

## Life on the Farm in the Horse Farming Years (As told by Palmer Foss, Aug. 2006)

I was three years old when we moved to the Jim River community. That would be in 1926 when my memory of life began.

My memory of those first ten years, were learning years. Going barefooted all summer, having cows and horses step on those bare feet are a very learning experience. Then in winter, putting my tongue on the bobsled ... cold metal, taught me a lot also.

We started to work at a young age. Starting with two horses on a two section drag was my first experience, driving too close to the fence, and getting the drag caught soon followed. Finally graduating to four horses on a four section drag with a riding cart was big time.

We worked the ground many times those years to try and get a crop. First we plowed with three horses with a 14 inch cut, then we would disk with four horses with a eight foot single disc - then we would drag with four horses and a four section drag - then we would plant with two horses and two row corn planters - then we would drag again about twice to level the land and try to keep the weeds down. Then the drought came in the 30's and we'd have to replant and hope for a crop which never came until about 1939 and 1950 it started to rain again. My father Jarle was a hard worker. He was a kind father but kept me busy always by his side. It looked like South Dakota would be a desert. Mother suggested going to California. Dad said it'll be better next year. I'm thankful they stuck it out, as animals and farming is in my blood and to this day, (I'm 83 years old) can't think of life any other way.

In 1948, Eirleen and I were married. It was the best thing that ever happened to me. Our two children say they never saw their mother angry. She has been very supportive of everything I do and I have made mistakes and experienced disappointments that didn't work out. She always tells me I did the right thing.

Now that I'm old, I have the best of two worlds. I can sit in the chair and watch T.V. and just hang out and loaf. She tells me every day, I work too hard, lift too much etc. (and I don't do anything, but don't tell her!). I'm enjoying life.

I guess you could call me a horse farmer. Our biggest accomplishment during our years was our two children, Karen and Jerry. They have been a real blessing to us.