

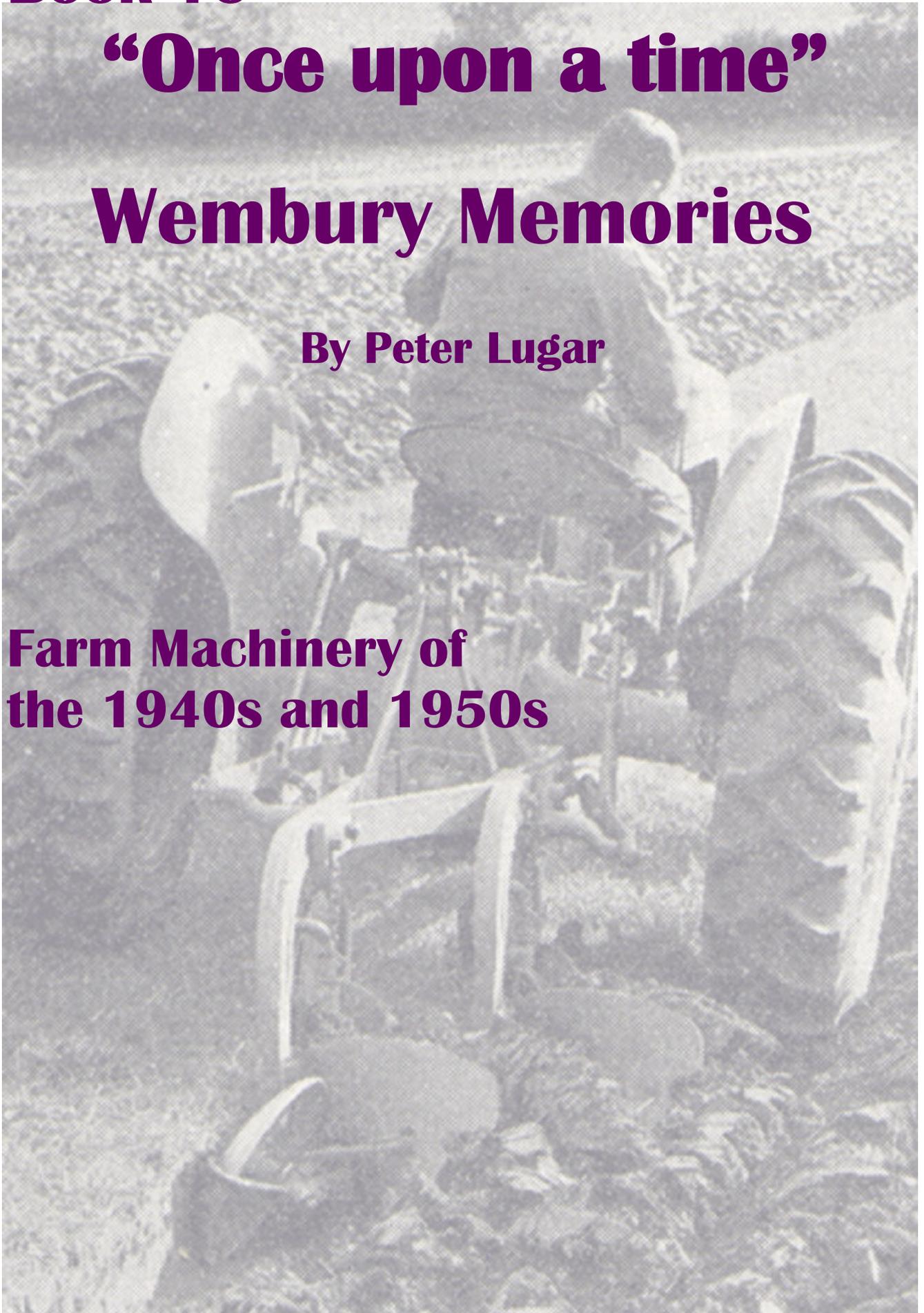
Book 10

“Once upon a time”

Wembury Memories

By Peter Lugar

**Farm Machinery of
the 1940s and 1950s**



WEMBURY MEMORIES

Foreword

These books, which now number ten, started about five years ago when I decided that photographs which were scattered all over the house should be brought together in one place. I then decided that each photograph should have a little written account of the scene or event. After filling one quite large photograph album I decided that the system needed to be more flexible where pages could be added and the categories altered as the system expanded. The A4 clip folders and punched pockets proved to be absolutely ideal for this purpose. As more and more memories came flooding back the written work was beginning to far outstrip the photographic work. I also realised that there were now very few of us left in Wembury who had been born here and grew up in the village in the 1940s and 1950s and that really a record needed to be made of what life was like in those days just after the war when we were going through our 'austere period'.

Quite a lot of the photographs were in my parents' collection and I have accumulated a lot more. Some have been lent to me to copy by friends, some have come from the internet. I have augmented these with quite a lot of new photographs. The 'Memories' are now interspersed with 'Snippets of History' and in some places my own observations and ideas. I don't think that I would have attempted this project without my 'I Mac' computer which has proved to be a godsend, although I always had it in mind to write an account of what it was like to be an eight year old in Wembury right in the middle of the twentieth century.

Peter Lugar

November 2005

**“Once upon a time when the bird shit lime
and the monkey chewed tobacco**”

**These books are dedicated to Elsie,
and many others like her, who have
gone before us in this place.**

(The story of Elsie may be found in books 2 and 9)

Farm Machinery - 1940s and 1950s

Foreword

I am much indebted to my brother Thomas for providing me with the illustrations of farm machinery used in the parish in the 1940s and 1950s, also for the information on the various pieces, and the farms where each was used.

Many were highly ingenious in their concept, and could be regarded as works of art in their own right.

When we were children, Wembury was predominantly a farming community. The movement of farm machinery around the parish was a regular sight, not only between fields on individual farms, but also between farms as lending and borrowing of machinery was a fact of life in the community.

**Peter Lugar
June 2005**

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FARM MACHINERY - GOOD PLOUGHING

A. E .HOUSEMAN (1856 - 1936)

Wrote his famous lines dedicated to the imaginary thoughts of the horse ploughman lying in his grave.

Is my team ploughing
that I used to drive,
and hear the harness jingle,
when I was man alive?

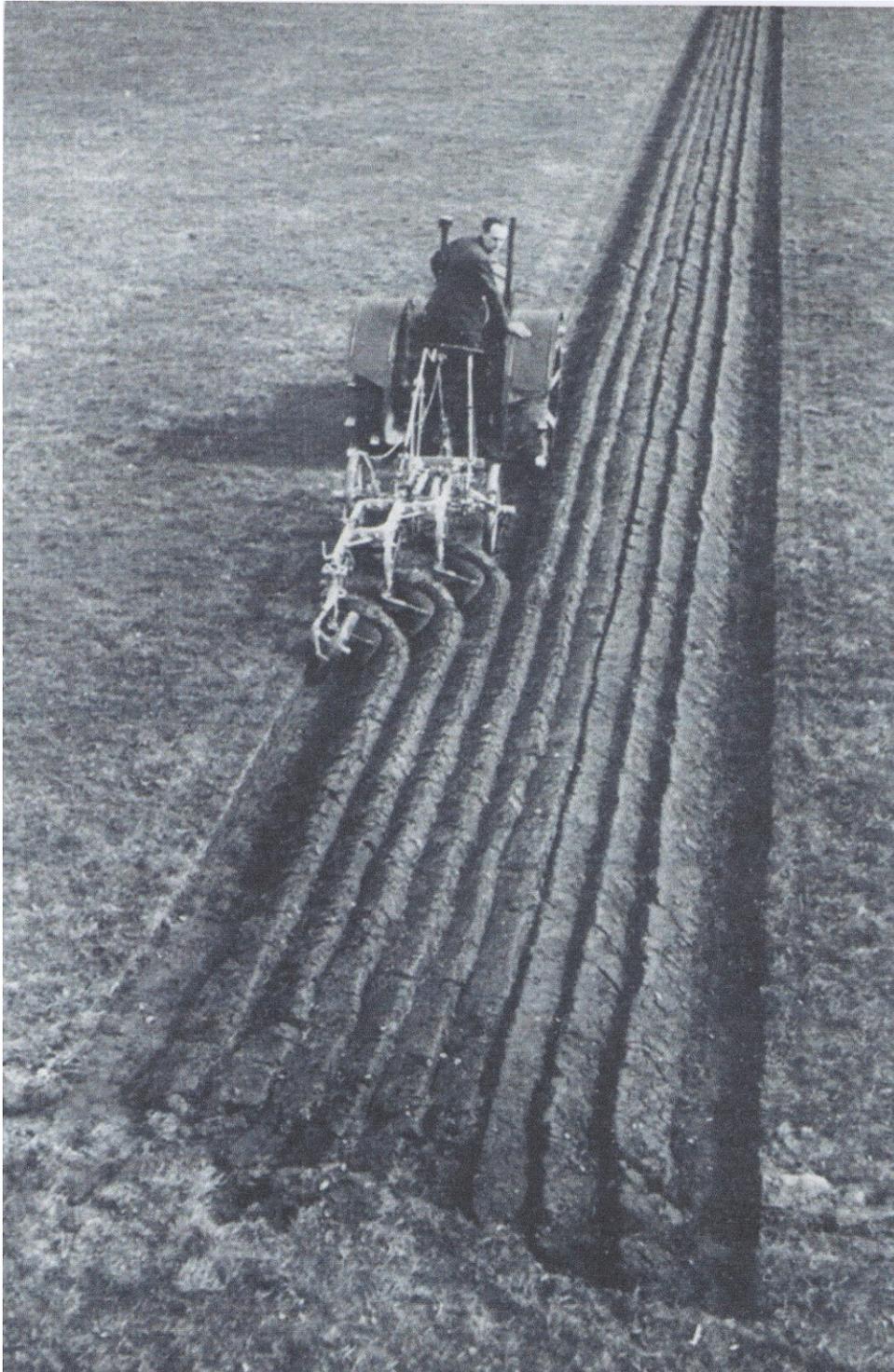
Ay, the horses trample,
the harness jingles now;
no change though you lie under
the land you used to plough.

He expected man to continue to use the plough but did not foresee the tractor



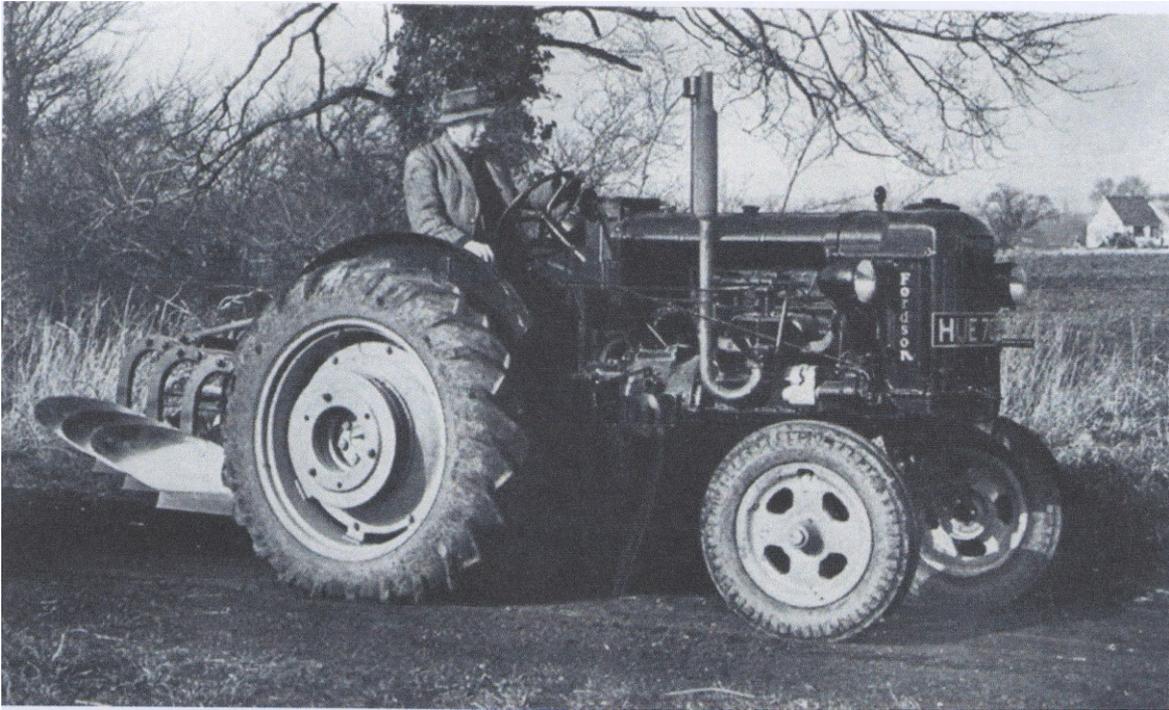
FARM MACHINERY - GOOD PLOUGHING

Mr A G Street the celebrated Wiltshire farmer, countryside author, agricultural journalist and radio broadcaster of the time, once described the art of tractor ploughing as “The most pleasant of pastimes thinly veiled as work”. The tractor driver’s predecessor might very well agree with this as it estimated that the would have to trudge as much as eleven miles behind his single furrow horse drawn plough in order to complete an area covering one acre, whereas the skilled tractor driver with his tractor and three furrow plough could comfortably cover an area of five acres.

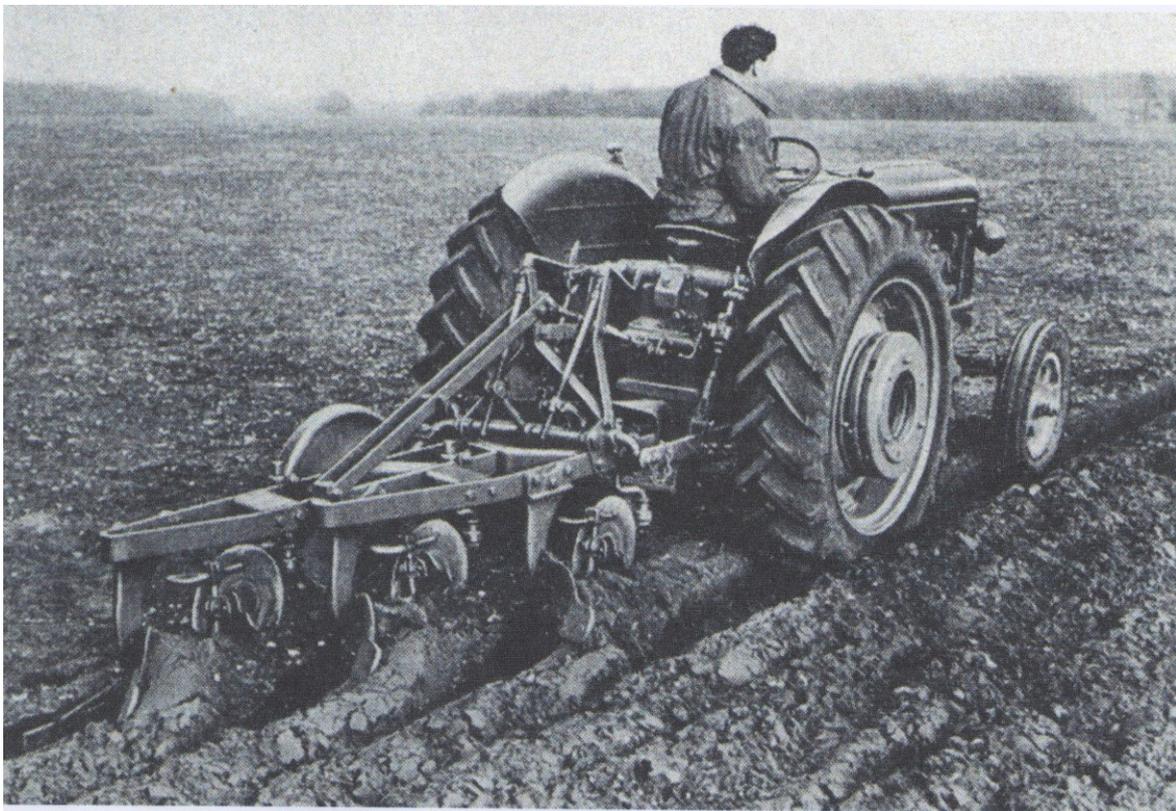


FARM MACHINERY - FORDSON MAJOR WITH POWER LIFT

The photograph below shows a Fordson Major tractor fitted with a power lift to carry a Fordson type mounted plough as used in Wembury, during the 1950s, by Harry Penny at Spirewell Farm.



The photograph below shows a Fordson Major diesel tractor and matching Ford Ransomes three furrow, tractor mounted plough. This type was used by J R P Cundy and Sons, at Raneleigh Farm in the 1950s.



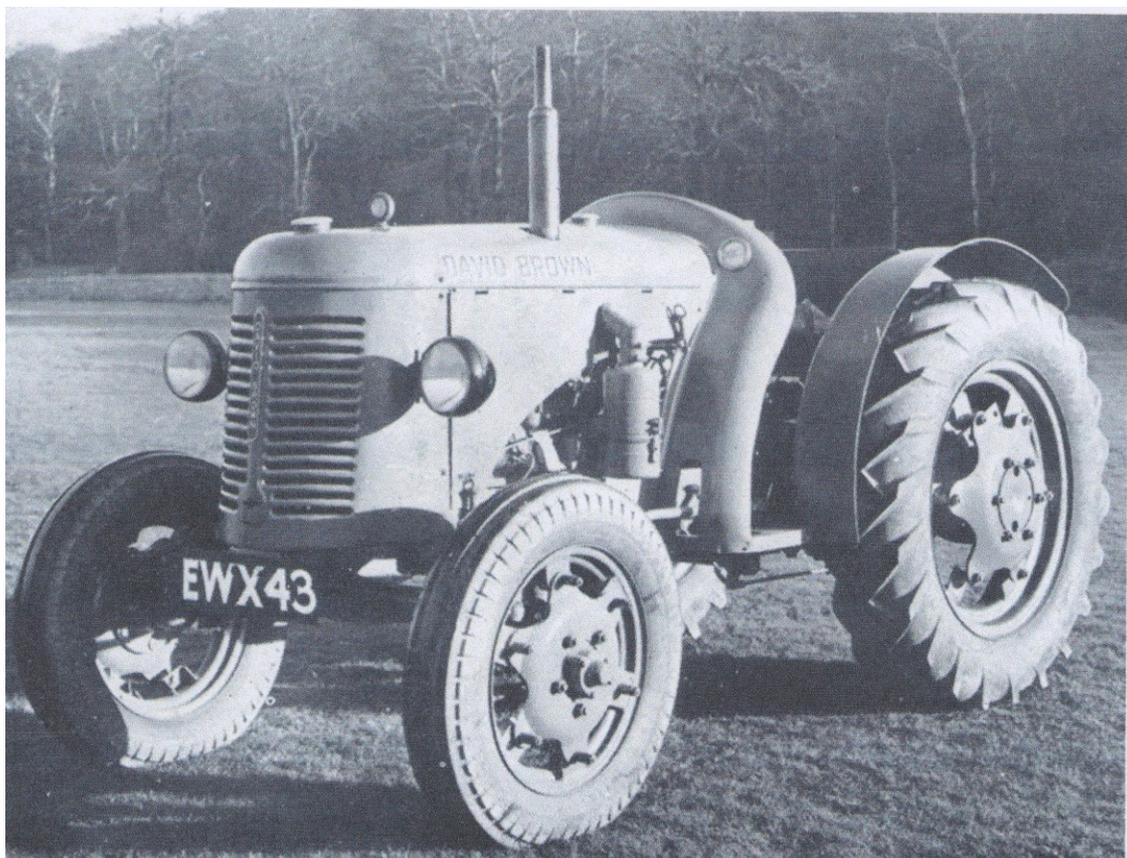
FARM MACHINERY - NUFFIELD UNIVERSAL TRACTOR

The photograph below shows a Nuffield Universal Tractor type as used in the 1950s by Lewis Andrews at Langdon Barton Farm, Tom Steer at Old Barton Farm, and Harry Penny at Spirewell Farm.



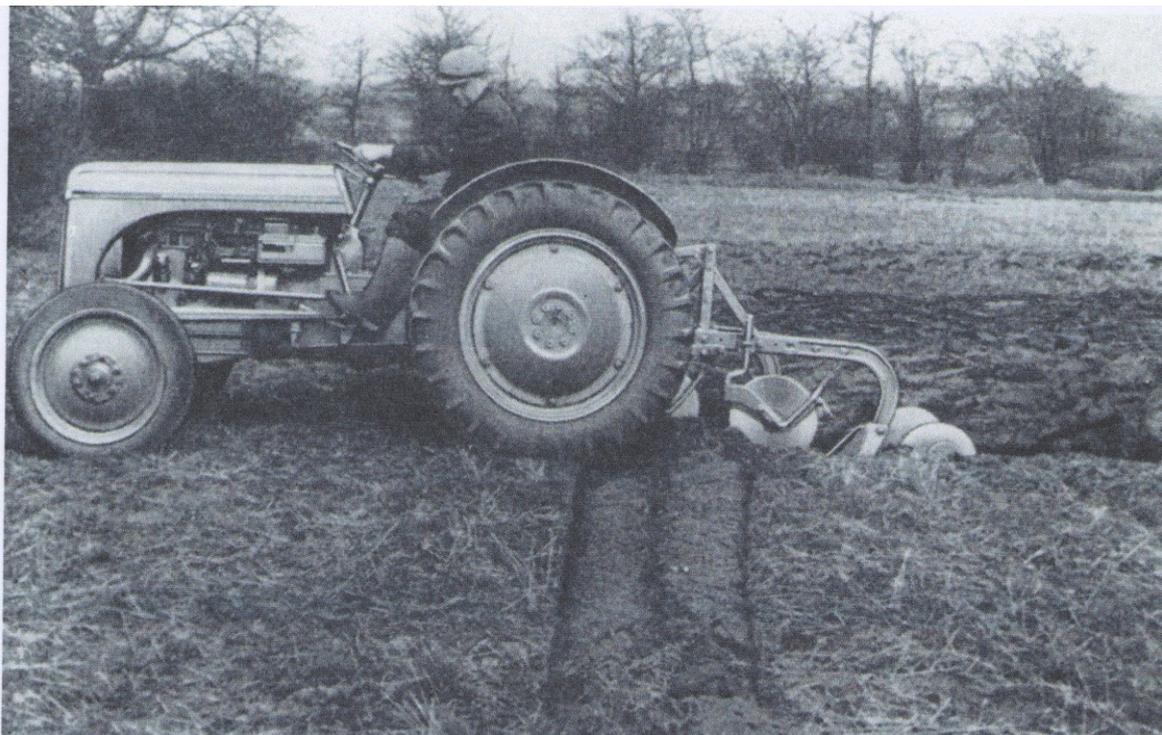
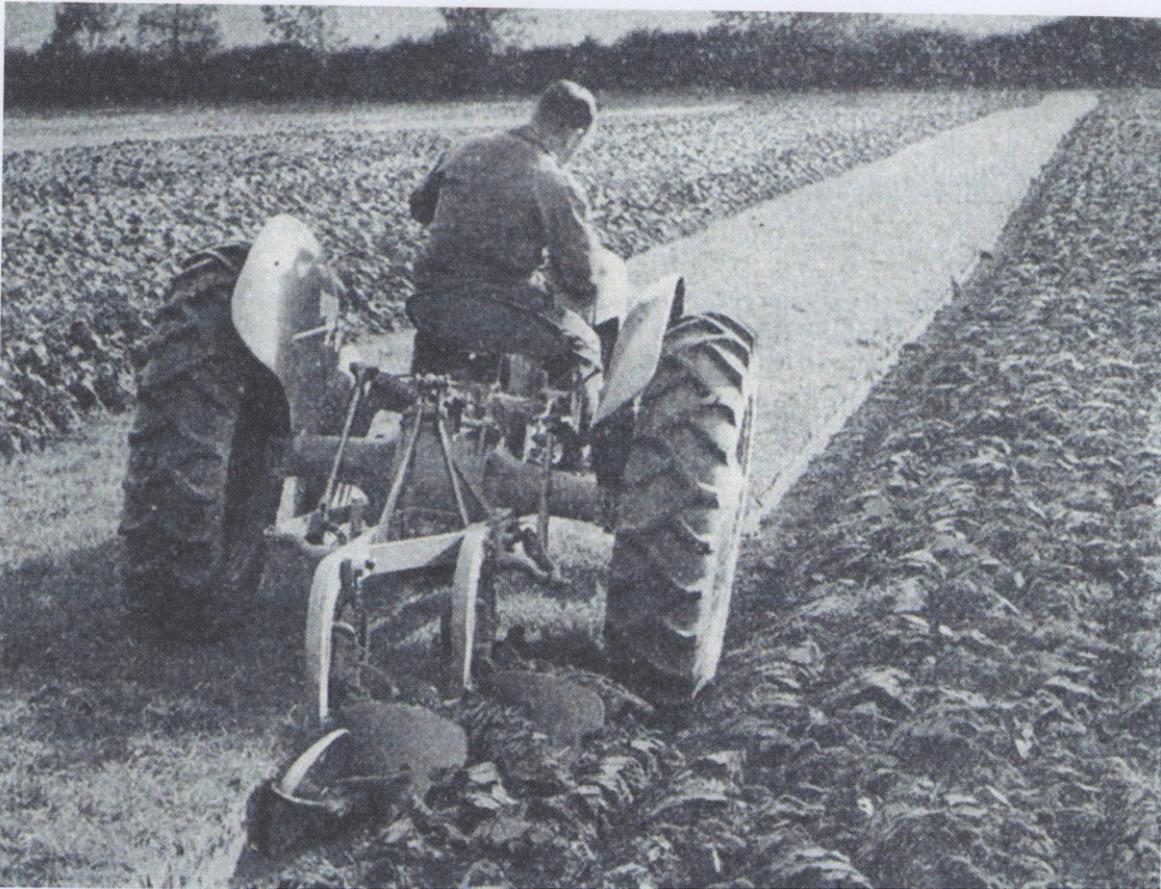
FARM MACHINERY - DAVID BROWN CROPMASTER

The photograph below shows a David Brown Cropmaster type tractor as used in Wembury by Des Stevenson at Knighton Farm in the 1950s



FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON TWO FURROW PLOUGH

The photograph below shows a Ferguson Type 20 Tractor with a two furrow mounted plough. In Wembury, during the 1950s, these were used by Raymond Brown at Jenys Park, Bob Phillips at South Barton, Stan Channing at Hollacombe, George Body at Mount Pleasant and Bob Stansell at Church Walk Wood.



FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON THREE FURROW PLOUGH

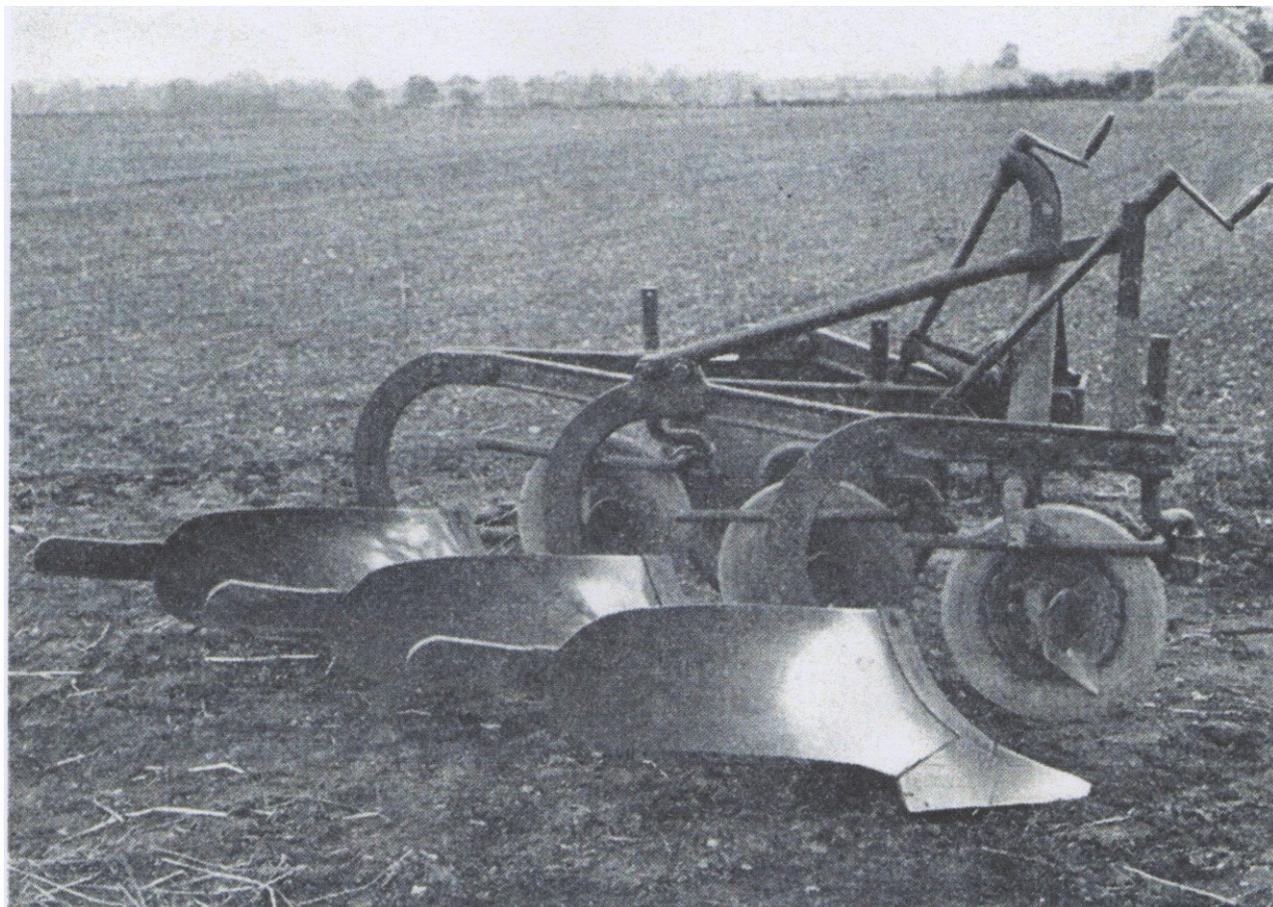
The photograph below shows a Ferguson Tractor with a three furrow Ferguson mounted plough of the type used in Wembury, in the 1950s, by Fred Rowland at Train Farm, Tom Steer at Old Barton Farm and Ben Clifton at Knighton Farm.



FARM MACHINERY - FORDSON THREE FURROW PLOUGH

The photograph below shows a three furrow, direct coupled, tractor plough, with screw-controlled depth regulating wheel, for a Fordson Tractor.

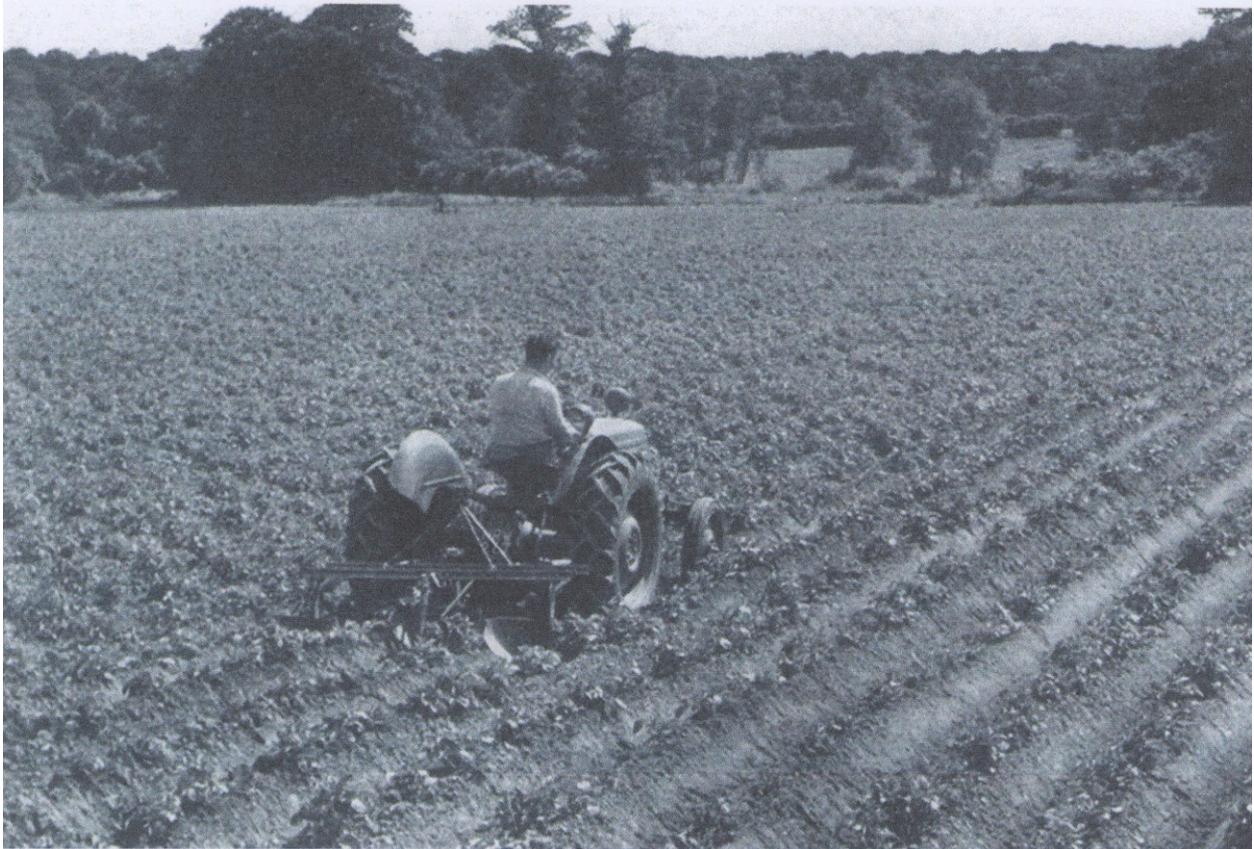
In Wembury, during the 1950s, one of these was used by Harry Penny at Spirewell Farm.



FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON WITH NIGHT PLOUGHING LIGHTS

The photograph below shows a Ferguson tractor with a Ferguson with a front centrally mounted, and rear night ploughing light fitted to the rear mudguard, as used by Fred Rowland at Train Farm.

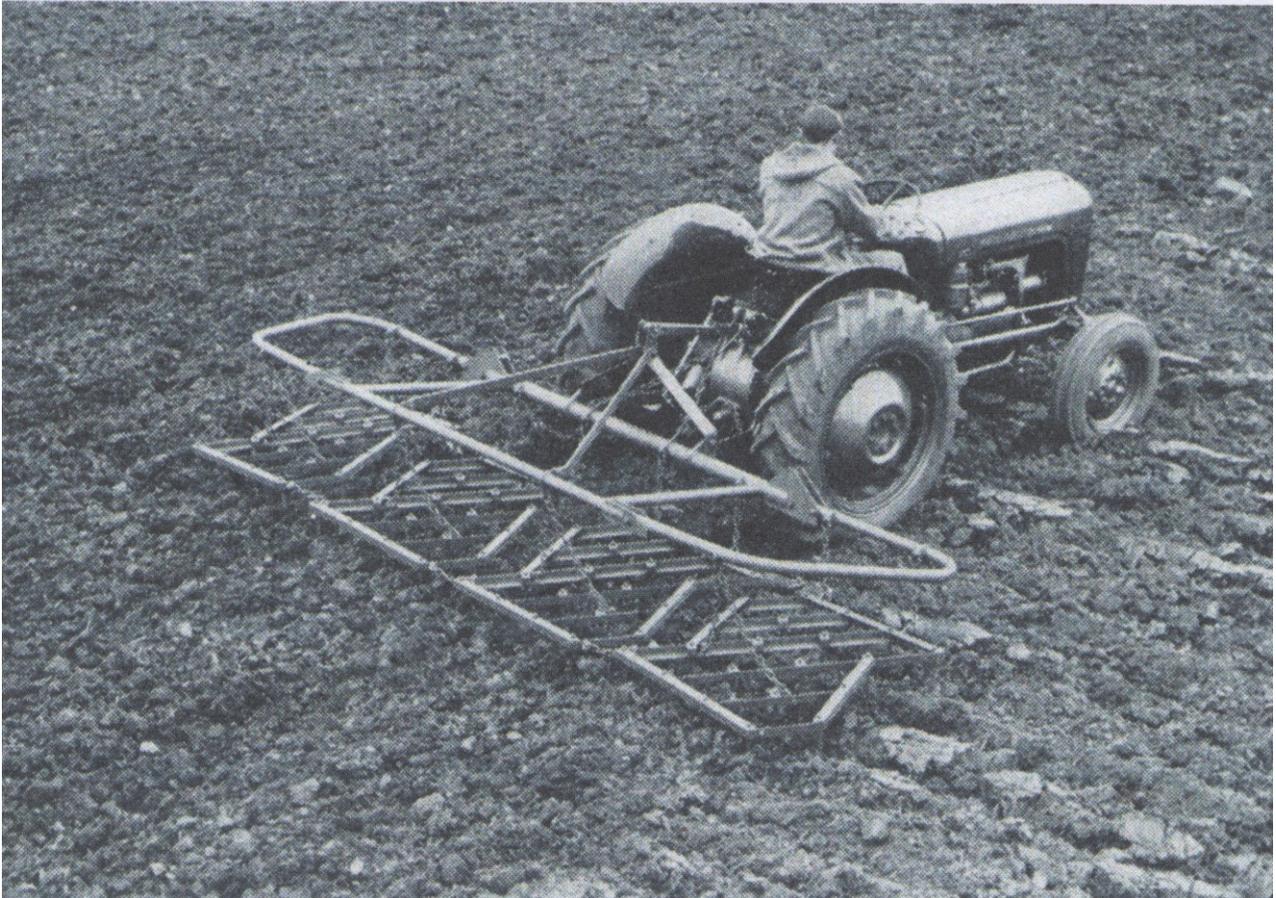
The implement shown is a mounted Three Row Ferguson Ridger, earthing up a potato crop.



FARM MACHINERY - MASSEY-FERGUSON WITH ZIG-ZAG HARROW

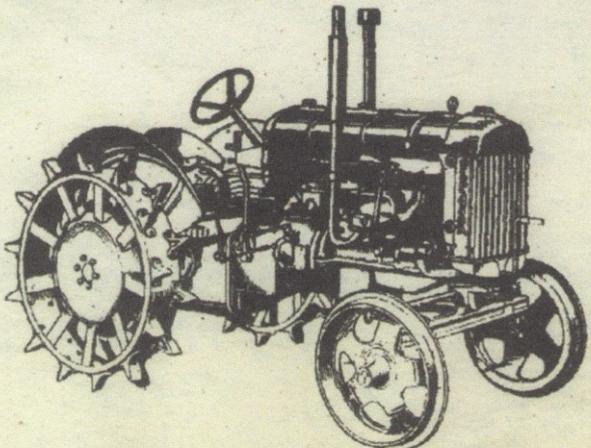
The photograph below shows a Massey-Ferguson 35 Tractor with a Massey-Ferguson four section mounted zig-zag harrow, as used by Des Stevenson at Knighton Farm in the 1950s.

Harrows are employed for a great variety of purposes, such as the preparation of seed beds, the covering of seeds, the destruction of weeds and the aeration of pastures. Many types and sizes are used for carrying out these widely differing functions. The most common and simple type is that with the zig-zag iron frame and rigid teeth. The thickness of the teeth range from half to three quarters of an inch square, and determine whether the harrow is for light or heavy usage.



FORDSON MAJOR E27N GENERAL PURPOSE TRACTOR

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the **NEW**
Fordson
MAJOR



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2833

An advertisement from the 1940s showing the E27N General Purpose Tractor on steel wheels. This type of tractor was known as 'Spade Lug' and in Wembury was used by Harry Booth at Ford Farm. His choice of tractor on such wheels was based on the better traction abilities of the spade lugs in moving loads from the farm up over the steep inclines of the fields to the arable cropped area on the flatter land above. His choice was also based on the availability of a decent tractor at a reasonable price. He actually purchased it from his neighbour, Harry Penny at Spirewell Farm, who had used it as a ploughing tractor for doing contract ploughing for farmers locally. He would use a rubber tyred Fordson tractor to transport the spade lugged Fordson and plough on a trailer to customers' farms via the public roads.

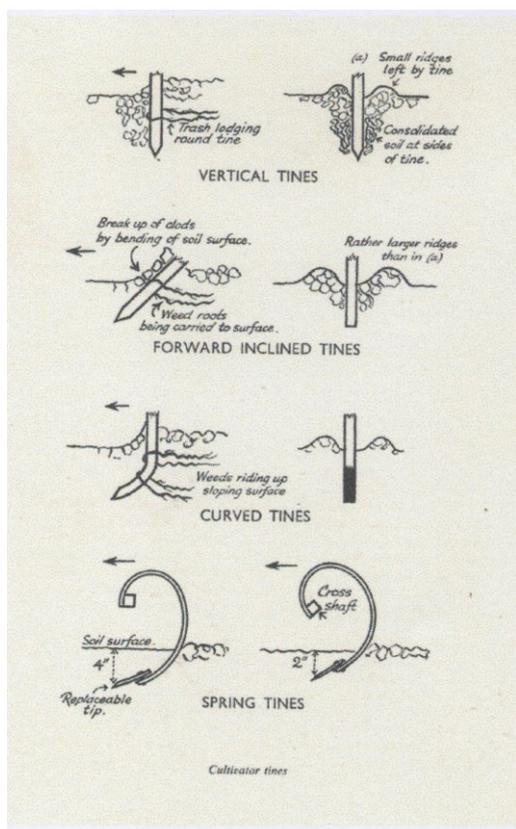
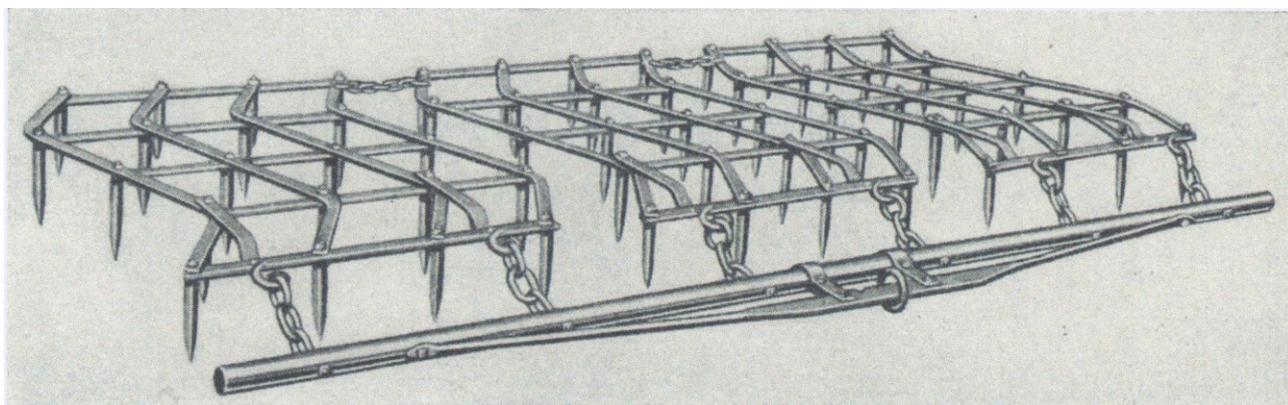
The company Watkins and Roseveare at Cantrell Works, Ivybridge, were in fact sub agents for Fordson tractors as the Ford Motor Company would not supply them direct. They could only get new Fordson tractors through Reeds of Plymouth, Ford Main Dealers, in order to supply customers. They themselves were actually the main dealers for Massey Harris Tractors and farm machinery. Unfortunately for them the Massey Harris tractors were not so readily acceptable to the farming community as were the more reliable Fordsons.

FARM MACHINERY - THREE LEAF ZIG-ZAG HARROW

The photograph below shows a tractor drawn, three leaf, zig-zag harrow, which was used on most of the farms in Wembury. Overall width - 10 ft 6 in, weight - 5 cwt.

Each leaf, or section has, twenty tines each seven-eighths of an inch square, fixed to the beams by shouldered screws and nuts.

Most harrows consist of a number of points or 'tines' carried on a suitable frame or series of frames, and so positioned so that when the whole implement is drawn over the land each tooth cuts through the soil in a different line from its neighbours. Provided the soil is in the right condition the teeth stir the soil breaking the clods in so doing, and loosening and destroying young weeds. The length of the teeth, of tines, and the total weight of the harrow determine the use to which it can best be put. Light, short-tine harrows are generally used for covering seeds with a thin layer of soil, whilst the heavier implements with longer and stiffer teeth are more suitable breaking up the furrow-slices as left by the plough, or for other similar cultivations.



CULTIVATOR TINES
(diagram left)

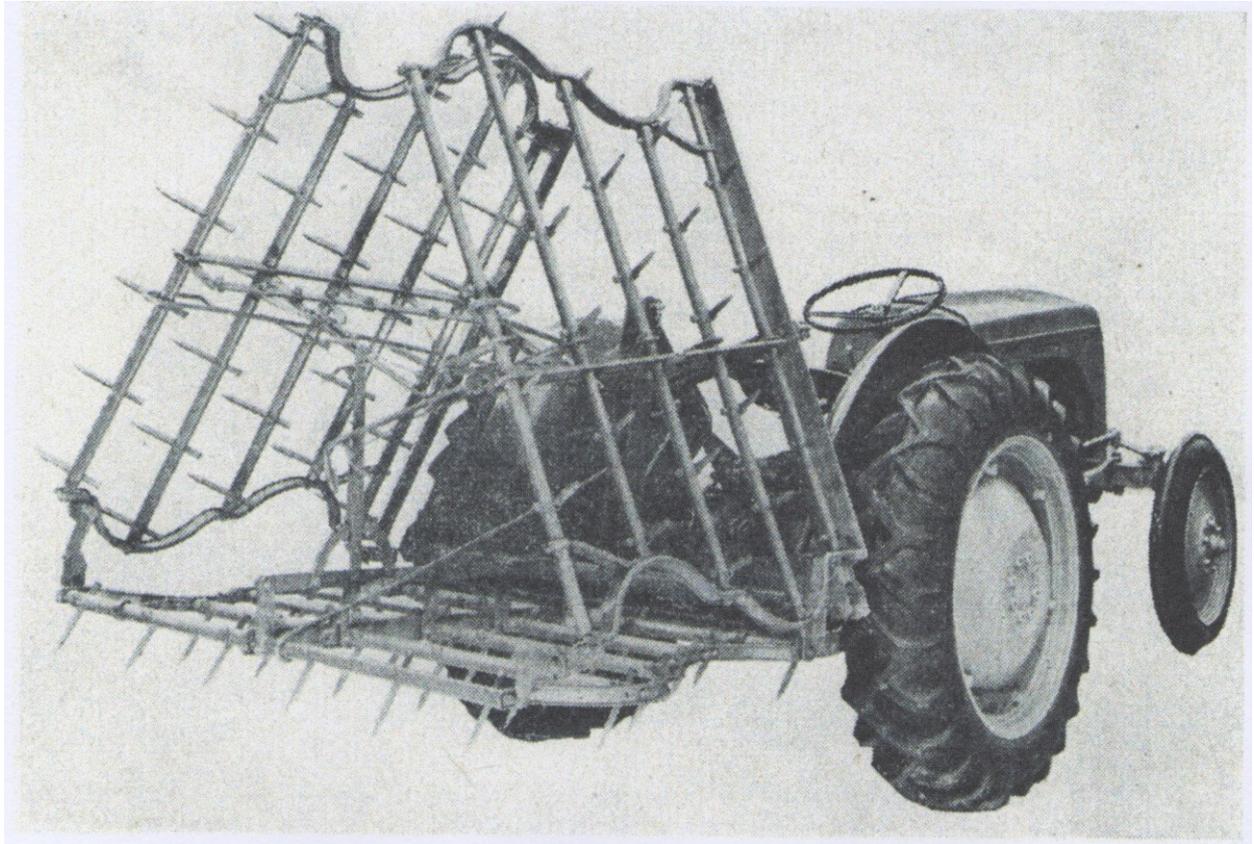
In the top three pairs of tines, the left hand illustration is of the side view showing the direction of travel, and the right hand illustration is of the tine viewed from the front.

