

Corrigan, Wettlaufer Methods Different

By MRS. N. D. ICKES, SR.
Things have changed down on the farm since the turn of the century. The last word in machinery 50 to 55 years ago now commands a good price as a museum piece.

But the farmer's physical work load has been lightened. The contrast is the basis for this story.
Back in 1905, Bill Corrigan resided on a farm a few miles west of Emmet. He was a hard-working Irishman, a master horseman, and his delightful brogue entertained the neighbor kids.

Let's talk about Mr. Corrigan's farming methods. The walking plow had lately been replaced with a nifty three-horse hitch—a riding lister, no less.

The walking plow quickly lost its appeal when horse power was brought into use complete with an iron seat.

Mr. Corrigan brought his family from the East at a time when land could be had for the taking, either as homesteads or as timber claims. Even his daughters, Katie and Sarah, now deceased, staked out adjoining claims and lived together in a shack built on the line while "proving up" on their land. Neighbors and friends found the Corrigan fine folk and good neighbors. It was a pleasure to engage Mr. Corrigan in conversation.

His son, Patrick, lives on the homestead and a daughter, Mrs. Julia Staples, now resides in Atkinson.

The go-devil was invented as a means of tending the listed corn, readying it for the third operation—laying it by with the cultivator. Its inverted trough for the protection of the small plants and the dished-wheel departure labeled it as something new, indeed.

Horses of all breeds and types went to the fields and were driven on the roads. A good deal of the farmer's wealth was represented in his lineup of horses. Some bred their horses for size and strength and took pride in their stables of matched teams. They fed them well and provided them with fly nets for their summer comfort and blankets to keep them from taking cold after exercise or work had warmed them up to the sweat stage.

A good horseman reflected good judgement in the fit of the collar, adding a sweat pad as the season progressed and the horse worked down in weight, slimming his neck to where the collar was too loose.

Resting his horses at the ends of the fields and pausing to let them blow after a hard pull on a hill gave the master time to shift the horses' collars and cool the necks, often easing the weight with a folded handkerchief while he speculated on the advisability of changing the length of the tugs to maintain equal draft.

It made a difference to a horse who was his driver. The care made a lot of difference,

too, in the amount of service the farmer received in return.
Some farmers were careless operators and cared not a hoot what the horses looked like or how poorly prepared they were for a summer's work. Some with a trader's instinct were apt to swap animals right out of harness just for a change. It was not uncommon to see a slim-legged flambeonian requested to pull her share alongside a draft animal built for rugged type. The heavy type were often asked to take to the road when trips to town were imperative.

The colt crop each year was certainly a nuisance. A man needed help in hitching and unhitching, whether the colts were left in the barn or allowed to follow the mares. Colts always have had the habit of getting into all the mischief possible, causing tangle-ups in the harness and run-aways.

The accident hazard was ever-present threat to a family's safety. Who could predict what a horse would do when it became entangled or when it saw a piece of paper swept along by the wind? "Kicking over the traces" was not just an idle phrase. Things could happen fast.

Some drivers were easy on their teams while others were careless and thoughtless and tried the endurance of their horses each time they hitched up a team, racing to the hay or cornfield at breakneck speed just for the thrill. The moderns of that same stripe are screwballs behind the steering wheel of a "hot" car.

A few hundred dollars would start a young couple up in farming and the hard working, frugal ones were soon among the prosperous inhabitants.

Roads were maintained by men who worked out their poll tax each year, supervised by a road boss or overseer. County and precinct bridges had a way of going out with every hard rain. Traffic was not very heavy those days.

Towns were equipped with hitching posts and at least one was placed near the gate to the house yard where the team was hitched while the man of the house changed into his Sunday best and waited for the missus to appear.

Buggy whips, lap robes and foot warmers were standard gear and a spring seat atop of a two- or three-box wagon was a luxury. A man's legs could take a lot of punishment standing, absorbing all the bumps and jars before some back-sore, leg-weary, thoughtful individual accomplished the invention of the spring seat to take his weight off his feet.

Grain was bound, stacked and threshed. And the men followed the horse power or the steam engine threshing machine from harvest to snowfall time.

