

Birthday party. (Back row)—Clyde Walker, Jerry Mealy, Joe Keefe, Max McGrane, Langdon (Bucky) Longstreth, Terry Mealy, and Ronnie Kelly. (Second row)—Clement Schroeder, Dick Weers, Dean Sunde, Joe McAvoy, and Jimmie Oliver. (First row)—Unknown, Jack Kelly, Freddie Erion, Unknown, and Bruce Carter.



Birthday party. (Back row)—Mrs. August Lauck, Mrs. Krumm, Mrs. John Gesell, Mrs. Gus Unger, Mrs. Thies, Mrs. August Buchholz. (Front row)—Mrs. Ludwig, Mrs. Hintz, Mrs. Lamprecht, Mrs. Bartels. Wilma (Lamprecht) Knutson and her two cousins down on the ground.



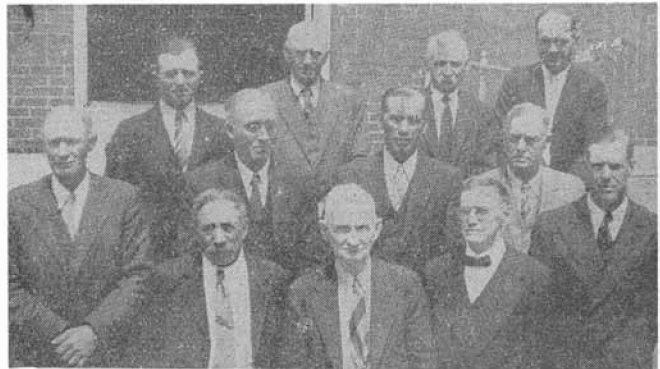
Elma Public School: 1945—Elizabeth Robison, Donna Palmersheim, Margaret Cook, teacher, Alice Lauck, Lois Brummond.



Lillian Conway, Lyle Bellis, Hazel Richmond.



Campfire Girls: 1936. (Back row)—Mrs. Brandmill, Lorraine Stute, Mildred Keefe, Marge O'Neil, Lois Diekmann, Marge Carter, Marie Haberman, Marion Markham. (Front row)—Becky Crawford, Leah Borg, Evelyn Biever, Marge Pospichal, Dorothy Gleason, Shirley Schieffer, Eileen Bigley, and Arlene Dushek.



Trustees at Lutheran Church. (Back row)—Raymond Gesell, Fred Streich, Henry Schwake, Otto Boderman. (Middle row)—William Michael, Alex Buls, John Thies, Henry Erion. (Front row)—Gus Unger, August Lauck, Rev. Bentrup, and Enno Bentrup.



Daughters of Matt Biwer, taken in 1916, Lizzie, Ella, Agnes, Esther, Gertrude, Sara.



Methodist Church Group Picture. (Back section)—Rev. Donald Cummings, Rev. Maynard Bell, Mrs. Maynard (Helen) Bell, Donald Fairchild, Joan Bell, Rev. Bernard Olson, Rev. Edward Meisenbach, Mrs. Edward (Dora) Meisenbach, Mrs. Donald Cummings, Leone Schroeder, Lois Diekmann, Mrs. Donald (Dorothy) Fairchild, Mrs. Bernard (June) Olson, Dave Tidgewell, Mrs. Dave (Ida) Tidgewell, Marilyn Darrah Ott, Rose Womack Nichols, Verona Frank, Marion Schroeder, Wanda Roethler, Mrs. Elwin (Genevieve) Knapp, Mrs. Leona Miller, Mrs. Cyril (Ione) Finch, Ferol Burns, Mrs. Robert (Adeline) Schroeder, Mrs. Earl (Esther) Reinhart, Earl Reinhart, Della Womack, Mrs. Gaylord (Leona) Robison, Mrs. Ed (Wanda) Schroeder, Ellen Schroeder, Mrs. Reed (Goldie) Elwood, Mrs. Homer (Myrtle) Schroeder holding Joyce Ann Hart, Elwin Knapp holding Paul Knapp. (Front section)—Kathy Bronner, Jeannine and Geraldine Olson, Ronald Schroeder, Wanda Mae Schroeder, Dean Schroeder, Judy Dale Hart, Bob Bell, Mark Knapp. (Left section)—Harold Schroeder, Mrs. E. O. (Emma) Longstreth, Hazel Roethler. (Right section)—Henry Cook, Earl Schroeder, Robert Schroeder, Ted Burns, Edna Fountain, Gaylord Robison, Dr. E. O. Longstreth, John Roethler, Homer Schroeder, George Fountain, Edwin Schroeder, Mrs. Henry (Margaret) Cook, Mrs. Clarence (Aletta) Darrah, Harriet Burns, Lois Fountain, Earl James Schroeder.



Dottie Miller, Carrie Schwake, Anna Haaf, Mary Diekmann, Katie Biwer, Bertha Miller.



March, 1929—Katherine Brennan, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Silver, Bernice Marr.



Loretta Conway Stapleton in her graduation dress.



1925—Lepha Irons, teacher; Eunice McGrane, Katherine Brennan—roomed at Maurice Silvers.



1926—Miss Wigim, teacher in Elma Public School, Ed and Margaret Clark.



Mrs. August Lauck and some ladies to celebrate her birthday. Mrs. Henry Erion, Mrs. August Buchholz, Mrs. Jack Braden, Mrs. John Gesell.



Middle 1930's—this was taken west of Gitzy's Drug Store, later the liquor store. Bob Conway, Joe Rohde, Bob "Jiggs" Kelly, Norb Conway.



Frank Silver



1933—Claire Garmen and Marjorie Carter. (Garmen's house and town water tower in background.)

Monica and Virg Kinna-  
mon



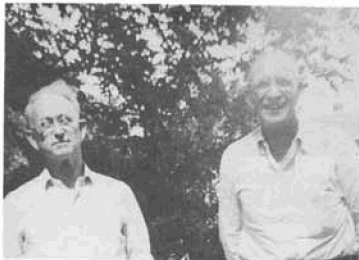
December 30, 1949—Alexander Groat, Edith Stevenson, Ella Mae Stevenson, Mathew Pat Stevenson.



Birthday party. (Front row)—Patty Dillon, Bob Weber, Margaret "Peggy" Kobliska, Bernetta Krumm, Martha Womack. (Middle row)—Merle Hayden, Margaret O'Neil, Muriel Weber, unidentified, Lucille Kobliska, Rose Womack, Marcene Showalter, Viola Krumm. (Back row)—Dan Conway, Ed Enloe, Jim Conway, Dick Conway, Norb Weber, Elmer Morman, Laddie Pardee.



Lavonne Balk  
in front of the  
Richmond Drug  
Store.



1950 (approximately).  
George Evans and James  
Stapleton.

Harold Brown and Bert  
Keefe.





Sunday School Teachers. (Back row)—Grace Schwake, Beverly Kirchner, Lois Brummond, Rosella Weers, Fred Schwake. (Second row)—Vera Maseman, Erma Jensen, Marian Steuber, Mary Kirchner. (Front row)—Verna Maseman and Rev. Michaels.



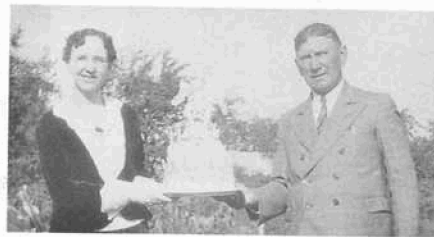
The "Midnight Ramblers" played around the Elma area—1950's Tony McBride, Cornelia (Pecinovsky) Knutson and Jimmy Zobeck.



