



In 1932, wheat hit an all time record low of 32¢ a bushel, but with crops failing and dust storms, the price of wheat had climbed to 67¢ in 1934. In 1935, the rust year for this area, smart farmers burned their crops, others cut them and could not pay for the twine. "It was jokingly suggested that every farmer should keep at least one dog as he never knew when he might have to eat it." Times were hard but the age of electricity was upon us. Electric lights were the 'luxury' longed for by many and in 1936 the new Hydro station south of Arrow River was installed to carry 33,000 volts of electricity. Very few farm homes had electrical power or water systems, a few had motor driven units, supplying electric light only. Money was as scarce as "hen's teeth." But how very fortunate this area was to have an abundance of wood for fuel and wild raspberries, strawberries, Saskatoons, cranberries and black currants, as wild fruit, while some picked hazelnuts by the bag in the valley.



Threshing Scene

trucks, tractors, etc. With the coming of electricity in 1949, the sad irons were laid away, ice wells were filled in and replaced by refrigeration, the local theatre was empty, as people sat glued to their T.V.'s, cigarettes replaced the thimble and quilting needle, families were smaller, allowing more time for freedom of women. As the stores became stocked with all the desirable commodities in family sized packages, the day of the self-sufficient farm table became obsolete.

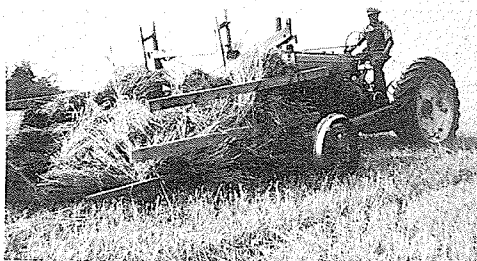


Woodsawing Bee

1939 brought the declaration of war and local boys trooped off to five years of war and waiting. During this time, the district felt the pinch of rationing of such commodities as sugar, tea and gasoline. Some crossed the line to the U.S.A. to purchase 100 pound bags of sugar in preserving time. For those ladies meetings, several would take a little "dab" of tea, to make that much appreciated refreshment. Shortage of labor and gasoline brought about the ruling that no gas station could be open before 7 a.m., or after 7 p.m., and no Sunday sales. The labor shortage at this time was acute. Farmers pooled their machinery and help, the outcome being the use of such labor saving machinery as tractor sweeps, and one man operated tractor-binder units, and finally the swather and combine became general. Horses gradually disappeared, going mostly for fox and mink meat and the age of mechanization gradually had emerged. Women formed a major part of the labor force, running

During this period, the returned men were being rehabilitated, under the Veteran's Land Act. Many settled in this area. There was a revival of family life, recreation became a part of our community life again, with ball teams, curling etc., and a keen interest in youth activities. Much help was given by our local Agricultural Representative in this field as well as leadership in modern farming practices. The planting of trees, soil testing, experiments with seed plots, fertilizers, improvement of cattle breeding and feeding with the use of silage becoming more prevalent. Hog breeders introduced improvements in this field with imported breeds, etc.

By the time the '60's had rolled around, the results of automation, with little hired



Sweep on front of tractor.