

Saturday October 17, 1998
6:50 p.m.

Dear Mike,

Since I teach the Mia Maids each Sunday morning I decided I needed to catch up reading my Relief Society lessons. Teachings of the Presidents Brigham Young. Each time I pick up the manual I turn to page 210 and take a walk down memory lane. Tonight I decided I wanted to tell someone about the machine. It is a binder. Dad's was a McCormick binder. Directly behind the double tree (remember it's a double tree because there are two horses and the double tree is the straight wooden bars behind the horse. The straps are fastened to the double tree and to the horse collar allowing the horses some flexibility to turn the binder. (One horse single tree) Just behind the double tree bars on the binder is a "hay mower cutting knife" that goes back and forth to cut the grain. The paddle wheel turns forward as the horses pull the machine. The paddle wheel pulls the grain into the cutting knife. The grain then falls on to the bottom of the binder. This area of the binder has two large rollers covered with canvas. As the canvas turns the stalks of grain are forced into the box you see behind the white horse. The stalks are bundled together and miracle of miracles also tied together with twine. Then the "shock" of grain is forced out onto the forks and falls to the ground. The ball of twine sits in a gallon can type contraption about where you would guess the mans hands are. The farmer is sitting on a metal seat that is attached to the binder by a metal bar. Bouncy, bouncy. There were foot pedals to work with your feet to keep the grain stalks flowing. Keeping the twine threaded around all the little "doodads" was the tricky part. Each shock of grain is tied in two different places. The other farmer is holding his "shock" of grain by the twine. He and the boy are picking up the shocks to stand them up to dry. Of course their job description is "Shocking grain. As soon as the grain is dry and depending on the schedule of the threshing machine the farmers will pick up the grain driving a team of horses to pull the wagon and using pitchforks to toss the grain onto the wagon. One would guess the picture was taken on a very hot day notice the streaks of sweat on the horse.

The threshing machine was a marvelous machine and so very noisy. It took several men to thresh grain. The grain was pitched into the feeder and the most exciting part was watching the straw blown out the tall, tall pipe that almost looked like a smokestack. This pipe was movable and could be swung around so you could make a nice even straw stack. One could hardly wait each night for the men to shut off the threshing machine because that meant you could run to the straw stack and find the perfect length piece of straw and WHOOPEE drink your chocolate milk through a straw.

The binder was a perfect place to play. It was so easy to get on your stick horse "Galnster" and ride through the orchard to the binder just across from where the metal granary now stands. (Erwin Allen farms. Wapello, Blackfoot, Id)
I could rock JAI JAI to sleep sitting on the bouncy binder seat and the canvas area was a wonderful living room. All sort of things could be hung on the paddle wheel. If Dean or Erwin were around they would give the wheel a spin and I would have to "fix up" my house again.

Well, enough of that 1940's stuff. Have a wonderful day.

*I love you
Mom*