Frankie Hruska as a boy attired in the common dress of the day.



"Baby Take a Bow." In 1928, Myrna Kelly and her sister, Lucille (on the right), did just this. They did tap dance numbers and stunt and circus acts for various shows.

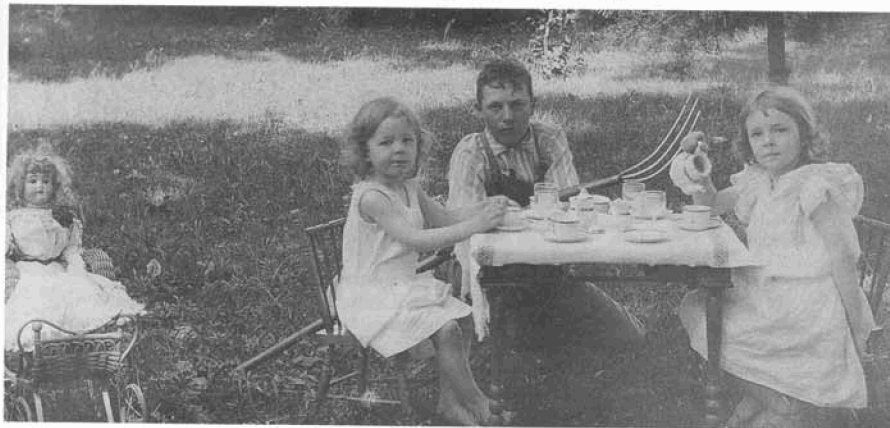


Katie and Jim Hruska, long-time Elma residents.

Dinsmore and Ruth Bailard Brandmill.



Ladies showing off their finery and especially their millinery were (Left to right)—Sisters Ann Merten, Kate Showalter, and cousin, Celia Biber.



A "tea party" on the lawn of the Brandmill house. Joining the doll in her fancy wicker buggy were Potter, Parke, and Beryl Brandmill.



**Jimmie and Katie Hruska, Agnes and Frank Hruska.**



**Darlene Sweeney Livingston and Betty Tierney Stevenson.**



**The Maple Leaf Cowboys played at many dances in the Elma area.**



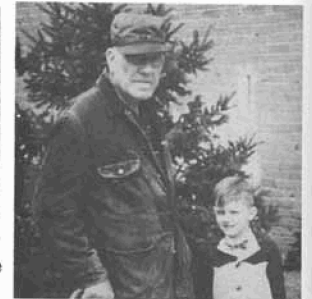
**George Kirchner 30th Anniversary cooks—Elsie Buchholz, Marie Frahm, Bessie Rimrodt, Mrs. Alex Buls, Amanda Frahm, Celia Priebe.**



**1955—Ladies who helped with the dinner for the wedding of Dan Halweg and DeLoris Kirchner. Marie Frahm, Grace Schwake, Lyla Brummond, Amanda Frahm, Elsie Buchholz, Bessie Rimrodt, Edna Lamprecht, Blanche Streich.**



**Elsie Buchholz, Christine Kirchner, Marie Frahm, Grace Schwake, Mrs. Harlin Averhoff in 1960.**



**Carl Weber and Johnny Freidhof.**



**Anna Mae Lammers**



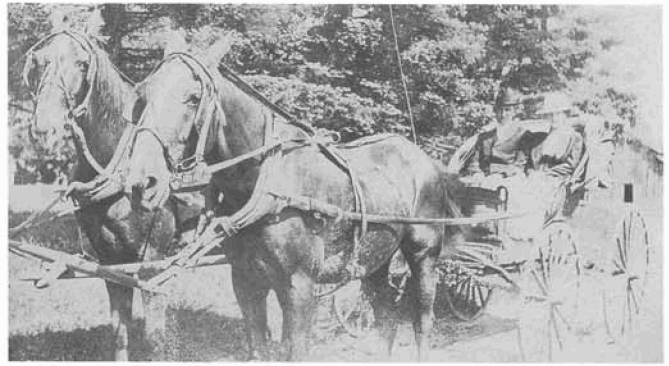
**July 5, 1966. Lorraine Kinney Osterman, Roseanna Kinney Regan Madden, Evelyn Kinney Eagen, (sisters of Matt Kinney).**



**Mrs. Dennis (Nina) Tierney with grandsons, Gary (left), and Dennis Stevenson (right). Nina is the mother of Mrs. Kenneth (Betty) Stevenson, Carl (Knox); Clifton (Sam); Mrs. Grace Sweeney; Walter and Merle. (1956)**



Miss Margaret O'Donnell and Mrs. Dan Halpin.



1919—A. J. "Butch" and Jenny Hart.



About 1917—William Beaston, brother of Anna Dybevik in a parade at Elma.



Miller, first name unknown, repaired wagons and buggies in Elma.



Art Gansen riding one of his horses.



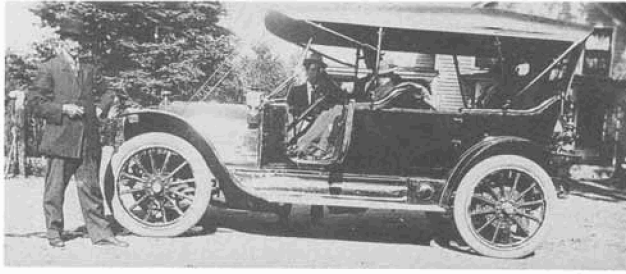
Lester Zobeck on the Zobeck farm.



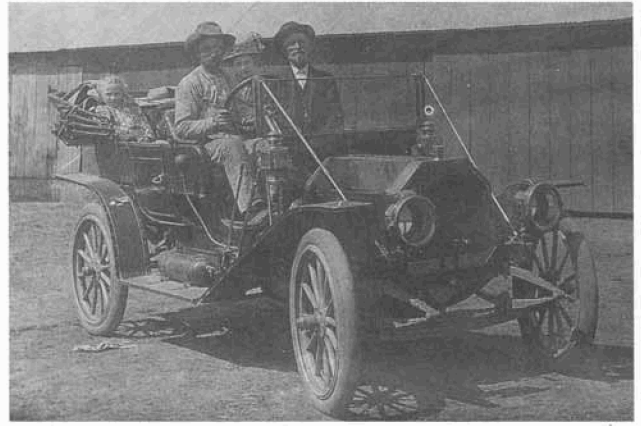
Halloween. Harold Stapleton is the "Lady." Horse's head is Loretta Stapleton, and the horse's "end" is Doris Conway.



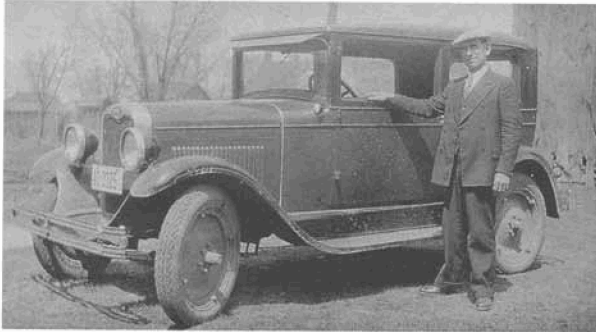
1969 an afternoon of fun! Horse "Penny" and buggy belonging to Joyce Stapleton, daughter of Harold and Lucille Stapleton. Going for a ride were Jerry Weers, Gary Weers, and Kathy Weers, grandchildren of Arlyn and Rosella Weers; Linda Cook, daughter of Margaret Pierce; and Joyce Stapleton.



