



Remembering Farm Buildings

By L.E. Buchholz

The buildings on our farm near Lehr, North Dakota, were in a village arrangement. The farm was our place of birth. There never was a death or auction sale here in 50 years. The farm had three entry ways, all leading up a hill as the farm was located on a knoll.

The west entry had a car shed, garage on the south side of the road, and a grainery on the north side of it. Due east were the chicken house and the brooder house, each being fenced in properly. All four of the buildings were painted white.

The north entry was past the front of the loafer barn. It was used to house loose cattle. We also stored our three wagons in it during the summer, and used it as a short-term grainery in the fall. We painted the barn red.

Next, on the east side of this road, and to the south of the barn, was our house. It was a four-square structure with two side additions. Our well-constructed garden fence was built onto the northwest and southeast corners of the house. Our outdoor root cellar was to the west of the house. It was in constant use and always had a wealth of food stored in it. The chicken barn was to the north of the cellar and across the road.

The dairy barn was east of the house. It had 16 tie stalls in it, along with a painted box stall, a separator room, and a neat pigeon loft built in it over the front. The barn had a ventilator, and a shed built onto the north side. It was a feed and hay storage space. A calf paddock was built onto the north side of this shed.

Then there was a grove of trees due west from the northwest corner of the paddock. The garden fence was built onto the southwest corner of the barn.

To the south of the barn was our horse barn. It was 40 feet square and had three doors, 12 tie stalls, a box stall, a good-sized indoor loose housing space, a feed and harness room, and also a hay loft. The barn had a variety of fences and corrals attached to it. It and the dairy barn were painted red.

Our well was a short distance to the west of the horse barn. There a complete pump outfit, powered by a windmill, meant water (and plenty of it!) when and where needed. The stock tank was in a barn to the south of the windmill.

Our farm was at its very best in 1948. We bought the land location back in 1968 from my brother Wesley's widow. We now call it our old ranch.

Our farm had a fire guard around it in the form of an oval. It consisted of about eight plow furrows wide, and was always kept well prepared for the fall season to ward off any possible prairie fires.

We also had a hog house, dog house, and other small poultry buildings. I helped build, remodel, repair, paint, use, and clean all of the farm buildings. They were later sold and moved away. All that remained was the horse barn and the windmill. □