The bottom pair shows a spring tine from the side illustrating how the depth can be adjusted by rotating the cross shaft.

FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON HYDRAULIC HARROW

The photograph below shows a Ferguson type 20 tractor with a Ferguson three lap mounted harrow with adjustable tines (in the transport position).

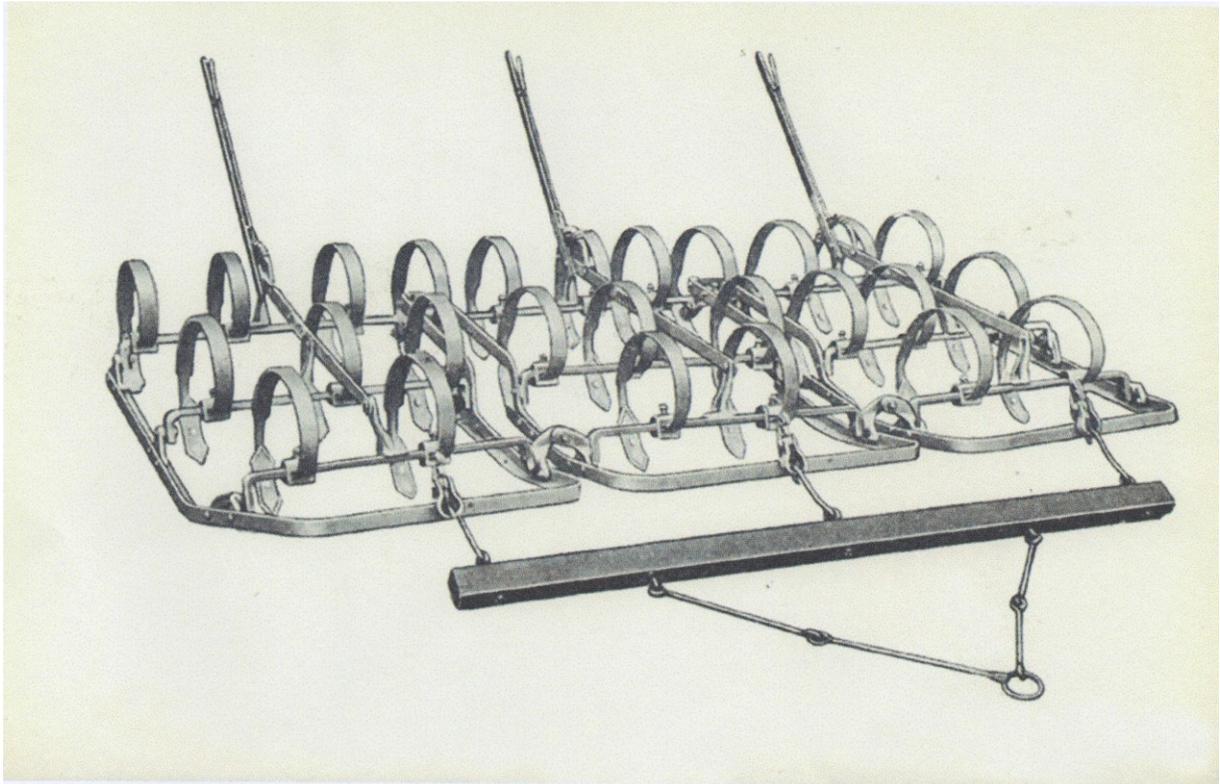
In Wembury, during the 1950s, one of these was used by Tom Steer at Old Barton Farm.



FARM MACHINERY - ADJUSTABLE SPRING-TINE HARROW

The photograph below shows a Canadian type adjustable spring-tine harrow, and in Wembury, in the 1950s, was used by my Father at Old Barton and Thorn Farms.

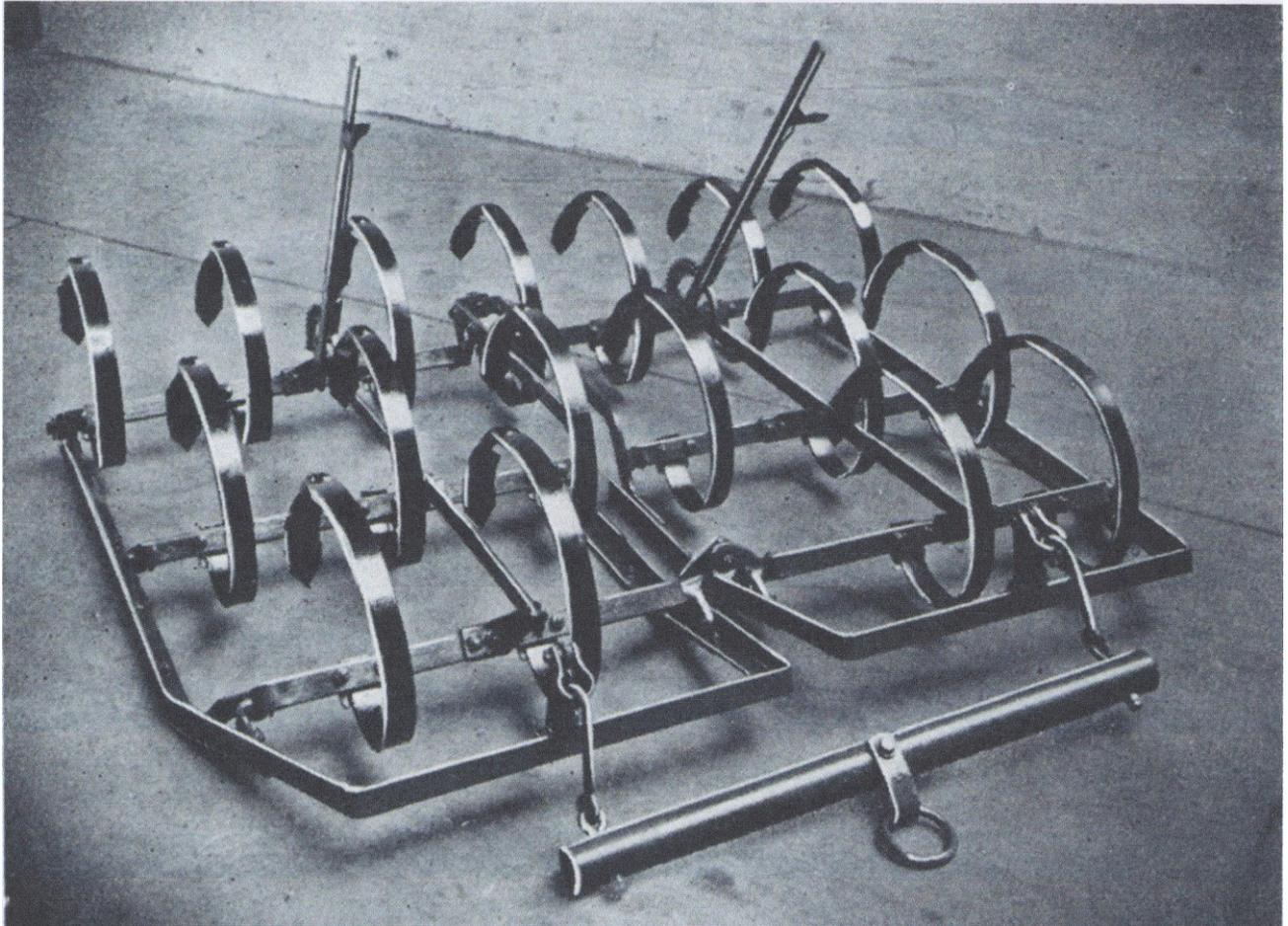
The harrow is of three sections and twenty six tines (ten on the centre section, and eight on the outer sections). Each section has three cranked tine bars, which on being slightly rotated by the lever at the back, alter the angle of penetration of the tines. The steel points are reversible and renewable. It was claimed that the vibration of the spring tines as they passed through the ground had a better pulverising action than harrows with rigid tines.



FARM MACHINERY - CANADIAN TYPE SPRING TINE HARROW

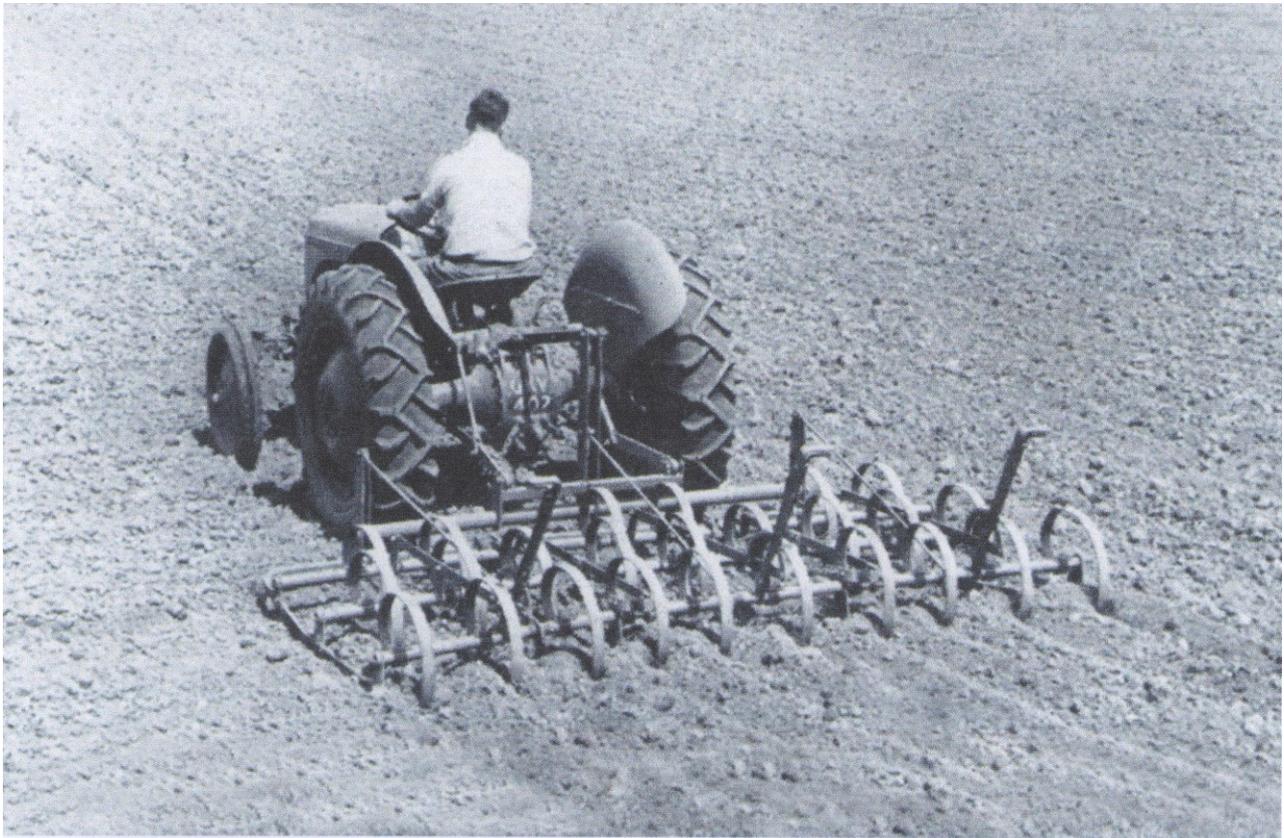
The photograph below shows a Canadian type, two leaf, spring tine harrow, as used in Wembury, in the 1950s, by Godfrey Smallridge of West Wembury Farm.

This spring harrow could be adjusted for the depth of work by the levers on the frame of each section. The draw height also had to be altered to keep the depth of the front and rear rows about the same. The link had four positions to achieve this.



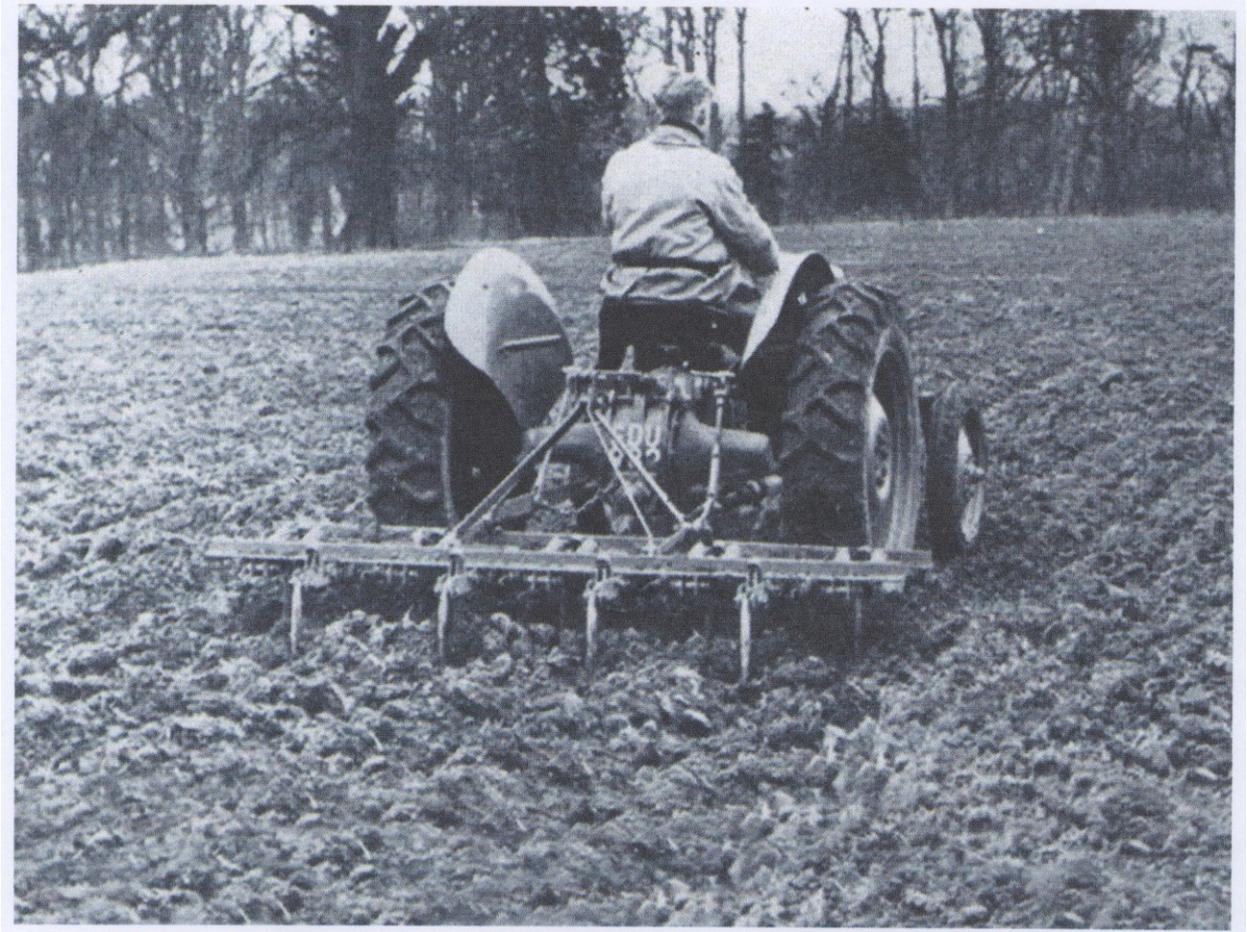
FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON THREE LEAF SPRING-TINE HARROW

The photograph below shows a Ferguson type mounted three leaf adjustable spring-tine harrow, as used in Wembury in the 1950s by Fred Rowland at Train Farm.



FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON NINE TINE CULTIVATOR

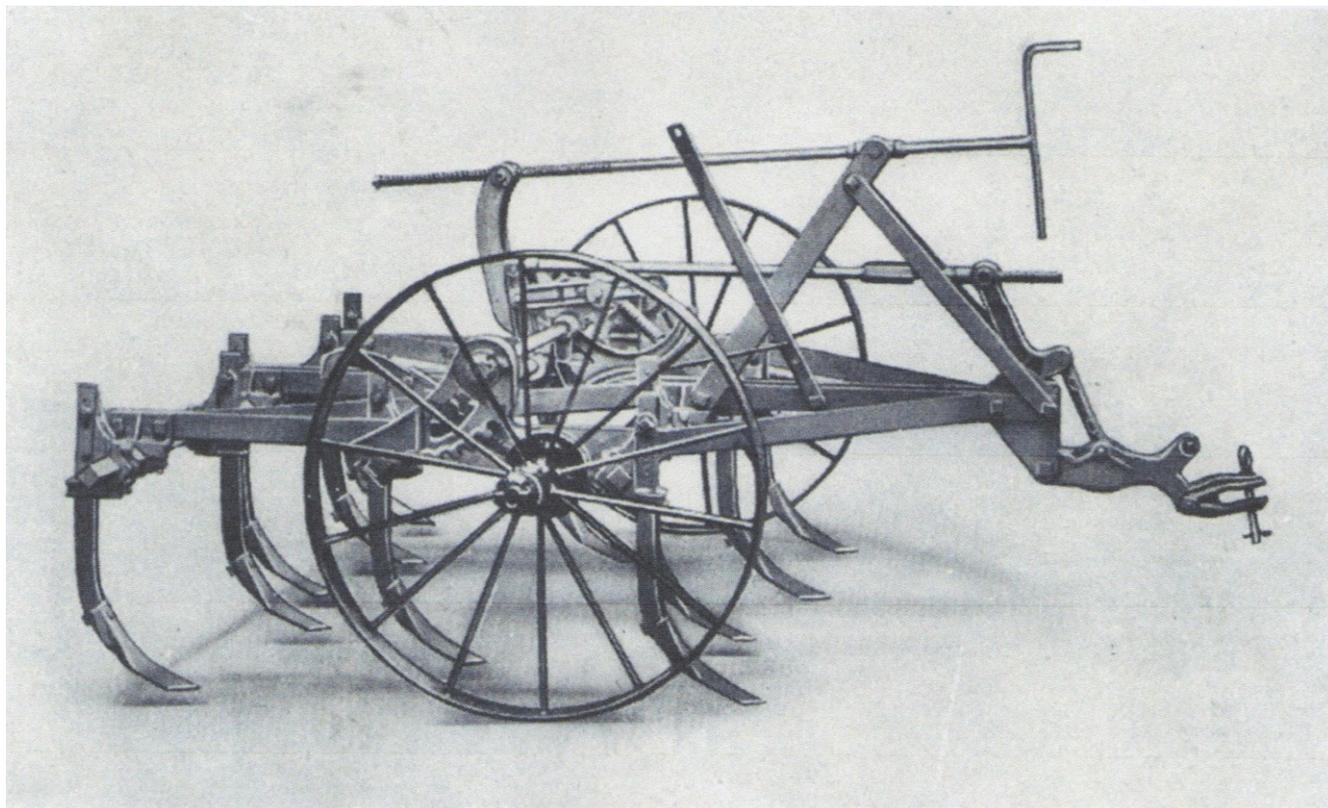
The photograph below shows a Ferguson type mounted nine tine cultivator with spring operated break back shanks for uses in hard soil conditions, as used in Wembury in the 1950s by Tom Steer at Old Barton Farm and Fred Rowland at Train Farm.



FARM MACHINERY - RANSOMES DAUNTLESS CULTIVATOR

The photograph below shows a Ransomes Dauntless rigid-tine trailed cultivator as used in Wembury, in the 1950s, by Harry Booth at Ford Farm behind his Fordson Major spade lug tractor.

The screw handle would be adjusted to suit the working depth of the tines, whilst the lever would be used to trip the wheels via the segmented section behind the wheel to drop the unit into the working position or to lift it out into the transport position.



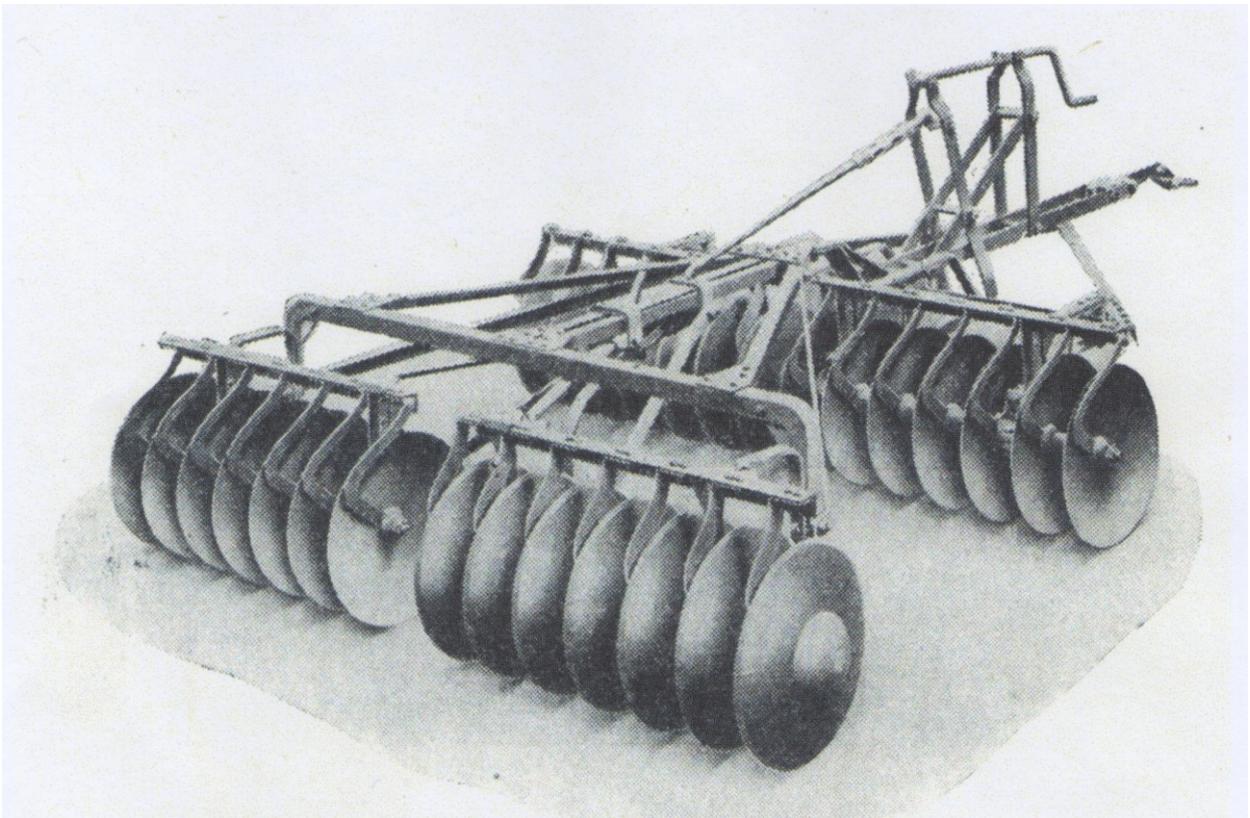
FARM MACHINERY - RANSOMES DISC HARROW

The photograph below shows a Ransomes Tractor Drawn Disc Harrow in a “Tandem” configuration.

