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"Notes to Grandpa's Farm", by Rolland Elliott (Herbert Elliott's Farm)

A description written by Herbert's grandson, regarding his memories of his grandfathers farm near Altoona, Wilson County Kansas.

mikebolander1 originally shared this on 14 jul 2013 to Ancestry.com

Notes to Grandpa's Farm Sketch

The barn with the horse-drawn hay fork was on the west near the sheep shed. The fork was attached to a strong rope running through pulleys at both ends of a rail that ran from the little roof extension to the west end of the barn. Horses were hitched to the west end of the rope to pull the hay up from the wagon and along the rail to the spot to be dumped. A small rope was attached to the release mechanism and a person inside pulled it when the hay was as far in as desired. Another small rope was used to pull the fork back to the hay wagon. It took 3 people to work the wagon, drive the horses, and dump the hay. The hay baler made this obsolete. I don't remember exactly where the fences were but do remember the horses pulled north from the west end of the barn

The new barn that Grandpa built to replace the one destroyed by the tornado (which fell on a team of horses and on had to pull the other out) had a concrete floor where the cows were milked and had a hay loft above. Grain was stored in rooms on the west side. The south side had large openings for cows to enter and to put hay in the loft. Good place to play "king on the mountain" on pile of loose hay. The old barn was similar in style. Used to play in the loft and go to the opening to test whether cats always land on their feet. They do. Grandpa used to have to draw water from the well with a bucket on a rope to water animals kept up in the cow lot. I guess they used it to water hogs and chickens too. I remember the large concrete round water trough he had there.

The sketch of the house isn't quite right but is in general. The old part of the house was where the cistern was and the area north. Grandpa got all their drinking water and wash water from there. I sometimes refilled the water bucket and took it to the kitchen by the sink. Grandpa's cream separator was in there and he kept a barrel of sugar cured ham there once. There was a walled off ladder fastened to the wall in the storage room to get to the second story above that room. I remember the old school books stored up there and Aunt Pauline's hand cranked record player. The east side of that building was usually covered with trumpet vines and we would watch humming birds feed there when they were in bloom.

The new part of the house had been moved there from town I think. My sketch shows where they had a sink that drained outside. The cookstove was across from it and a cabinet was on the other side of the

pantry door. The middle bedroom was where Glen was born during a rain storm on 6/22/43. The eating and most of the visiting was done in the dining room. Most people came into the house through that outside door. In the winter there was a wood or coal stove in the southeast corner and in the southwest corner of the living room.

You will note the root cellar west of the house and the little square building with the half moon down the path to the southwest. Grandpa bought the girls bathroom with the concrete floor from Hatler when it was auctioned off. I remember when I was in school there and a wind had blown over both buildings on a school night.

A "coffeebean" tree was in the front yard. I remember a rose trellis over the gate and plank bridge by the road. There were jonquils along the north side of the yard. There is only one small building located just west of there the garage used to be left on the property in 2013 and I don't even remember a building being there but now I have this written reminder for use when my memory fades more.