**Frank Kobliska's first car.**



**August Lauck and unidentified passengers.**



**James Hruska**



**Lawrence Rosonke and his 1950 Chevrolet. He owned the car for 34 years.**



**Wyron and Elsie Buchholz.**



Car damaged when heavy winds hit the Kobliska garage in which it was stored. It was to have been given away at the Fourth of July celebration around the year 1937.



**"Can't you read the 'Low Clearance' sign?" A truck damaged by the viaduct's low clearance.**



**WHOOOPS! !**



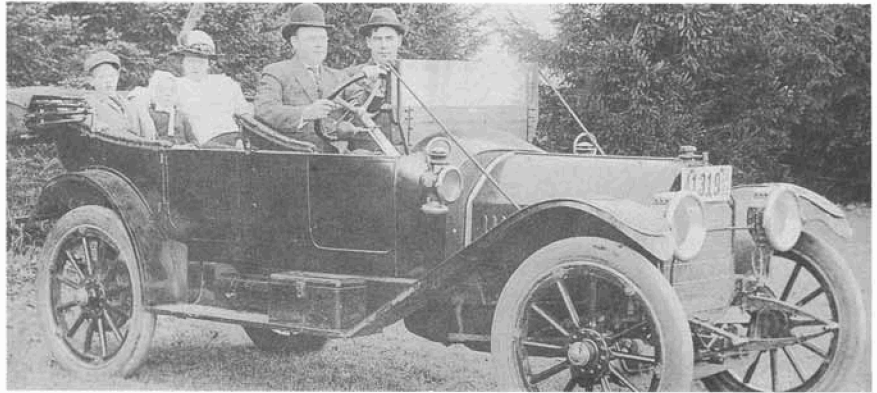
**Treacherous driving! Under the viaduct. 1959.**



Dale Hoffman and his "horse."



Leroy Mohrfeld "Mort" with his pony with Joyce Stapleton on board.



Buick car with a 1913 license plate. Bill Hidding is driving. Henry Erion is in the front seat, Mrs. Henry Erion and children, Lyanda and Hiram, in the back seat.



A "Studebaker" wagon in 1920 with an unidentified girl and her doll waiting for a ride.

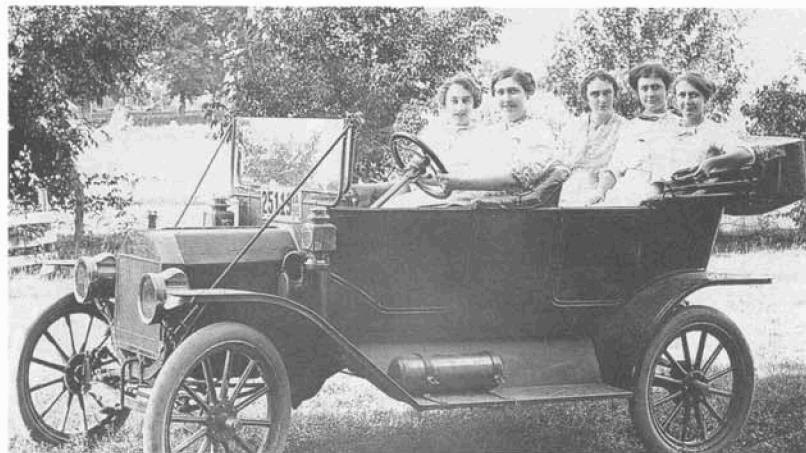


Model T Sedan ?—Gus Rohde, mail carrier is driving (usually he drove one horse). Riding in the front seat is Mrs. Rohde. (Back seat, left to right)—Vernon Carmen, Ray Rohde, Joel Rohde and Hazel Rohde.

Jack Biwer and his 1919 Dodge.



Dorothy Miller Kruger, Carrie Schwake, Bertha Miller Diekmann, Linda Rimrodt Friedrich, Helen Rimrodt.





19 *Ford* 16  
THE UNIVERSAL CAR

**New Prices August 1, 1916**

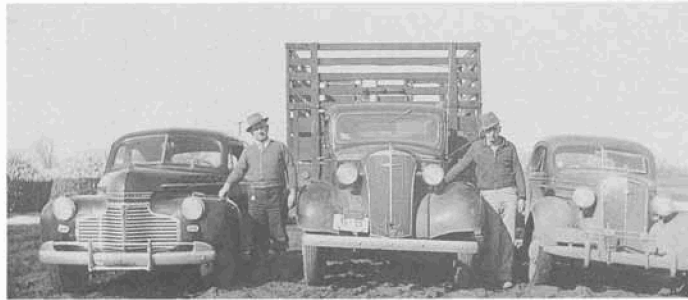
The following prices for Ford cars will be effective on and after August 1st, 1916

Chassis . . . . .	\$325.00
Runabout . . . . .	345.00
Touring Car . . . . .	360.00
Coupelet . . . . .	505.00
Town Car . . . . .	595.00
Sedan . . . . .	645.00

L. o. b. Detroit

These cars are positively guaranteed against any mechanical failure August 1st, 1916, for three (3) months against an advance in price every year.

**Our New Branch in Des Moines**  
101 S. E. 5th Street



Frank and Jimmie Hruska with their livestock truck and cars.



An early version of a feed mill.



The sophomore class of Elma High School in 1949 boasted of three sets of twins. They were Eugene and Jeanette Myer, Vionne and Dianne Longstreth, and Bob and Betty Roethler.



Four sets of twins at the Elma I. C. Academy: Freshmen, Donald & Ronald Rosonke; Sophomores, Marion and Margie Wach; Juniors, Muriely and Shirley Burke; Seniors, Cletus and Kenneth Gebel.



Four Generation. (Left to right)—Ed Richmond, Linda Mohrfeld, Luva (Richmond) Mohrfeld, Hazel (Bellis) Richmond, Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Bellis.



Four Generations—Mathias Biwer, Margaret Elgas Sullivan, Marcella Sullivan, Margaret Biwer Elgas.

Tom "Pete" Miller. He lived in Elma and worked for the railroad.



1976 Five-Generation Stevenson Family. (Back row, left to right)—Kenneth Stevenson, Dennis Stevenson. (Front)—Mary Seavy Erion, Nellie Stevenson, Brian Stevenson.



Three Generations. (Left to right)—Patty Shannon Friedhoff, Clara Chihak, and Marian Chihak Shannon.



Four Generations. (Left to right)—Elizabeth Rosonke Biber, Geraldine Biber Heying, Mary Brincks Rosonke. (In front)—Donna Heying McGrane.



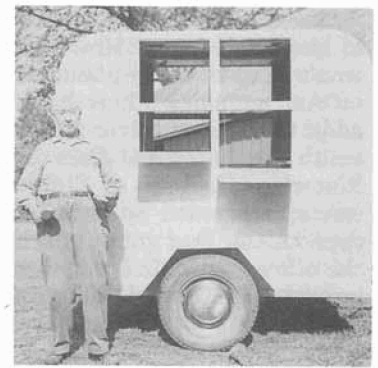
Lucille Corrick, one of Elma's first beauticians.



Tom Kelly Day in 1962. Pictured: Tom Kelly, retired town marshal and street commissioner.

(Foreground, left)—Tom Kelly. (Right)—Percy Haven.