The discs are generally from 12 to 20 inches in diameter, they rotate as the harrow is pulled along. The two sets of disc gangs are set so that the front set throw the soil outwards and the rear set throw it inwards. Their action is not unlike that of a small digging type plough. The depth of penetration is achieved by virtue of the weight of the implement, and may be increased by adding extra weights to the weight pans attached to the frame for that purpose.

The success of the countrywide Wartime Ploughing Campaign can be attributed to the fact that the majority of fields were disced, as opposed to being conventionally ploughed.

In Wembury, during the 1950s, one of these was used by Tom Steer at Old Barton Farm.



FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON STEERAGE HOE

The photograph below shows a Ferguson type mounted steerage hoe used for inter-row and weed control in root and brassica crops, as used in Wembury in the 1950s by Tom Steer at Old Barton Farm and Fred Rowland at Train Farm.



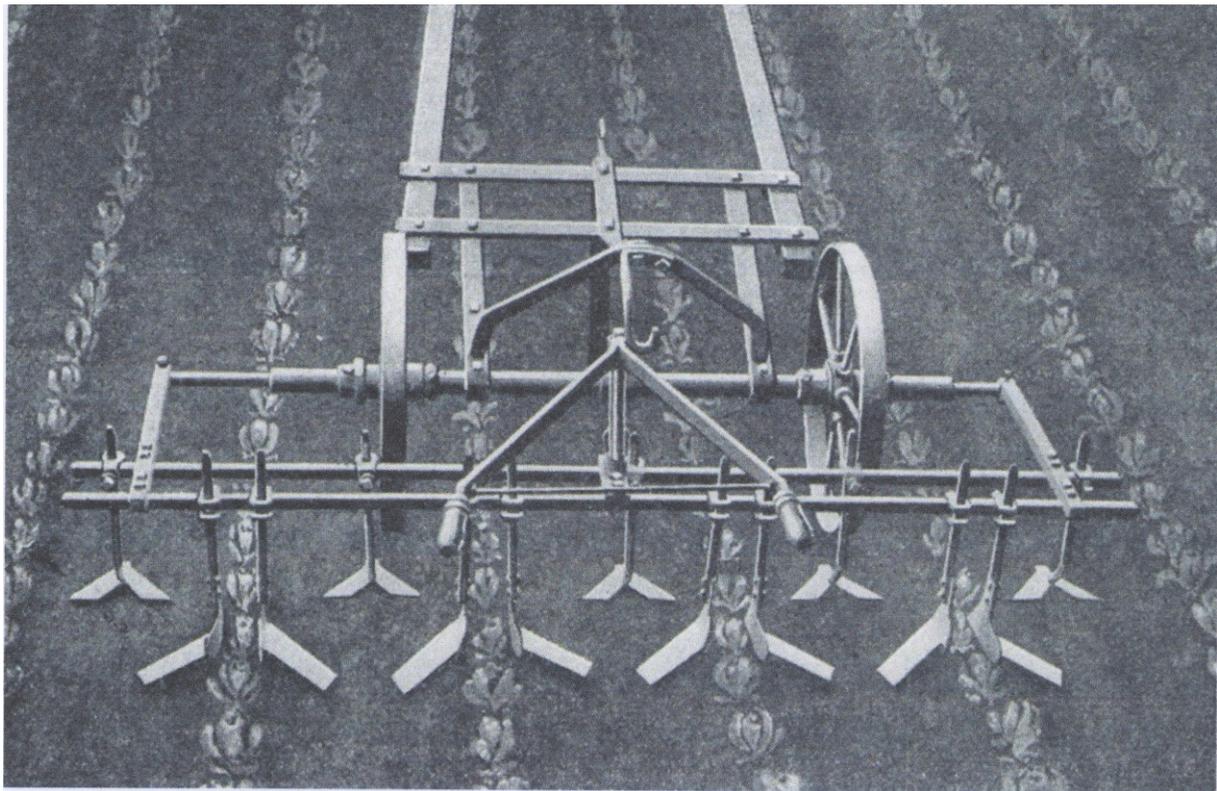
FARM MACHINERY - HORSE STEERAGE CROP HOE

The photograph below shows a Horse Steerage Row Crop Hoe.

Many of these were in use on farms in Wembury, some being later adapted to be tractor drawn.

It consisted basically of a two-wheeled fore carriage and a trailing frame carrying the hoes which was capable of being steered independently. The trailing frame consisted of two parallel bars to which various numbers and sizes of hoe were attached to suit the different crops.

In their original horse drawn set up, a boy was required to lead the horse, and a man to guide the hoes.



FARM MACHINERY - HOWARD ROTARY CULTIVATOR

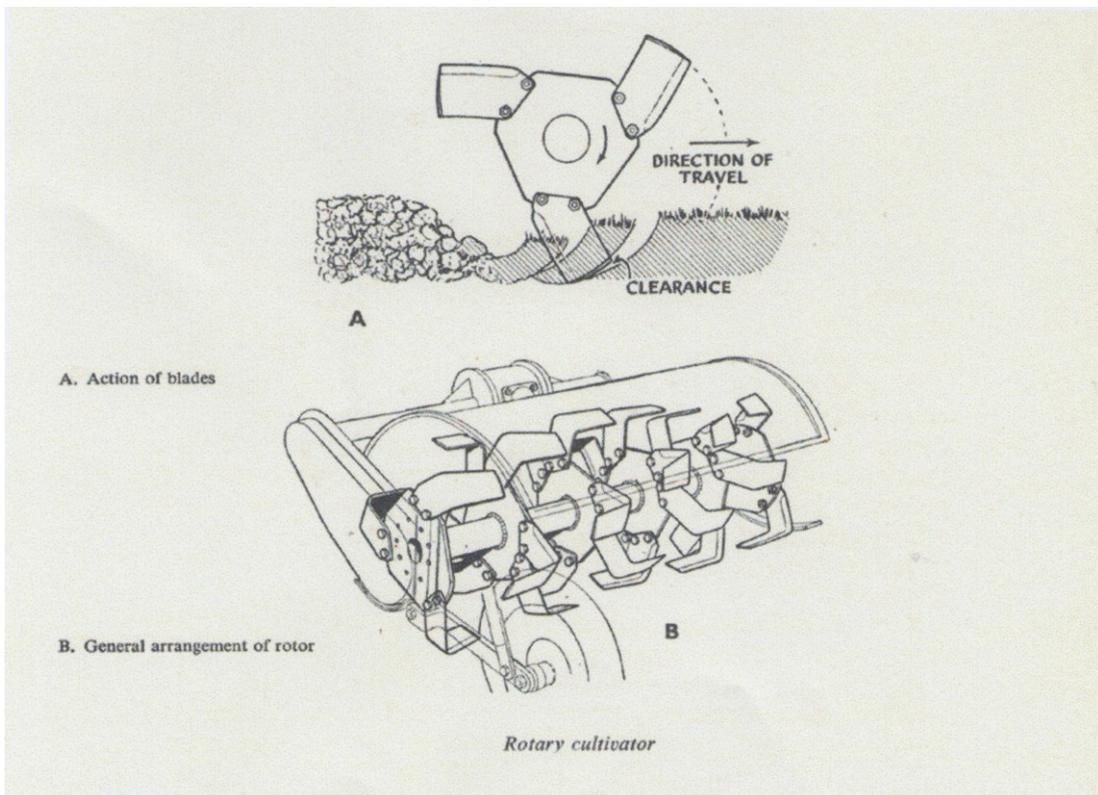
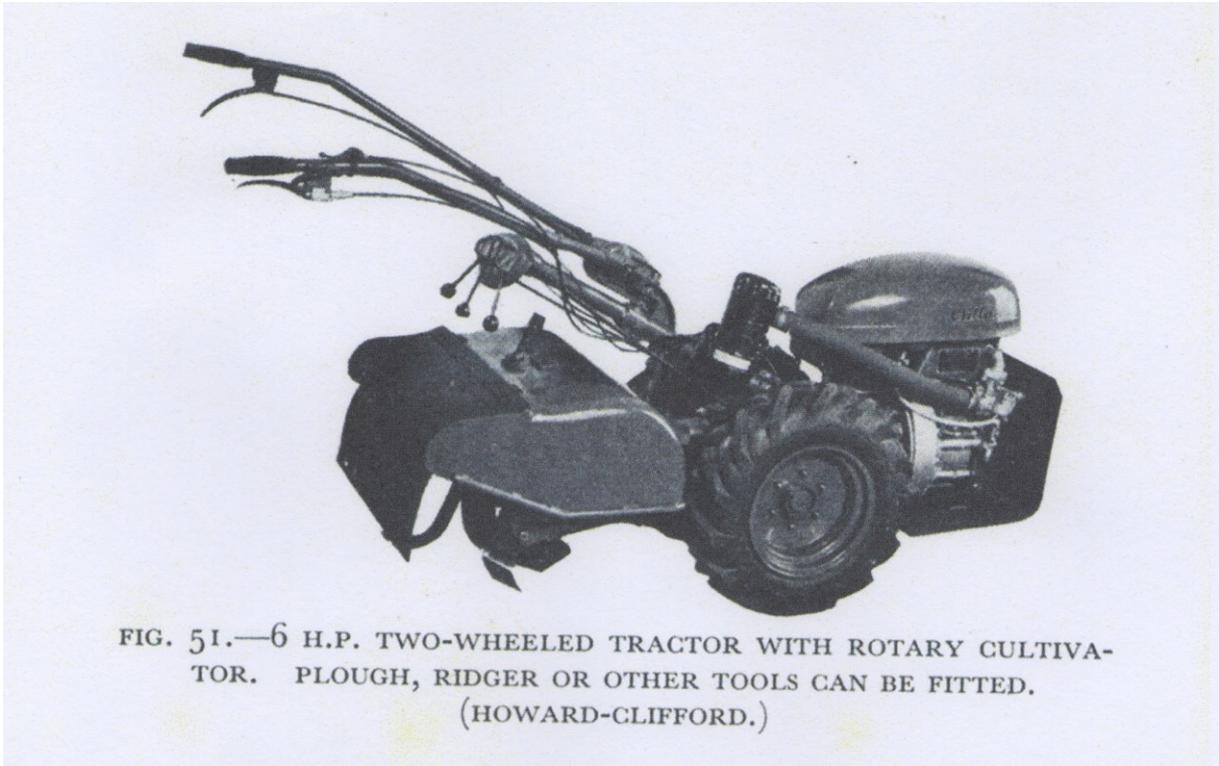
The photograph below shows a Howard rotary cultivator (the "Gem") as used in the walled kitchen garden at Wembury House. It had a four stroke 600-ccm engine developing 6 horse power. The rotary cultivating unit was under the sheet metal hood behind the drive-wheels. The swathe width was twenty inches, a depth adjusting skid was also fitted. All the controls were within easy reach of the operator, who steered the machine by the long handles.

The chief object of the rotary cultivator was to obtain a seed-bed in one operation; that is ploughing, cultivating and harrowing were all done simultaneously by revolving, in the ground, a set of radially mounted teeth or knives. These were fixed to a power driven shaft which could be horizontally or vertically arranged. The effect was to tear the soil, and the design of the soil-tearing teeth and the speed at which they turned governed the degree of cultivation of the soil.



FARM MACHINERY - CLIFFORD ROTARY CULTIVATOR

The photograph below shows a Clifford Rotary cultivator as used in the glasshouses at Four Corners, Knighton in the 1950s.

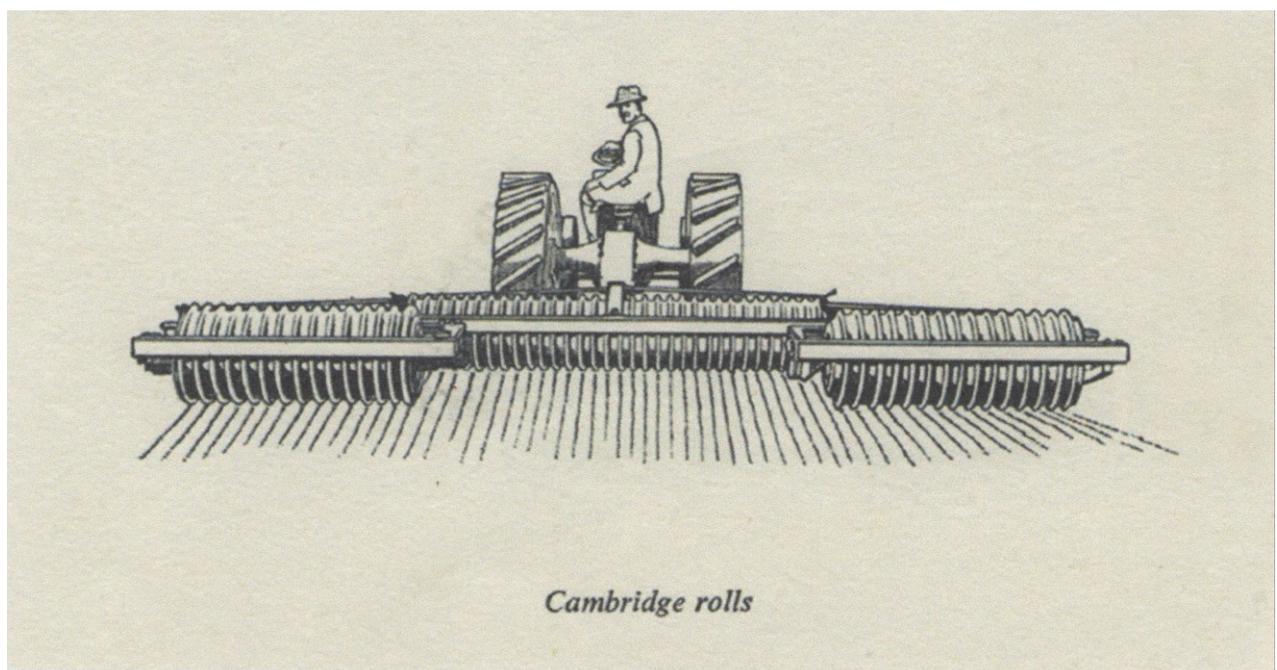
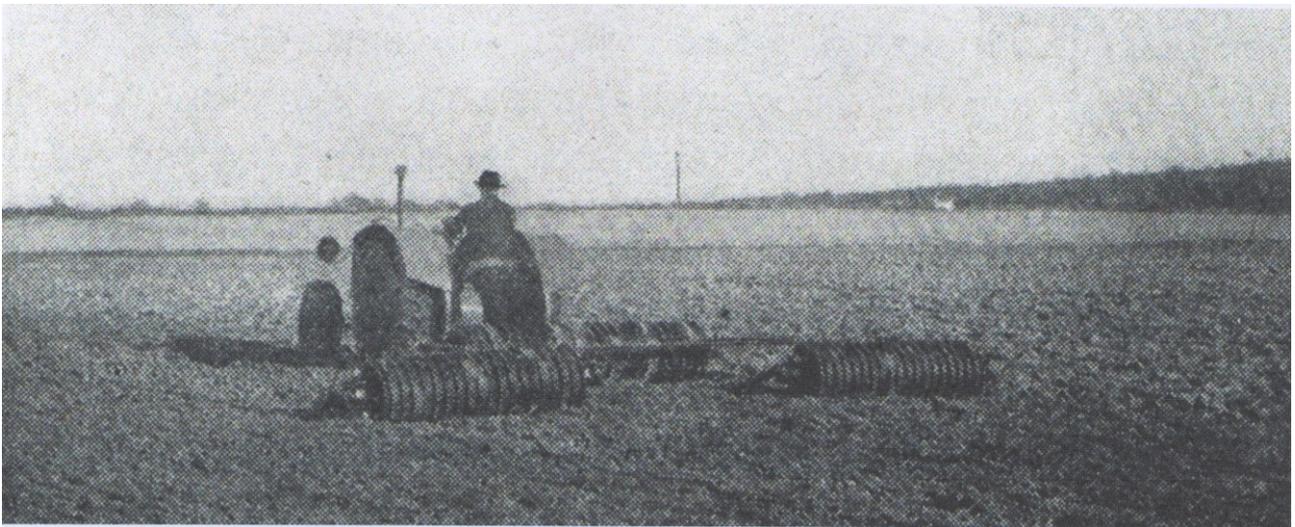


FARM MACHINERY - CAMBRIDGE ROLLER SET

The photograph below shows a Fordson Standard Tractor with a triple expanding set of Cambridge type Rollers.

The main objects of rolling was to consolidate the soil, crush the clods and smooth the surface. consolidation was necessary on some soils to give plants a firm root hold and to ensure continuity between top soil and subsoil. One very useful effect of the smoothing, was that it caused the binder to run better at harvest. In the Cambridge roller sets the diameter of the rollers was 30 inches. Small diameter rollers tended to sink into the ground farther than larger ones, causing the roller to push a wave of soil in front of it, which was disastrous for a growing crop. The Cambridge roller was made of a number of cast iron rings mounted loose on a shaft. The usual width of the rings was 3 inches, but 2 inch rings were sometimes used. Each ring was raised at its centre to a narrow rim so that the implement left a characteristic pattern of small ridges and grooves on the soil surface. The Cambridge roller proved to be more effective as a clod crusher, and generally more useful than the flat roller.

In Wembury, during the 1940s and 1950s, a set of these was used by my Father at Old Barton and Thorn Farms.

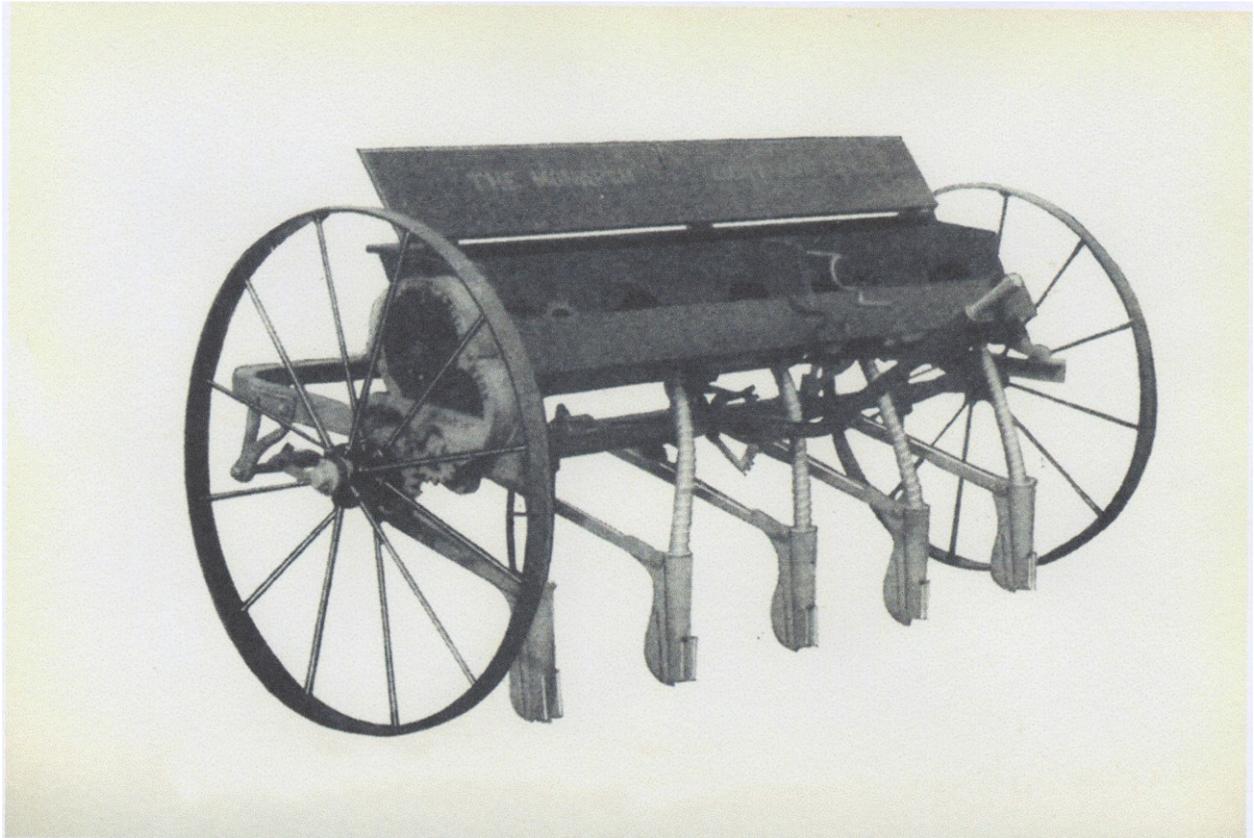


FARM MACHINERY - ROOT CROP DRILL

The photograph below shows a root crop drill as used on most farms in Wembury. These were used for the sowing of swedes mangolds and similar crops.

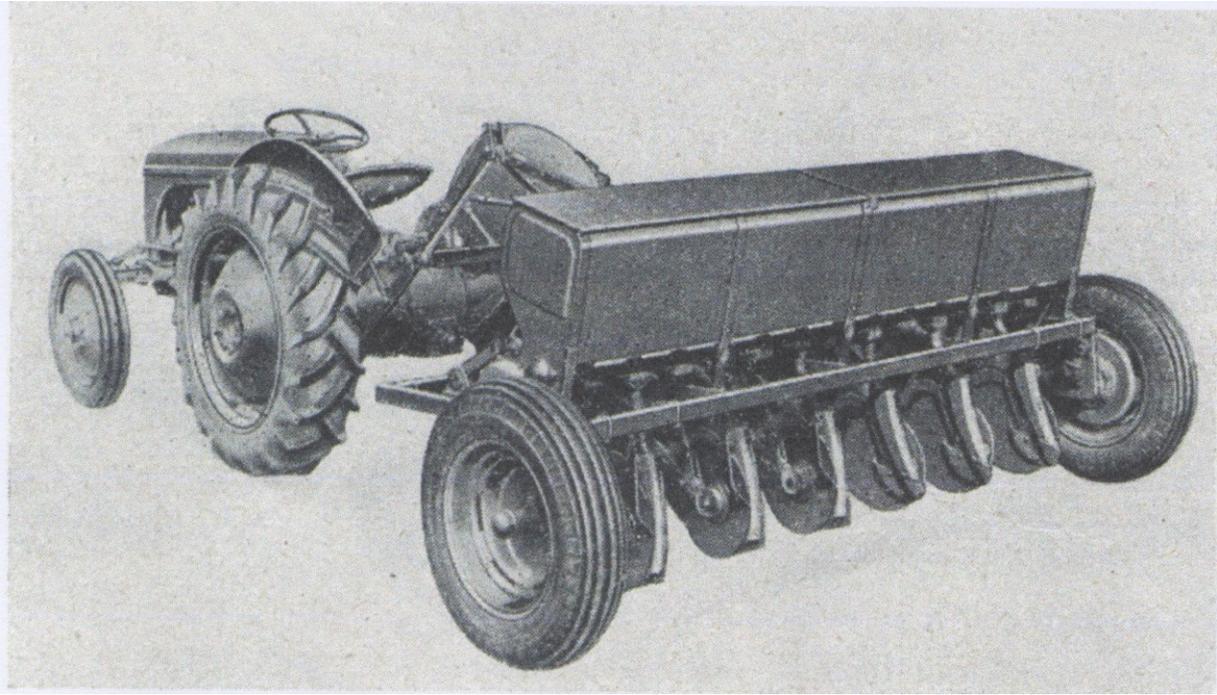
The drill illustrated has been specifically designed for the sowing of root crops with fewer coulters (five) and more widely spaced. Corn drills which have more coulters spaced closer together could be use used for root crops by putting out of the action the requisite coulters to give the spacing required.

