael, MN 55376
Phone : 763-497-2041

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4

We need your photos and stories



Harvey Zahler on his tractor haying



Well known guy
from Buffalo

Membership Dues are Payable in January

If you have not renewed your membership for 2009, please send your name and address and submit it along with your check to the address provided.

If you are unsure of your status, call St. Michael Historical Society at [763] 497-2041 and leave a message.

We are always interested in donated artifacts related to St. Michael's history. For more information and how you can help please call.

We appreciate your ongoing support.