

### **The pre-1949-50 barn and silo and future lean-to.**

This photo, which is from the southeast, shows the wooden silo, the barn, and the shed that Pa accidentally burned down in 1944. Ann recalled that Mom told her it burned in the year of her birth.

The photographer is standing in the spot where the old hog shed was moved first, from its original location near the power pole.

The silo had a pit, about four feet deep, from the top of the concrete ring.



It was over 35 feet high, roughly 12 feet in diameter.

The silo was built of vertical, tongue and groove, wooden staves.

Each wooden stave about 2 inches by 6 inches, and 16 feet long.

The vertical staves were horizontally wrapped with thin shiplap.

The shiplap was fastened with countless small nails.

John and I spent a week pulling thousands of small nails in the summer of 1956.

The silo was pulled down to make space for a doubling of the barn's length.

The 2x6 staves were reused for the floor of the new hay barn. The silo also had steel rod bands for support.

The silo had a steel rung ladder on the outside facing the photographer.

The ladder was used when placing pipes to fill the silo.

When I was a young boy, I was afraid of heights. So, one summer I climbed silo every day until I wasn't.

In later years, I always climbed the silos to place the blower pipes.

There was a small "silo room" that connected the silo to the barn.

I helped pull the silo down. We first disconnected the anchor brackets to the concrete.

Then it pulled over to the SE without excitement

**Originally the barn had stalls for 14 milk cows, two pens for calves, and horse stalls.**

I was three years old when I started doing chores. My job was to take care of the newborn calves.

I recall clearly hauling water, milk, and feed to the calves.

There was a water faucet toward the center of the barn, at the end of the drinking cup line.

The calf pens were in the northwest corner of the barn. I was too small to carry a calf pail of water.

I needed to hold the pail in my right hand, then hang on to the metal calf fence with the other.

In that way I could make progress by picking up the bucket and swinging it forward.

**In about 1949-50 the barn was modified to hold 24 milk cows** in stanchions.

I think that is when Pa first got milking machines.

The barn was rearranged to have two rows of twelve stanchions running north to south.

The cows faced inward to a central feed lane. The feed lane lined up with silo room.

The door from the hay mow was also in the center of the feeding lane.

The cows' rear ends and the gutters were toward the outer walls.

The gutters lined up with doors on both sides of the barn on the south end.

Those doors were two piece, "Dutch" doors. The southeast door is visible beyond a wooden post.

The gutters needed to be emptied every day.

We did not have a bucket and rail system like most farms of the time. Pa had two strong boys.

**As part of the 1949-50 remodeling, a lean-to-shed was added to the visible (east) side of the barn.**

The lean-to was built with concrete block walls and a corrugated steel roof.

The shed had space for a small milk room on the north end, plus three large pens.

The metal gates that formerly were used in the main barn were reused to divide the lean-to pens.

The new milk room had cold running water, and steel sinks to wash the milking equipment.

The milk was picked by Noel Lefebvre trucking every other day.

There was a concrete tank in the milk room for cooling and storing the milk in ten-gallon milk cans.

Cooling the milk was accomplished by setting the cans of milk in the concrete tank, which was filled to overflowing with a constant stream of cold well water. The overflow pipe carried the water through the wall to the east side of the building.

That tiny but constant stream was a great place for a little boy to play, winter or summer.

We produced Grade A milk, always.

The high windows on the east wall were removed to throw the manure out.

If you parked the manure spreader correctly, most of the manure went into the spreader.

The calf pens needed to be cleaned in winter and spring.

The winter cleaning was always done during our two-week Christmas vacation.

Calves were in the pen near the milk room, heifers occupied the center pen, and the work horses originally occupied the southernmost pen.

The south pen had a door to the cow yard.

One day, when the lean-to was new, two stubborn horses went through the doorway at the same time.

They knocked the corner and a couple feet of concrete wall down.

Uncle John rebuilt the doorway with extra concrete.

I think he left his initials, but I am not certain.

**The photos show both ends of the lean-to in the mid-1960s.**

Judy is celebrating March in front of milkhouse, and Farmall H. Pat took that photo.