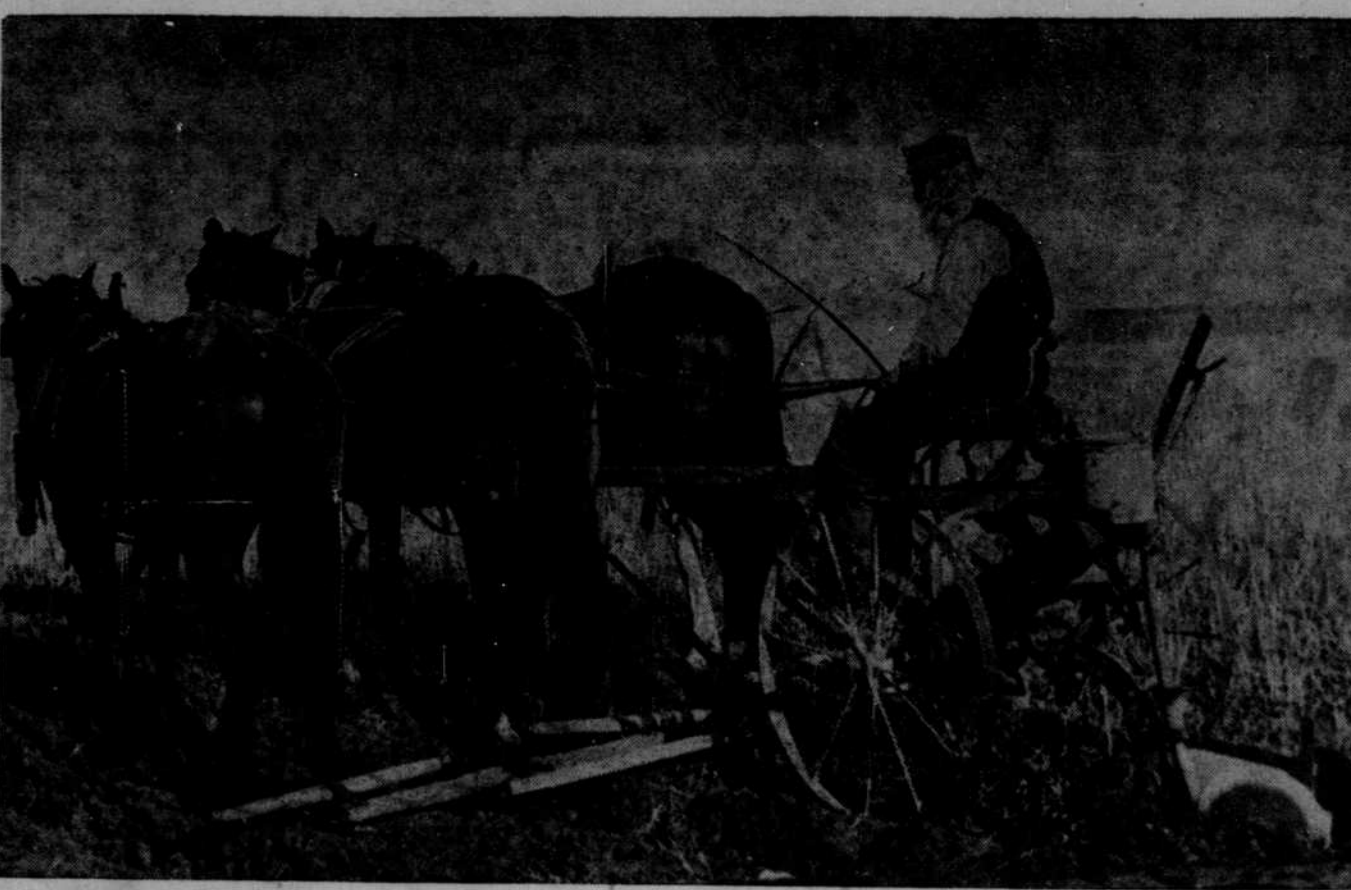
Corn was picked with a peg and the day began long before it was light and choring was done by lantern light. However, farmers had smartened up since their boyhood in the East where they picked, three to a wagon, a man on each side and a boy manfully trying to keep up the down-row created every round. The invention of a bang or throw board, and the scoop end-gate, was indeed appreciated by the corn pickers.

The big boys and sometimes the big girls helped pick the corn, then went to school till farm work started in the spring. The age limit was 21 instead of 16 then.

Fifty years and a whole of a lot of inventions have changed the farm picture into something like an Aladdin presto-change affair. Farm equipment has stepped up in tempo so a farmer equipped with a line of modern machinery can tend a very large acreage. If it seems expedient, a 24-hour working day can be maintained with a change of men (not horses). In fact, if he did not farm a good deal of ground, the expenditure would not be warranted.

