

### **Lakeview Farm, 1966.**

The photo is of our parents' farm as it existed in 1966.

The photo was taken shortly after noon, probably August, maybe late July.

My seven siblings and I grew up on this farm.

I loved it.



Ma and Pa named their farm "Lakeview Farm".

We raised hogs and chickens and sheep from time to time but mostly we raised great Jersey milking cows.

My brothers and sisters and I won many blue and many grand champion ribbons with our cattle at county and state fairs.

Recently, sister Pat came across a company that sells old farm stead photos.

So, we bought the electronic copy.

These photos were taken from the window of a small airplane.

Then salesmen traveled the countryside selling them to proud farmers.

You could get them "in color" for extra money.

Farm wives in Iowa would paint them according to the colors you gave the salesman.

Our farm was in Otsego, Minnesota, which is between Rogers and Elk River.

Between the Mississippi and the Crow Rivers.

Two gravel roads passed by the farm. The east-west road is now paved County Road 38.

The north-south road is now a very busy four lane, divided highway, Minnesota 101.

Hwy 101 used to run from Elk River to Dayton along the Mississippi River. It was then a curvy two lane. We milked 48 fine Jersey cows in the big barn. We built the barn in 1957 by doubling the existing barn. We built the white house in 1952. The smaller, house-like structure was in fact the "old house". The old house was moved across the farmyard on rolling logs in 1952. When the time came to move it, every farmer in the neighborhood showed up with his little 1950 size tractor. Those men and tractors pulled and dug and broke chains for two days to move the house. It was grand fun for a farm boy. Now, most any field tractor could drag that little building.

Ma loved to read. She bought the library of our neighborhood one-room school when it closed. The library contained many classic books. I stashed books in the hay mow to read when I was caught up on chores. On the roof of the big barn, you can see a dormer. The dormer roof sloped at a comfortable angle. That roof was the perfect, private, reading room for a boy.



*The Farmall B, Tom, great grandson Arthur, and daughter Shannon*

I read The Iliad, The Odyssey, The Song of Roland, Viking sagas and many other fantastic books in that sunny, delightful, place above the farm.

The farm buildings are all gone now. Gone without a trace.

If you pass by you will see "Anoka Equine Veterinary Clinic" at the approximate location of the house and barn.

The small pond to the lower right was full of frogs, tadpoles and mud turtles.

Now, that spot is under a sweep of the highway cloverleaf.

Beyond the long lake were the rolling hills of the farm.

The fields were fertile but so steep that it took special skill to stack a wagon load of hay.

Those fields have all been leveled. I mean, really leveled.

Two enormous distribution buildings cover the entire farm beyond the lake.

Jim has one of the three "A" frame sow houses at his home.

Jim repurposed it into a smoke house.

The Farmall B tractor that you see under the power pole is still in use.

It runs well and gets a lot of use.

Lakeview Farm is just memories now, but the 1950s and 60s were wonderful times, and our farm was a wonderful place to be a farm kid.

Tom

4/3/2017