The coulters are the shoes on the ends of the flexible tubes which actually made a small furrow in the ground into which the seed was deposited and closed it over again afterwards.

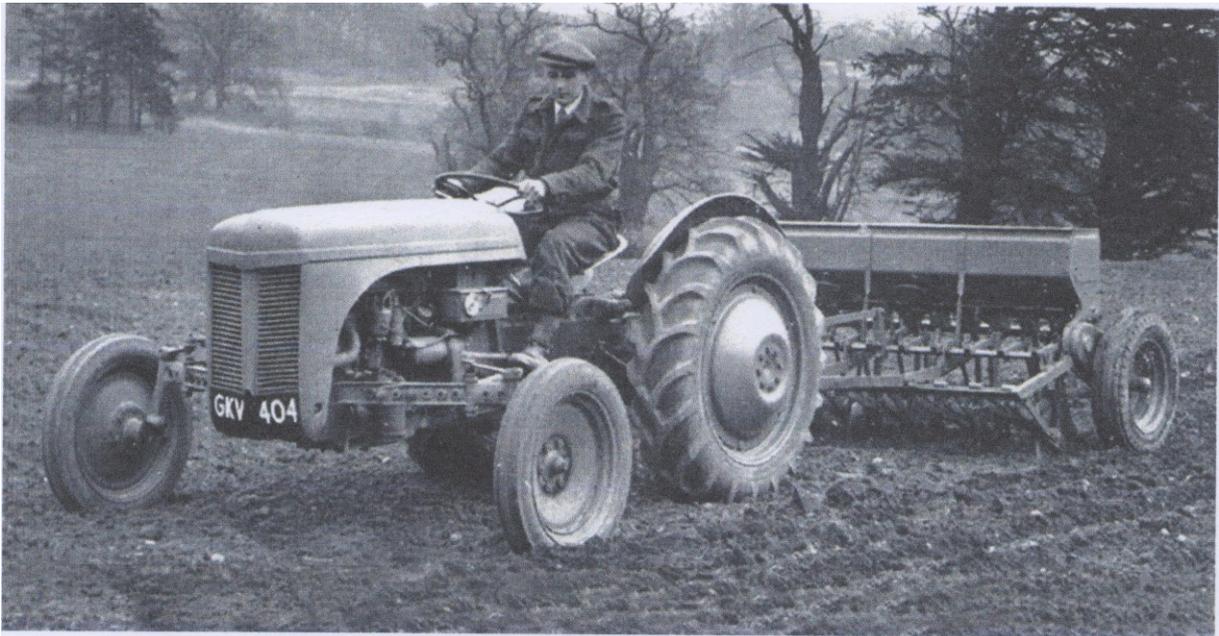


FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON SEED DRILLS

The photograph below shows the seed box delivery tubes and the disc type coulters on the Ferguson semi-mounted drill as used in Wembury by Fred Rowland at Train Farm in the 1950s.



The photograph below shows a Ferguson Tractor with a Ferguson type hydraulic controlled seed drill also used in Wembury, in the 1950s, by Fred Rowland at Train Farm.



FARM MACHINERY - SOWING BY SEED FIDDLE

The photograph below shows a field being sown by a seed fiddle. This wonderful instrument is something like a cross between bagpipes and a violin. The bow spins a disc onto which the seed falls. vanes on the disc throw the seed out in an arc to broadcast it evenly. Seed scattered on ploughed furrows would be covered by a flat beam harrow dragged over the field, breaking down the furrow tops. This would scrape most of the seed into the valleys leaving it to come up in rows.

I remember my Father sowing a field at Thorn in this manner, I am not quite sure as to why, as we did have a tractor drawn seed drill. I think perhaps that he was undersowing a field with grass which was already sown with corn. This was often done so that the grass would continue growing through after the corn had been cut. This could be quite risky and had to be timed carefully so that the grass would be established, but not too long at the corn harvest. A very wet period in the month prior to harvest could create havoc and one could end up the grass higher than the corn!

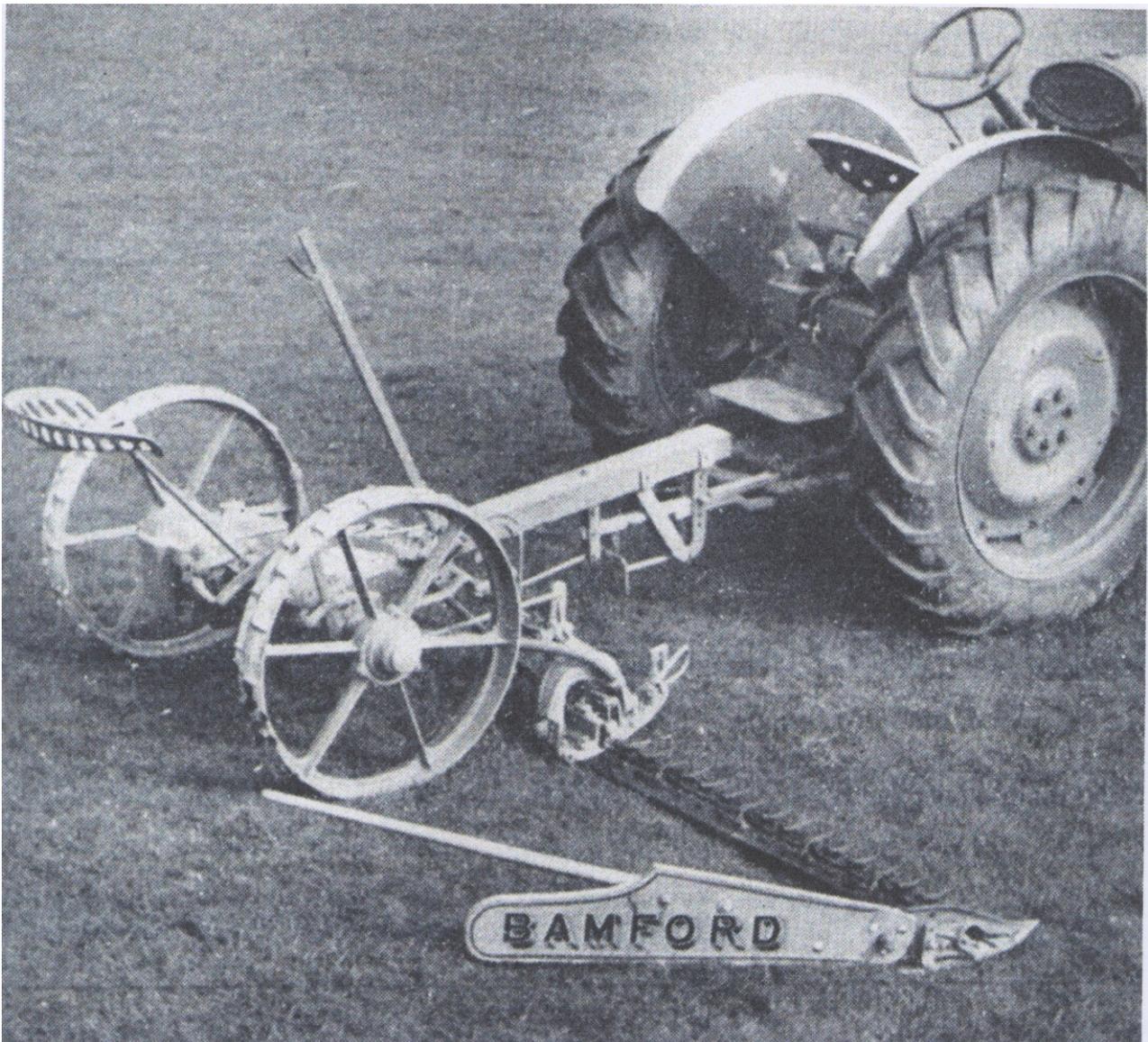


FARM MACHINERY - BAMFORD FIELD MOWER

The photograph below shows a Bamford horse drawn mower converted to tractor use, by shortening the original horse pole and fitting the tractor drawbar.

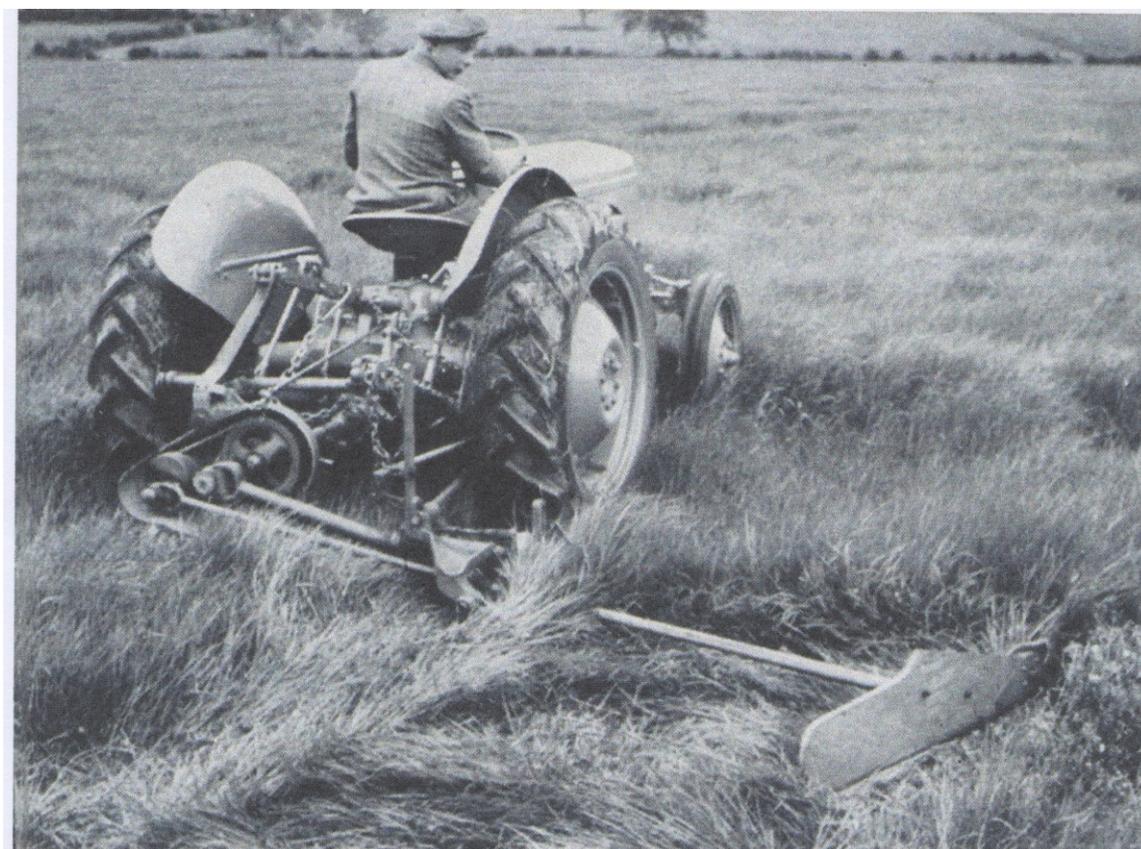
The cutter bar which was powered via the gearbox on the axle, would only operate when the machine was moving forwards. The swathe board, proudly emblazoned with the “Bamford” name, swept the grass to one side in a compact row out of the path that the machine would take on the next pass. The land wheels were of cast iron with transverse ribs on their rims to help them grip the ground.

This, along with the tractor, is identical to the outfit that my Father had at Old Barton and Thorn Farms in the 1940s and 1950s. As children we used to love riding on the seat whilst the machine was in operation, a practice that I suppose would be very much frowned on today.



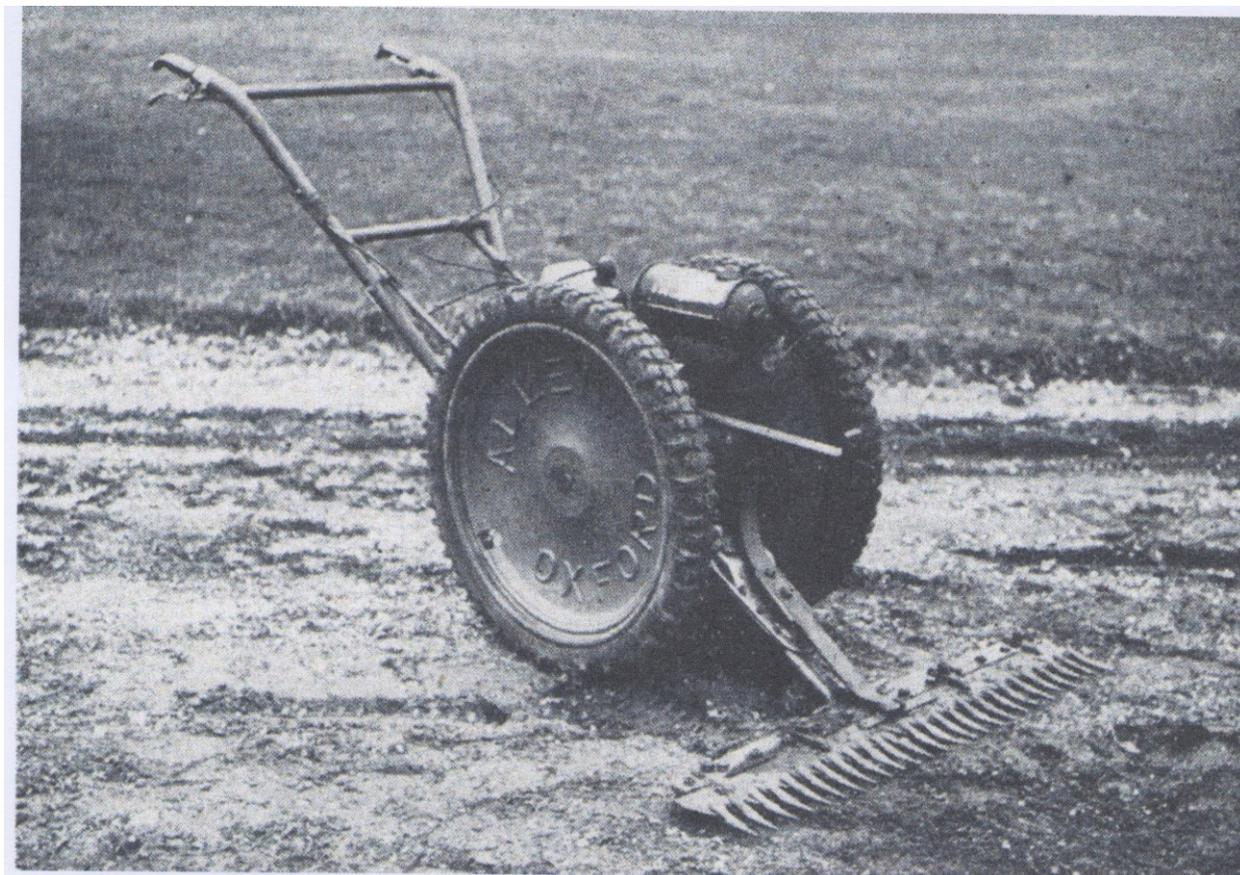
FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON MOUNTED MOWER

The photographs below shows a Ferguson tractor with a mounted mower cutting grass for either hay or silage production, as used in Wembury, during the 1950s, by Fred Rowland at Train Farm, Stan Channing at Hollacombe, Bob Phillips at South Barton and Raymond Brown at Jenys Park.



FARM MACHINERY - ALLEN MOTOR SCYTHER

The photograph below shows the Allen Motor Scythe of the type used by Bill Towill on the paddock at "Laneside" in Brownhill Lane, which is now part of Mewstone Avenue. The bungalow "Laneside" was a flat roofed structure, but in all other ways identical to the other bungalows built in the village in the 1930s. It stood in glorious isolation in the middle of the field with an unparalleled view of the Mewstone.

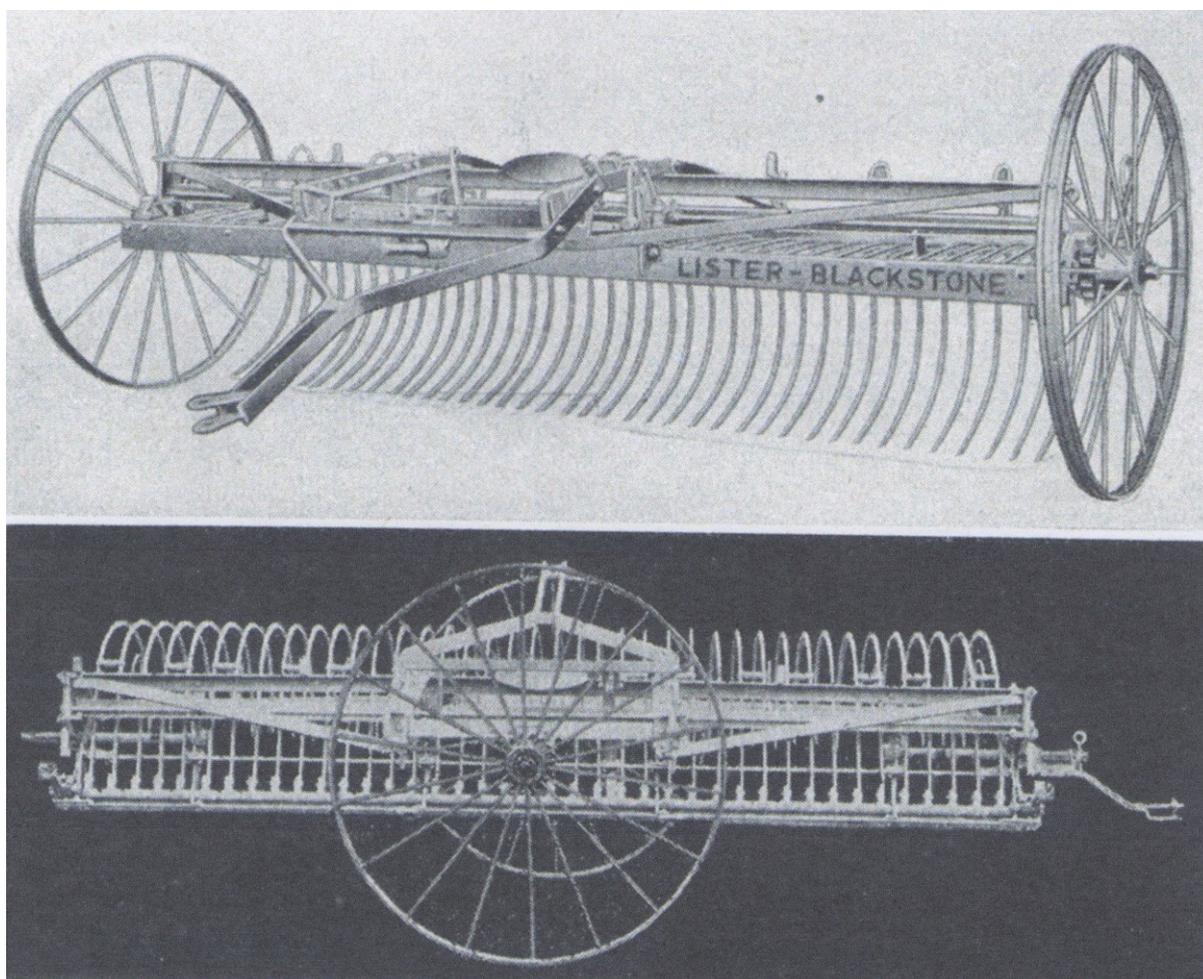


FARM MACHINERY - LISTER-BLACKSTONE TRACTOR RAKE

The photographs below shows a Lister-Blackstone Tractor Rake set up and ready to work in the top photograph, and arranged for transport in the bottom photograph.

A large number of curved teeth are carried on a bar mounted parallel to the axle, the teeth being made of hardened and tempered high carbon steel. On some machines, the section of the teeth were round or oval, but it was found that 'I', 'T' and 'H' section were better resistant against bending. On the older types of rake the teeth were raised by a mechanism operated by hand or foot levers, but a pawl and ratchet self-lift mechanism was provided on the more modern machines. This rake was so constructed that travelling from one field to another, or on public roads was a simple operation. The wheels were removed from their ordinary axles and fitted to auxiliary axles provided at the back and front of the machine, the normal draw bar was folded back on to the top of the machine and another one fitted to one of the free axles, and the rake pulled from this end.

In Wembury, during the 1950s, one of these was used by my father at Old Barton and Thorn Farms.

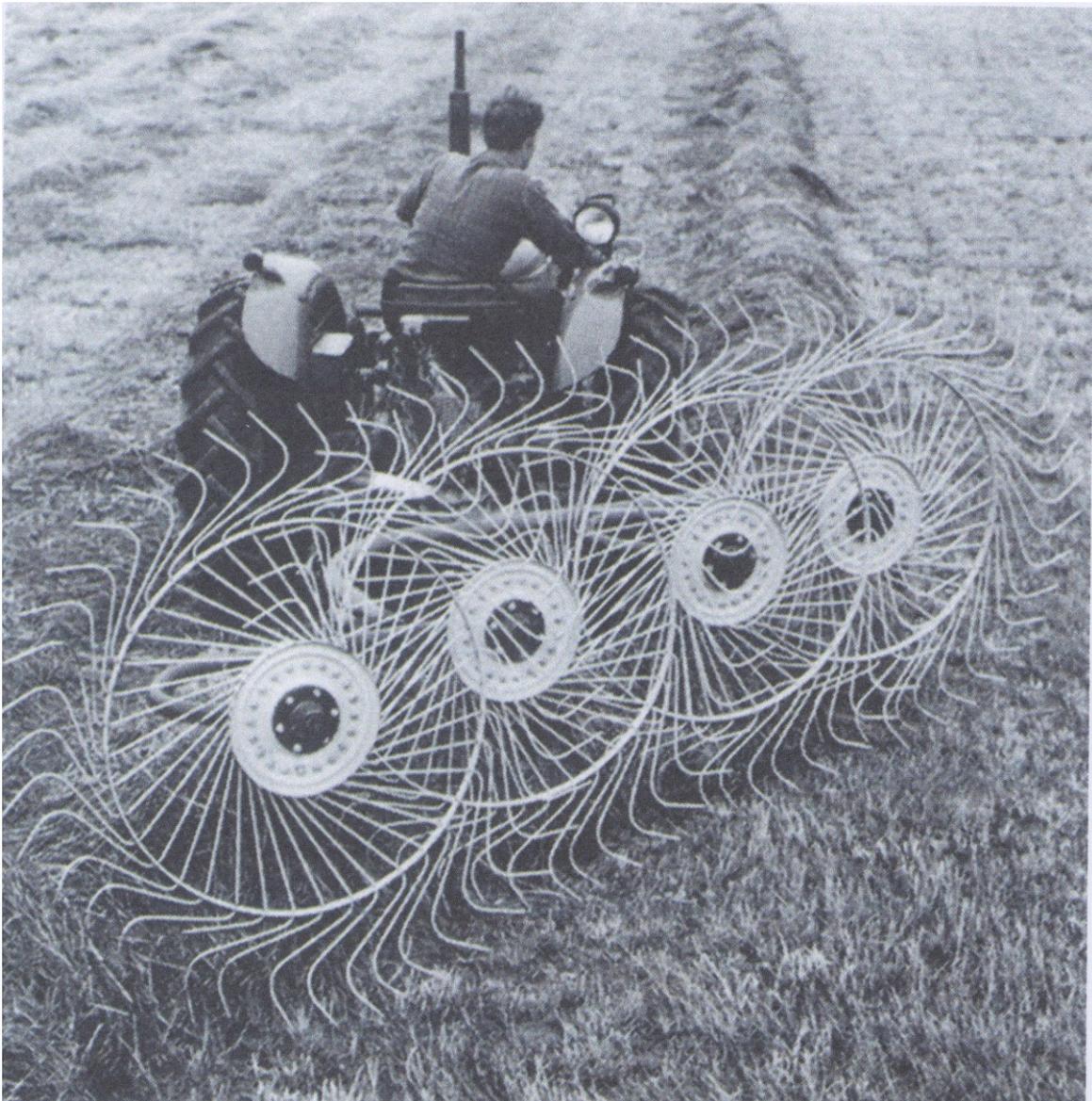


FARM MACHINERY - VICON-LELY ACROBAT HAY RAKE

The photograph below shows a Fordson Dexta Tractor with the mounted Vicon-Lely Acrobat Hay Rake, as used by Percy Jewell at Spirewell Farm. The Jewells ordered one of these at the Devon County Show in the year that they moved to Spirewell, which I think was 1957.