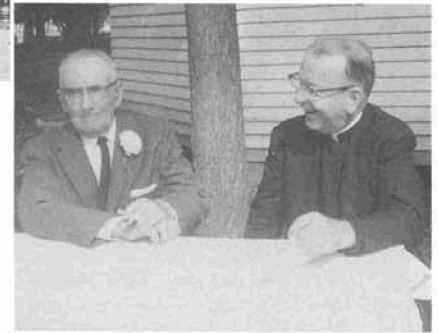
Elma's weather station. Marvin and Peder Neilsen are pictured with the weather station, started in 1970 and still operated on the Nielsen farm.



Leo Thiele and his 'Popcorn Wagon.'



Beverly Kirchner employed by Elma Cleaners in 1950.



Tom Kelly Day in 1962. Tom Kelly (left) and Father Francis Cassidy in the Elma Park.



### "Tom Kelly Day"

"Tom Kelly Day" observed in Elma in 1962 honored Tom Kelly who had just retired after 27 years as town marshal and street commissioner.

The day's activities opened with a potluck dinner at noon in the Elma Park. Following the meal, a short program was presented with Dr. Curtis Rainy serving as master of ceremonies.

Tom and members of the Kelly family were taken to the park by fire truck, driven by LeRoy Mohrfeld and

accompanied by Sheriff Percy Haven. On their arrival there, Sheriff Haven presented Tom with a boutonniere.

Dinsmore Brandmill, representing former town officials, gave a talk and Mayor Francis Meirick presented Tom with a plaque and purse of money from the town.

Mrs. Joseph Hughes and Mrs. Joseph (Hughes) Riquoso represented the family on the program. We take this excerpt from a copy of the tribute given by Mrs. Hughes to her father, Tom Kelly:

"For years he was entrusted with the responsibility of law enforcement. Now I can tell this story, and he won't have to worry about being demoted or fired.

"As the police officer he wore (with pride, I might add), the largest silver star made by the local blacksmith of that time. One day, while going through Waterloo (a suburb of Elma) he ran a stop light and was apprehended by an officer of the local Waterloo department. Dad got out of the car and walked over to the officer with his chest thrust out, proudly displaying this big star and telling the family not to worry as

law officers look out for each other. The officer's eyes popped wide when he saw the star and he gave Dad quite a dressing down, and said: '... to think an officer of the law would run a stop light, how in thunder did it happen?' And Dad, in his calm and easy manner said, 'Well, Officer, it just wasn't convenient for me to stop.' Poking at the star, the officer said, 'And what town are you from.' Dad said, 'Elma.' The officer gave a slight bow, and said, 'The smaller the town, the bigger the star—on your way and be more careful the next time. Use those brakes.'"



First Holy Communion Day at the Immaculate Conception Church. (Row 4, left to right)—Altar boys, Michael Heying, Michael Sullivan, Michael Offerman, Father Robert Ament, Dennis Friedhoff and Dennis Stevenson. (Row 3, left to right)—Edward Palmersheim, Peter Heying, Cheryl Koshatka, Regina Gansen, Richard Novak, Thomas Biwer. (Row 2, left to right)—Daniel O'Brien, Carlene Zubrod, Susan Sullivan, Jane Heying, Debra Gebel, Constance Friedhoff, William Boyle. (Row 1, left to right)—Robert Gansen, Douglas Murphy, Kathy Walker, Nancy Stevenson, Suzanne Meier, Ann Offerman, Nickolas Zeimetz, Lawrence McGee.



Time for fun at the I. C. Gym in 1961. (Left to right)—Raymond Benson, David Lammers, Paul Semerad, Leonard 'Lindy' Beecher.



In 1942, Betty Stapleton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Stapleton of Elma, was "Miss Howard County" at the Howard County Fair.



Colleen Murphy, daughter of Luvern and Lucille Murphy, was Homecoming Queen at Crestwood High School in 1974. Pictured Colleen and her mother, Lucille.



Emmett and Elizabeth Ostwinkle McGrane. They celebrated 71 years of marriage. He lived to be 99 and she lived to be 103.



Becky Fangman, daughter of Kenny and Janice Fangman, was Homecoming Queen at Crestwood High School in 1985.

### Ella Palmersheim

September 16, 1887, Ella Palmersheim was born to Matt and Anna Biwer in Sullivan, Wisconsin. She was to become Elma's oldest, but exceptionally alert and active citizen. Ella had six sisters and three brothers. For 94 years she has claimed Elma as her home town.

Ella's mother, Anna, came to America from Switzerland; her father, Matt, from Germany at the age of 14 years. In 1892, the family moved from the Wisconsin

home to a farm west of Elma—a farm still occupied by the Biwer family.

Ella attended the eight grades of a rural school, District 8, Howard County, and has continued to educate herself through the years by much reading.

October 14, 1908, she was married to John Palmersheim. They made their home on a farm southwest of Elma currently occupied by the Lowell Head family. They became the parents of a daughter, Anna, and two sons, Matt and Joe. She has 13 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren, and is fondly known as "Grandma Palmersheim" by the children of the neighborhood.

She is a life-long member of Elma's Immaculate Conception Church and the Rosary Society. Her concern for the needy has been evidenced by the numerous articles in clothing, quilts, and bandages that she has made for mission projects.



Elma's oldest resident in 1986.

An interesting story about the Orphan Train which came through Iowa in 1888:

My father was one of those children coming on the Orphan Train to Carroll, Iowa, Carroll County.

Leon Rivers was born May 6, 1885, in the city of New York, Manhattan area, and was brought to the New York Catholic Foundling Home by a woman when he was one day old. He was baptized May 8, 1885, at St. Vincent Ferrer's Catholic Church of New York by Rev. F. O. Connell. When he was three years old, he came with dozens of other orphans on the Orphan Train from the city of New York. This train would stop at different towns, and people who wanted a child

would look them over and choose the one they wanted.

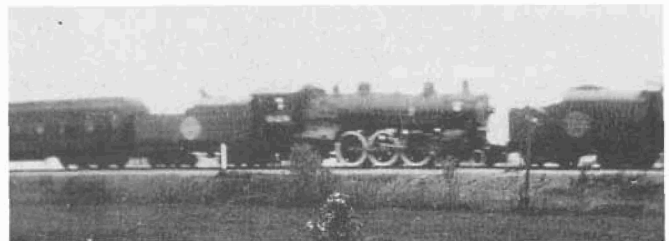
Father G. Rottler, who was pastor at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church at Mt. Carmel, Iowa, in 1888, already knowing of people from this parish who wanted to adopt a child or two, was notified to be at the depot in Carroll, Iowa, when the train arrived.

My father, whose name was Leon Rivers, and another three-year-old boy by the name of Wendel Holmes, were both adopted by Henry and Maria Ehrig or Ehrich Finger Thiele. They had no children of their own and lived on a farm near Mt. Carmel, Iowa. The boys were named Leo Thiele and Frank Thiele. They grew up together as brothers and were always very close. When their adopted parents died, they found out that they were not legally adopted so they had to get a court order to collect their inheritance.

The last time the Orphan Train came through the country was in 1926.

Even at the age of three years, my father remembered the long train ride and the lights on the train.

This article was written by Mrs. George "Clara Thiele" Bayer of Elma, Iowa, who is the daughter of Leo Thiele.



The Special Train carrying President Roosevelt passed through Elma during his campaign in 1936 or 1937. Children from the schools and many adults waited along the way to greet the train.



