

## Pa's Work Horses

There was a doorway to the outside on the southeast corner of the lean-to.

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 block wall down.

Uncle John rebuilt the doorway with extra concrete. I think he left his initials and the date, in the soft cement.

The last jobs that farmers needed horses for were mowing hay or cultivating corn.

That was because those two tasks required horses or a very nimble tractor.

Pa had no particular love for horses, but he kept a team until 1950.

I have no memories of Pa cutting hay with horses.

I do not remember a tractor before the Ford 8N.

I do have a foggy memory of walking behind Pa and the team cultivating corn.

Pa rode on a cultivator like we have here at Snake River Farm.

I remember walking behind in the soft, cool dirt.

The corn was as high as my face.

We were cultivating east-west rows and approaching the big elm tree that grew on our line with Corbin's.

Don Corbin was cultivating his corn also.

Corbin's rows ran north-south.

The neighbors reached the shade at almost the same time.

They rested the horses and talked.

I am not certain if this is a true memory or something that Mom described to me.



**Clarence, Ernie, and Al, in the mid-1920s**