This machine, originally a drawn machine, later tractor mounted, was one of the first examples of putting a rotary action to use instead of a reciprocating action. The spring-tine hay turner worked from friction with the ground. The wheels to each swathe could be set to turn each swathe separately or to rake two rows into one large windrow for baling.

The Vicon-Lely Acrobat Hay Rake became one of the most widely owned and popular post war machines.



FARM MACHINERY - FISHER HUMPHRIES STATIONARY BALER

The photograph below shows the Fisher-Humphries Stationary Baler as used by my Father in the 1950s, in conjunction with his threshing machine when undertaking threshing contracts in the area.

The straw from the thresher was fed directly into the top chute of the baler where it was made into square section bales which were ejected from the far end of the machine, to be built into a rick, or taken away by trailer to be stored in the barn.

The baler was belt driven by the tractor, via the thresher, using the large drive wheel on the side.



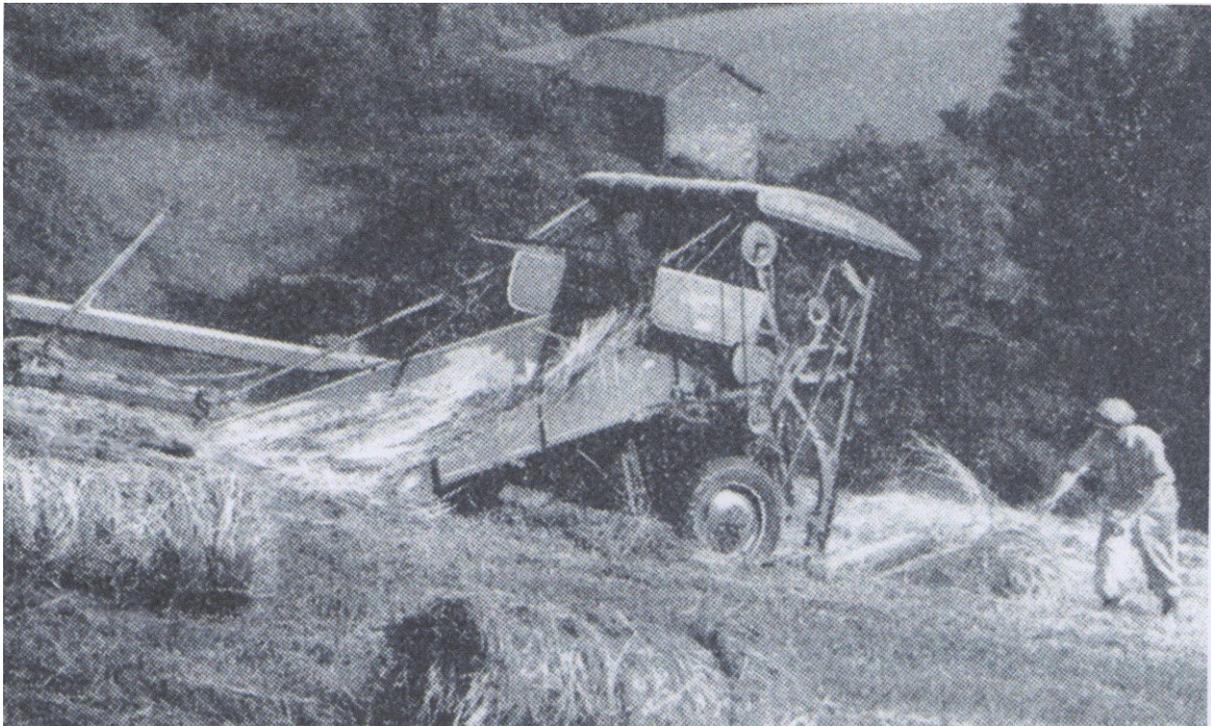
FARM MACHINERY - ALLIS CHALMERS ROTO BALER

The photograph below shows an Allis Chalmers pick up roll baler harvesting on a steep incline.

In Wembury, during the 1950s, one of these was owned jointly by Fred Rowland at Train Farm and Ben Clifton at Knighton Farm. When Ben moved to Egg Buckland in the early 1950s, Fred became the sole owner.

The implement was designed to lift the hay or straw direct from the windrow and deposit perfectly round bales wrapped around with twine back on the field to await collection. It was the job of the man walking behind to push the end of the twine into the core of the bale with a hand held probe, as there was no knotting mechanism. When working on an incline, he also had to turn the bales through 90 degrees to prevent them from rolling downhill!

As children we thought that this was a wonderful machine as we had only seen the static ram balers producing the conventional square section bales up until then. We would follow it all around the field, and there was no shortage of volunteers when the bales had to be turned to prevent them rolling away.

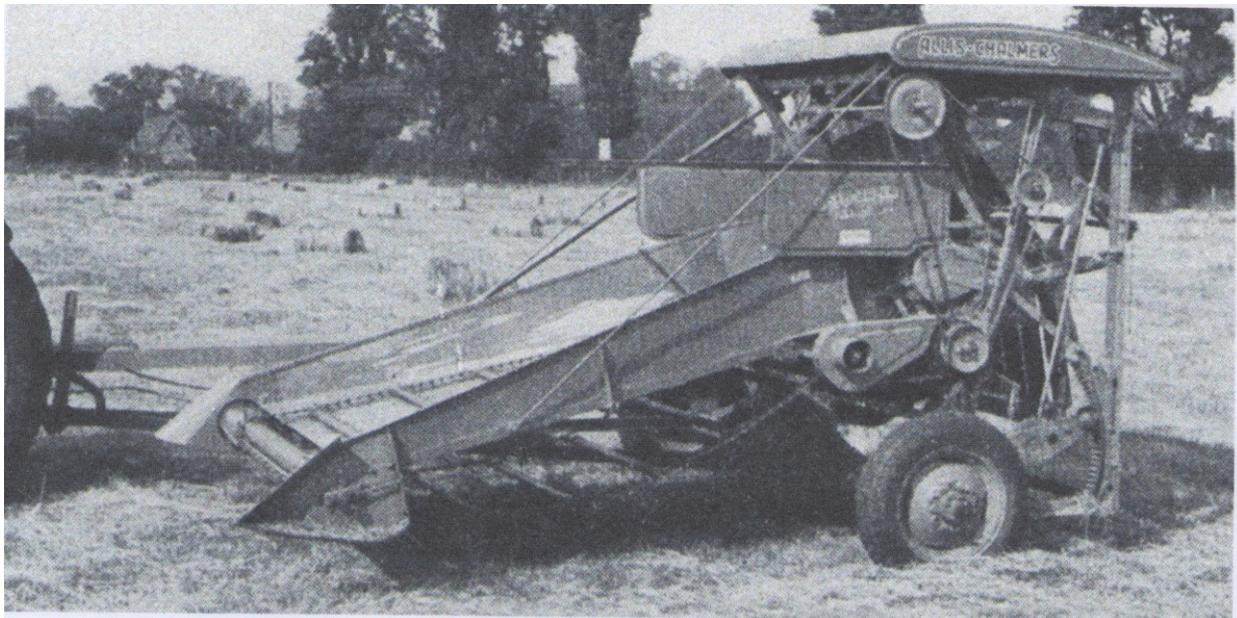


FARM MACHINERY - ALLIS CHALMERS ROTO BALER

The photograph below shows an Allis Chalmers roto baler with its pick up conveyor in the raised position, probably ready to be taken to the next hayfield.

This baler would pick up hay from the windrow and roll it into cylinders 36 inches long. The sloping conveyor would deliver the windrow beneath a press roll into the space between two sets of endless rubber belts running in opposite directions. These belts would roll up the windrow in much the same way as a carpet is rolled. When the bale reached a predetermined size, the conveyor would automatically stop feeding more material, and a length of binder twine would be wrapped spirally around the bale without being tied. The twine would automatically be cut and the bale discharged from the rear of the machine. The bale diameter could be regulated from 14 to 22 inches.

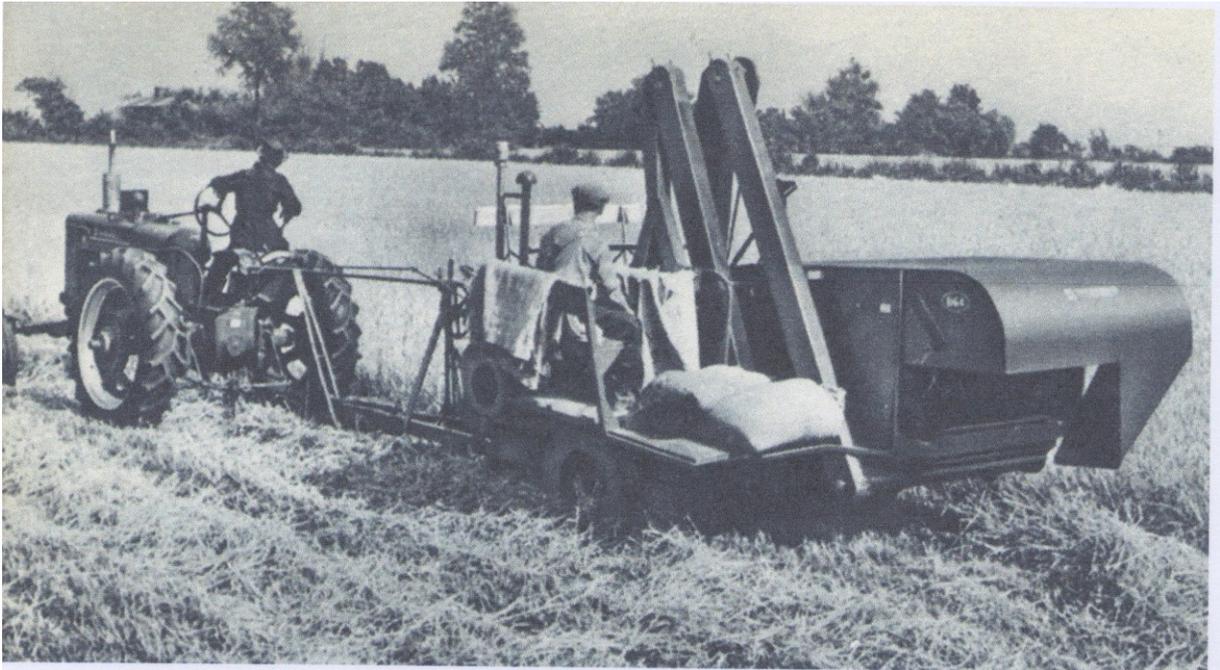
In Wembury, during the 1950s, one of these was jointly owned by Fred Rowland at Train Farm and Ben Clifton at Knighton Farm.



FARM MACHINERY - INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER

The photograph below shows an International Harvester, B64, tractor drawn, bagger type, combine harvester, as used by Tom Steer at Old Barton Farm in the 1950s. In Tom's case though, it would have been drawn by his Nuffield Universal Tractor and not by the International Tractor as shown in this publicity photograph.

The power to drive the threshing mechanisms on the combine was provided by its own independently fitted engine, Tom Steer's combine used a "Petter" engine.



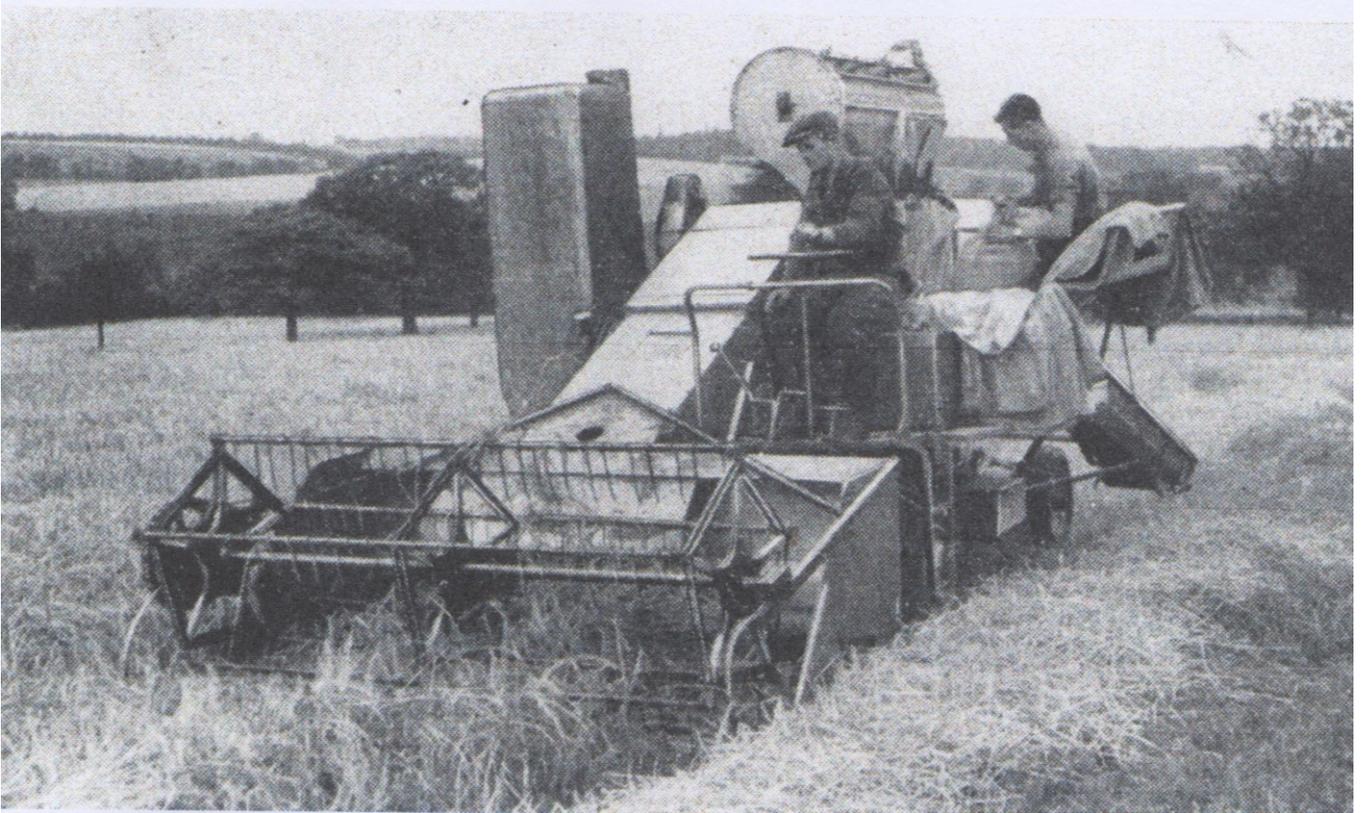
FARM MACHINERY - MASSEY-HARRIS COMBINE HARVESTER

The photograph below shows a Massey-Harris self propelled type combine harvester as used in the Wembury area under a contract acreage agreement with individual farmers. One such combine being operated by the Turner family at Lee Moor, and another by Joe McBean at Gabber Farm.



FARM MACHINERY - MASSEY HARRIS SELF-PROPELLED COMBINE

The photograph below shows a Massey Harris self-propelled combine as used in Wembury during the 1950s. This machine has a bagging platform and a pick-up type reel designed to left lodged or lain crops onto the cutter bar. The bags or sacks of grain would be deposited on the ground via the chute and would need strong arms to lift them onto trailers.



THRESHING

In the 1950s, my Father had the threshing contract for the area and had a Ransomes threshing machine and a Fisher Humphries baler, which had to be towed behind tractors to wherever they were required. When they were on the move it was a bit like the circus leaving town, as some of the workforce walked with the machines to warn traffic ahead and to open gates as required, and sometimes to manhandle the machines when obstacles were encountered.

They were both quite substantial pieces of equipment and were belt driven from the tractors. Overall it was quite a manpower intensive operation, and when it was set up and working flat out it was quite a production line. The thresher would thresh the corn, the corn would come out of one end straight into sacks, the straw would come out of the other end and be fed straight into the baler, the bales as they came out of the baler would be made into a rick, and the chaff, that didn't get blown away on the wind, was bagged up for horse fodder! Later on, when less and less horses were around, the chaff, apart from a very little that was taken home by those who kept chickens, was burnt.

The sheaves would be brought to the thresher by tractor and trailer. There would be men there to operate the the grab on the shear legs which hoisted the them up and dropped them on top. Up on top of the machine there were two men cutting the twine on the sheaves and dropping them into the hopper. There were men on the ground at the front of the machine to feed the straw into the baler, and more at the back end to take away the full sacks of corn on the sack trolley to an awaiting trailer, and put new sacks on for filling. There were four ports on the back of the machine for the filling of sacks, each one had a sort of slide operated valve to shut it off whilst sacks were being changed. There were other men removing the bales as they came out of the baler and building the rick.

Alas, the photograph below is not of our machine, but of one exactly like it, but I felt that it was right to include it as does give some idea of the amount of work that was involved.



Threshing was always quite a sociable event, and it provided casual work for a lot of people from the village. I remember that even the Coleman brothers from the forge got themselves involved. People who were home on leave from the forces, helped out (National Service was still going on at that time). A lot of retired people helped, and also a lot of the older teenagers as well. The work usually went on until it got too dark to do any

more, so some people helped in the evenings, having worked all day at their normal jobs. A lot of people from the other farms in the area also helped knowing that it would be reciprocated when it was their turn.

George Coleman was usually on top of the machine feeding the sheaves into the hopper, a very responsible job which he took very seriously. On one occasion his companion fed his hat into the hopper for a bit of a laugh, but George did not see the funny side of it. The hat was even more battered than usual when it came out at the other end with the straw and chaff! Stan Channing from Hollacombe was another character who always had his dog 'Towser' with him, he used to have us children in fits of laughter with his antics.

There was usually a break for lunch and depending on the distance from the farmhouse, the men either went back to the house for a cooked lunch, or hot home made pasties were brought out to the field, usually with apple pie and Devonshire clotted cream to follow. Tea was always taken out on the field and I remember the huge black kettles that used to hold the hot sweet tea, every farmhouse seemed to have them! Along with the tea there were usually sandwiches and home made cakes. I remember that when they were threshing on Lewis Andrew's fields above the beach at Wembury Point some of them used to go into the sea to cool off during the break, it was very hot and very dusty work.

At the end of each contract everybody used to repair to the Jubilee Inn where plenty of beer drinking was done and my father would pay all of the workers.

My Father's first threshing machine was a barn thresher which, with a certain amount of ingenuity and help, I believe from the local policeman, was fitted with road wheels so that it could be taken from farm to farm.

The photograph below is of the Fisher Humphries Baler as owned by my father.



My father bought the threshing machine from a farm in Hatherleigh, North Devon, just north of Dartmoor, on the Okehampton/Great Torrington Road. He went up by train to look at it and took my older brother Jim with him. With the threshing machine went a Fordson Major tractor with a winch on the back, and drive wheel on the side for operating the thresher. When he collected the thresher he went up again on the train with a friend (Wilf Tope), and he drove the tractor towing the thresher back to Wembury, with Wilf helping out. One can only imagine what it must have been like moving a thing like that three quarters of the way across the county,

through all the narrow roads and lanes that were there then. The thresher was about the size of the average furniture lorry, and coupled to the tractor the speed could be no more than 15 to 20 mph flat out! Imagine the chaos that would ensue on the roads today. There were only a couple of incidents during the trip, one was when they were near Kelly College just outside of Tavistock, where the thresher got itself unhitched from the tractor, I am not quite sure what happened, I think that the towing pin sheared off. My father realised that something was wrong when the burden all of a sudden got lighter, and the thresher began to overtake them! Wilf had to jump from the tractor to the thresher and apply the hand brake! Anyway they were able to rectify the situation and carry on. By the time they got to Crownhill it was getting dark, and as there were no lights on the thresher, they decided that the best course of action would be to park it overnight, with the tractor, go home, and come back the following morning and continue. They parked it on some very convenient Army land outside of Seaton Barracks at Crownhill. The following day when they went back, the Army were not too impressed as they hadn't asked permission, but I think Dad talked them around in his usual good natured way. However it was noticed that shortly afterwards bollards appeared surrounding the land to prevent a reoccurrence.

During the winter months the thresher used to be garaged in a large nissen hut at the old 'Ack Ack' camp between Gabber and Wembury Point. Before this it had to be thoroughly cleaned out as the last thing needed was for rats or mice to build nests in it. Then during the winter the mechanics would be checked out, all the linkages in the chain drives checked for loose pins, gear trains cleaned of chaff build up, oiling and lubrication carried out where necessary.