1976—"Just taking it easy." Joe Ludwig, Sr., George Bayer, Joe Mohrfeld.

(Left to right)—Delbert Burris, Ed Beecher, John Lentz, Merle Pitz, Denny Brandmill, LaVern McGrane, Dean Mai, Orrie Thompson, Ralph Biwer, and Ed Havlik, standing in front of Kenny's Repair, watching as the railroad tracks are being removed.



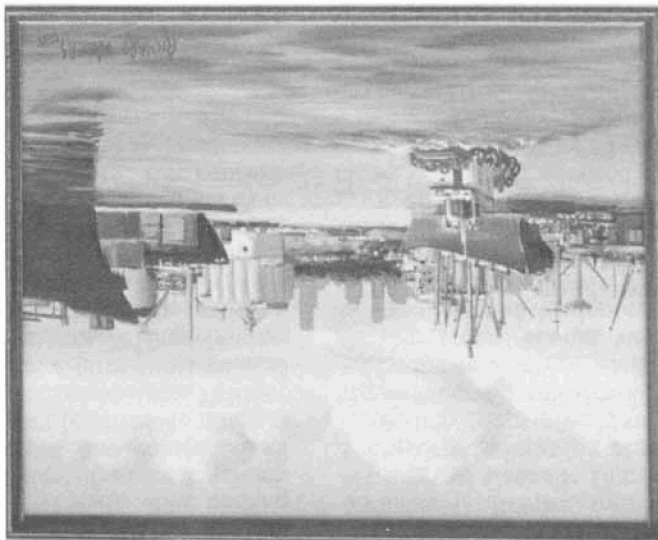
An early postcard offers "Greetings from Elma, Iowa."



Richard Weers' rendition of the Houston Port, a painting he created for Prince Charles. Richard is a former Elma resident, now living in Converse, Texas.

The following was taken from the Harold News, written by managing editor, Herb Booth. "When Prince Charles visited the Lone Star State for the sesquicentennial in February, 1986, he took a little bit of the Houston Port back with him, with the compliments of a local artist, Richard Weers. When he visited the coastal city, the Houston Port Authority Officials presented Prince Charles with one of Weers' renditions. Prince Charles and Lady Di had visited Houston at an earlier date when the couple insisted on the Houston Port to be on their itinerary, so this gift was very appropriate.

"Recently the Port Officials took one of Weers' hill country paintings, as a gift to their sister port city in China."





Isn't it wonderful what photography can do! Elma is pictured with a "Trolley." A trick of photography by using double exposure! Photo shows Elma's West Main Street looking west.

### Senior Citizens

Several Elma Senior Citizens met in City Hall with their leader from Decorah on December 4, 1970, to get an organization started to provide opportunity for social recreation, educational and other activities beneficial to the members. The first meeting was held December 11, 1970.

Officers elected were: president, John Beecher; vice president, Sedonia Mohrfeld; secretary, Marguerite McAvoy; treasurer, Dora Streich. Meetings are to be held every Friday. Officers to be elected in October and hold office one year.

Persons 60 years of age or more may apply for membership with dues being \$1 per year.

Dan Conway, local businessman, donated donuts for the meetings many times.

Members during the year 1971 included: Mrs. Edna Lamprecht, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Lammers, Mrs. Clara Boyle, Mrs. Doris Conway, Mrs. Kate Showalter, Mrs. Victoria Heineman, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Streich, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mohrfeld, Mr. and Mrs. John Beecher, Mrs. Blanche Keefe, Mrs. Lena Murphy, Mrs. Myrtle Schroeder, Mrs. Earl Reinhart, Mr. Charles Hilsman, Mr. Charles Blaska, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Frahm, Mrs. Lottie Burns, Marguerite McAvoy, Mrs. Margaret Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Robison, Mr. Emmett Burke, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fair, Mrs. Jennie Johnson, Mr. Emmett McGrane, Mr. and Mrs. Earl



Leona and Gaylord Robison at the Elma Depot—1972.



Table at the left: Mrs. Gaylord Robison, Mrs. Dewey Garrett, Gaylord Robison, Mabel Freidrich (with back to photographer). (Right, with back to photographer)—Mrs. Wm. Lamprecht, (hidden), Donie Mohrfeld, John Beecher and George Bayer (standing).



1972. Mr. George Bayer, Mrs. Wm. Lamprecht, Mrs. Joe Mohrfeld. In background: Mrs. Dewey Garrett.



August, 1981. Rosanna Hidding, Chuck Whitney, Katherine Beaumaster.



1978. (Left to right)—  
Bessie Novy, Leona Robi-  
son, Luella Beecher.



1985. Hannah Block, Edna Fogarty, Inez Biever, Emma Gebel and Carl Hoverman.

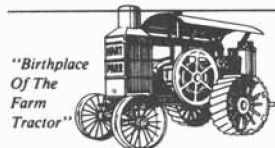
Kelly, Mrs. Elizabeth Thies, Mrs. Edna Fogarty, Mrs. Lucinda Stratton, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Garrett, Mr. Charles Haskovec, Mr. and Mrs. Art Frahm, Mr. and Mrs. George Bayer, Mr. Leo Thiele, Mrs. Cora McCarthy, Mrs. Emmett Carrol, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Biber, Mrs. Mabel Friedrich, Mr. and Mrs. Lud Semerad, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wacha, Mrs. Clara Chihak, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hopkins, Mrs. Kate Showalter.



1986 Elma Senior Citizens

(Front row, left to right, seated)—Emma Havlik, vice president; Mildred Wacha, president; Margaret Sweeney, secretary; Hanna Block, treasurer. Cindy Stratton, Lottie Burns, Mabel Smith, Carol Hoverman, and George Bayer. (Back rows, standing)—Clara Boyle, Donie Mohrfeld, Helen Ludwig, Anna Dybevik, Velma Acker, Inez Biever, Clara Bayer, Clara Chihak, Mary Smith, Marion Frank, Rosanna Hidding, Quinten Fangman, Emma Gebel, Grace Schwake, Ray Ries, Esther Hartogh, Lillian Bennett, Ralph Ries, Mike Hartogh, Gert Lentz, Herman Sweeney, Delberta Palmersheim, and Earl Palmer-  
sheim.

## Farming



The hardships of the early settlers is difficult to imagine. With modern-day technology—our problems no matter how great, are small, in comparison. It is interesting to note today's farming still runs parallel to many things that we were taught by our ancestors.

The early settlers came with meager possessions consisting of a walking plow, a wagon, some hand tools and a team of horses. Many years passed before machinery was available. Practically all work was done by hand; any free time was spent getting the year's supply of wood gathered, butchering hogs and cattle for meat supplies, and making clothes from wool. Meat was preserved in salt brine in stone jars and sometimes smoked.

