



Threshing 1941



Top left: Threshing day on the Hennig farm in 1941. Typically, a threshing machine owner would do the threshing for many farms in a neighborhood, scheduling specific farms for specific days. In the case of Alfred and Frances, the threshing machine owner was Frances's brother, Ben. The barn in this photo was constructed by Alfred (most likely with help from neighbors) in 1923. It already was a "leaner" in the 1940s, but lasted until the farm was sold in 1983. The smaller tractor in the threshing photo was not the Hennig's. The one providing power may have been theirs, although the author recalls an even older one, a massive McCormick-Deering tractor with iron wheels that was many years older. The first "modern tractor" the Hennig family owned was a John Deere model M, an example of which is shown bottom left above. They acquired it in the late 1940s and it lasted until they discontinued farming some 20-30 years later. A baling machine similar to the one behind the Model M in this photo was something they used routinely, both for hay and for straw. Meanwhile, the photo above right shows their more typical "farming power machinery" of the 1940s. The horse on the left was "Bob" and the one on the right was "Queenie." The driver was "in training" for spreading manure on the fields. In those days, by the age of 10, children were expected to be proficient in operating such farm machinery (although the author never reached that level!).