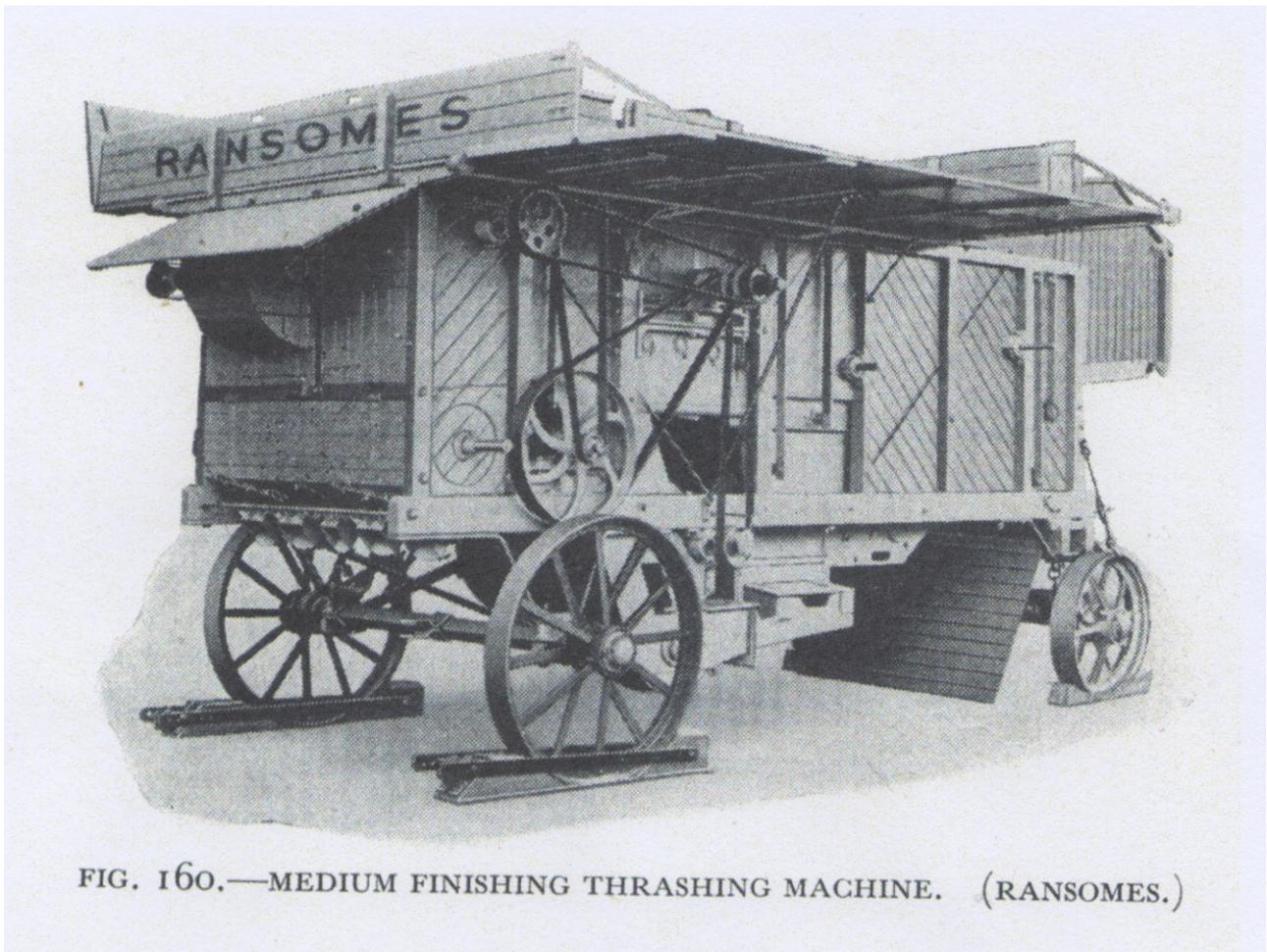


FIG. 160.—MEDIUM FINISHING THRASHING MACHINE. (RANSOMES.)

FARM MACHINERY - STANDARD FORDSON TRACTOR (NARROW WING)

The photograph below shows a wartime produced, narrow winged, standard Fordson tractor, on rubbers doing sterling work in the hayfield. This was used in Wembury, during the 1950s, by my Father at Old Barton and Thorn Farms.

The narrow wings were designed as a wartime economy measure to save on production material. Originally the tractor would have been supplied on steel wheels as rubber was in even shorter supply, and was used for more essential war production.

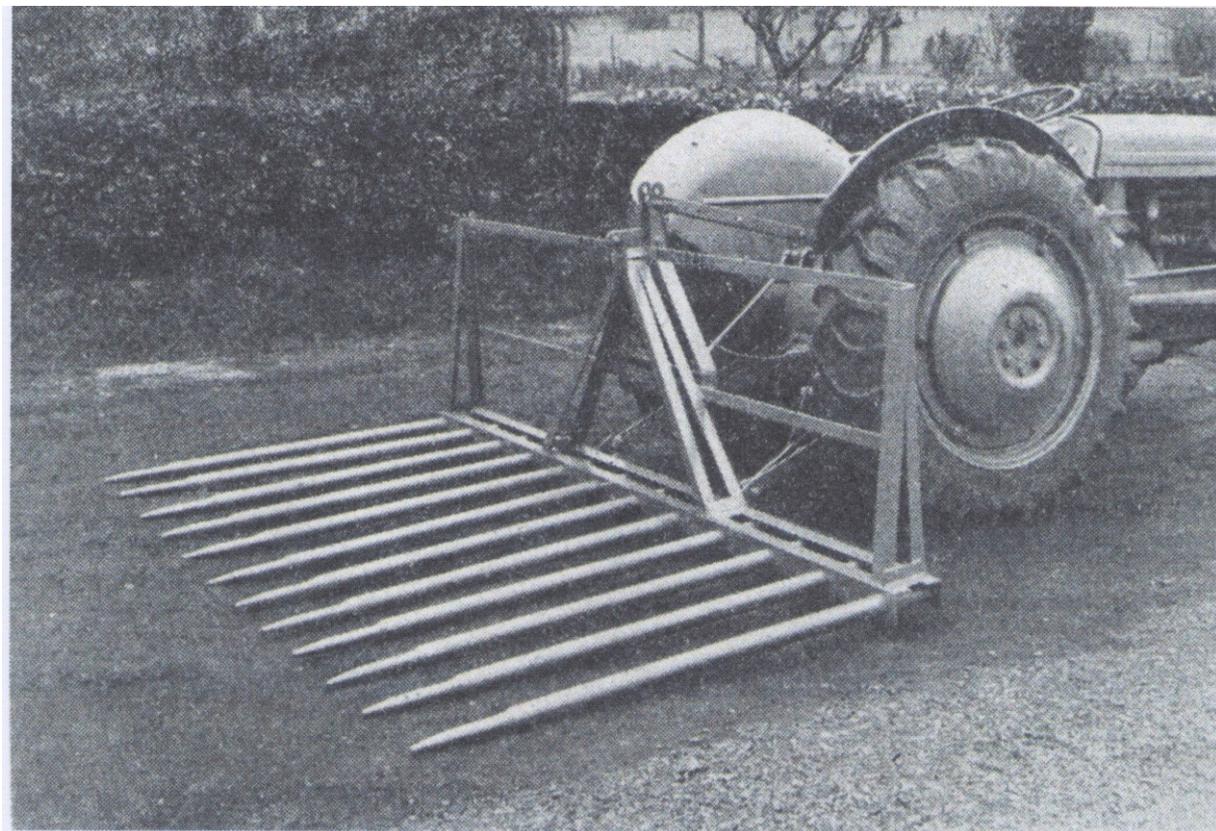
After the war many of these tractors were retro fitted with rubbers, as and when available.



FARM MACHINERY - PATERSON BUCK RAKE

The photograph below shows a Paterson buck-rake fitted to a Ferguson Tractor

In Wembury, during the 1950s, an identical set up was used by Tom Steer at Old Barton Farm to collect green grass from the fresh cut windrow for ensilage.



FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON WITH BUCK RAKE

The photograph below shows a Ferguson Tractor with a mounted Tasker-Patteraon Buck Rake collecting green from two swards to transport to the silage pit, a system practiced in Wembury, in the 1950s, by Tom Steer at Old Barton Farm.

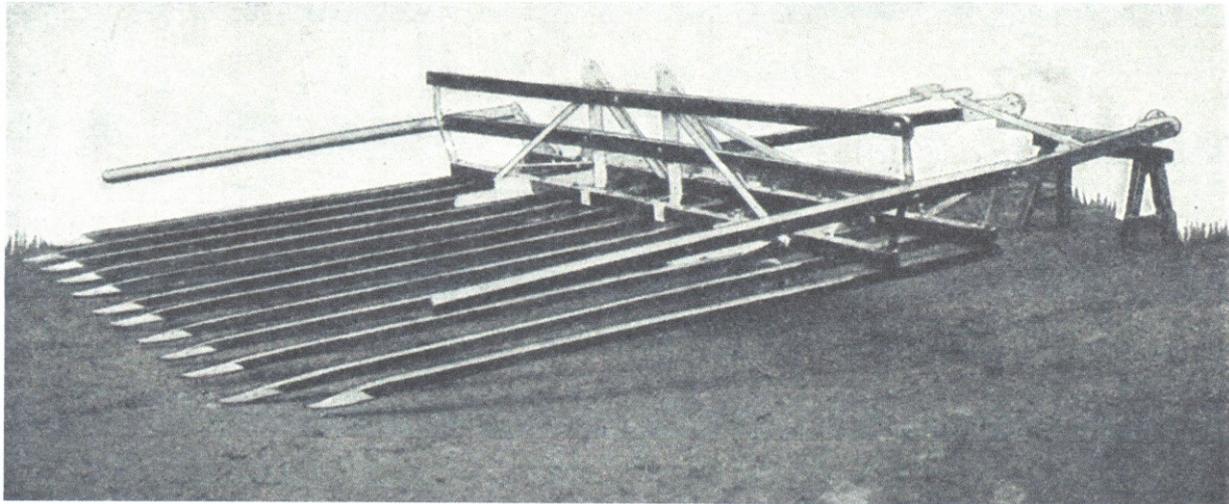


FARM MACHINERY - COTTIS TRACTOR HAY SWEEP

The photograph below shows a hay sweep for attachment to the front of a tractor. This type was used in all Wembury hayfields.

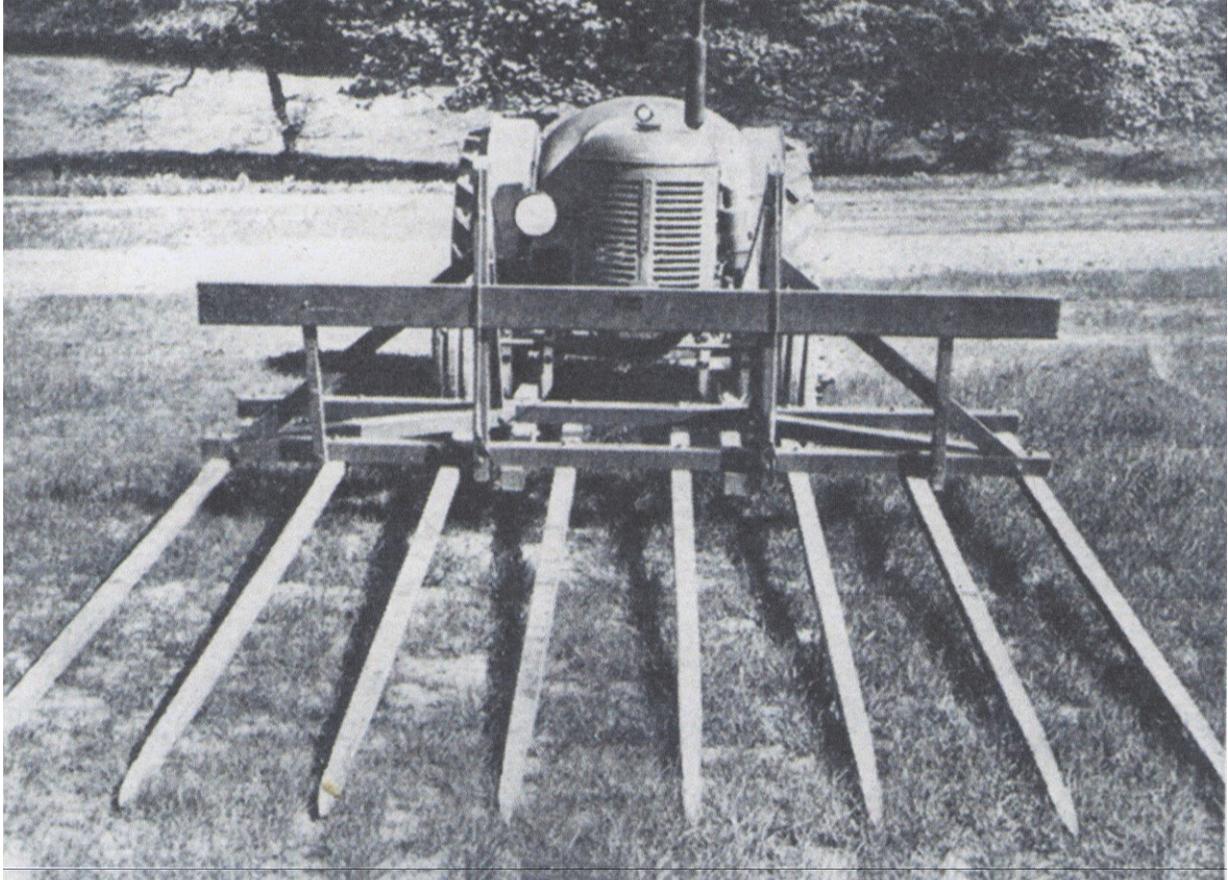
The main elements of this implement were the dozen or so long wooden teeth, shod at the forward ends with steel points, fixed to a rear cross member, and with a hay retaining cradle at the back and some similar device on the sides. Securely fixed to the front of a tractor this sweep was driven along the windrows with the teeth sliding along the ground. Half a ton or thereabouts could be rapidly gathered, and when fully loaded the teeth were lifted off the ground and the whole outfit driven to the stack. To discharge the load the teeth were lowered and the tractor backed. This allowed the teeth to slide away under the pile of hay, perhaps with the assistance of rakes and pitchforks. In later years users simplified the routine by doing away with the lifting mechanism, the driver when fully loaded turning out of the windrow and proceeding to the stack along tracks already cleared.

When we were children we were allowed to climb on top of the hay when the sweep was fully loaded, for a ride across the field to the stack, which we regarded as great fun. I suppose that the "Health and Safety" lobby would throw their hands up in horror at the prospect of such a thing happening today.



FARM MACHINERY - DAVID BROWN WITH HAY SWEEP

The photograph below shows a hay sweep attached to the front of a David Brown VAK (Vehicle Agricultural Kerosene) tractor. This is a smaller type of sweep being only of eight teeth and with no retaining arrangements on the sides, and was used at Old Barton Farm in the 1950s by Miss Neil and Miss Wardrop.



FARM MACHINERY - SWEEPING TO THE RICK

The photograph below shows hay being brought to an elevator to be built into a rick, using a Fordson Major tractor with hay sweep attachment mounted to the front axle.

Originally the elevator would have be driven by a horse powered gin, then later by a petrol engine.

In most Wembury hayfields a “haypole” rather than an elevator was used in rick building.



FARM MACHINERY - INTERNATIONAL MANURE SPREADER

The photograph below shows a manure spreader by the International Harvest Company, as used by Tom Steer at Old Barton Farm in the 1950s

A manure spreader is in effect a cart or wagon, differing from the ordinary vehicle in that a revolving spreading mechanism is fitted at the rear, and the bottom consists of an endless conveyor for carrying the load of manure slowly to the rear, where it is torn up and scattered by the revolving mechanism.

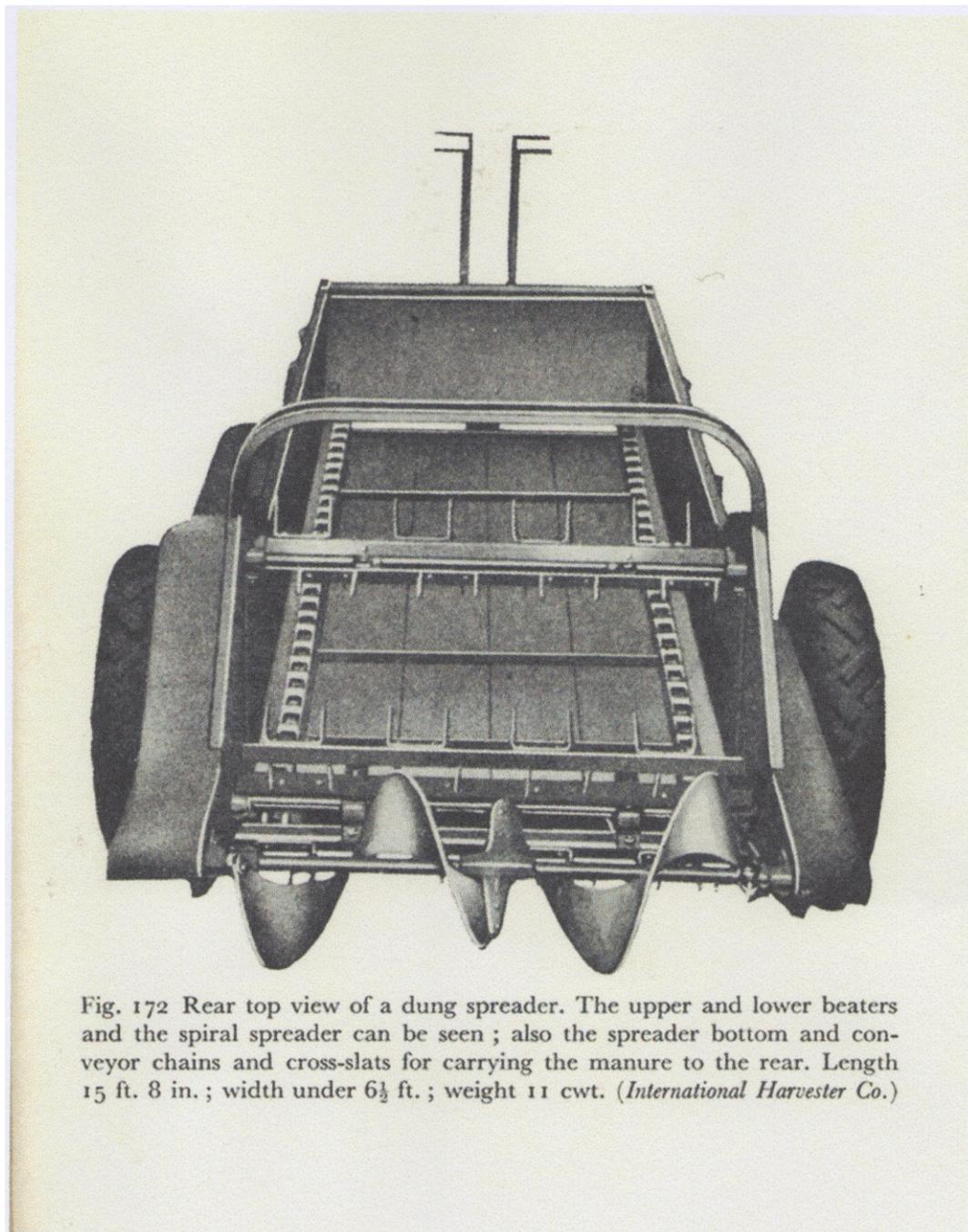
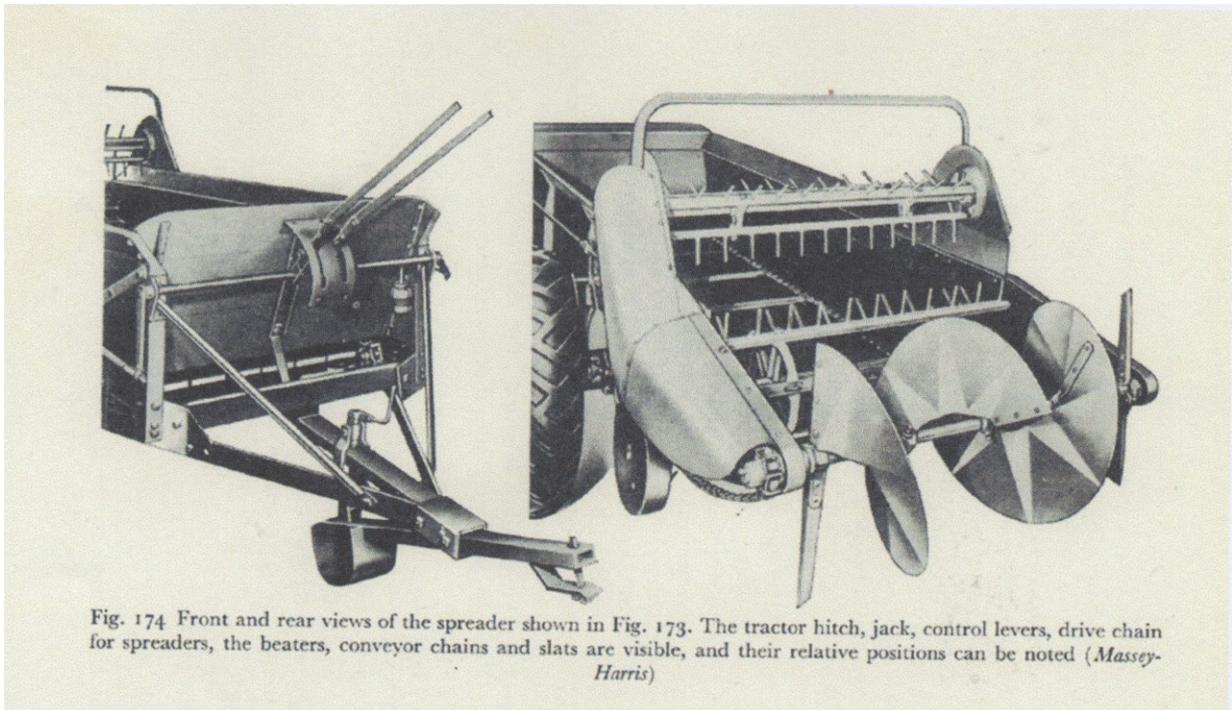
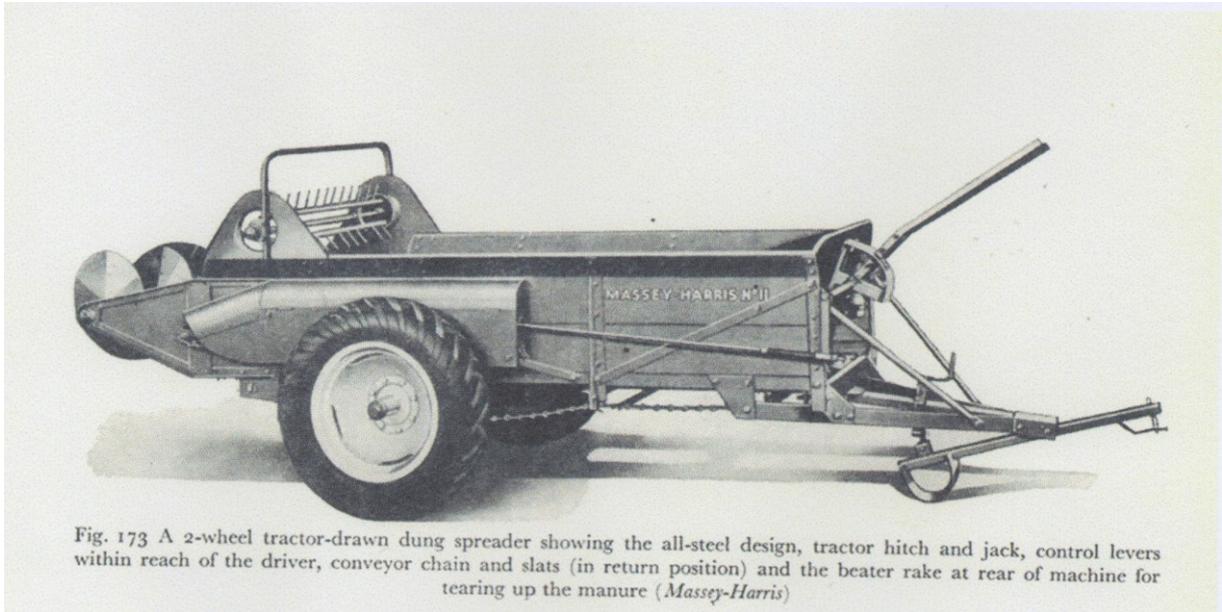