## Elma Markets June 1917

Hogs	—\$12.00 to \$14.00
Fat Cows	—\$6.00 to \$7.00
Veal Calves	—\$10.00 to \$12.00
Oats	—59 cents, 60 cents, 61 cents
Corn	—\$1.30 to \$1.50
Barley	—\$1.00 to \$1.25
Eggs	—25 cents
Dairy butter	—35 cents
Creamery butter	—40 cents
Potatoes	—\$4.00
Onions	—9 cents
Oranges	—15 cents, 29 cents to 40 cents
Lemons	—30 cents
Apples	—70 cents to 90 cents
Strawberries	—(quart box: 20 cents)
Spring chickens	—24 cents
Old hens	—15 cents
Hides	—15 cents



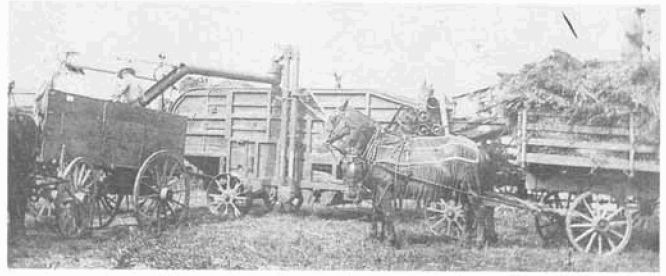
Threshing time—Joe Urban threshing at the John Wacha farm in 1914. The pictures were taken by an artist from Chicago, who frequently stopped through the area to capture rural life on film.







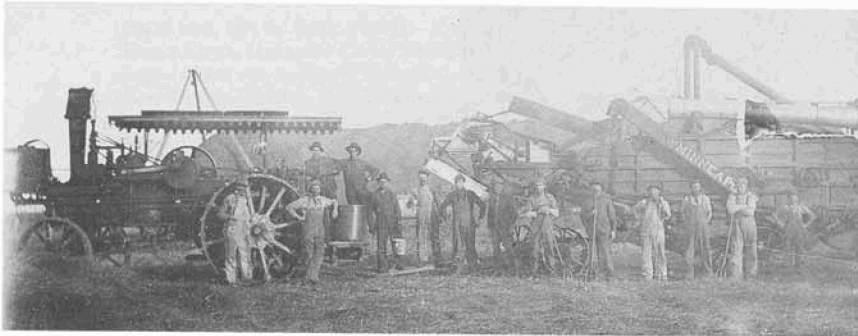
Do you remember stack threshing? When people came here from the "old country," they felt they had to cure their oats, so it was pitched into high stacks and the threshing machine was placed between two stacks. One man stood on top and pitched the shocks to a man below who fed them into the feeder on the machine. Oats was then pitched in from two sides. The machine was then pulled up to the next "setting" of stacks.



The William Stevenson's Farm.



Threshing on the Stephen Rosonke farm in the 1920's. Pictured are Max Halpin and Jack Biwer.



An early threshing crew, taking time out to have their picture taken.

The Howard 10 Threshing Co.—Frank Arndt (seen on the Hart-Parr tractor). Charley Ball, Ed Freidhof, Nick Gansen, Herb Berkes, Albert Hidding, Fred Hidding, Ed Huegel, George Huegel, and Al Tillman.





A future threshing crew: Adrian McGrane, Don McGrane, Lawrence Rosonke, Kenneth Holler, and Melvin McGrane.

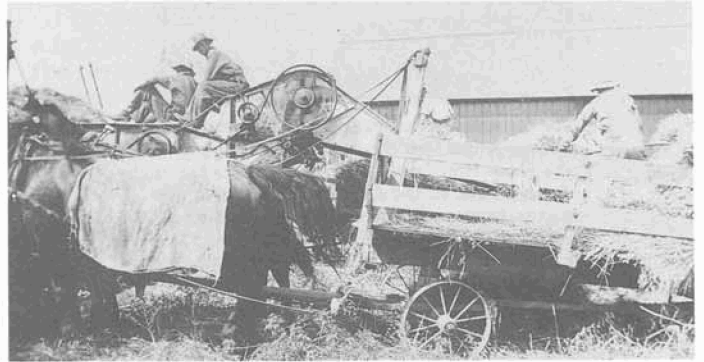
By 1870 machinery was easier to get and money was more plentiful. Every farm had milk cows, hogs, cattle, chickens and some other poultry, making chores a daily year-round task. The livestock was fed only what was raised on the farm, thus limiting milk production, and taking much longer to get them ready for market. Poultry raising was the responsibility of the farmer's wife.

The average farmer could equip his farm with all necessary machinery, livestock, tools and harness for \$1,000. Used machinery was never traded in on new as a sulky plow, single disc or cultivator was made the same in 1910 as they were in 1880. When a machine wore out it was junked in the grove and a new one bought.

March was moving time and if the distance was great, all livestock, feed, machinery, and household belongings were taken to the train in lumber wagons, where it was packed into freight cars to be taken to the depot closest to their destination. The man of the house usually rode in the caboose so he could look after the livestock enroute. He would come into a town with all his earthly possessions not knowing anyone. A few days later his wife and family would arrive on a passenger train.

Farmers in the early years (and some still do) watched the oak leaves and when the new leaves were as big as a squirrel's ear, it was time to plant corn. The two-row planter had two planter boxes filled with corn. Buttons were on the planter wire, and each time a button crossed a slot, the planter plate moved one notch and dropped two or three kernels in a hill. This planter wire had to be pulled tight and set over at the end of each row. This method of planting made it possible to cultivate corn lengthwise as well as crosswise. It was cultivated both ways by the Fourth of July, by then it was to be knee high. Of all the jobs on the farm, corn-picking was considered to be the hardest. The corn was picked by hand. The wagons had bangboards put on the far side, sometimes 4 or 5 feet high. About a dozen double thumbed gloves were purchased, and when one thumb wore through, they could be worn on the other hand to utilize the back of the glove. There was a small

box on the side of the wagon so that when a perfect ear of corn was found it could be placed in the box to be used for seed the next year. It would dry upstairs all winter and was checked for germination in the spring. The husking peg strapped across the right hand helped sever the ear from the stalk. Good huskers would pick 100 bushels a day, which was the yield of two acres at that time.



Loading the hayrack.

June was haymaking time. After the hay was mowed by a horse-drawn mower and allowed to dry, the hayloader was attached to the back of a hayrack and the loose hay was loaded. The load was placed under the open haymow door where a hay rope strung through a set of pulleys and attached to the hay fork was located. When the farmer would stick the fork, he would yell "Go ahead," and usually a young person would relay the message to the horse that was hitched to pull the rope, and the fork full of hay would go up to the top of the open door, click and slide down a metal rail and could be dropped in the center of the mow. The men in the haymow would then pitch the hay to the sides of the loft, which was the hottest job of all.

About 1950, balers came on the market and did away with the hayloader. Hay was still put into the mow, with a hay fork or elevator.

Threshing in 1925 was done for 2½ cents a bushel for oats and 25 cents a sack for timothy seed. The machine, men and fuel and two wagons were provided for that price. Steve Rosonke bought an elevator and the ½ cent was used to cover the cost of the elevator, the man hired to run the elevator, and feed for the horses used for power. The elevator was purchased from Foley's Implement. The average amount of grain threshed was 20,000 to 30,000 bushels in a season.

August meant threshing time. About a dozen neighbors made up a threshing crew and helped each other at this yearly chore. Each man would bring his team and wagon, load the bundles of oats, and head for the threshing machine that was set up in the barn yard or a nearby field. The big engine was started and bundle by bundle would disappear into the machine. The oats came out one spout and the straw was blown out another. Sometimes they would make the straw into a neat stack, other times it was just blown into a pile.



Joe Rosonke is seen running an elevator with "horse power" on the farm now occupied by the Gary Ries family. The picture was taken around 1930. In the days before steam or gas power, horses were used to run machinery by means of a machine called a horse power. The number of horses used depended on the size of the machine to be run. Most threshing machines required eight horses hitched in pairs. An elevator was run with one horse. Tread mills or tread power used one animal such as a big dog, a sheep or goat, or a horse. These were used mostly for pumping water.



