

The Family Garden.

At first, our family's garden was all east of the house.

Between the three big lilac bushes and the road.

A woven wire fence ran north and south about 20 feet from the house.

Originally, the fence had a garden gate that lined up the porch.

On wash days my job was to hang socks and washcloths on that woven fence to dry.

Ma's clothes lines were east of the windmill then.

Grape vines also grew on the woven wire fence.

Often there were too many socks.

Then I would have a hard time finding enough open spaces between the grape vines.

There was a cherry tree southeast of the lilacs, just north of the outhouse.

It produced big, delicious cherries, but not every year.

A mature, consistently productive apple tree was north of that, but still east of the house.

There was a plum tree in the northeast corner of the garden.

The plum tree never was very productive, it was stunted from winter kill or disease.

A winter apple tree near the plum in the northeast corner.

The winter apple tree produced hard, yellow apples in the Fall.



I remember harvesting apples for our school lunch on frosty mornings.

The strawberries and raspberries were immediately north of the lilacs.

The rhubarb plants were originally east, toward the far fence.

I remember playing in the newly plowed garden.

Pa plowed it with the new Ford tractor.

I made lots of toy roads in soft, cool dirt.

In the very early 1950's, Ma bought 20 fruit tree seedlings.

Mostly apples with many varieties.

There was even one tree that was supposed to produce seven varieties of apples.

I recall that several of us helped Ma plant those trees.

They prospered and became a fine orchard.

Except the muti-variety tree which lost several limbs (varieties).

Some limbs were not-winter hardy.

At first this original garden space was big enough.

But as the orchard trees grew, and our family grew, more garden was needed.

That is when Pa first plowed the huge garden space east of the big elms.

Before plowing it was a pig pasture.

In the mid-1940's Pa made the three metal, roofed A-frame-sheds.

They were for farrowing sows on pasture.

Initially the "A" sow sheds just south of the chicken house.

PHOTO 3. Beyond Ann.

Eventually the sow sheds were placed just east of the garden fence line, in the small pasture/field that bordered Corbin's farm.

I remember following Pa out there to check the sows and little pigs.

The rhubarb was moved southeast of the final location of the old house.

The new garden space was never fully used except when the east side was planted to sweet corn.

It just took too many "boy hours" which could be better spent cultivating corn or raking hay.

Nevertheless, I remember many hours hoeing that huge garden. TOM.

