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Kathryn Olson

FARMER



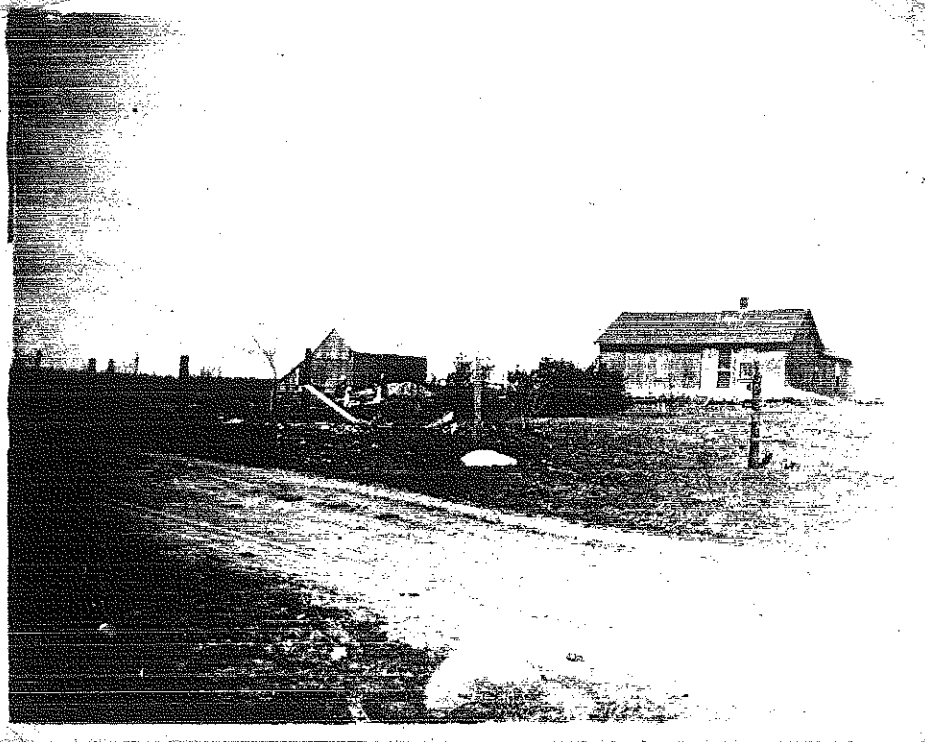
my Grandfather

When my grandfather was 31 years old he was threatened with consumption caused from underground work in a mine. He had to give up his job and his home in the city and leave for a more healthful climate.



The Buried Over Timberland

About that time there had been a fire over the northern part of Michigan and land was selling for quite low prices, so my grandfather bought a 60 acre tract in Alcona county.



The First House and Barn

He cleared some land and built a small house. Then he moved his wife and four sons. Later two daughters were born, the youngest is my mother.



Grandma and the 4 sons



The first crop

The first year it was too late to raise crops but they raised some the next year. They were mostly garden crops. The next year they raised quite a bite of grain.