Let's drop in on Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wettlaufer and family. They make extensive use of a four-bottom plow and diesel-powered tractor—just a part of their mechanized layout.

The Wettlaufers reside three miles northwest of Page. They own and rent 480 acres of land. They have four sons who will be handling the tractors and machinery very young, in accordance with modern custom. Mrs. Wettlaufer gives a hand with the



The late Bill Corrigan, an Irishman with a delightful brogue, farmed about the turn of the century between Emmet and Atkinson. In the photo (above), taken in 1905, he poses aboard a four-horse go-devil. The equipment, complete with riding seat and dished wheel in rear, caused farmers to abandon the old walking plow.

chores and with the errand running.
They are trying to build up their place and improve it as they go along. The high cost of equipment and maintenance make it a slow go, but if a man farms he has little choice except to buy a farm because there are few to rent.

Since the modern farmer uses multiple-row machinery he can do his work without much hired help. Often the missus and the kids can help out enough to get by. Some times brothers or friends team together to keep things going more smoothly.

Many of today's labor-saving machines were born directly out of the man power shortage era brought about by World War II.

The farmer at the turn of the century would have held up his hands in horror could he have glimpsed this four-bottom plow turning the sod at such a rapid rate and followed by the planter, rotary hoe, cultivator and corn picker, all multiple-row inventions.

Small grain farming includes drills with seeding and fertilizing attachments, windrower and combine, eliminating the need for a threshing machine and the feeding of the crew it took to operate it.

A power mower, side delivery rake and a one-man baler make short work of the alfalfa and wild hay harvest.

Straw piles? There are none—thanks to the straw spreader attachment on the combine that scatters thinly a film of chopped straw evenly upon the stubble field in wait for the one-way that will turn it under in time for the rains to bring up a nice covering of green manure that will be incorporated in the soil, come spring.

Midwesterners have borrowed a page from the thrifty European peasant and do not allow compost material to pile up and leech out, as was formerly done. Now it's hurried out to where it will enrich the land.

The term "hybrid" was practically unknown a half-century ago. Practically all of our best seeds are hybrid varieties and the hybrid crosses have invaded the animal kingdom as well. Hybrid chickens are much in demand.

New, too, is the seed coating which gives a boost to fertility and brings the seed up quickly. Seed coating gives strength to make a fast growth to meet the infusion of liquid or gas fertilizer, which gives them what it takes to withstand that critical period when a crop waits patiently for belated rain.

Modern man does not trade his bed for a lantern in the morning but arises at a more reasonable time and climbs onto a comfortable seat on a tractor that houses hidden and unlimited power.

Chores are a small part of the daily grind and some have done away with them altogether. For those who still believe dad's statement that your profit lay in your chores, there are conveniences that take the drudgery out of their doing.



Norman Wettlaufer, only a lad, drives his father's diesel-powered tractor which is shown (above) drawing a four-bottom plow. Multiple-row mechanized equipment means fewer hired hands; also necessitates a larger all-around operation to justify the expense of buying and operating the equipment.

The price of modern machinery heretofore mentioned, augmented by power graders, rubber-tired and flare-board wagons and all the household gadgets, would buy the best farm in the country. Acquiring a farm and standard equipment is representative of a lifetime of hard work.
Modern man's missus thinks she is so busy flipping switches that control her modern conveniences that she seldom gives thought to the ways of her mother and grandmother. Judged by the standards of her grandmother's day, she would scarcely measure up.

However, the pattern of birth, education, marriage, parenthood and death proceeds according to the tradition. Moderns can't guess the changes that will make us back numbers and relegate our present modern equipment and ideas into complete discard.

O'Neill News

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Lanman and Larry of Verdell and Mr. and Mrs. George Mellor of Spencer visited the Roy Lanman's on Sunday.
Mrs. John Grutsch entertained six guests Thursday afternoon in honor of the fourth birthday anniversary of her daughter, Ann.
The Robert Devoy family moved to O'Neill from Sioux City Sunday. Mr. Devoy is a partner in the Gilligan Drug store.
Mrs. Betty Mayes and sons of Joplin, Mo., came Wednesday, July 27, and stayed until Sunday in the C. E. Foree home.
Mr. and Mrs. Don Godel of Onawa, Ia., spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Godel and family.
Dr. and Mrs. R. L. Owens and children left Saturday night for their home in Kansas City, Mo. They have been visiting for the past two weeks in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Golden.
Mrs. Z. M. Sessler of Denby, S. D., is visiting the Roy Lanmans. Misses Margaret Ann and Mary

Sue Donohue of Bonesteel, S.D., are visiting at the Dr. E. M. Gleason home.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Spittler of Ewing visited Sunday in the Fred Graze home.

