

**We got electricity in 1946**, the year I was born.

Every room in the house and the barn had a light bulb.

Usually controlled by a wall switch.

The lighting was dim, but incredibly better than the kerosene lanterns.

The power would go off with most every summer thunderstorm in the early years.

I have a very clear recollection of Ma setting a lit oil lamp on the big kitchen table whenever an evening thunderstorm was rolling in from the west.

That same table, which Pa bought at an auction, is in the center of daughter Sarah's kitchen today.

In the decade or two before farmers got electricity, they used small gasoline engines to run things like milking machines, grain conveyors, corn shellers, feed grinders, and well pumps.

Now those same old engines are displayed by the dozens at threshing shows powering such antique tools.

If Pa had any gasoline engines, he got rid of them quickly.

I do not recall any such engines about the farm.

### **Naps.**

There was a wind break of cedar trees on the north side of the old house.

They were relatively mature white cedars.

About ten inches in diameter and eight feet apart.

They were trimmed up to six feet.

There was a WWII surplus hammock hanging between two of the cedars.

On hot summer afternoons Mom would put me in the hammock for my nap.

To this day, I love the smell of cedar trees on hot summer days.

Ma told me to stay in the hammock until she returned.

I did so.

We were pretty well behaved in those days.

### **We were one of the first in the countryside to have a TV.**

We got it in 1951.

The antenna was on top of the windmill.

It had to be high to catch the weak signals of those days

The windmill was unused since the farm got electricity in 1946.

There was only one channel at first.

The programing was very limited.

Kate Smith, a well-known singer, was on for half an hour later in the afternoon.

Mom put me down for my nap after lunch.

We made a deal.

If I stayed quiet for my naptime, Mom promised to wake me for the Kate Smith Show.

Kate ended every show with singing,

“When the Moon Comes over the Mountain”.



**KATE SMITH**