

THIS PRAIRIE LAND

AUTUMN SCENERY

Crimson sunsets stretching across billowing skies, dawn's amber glow, the seductive tranquility of cattle grazing on curvacious Dakota hills, these are all favorite sights of the prairies. Yet this region's people are just as scenic.

The following photographs portray but a few of the Dakotas' inhabitants—and the activities with which they busied themselves during this year's glorious, colorful autumn.



School's out for another day in Kulm, N.D.



Bracing, cold winds don't deter man from getting his mail at the Hague, N.D., postoffice.



PHOTO AT LEFT:

"Have we taken on a project too big for us to handle?" is what three men from Ashley, N.D., might easily ponder. Sam Geist (left to right), Fred Eszlinger, and Edwin Walz tear down oldest barn building within Ashley city limits. Barn's location was by Eszlinger home.

TOP PHOTO:

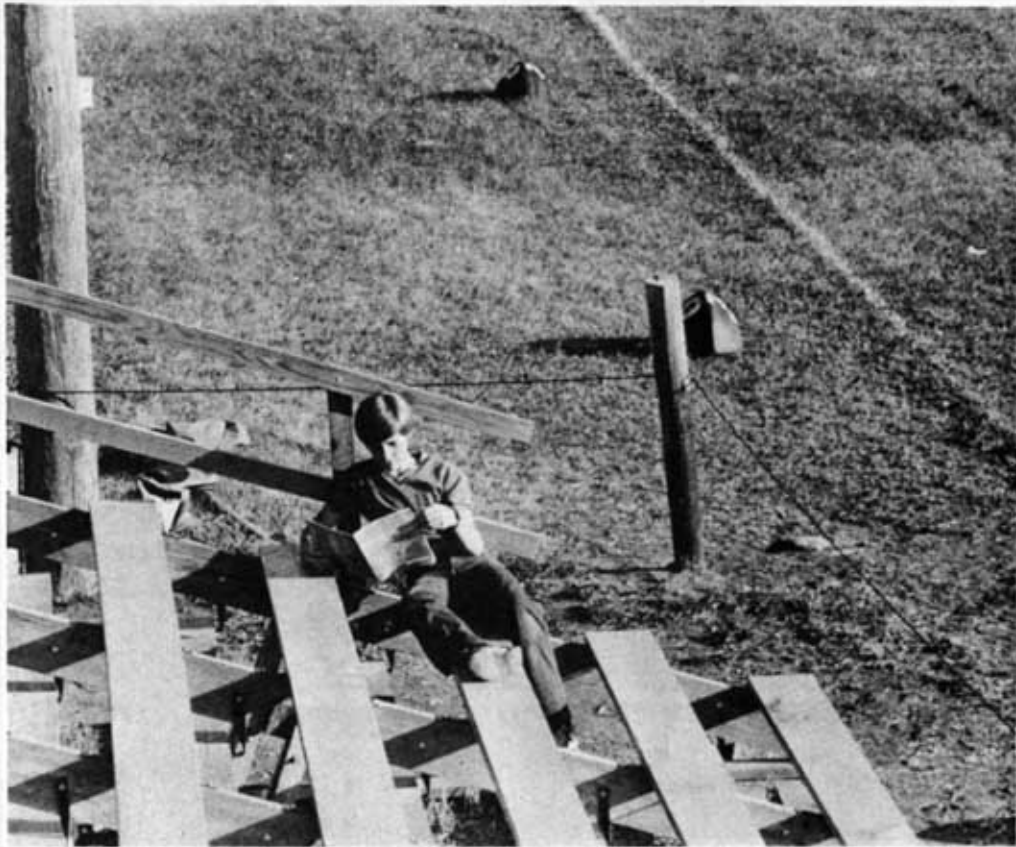
Plank casts jutting shadow on barn's weathered wood.