Threshing crew at the George Bayer farm on September 18, 1953. Pictured is Roger Bayer, August Derenthal, George Bayer, Loren Bayer, Harold Thiele, Tom Derenthal, Wm. Wacha, Alois Pecinovsky, Melvin Bayer, seen on the tractor, Pete Watson, Jim Fitzgerald, Merle Wacha and Bill Jinderlee.



Filling silo in 1949. A. J. Tillman and his team of horses.



Filling silo at the Albert Hidding farm. A. J. Tillman, Albert Hidding, George Gansen and Wallace Hidding.



Wallace Hidding and Charley Haskovec stacking corn fodder.

At noon the crew would gather at the wash stand, which was near the pump to provide plenty of water. Soap and towels were neatly placed nearby. The dining table was stretched to full length. There was as many as 20 or 30 to be fed.

The women played an important role in farming and their conveniences came much slower. It was 1900 when a hand-powered washing machine was available for \$10. Ironing was done with sad irons heated on the back of the cook stove. The women of yesteryear had the ability to make a home out of whatever shelter was provided, and they raised their families with the love of God.

Modern machinery has changed the method of farming, but has not changed our "love of the land."

The Ernest Emil Friedrich family history told of early homesteading. Ernest and his wife bought land 6½ miles north of Elma, consisting of 160 acres which they homesteaded. They spent many years of hard labor to get this land into production, since there were many trees to be grubbed and not much machinery around at that time. This was mostly done by manual labor. When it began to get dusk they would go home as there were many hungry wolves around at night and in early morning before daylight. The only light they had was a kerosene lamp and lantern.

"Mother would tell us about their moving day to Howard County, a distance of 60 miles. They left early on a cold winter morning, a team of horses pulling a sled loaded with all their possessions besides their son, Ceasar, not yet a year old. She wrapped him in feather pillows, woolen blankets, heated some bricks and were

on their way. It was dusk when they arrived at their establishment, checking on her baby, all was well; he was warm and content.

In years past, there was many a barn raising. A group of people would gather together and help build a barn. While the men worked on the barn, the women prepared the meals. One particular time, it was Henry Schwake's barn (they lived west of Elma near Acme). They always tried to get the barn up and the floor in so the day ended with a barn dance. We all attended the barn raising but Anna. Mother had started some bread and Anna volunteered to stay home alone and bake the bread and start the chores as she wanted to attend the dance. Everything went well until a caravan of gypsies drove in. When they discovered she was alone, they took everything that was available, including her freshly baked bread and some live chickens. She called for help to the barn raising group, but by the time they arrived, the gypsies were out of sight. Anna got to attend the dance."

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**Those Were the Days**  
submitted by Millie Meirick Kuhn

I don't have too many memories of Elma's growth, but I do remember driving a team of horses with a load of hogs behind my Dad taking a load to the Equity in Elma. They were sent to market or shipped by railroad to Chicago. It was when I was about ten years old (1910) when I first had that job. No trucks in those days, and girls wore dresses, no jeans or overalls.

My parents, when we went to town, drove a team of horses with a single seat buggy or a surrey with the fringe on top. I remember having ice cream at Richmond's Drug Store on the corner. They had those fancy wire ice cream tables and chairs. We used to enjoy watching the viaduct in the center of town for trains to cross over the road, which was gravel at the time.

Dr. Mulick's office was up over the drug store, later it was Dr. Hastings office.

One time Dr. Mulick came out to the country with a team of horses and buggy to vaccinate all the children for smallpox, because some neighbor children had the disease.

Ed Clark was the rural mail carrier west of Elma almost to the Meirick farm, then north and back to Elma with horses at that time.

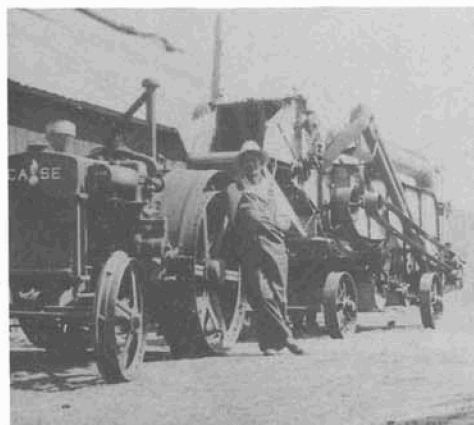
On March 31, 1936, a year of very much snow, the Clarence Kuhn family moved from near Osage to a farm about four miles northwest of Elma. There was so much snow, the trucks went through town and unloaded everything in a farmer's yard about a mile north of town (I don't recall their name). From there, our new neighbors loaded everything on a sleigh and hauled the hogs, chickens, and furniture to our new home. Sometimes it was over fences covered with snow and through the fields. The cattle followed behind. Clarence had to "batch" a few weeks till after Dolores was born. The rest of the family stayed with Joe Meiricks in town. Our old farm home site is now a cornfield.

### Joe Meirick Family

Joe and Helen Meirick and their nine children lived 8½ miles west of Elma where Dick Meirick now lives. The other children were: Dora, died at age 34; Carl; Paul; Walter; Edna; Herbert, killed while serving in the Navy, 1942; Mercedes and Virginia.

### Clarence Kuhn Family

Clarence and Millie Kuhn moved from near Osage to a farm about four miles northwest of Elma. They were the parents of six children: Mary Ann, Helen, Bill, Joe, Dolores and Carol. They moved from Elma to Decorah in 1952 where they lived in semi-retirement until 1959 when they moved to Cresco, where Clarence died. Millie now lives in Evansdale, Iowa.



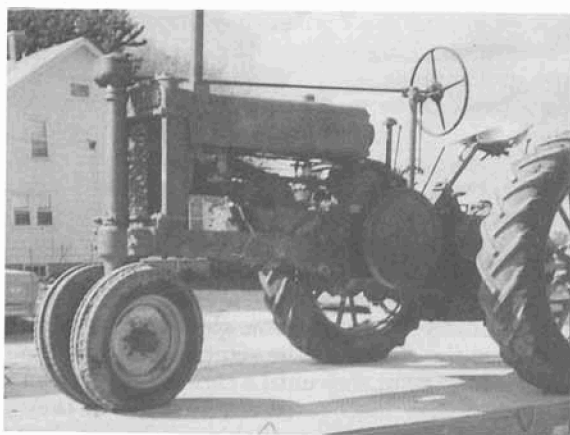
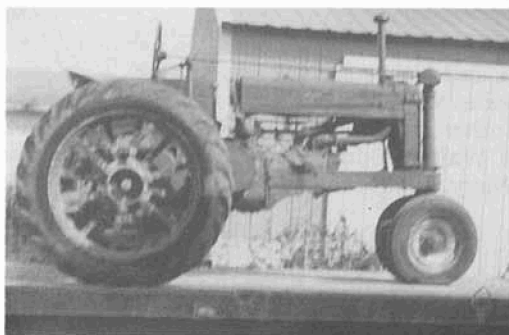
Louie Kobliska with a Case steel-wheeled tractor in 1929.



