

Haymaking.

Evelyn Olson Mikko in her 1980 document shares: We all had to work in the hay fields. When you were younger you raked around the fields with a hand rake. If you happened to be near the road and a car would go by you'd turn your head so they would not see who you were. Sometimes the horse would start urinating or pooping right at that time and you'd try to get time to keep going until the car had passed. We were so ashamed. Then you'd have to go upstairs of the loft when the hay was hosted up there and we would spread it around to the sides. That was one of the hardest jobs we had.

Brother Bob Olson shares with Barb in April 2008:

I had haymaking to do too. We loaded the hay by hand, later in round or rectangle bales. We had a carriage and rope that took the loose hay to the barn loft. Once on top Uncle John used to toss it about to keep even layers. If you had money you got a sweep rake on front of tractor but Dad thought that made dusty hay.

Most every farm made hay for animals. First by hand with horse and wagon, then tractor and machinery.

See picture section on haymaking.

Researched by Barb Koski Osma Plat Road, Houghton MI. I welcome stories. Contact the webmaster. Submitted in 2009.