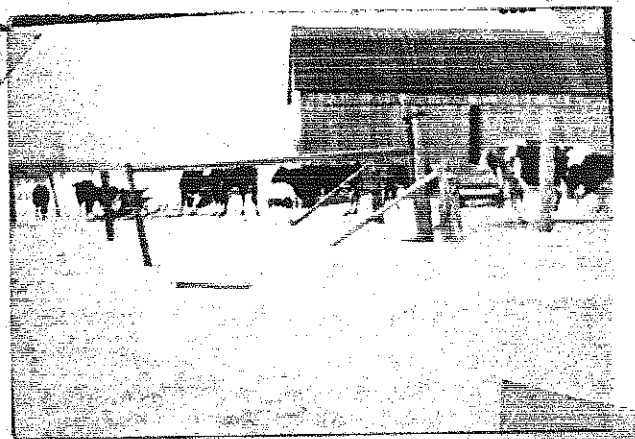


The first wheat field



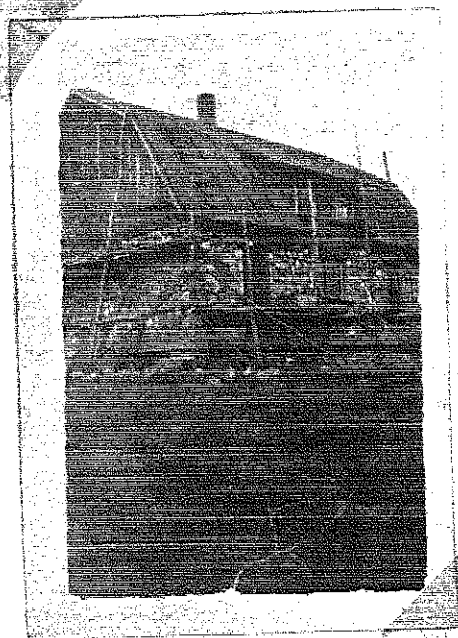
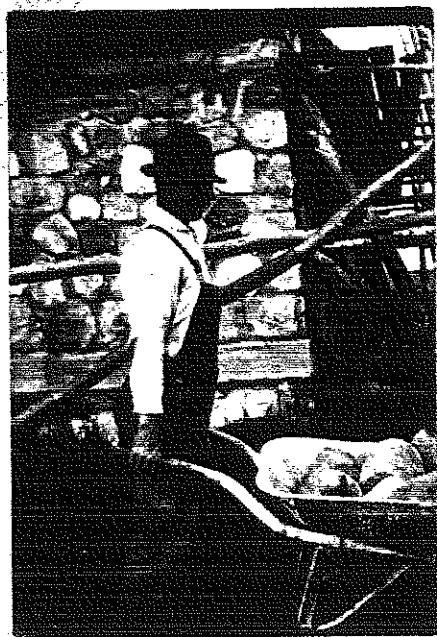
The first straw stack

That year he bought a forty acre tract adjoining his 60 acres which he also cleared for farmland and later a forty acre tract across the road which he used for pasture for cows and a future sugar bush.

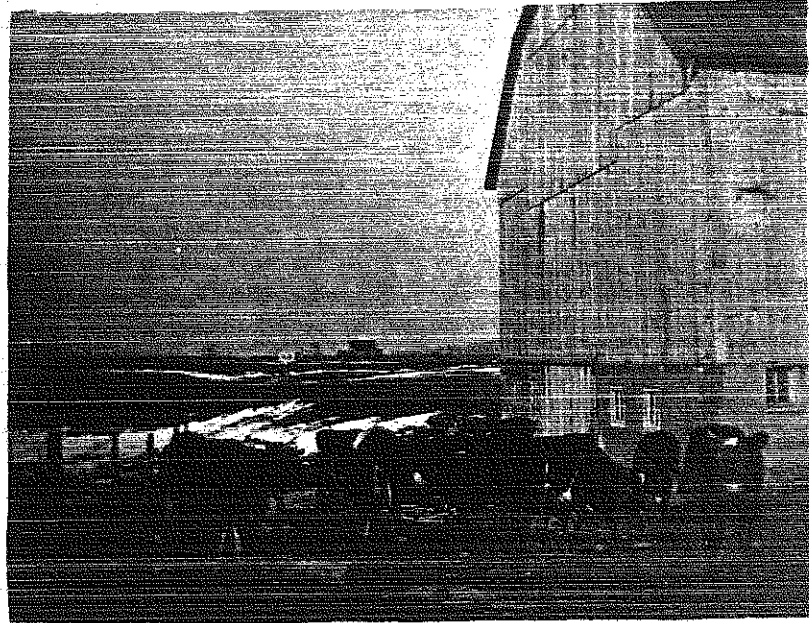


The new barn

After he had cleared the rest of his land he bought timber on another man's land and built a large barn and the next year a larger house.



The construction of the new house



His herd of cows



Feeding the Calves

These last few years he has changed his methods of farming quite a bit. Now his farm is equipped with electrical appliances and modern machinery.



Although now he is getting older and is farming on a smaller scale he has no real intention of retiring for he loves every inch of the place he has developed from barren burned-over wasteland and grandma would not give up her house although the material was largely homemade for the most beautiful city home and they feel that they could not be happy anyplace else.