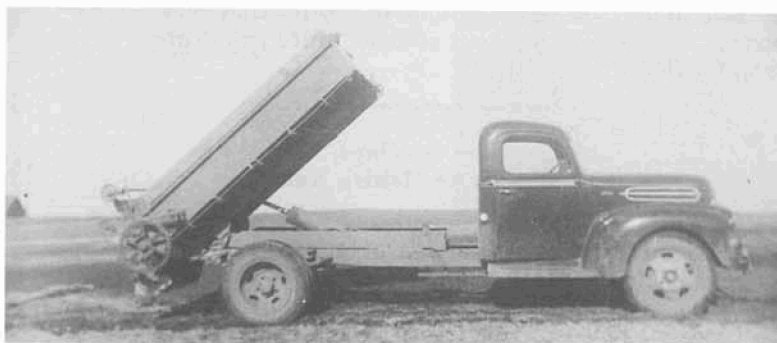
Orville Frank is pictured on a one-row corn plow. He was working for Louie Kobliska on his farm south of the Elma Locker in the 1930's.



Vern Zobeck with an early model tractor in 1937.



A 1938 John Deere Model "A" tractor belonging to Leander Heying.



Shannon's dump truck spreading lime in 1942.



1937 picture of "Minnesota" hayloader purchased for \$250.



1937—Raymond, Harold and Ralph Ries at threshing time. Wheels on tractor were skeleton wheels, 2-inch wheel with off-set lugs.



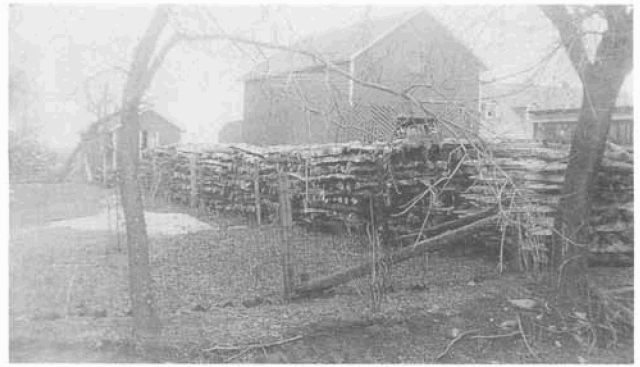
Shoveling oats at threshing time. Ray Ries in 1937.



Ray Ries cultivating corn in 1941. Picture taken around the Fourth of July. The crop burned out later with a drought.



Ray Ries sharpening posts—sawdust was sacked and used for smoking meat . . . if it was oak.



Agnes Zubrod custom applying anyhdrous ammonia. This was done for the Tuloma Fertilizer plant when Keith Roethler was manager in 1966.



Daylight robbery on the Henry Hoffman farm.



When the Fred Elwood family moved from Grant City, Missouri, to Elma in 1904, he brought two teams of mules. Mules were a curiosity in this part of the country at the time.



Bill Biwer, Jr., feeding his lambs.



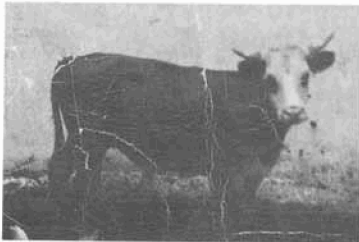
1941—A team purchased for \$450. Ray Ries' "Birdie and Topsy."



Ray Ries—his team and his dog.



Art Gansen is pictured with his cattle in the feedlot at his farm. The buildings in the background were later destroyed by severe wind. Note the train on the track in the background.



"Steer in Silo"—Morris Dine was a livestock buyer in Elma for years. He had a small stockyard north of the Howard County Equity. In 1949, he had a wild steer get away and it came to the Harold Stapleton farm and went in with his cattle. Harold got the steer in the barn and during the night it got into the silo. It was rescued the next morning by Morris Dine, Paul Schmelzer and Harold Stapleton.



A Century Farm—The John Watson farm northeast of Elma, now occupied by Marian Schroeder. (This picture was taken by photographer H. A. Moore—his picture and business card is seen elsewhere in this book.)

Mathias Biber home northwest of Elma. In later years, it was occupied by Jack Biber and his sister, Agnes, son and daughter of the original owner.

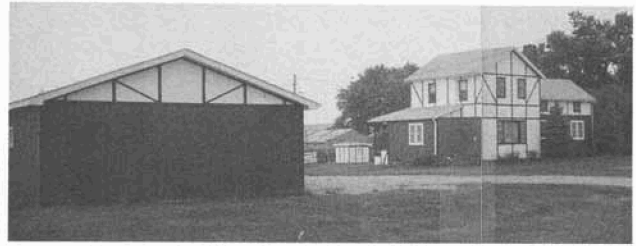


The Building of a Silo—In 1911, putting up a silo was not an easy task. The blocks and mortar were drawn to the top of the silo with a hoist, pulling it up with a horse. Standing on top of the silo by the hoist is George Bayer at the age of 16. His brother, Walter, is by the horse; another brother, Leonard, is by the wheelbarrow. The silo was built on the late Rudolph Bayer farm two miles north and 2½ miles east of Elma. The farm is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Larsen.



The Fred Elwood farm (Henry Potter farm) is seen in 1908. Carol Elwood is seen on the porch, Harriet (Elwood) Williams, Mrs. Elwood, Mabel Elwood, Goldie (Doud) Elwood, Lucille Elwood, and Mr. Elwood.





Pictured is the farm now owned by Jerome Imoehl as it looked in 1912. The farm was homesteaded in the early 1870's by John Biwer, father of Leo Biwer (Leo was born here in 1879). The house was built in 1877, and an addition made in 1898. In 1898 lightning struck the house following the chimney into the cellar, where the family had congregated fearing a cyclone. Mrs. John Biwer and her teenaged daughter were killed. When Imoel's purchased the farm from Leo and Nealie Biwer in 1960, it was the first time it had been sold since John Biwer had come to America from Germany and homesteaded there. The house and the granary are the only original buildings standing, although the house has been extensively remodeled.



Henry and Adeline Knippling's farm home. They are pictured with their family, Ella (Knippling) McGee, Clara (Knippling) Boyle, Ed and Joe. The picture was taken around 1910. Notice a washing machine on the porch, a luxury at that time. Charles Boyle, a grandson, now owns the farm.



The farm home northwest of Elma known as the "Keefe Home Place."

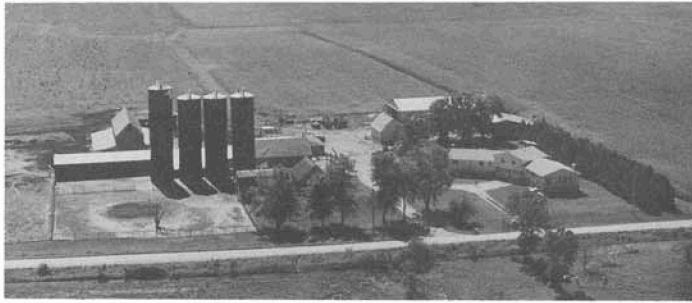


The Joe Freidhof farm in 1936, now owned by his son, Gene Freidhof, in 1986.



The Wm. Biwer farm northwest of Elma now occupied by son, Dan Biwer, and his family.





"Gansen's Dairy" farm fields and silos mark the farm owned by the Joe Gansens. The farm has a two-family home built to accommodate the Gansens and their son and family, who is associated with his father in the operation. The farm was previously owned by Joe's father, Clarence Gansen.



The Gerry McGee farm, formerly owned by Gerry's grandparents, Henry and Adeline Knippling, who built the house in about 1887. The house has been extensively remodeled with a solarium on the southwest corner of the house. Note the granary, which has been turned into a gift and flower shop by Gerry's wife, Marian. It is appropriately named, "The Old Granary."

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