

Pa's first tractors.

It was probably taken in 1948, possibly 1947, guessing by John's age.
The photo shows John, Pa, and an unknown man in a uniform.
That uniform was popular with fuel company employees at that time.
The view is north from our yard, toward Elk River.
That is clearly Bottema's land in the photo.
But the photo was not taken from our yard.
The tractor is parked at a diagonal on the gravel road.
The savvy photographer has everything positioned for optimal sunlight and background.
My guess is that this was a promotional photo for a fuel or service company.
Pa is implying engine service by grasping the air filter.
The man's shirt decal may be "Lakeland".
The Ford tractor a 9N.
Model 9N was introduced in 1939.
Henry Ford had odd ways of assigning model names.
The Model T came before the Model A.
The 2N was introduced in 1942.
Pa owned an 8N, introduced in 1948.
Pa owned this 9N before he bought his new 8N.
This tractor has been used extensively.
Pa almost certainly, bought it "used" in the 1940s.
It shows many signs of wear but especially worn and old-style tires.
Rubber tires for tractors were first introduced by Firestone and Allis Chalmers in 1933.
These tires have the original Firestone lug pattern, which was quickly replaced by open patterns.
Open lug patterns self-cleared much faster.
The 9N has a mounted cultivator on it.
The Ford tractor that I knew was an 8N, probably purchased by in 1949 or 50.



Pa's much used 9N Ford, with mounted two row cultivator.