Mrs. Len Webb and son, Jackie, of Mitchell came Sunday to spend two weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Eby and relatives at Page.

Mother Virginia, formerly of O'Neill, came Wednesday and will remain until Friday. She is visiting her brother, Felix R. Sullivan, and other relatives here.
Kitty and Susie Donohue of Omaha spent from Sunday, July 24, until last Thursday at the Bernadette Brennan home.

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Graze Cattle on Treated Pasture

Pasture may be top-dressed with superphosphate at any time without danger to livestock or pasture. Cattle or sheep may lick up some of the phosphate, but it is not harmful to them.

Actually, phosphate will supply some of the mineral that cattle need, reports an article in the August issue of Successful Farming magazine. However, superphosphate should not be used in mineral supplements for livestock because it contains some fluorine.

Before nitrogen or mixed fertilizers are spread, livestock should be removed from the field and not turned in until the next day. If there are any lumps of nitrogenous or mixed fertilizer, livestock should not be permitted in the field until these lumps disappear, warns the article.

Nitrate, ammonium salt, and urea are somewhat poisonous to livestock if there are lumps of these minerals in the field, the animals may lick up enough to make them sick. But if these materials are free-flowing pellets or powder, the animals are most unlikely to get enough to harm them, says the article.

Miss Marilyn Fetrow of Omaha spent the weekend here.

SPECIAL
Cattle Sale
Monday, August 8th
THE FELLOWS in the East will be caught up with their work and have promised to be here for this sale.
THIS IS our first Special Sale and sure will be a good one. We can use several hundred more cattle of all classes. Would like to have your listings as early as possible so we may advertise them.
Licensed and Bonded for your Protection
Let us try your next consignment. We appreciate your business.
Ewing Livestock Market
Ewing, Nebr.—Phone 19 or 70
MAX & BUW WANSER, Mgrs.

Prairie Schooner Mobil Homes

WE FINANCE — WE TRADE
O'Neill Trailer Sales — Phone 254
DICK TOMLINSON, Prop.

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The "fast action" liquid nitrogen booster that can be easily applied to crops when needed—no need waiting for rain. Contains all the necessary trace elements for fast, sturdy growth. Cannot be washed away by rain. Goes to work quick and lasts for months.
Use ordinary weed sprayer. Weed killer, insecticides and fungicides may be mixed with booster and sprayed on at same time.
For corn, beans, small grains, legume crops, potatoes, cotton, tobacco and permanent pasture.
Other Numbers and Types Available
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Royal Theater
— O'NEILL —
Sunday-Monday-Tuesday August 7-8-9
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A GEM!"...Life
"WONDERFUL!"...Time
"A SMASH!"...Newsweek
"SUPERB, WARM, RICH!"...Cue
HECHT-LANCASTER presents
MARTY
ERNEST BORGNINE and BETSY BLAIR
Story and Screenplay by PHOENIX CHAVEZSKI
Directed by DELBERT MANN • Produced by HAROLD HECHT
Associate Producer: Paddy Chayefsky • Released thru UNITED ARTISTS
Adults 50c; children 12c. matinee Sunday, 2:30
All children unless in arms must have tickets.

AT PUBLIC AUCTION
AUGUST 8, 1955
Sale 1:30 p.m. Courthouse Lobby, O'Neill
O'NEILL BUSINESS PROPERTY
Parcel 1
Lot 27, Block 22, Town of O'Neill. The former P. J. McManus store building, two story, brick and frame building, located on O'Neill's Main street, 3/4 block from center of town. An excellent location, with ample space for mercantile establishment. Second story is suitable for conversion to living quarters.
Parcel 2
Lot 26, Block 22, Town of O'Neill. Lot size approximately 21 x 160 feet, now occupied by small frame business building. Located in the heart of the business district, this lot would make ideal location for new business building.
For details on terms and conditions of sale, see Legal Notice of Referee's Sale
WM. GRIFFIN, Referee
— O'NEILL, NEBR. —