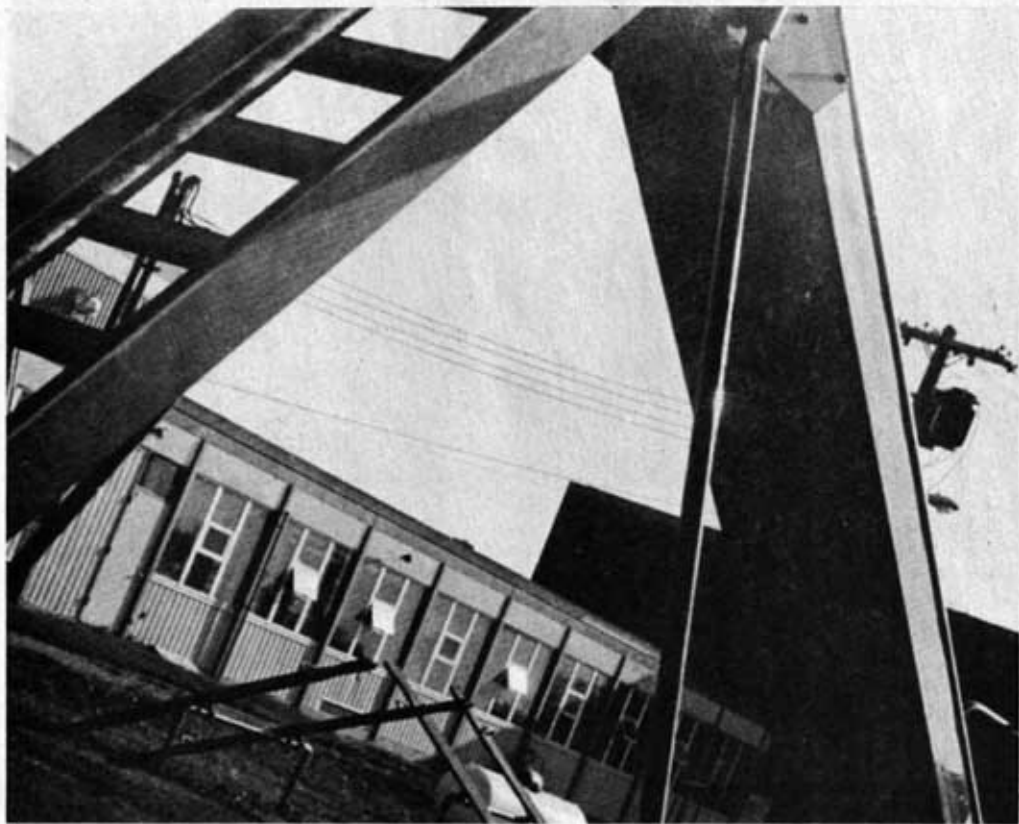
"How can we push the walls out to give us more living space?" Donavin and Cindy Grenz's solution in Linton, N.D.: build a garage with a bedroom on top. So Donavin Grenz (background, right), David Grenz (backhoe operator), and "Country," leaning on his shovel, set to work, preparing for the foundation. The kids even help with their three-wheeler entertainment for the grownups! Left to right: Justin Grenz, Jack Dockter (son of Dean and Judy Dockter), Eric Grenz, and Tana Grenz (back row).



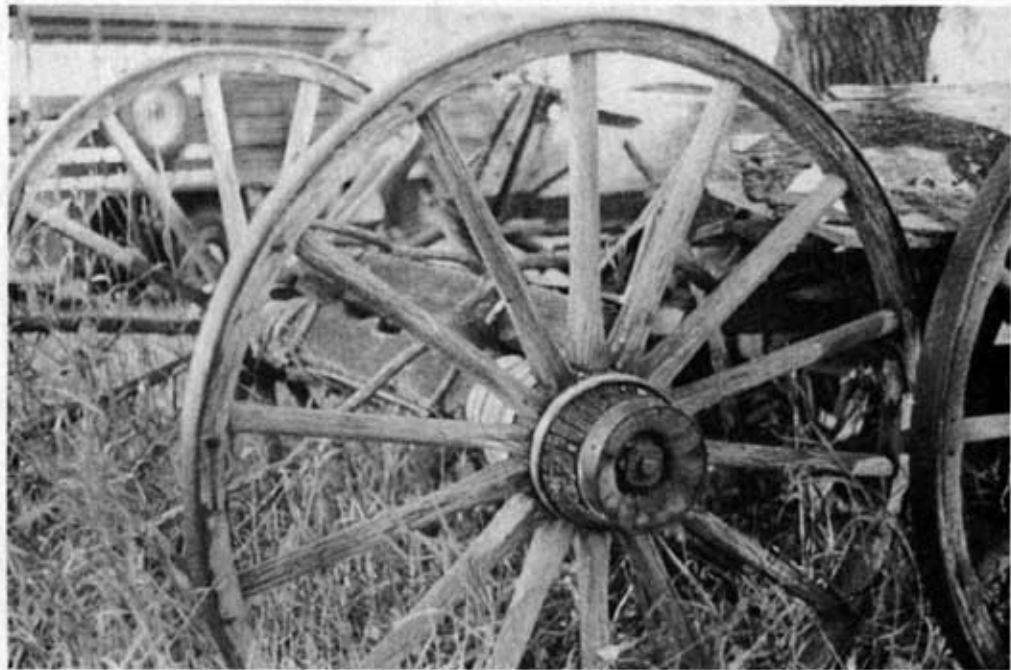
Coffee and homemade doughnuts hit the spot for these women gathered for a workshop of conference officers. Meeting was at Trinity Lutheran Church in Napoleon, N.D.



Tom Nitschke of Ashley, North Dakota, adds his body shadow to the geometric lines and shadows of football bleachers. —Photo team: Ward Dobler and Tom Nitschke.



Teeter-totters, school windows, climbing bars, electric lines, playground slide are all dramatically captured in this side-lighting photograph of the Ashley school. —Photo team: Jody Meidinger and Tom Overlie.



Weathered wheels of the prairie speak of bygone days of laughter (the tricycle), and sweat and Old Dobbin, the horse (the wheels). —Photo team for top picture of wheels: Lori Goebel and Kim Groszhans; photo team for bottom picture of tricycle: Jody Meidinger and Tom Overlie.





"Can I help you with anything?" came the friendly voice from the man on foot in Merricourt, North Dakota. "Just shooting your interesting town," replied photographer B.J. Overlie, "and gathering photos of your elevators reaching to the sky!"