

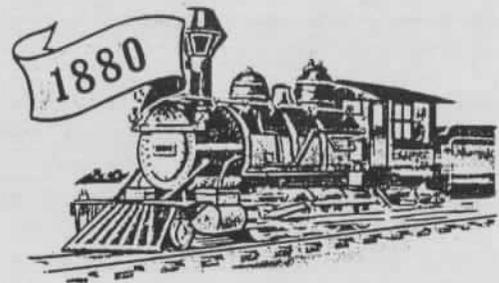
GROWING WHEAT IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (CONCLUDED!)

WITH THE COMING OF THE RAIL ROAD GRAIN FARMERS IN THE AREA HAD A STRONG IMPETUS TO PUT MORE FIELDS INTO WHEAT. THEY NOW HAD A RELIABLE MEANS TO SHIP THEIR EXTRA GRAIN TO DISTANT BUYERS. ON LAND LEASED FROM THE RAILROAD, NORTH OF MAIN STREET, A GRAIN ELEVATOR WAS BUILT. THE FARMER DROVE HIS WAGON OF GRAIN UP A DIRT RAMP NEXT TO THE ELEVATOR AND DUMPED THE GRAIN INTO A CHUTE. FROM THERE IT WENT THROUGH A FANNING MILL AND SCREENED; THEN ELEVATED TO A LARGE HOPPER ON SCALES AND FROM THERE TO BINS IN THE UPPER AREA OF THE BUILDING. GRAVITY THEN TOOK OVER THE JOB OF DIRECTING IT INTO RAILROAD CARS. DURING THE WHEAT HARVEST THE STREETS LEADING TO THIS ELEVATOR, AND THE HYNE ELEVATOR ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF MAIN, WERE LINED UP WITH WAGONS DELIVERING GRAIN.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMBINE, WHICH CUTS, WINNOWS, DROPS THE STRAW IN NEAT ROWS, AND TRANSFERS THE WHEAT INTO WAITING TRUCKS HAS GREATLY REDUCED THE NUMBER OF MEN NEEDED TO GET THE JOB DONE. TO ENABLE THE GIGANTIC COMBINE TO OPERATE MOST EFFICIENTLY SMALL FIELDS WERE JOINED PROVIDING A LARGE NUMBER OF ACRES INTO ONE FIELD. REMOVAL OF THE OLD FENCE ROWS REDUCED, ALSO, THE NUMBER OF PHEASANTS, FOXES, RABBITS AND OTHER WILDLIFE WHICH HAD CALLED THEM HOME.

FROM PLANTING WHEAT BY HAND TO USING A PLANTER HOLDING BUSHES OF SEED AND WHICH PLANTS NEAT ROWS IN A SEVERAL YARDS WIDE SWATH; FROM CUTTING WITH A CRADLE SCYTHE TO THE BINDER, THE THRESHER AND THE COMBINE WHICH PERFORMS THE ENTIRE HARVESTING PROCESS AS IT TRAVELS THROUGH THE FIELD, THE AREA'S ECONOMY IS STILL CHANGING. VERY LITTLE WHEAT IS HARVESTED IN THIS SOUTH EAST CORNER OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY PRESENTLY. THE COST OF MACHINERY REQUIRES LARGE TRACTS OF ACREAGE. THE TAXES ON A FARMER'S REAL ESTATE PRECLUDES THE LAND NECESSARY. IT HAS BECOME A RESIDENTIAL AREA. AND WHILE WE ENJOY THE RURAL ATMOSPHERE WE REALLY DON'T CARE FOR THE SMELLS OF FARM ANIMALS, AND THE RESULTING MANURE, THE SIGHTS OF THE BARNYARD NOR THE SOUNDS OF A TRACTOR, GRAIN DRYER, HAY BAILER, ETC., DISTURBING OUR IDEA OF LIFE IN THE COUNTRY. IT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FARMS ARE NOT VERY COMPATIBLE.

(BY MARIEANNA BAIR WITH THANKS TO THE WRITINGS OF BILL PLESS, AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES OF CLAUDINE AND ANDREW JACKSON AND DUANE GIRBAUGH.)



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