Fig. 172 Rear top view of a dung spreader. The upper and lower beaters and the spiral spreader can be seen ; also the spreader bottom and conveyor chains and cross-slats for carrying the manure to the rear. Length 15 ft. 8 in. ; width under 6½ ft. ; weight 11 cwt. (*International Harvester Co.*)

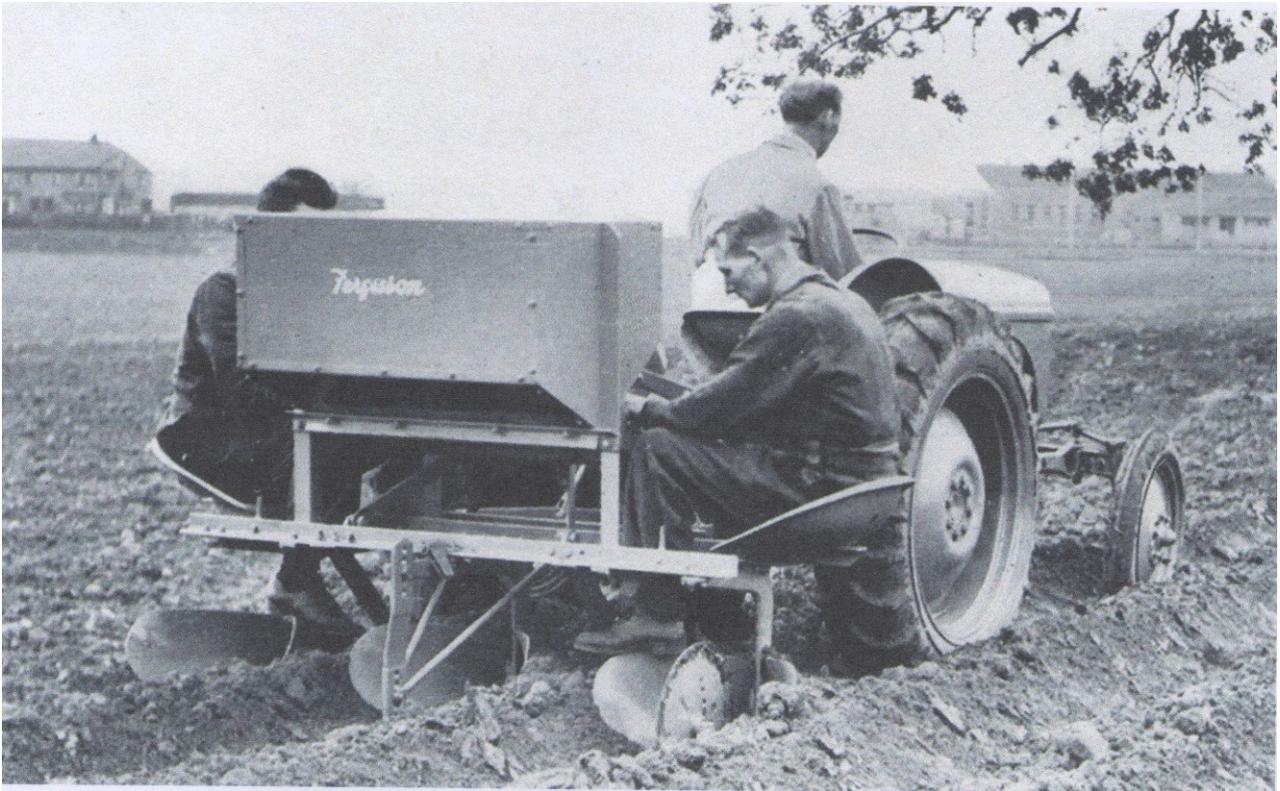
FARM MACHINERY - MASSEY HARRIS MANURE SPREADER

The illustrations below shows a Massey Harris type Farmyard Manure Spreader as used by Godfrey Smallridge at West Wembury Farm.



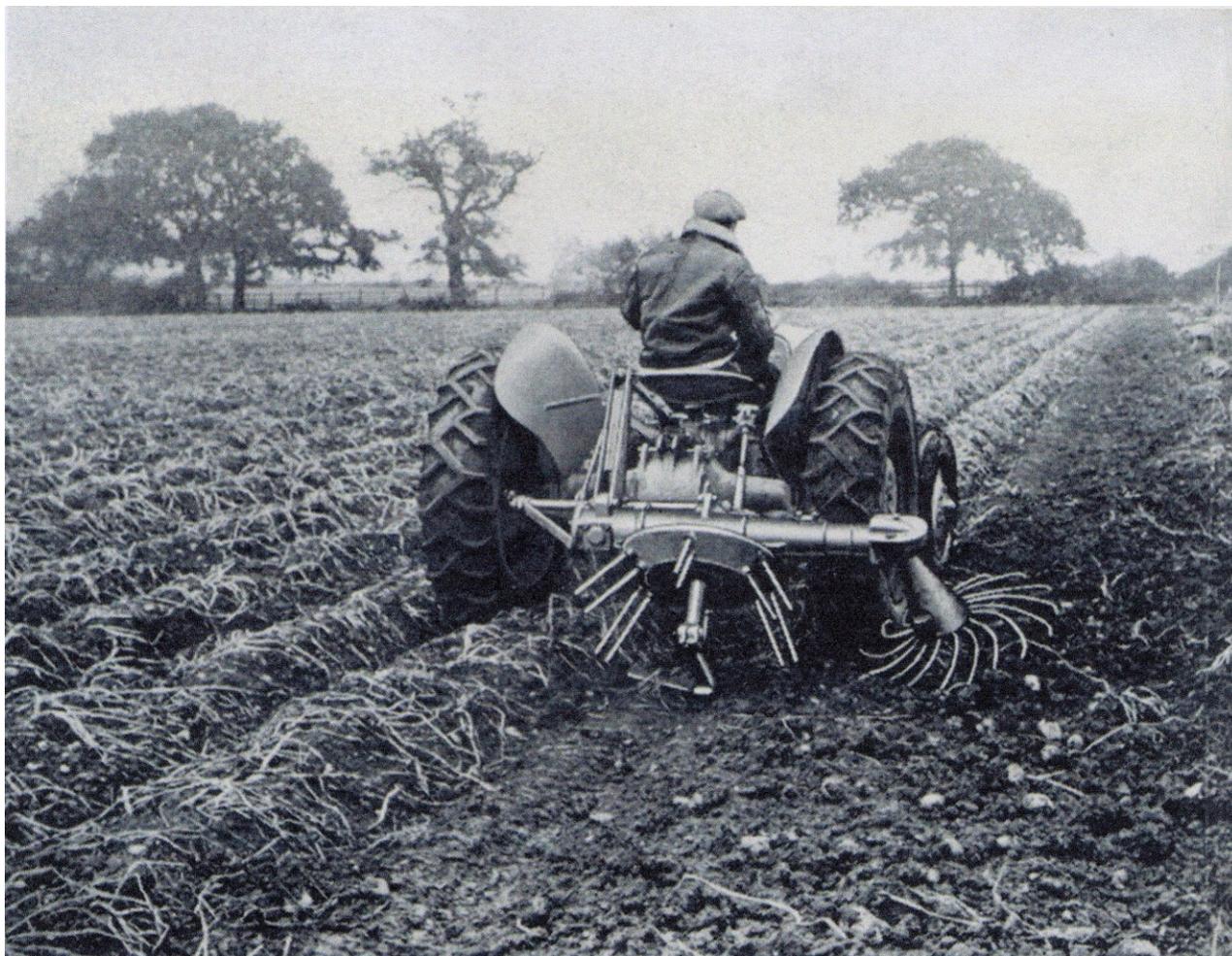
FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON MOUNTED POTATO PLANTER

The photograph below shows a Ferguson mounted potato planter, as used in Wembury in the 1950s by Fred Rowland at Train Farm.



FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON MOUNTED POTATO SPINNER

The photograph below shows a Ferguson mounted potato spinner, as used in Wembury in the 1950s by Bob Stansell on the two fields on the cliff between the Main Beach and Langdon Beach.

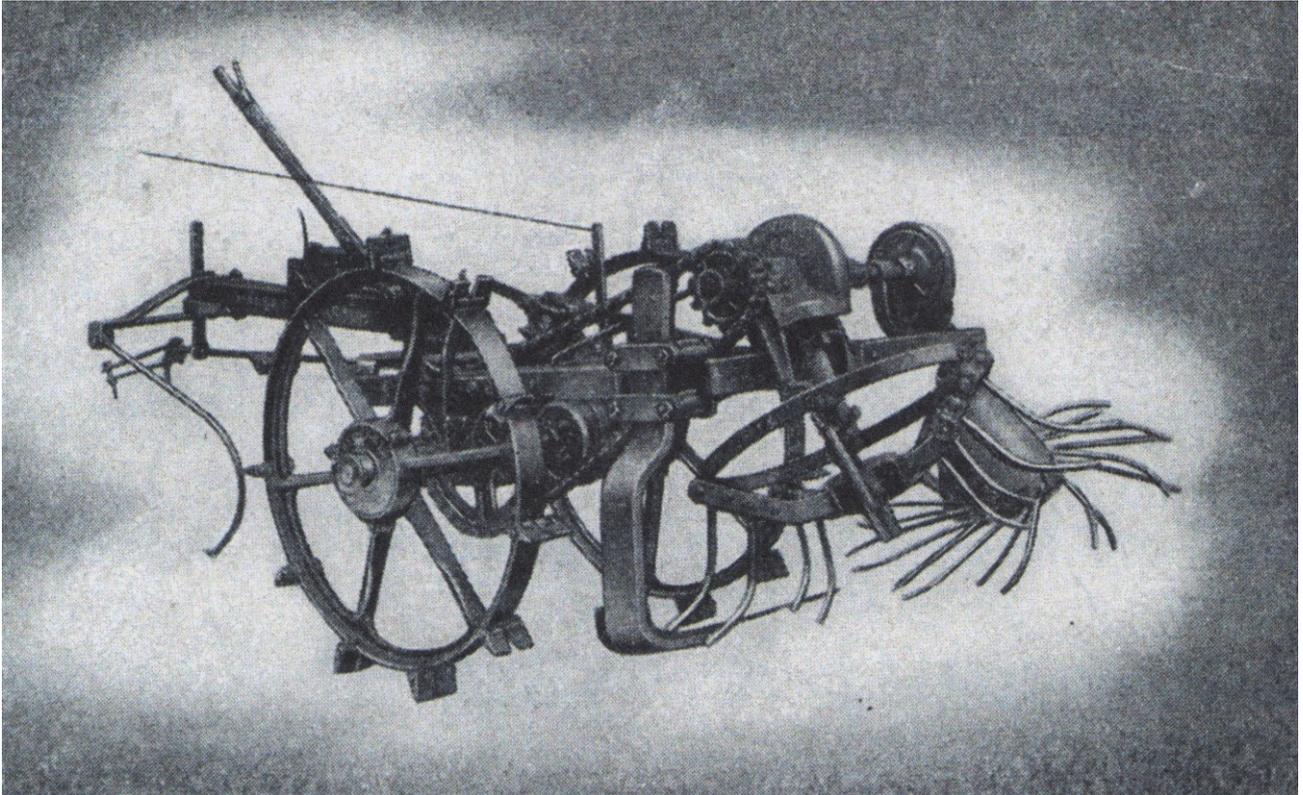


FARM MACHINERY - BLACKSTONE POTATO SPINNER

The photograph below shows a Blackstone, self lift, tractor drawn potato spinner

This type of Potato Spinner has a strong wide share that passes beneath the potato rows and completely loosens the soil and tubers. It is followed by revolving digging forks which throw the soil and tubers sideways, generally leaving the latter well exposed.

In Wembury, during the 1940s and 1950s, my Father had one of these at Old Barton and Thorn Farms. He lent it to Roger Griffiths at Combe Farm, for it never to be returned until many years later when his son-in-law, Graham Jewell, of Spirewell Farm borrowed it back, by which time Combe Farm had changed ownership.



FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON THREE TON TRAILER

The photograph below shows a Ferguson three ton trailer removing bales from the harvest field and being towed by a Ferguson 35 Type Tractor which superseded the ubiquitous Ferguson TE 20.

This new powerful tractor was used in Wembury, in the 1950s, by Tom Steer at Old Barton Farm, after the trading in of his TE 20, the newer tractor being diesel powered.



FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON THREE TON TIPPING TRAILER

The photograph below shows a Ferguson three ton hydraulic tipping trailer engineered for use with the Ferguson tractor. The engineers at the Ferguson Company designed this trailer to be coupled to the underside of the tractor back axle with an automatic pick up hitch operated by the tractor hydraulics. The wheels of the trailer were positioned towards the rear of the trailer body in order that the weight of any load carried would be transferred via the trailer drawbar to the tractor back axle thereby assisting the tractive effort to pull the load.

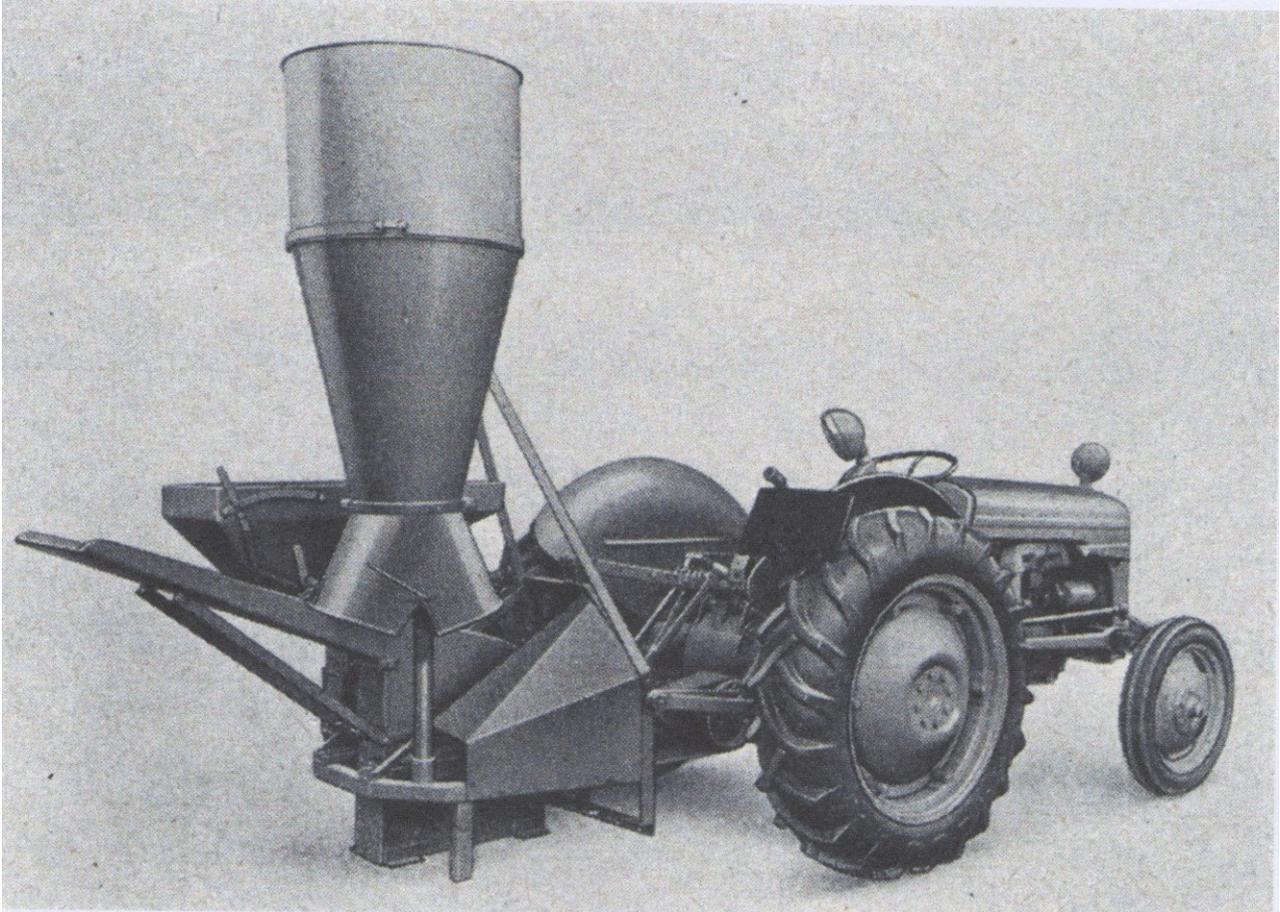
Until this design, most trailer manufacturers positioned the wheels nearer the body centre to assist the manual hitching to the tractor drawbar by producing a balanced effect which did nothing to aid tractive effort.

In Wembury, in the 1950s, these Ferguson system trailers were used by Tom Steer at Old Barton Farm, Fred Rowland at Train Farm, and Bob Stansell at Church Walk Wood. Bob Stansell later sold his to Michael Veale at Staddiscombe for use with his Ferguson tractor.



FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON MOBILE HAMMER MILL

The photographs below shows a Ferguson mobile hammer mill of the type used in Wembury in the 1950s, by Bob Phillips at South Barton. The hammer mill would decimate grains, pulse crops etc., into a fine meal for supplementary feeding to livestock, hence the bagging device on the mill.



FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON MOUNTED EARTH SCOOP

The photograph below shows a Ferguson tractor mounted earth scoop operated by the tractor's hydraulics, as used in Wembury in the 1950s, by Fred Rowland at Train Farm, Tom Steer at Old Barton Farm and Bob Stansell at Church Walk Woods.

An invaluable aid for excavating soil in preparation for construction of silage pits and building foundations.

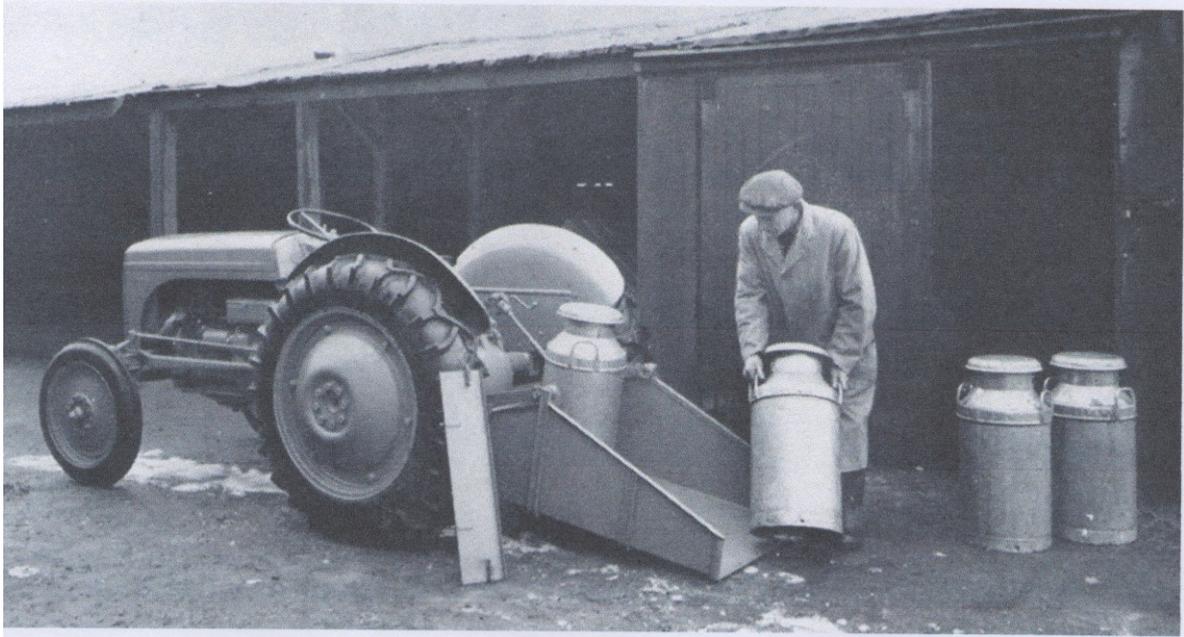
Also useful for the agricultural practice of "dray voyer", that is where in cultivating operations and natural erosion, due to rain and wind etc., soil that had moved over a period of time to the bottom of a field would be returned and redistributed to the top. The stipulation would be written into some agricultural tenancy agreements by the landlord making the practice of "Dray Voyer" a condition of the tenancy.



FARM MACHINERY - FERGUSON LINK BOX

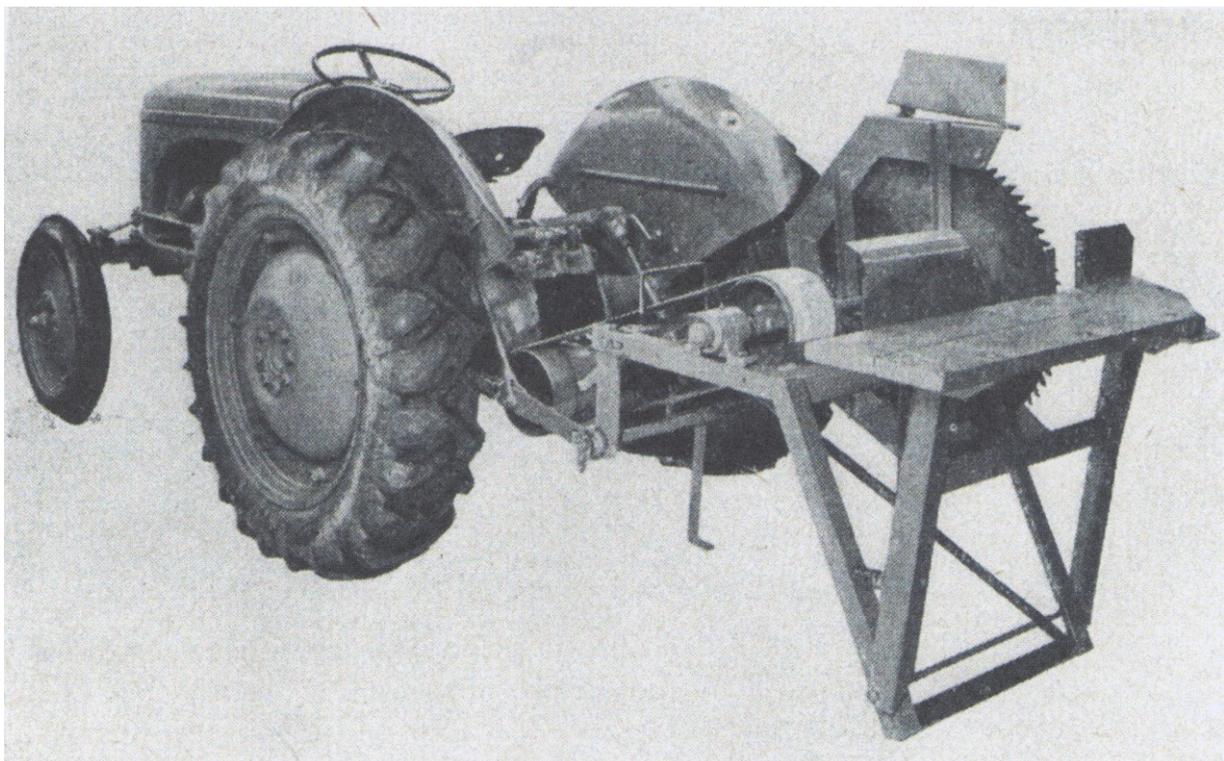
The photograph below shows a Ferguson link box attached to the tractor's hydraulics, as used in Wembury in the 1950s by Ben Clifton at Knighton Farm and Fred Rowland at Train Farm.

Shown in this illustration being loaded with full milk churns to be transported to the dairy collection point on the nearest public road. An invaluable device for many small transport duties.



TRACTOR MOUNTED SAW BENCH

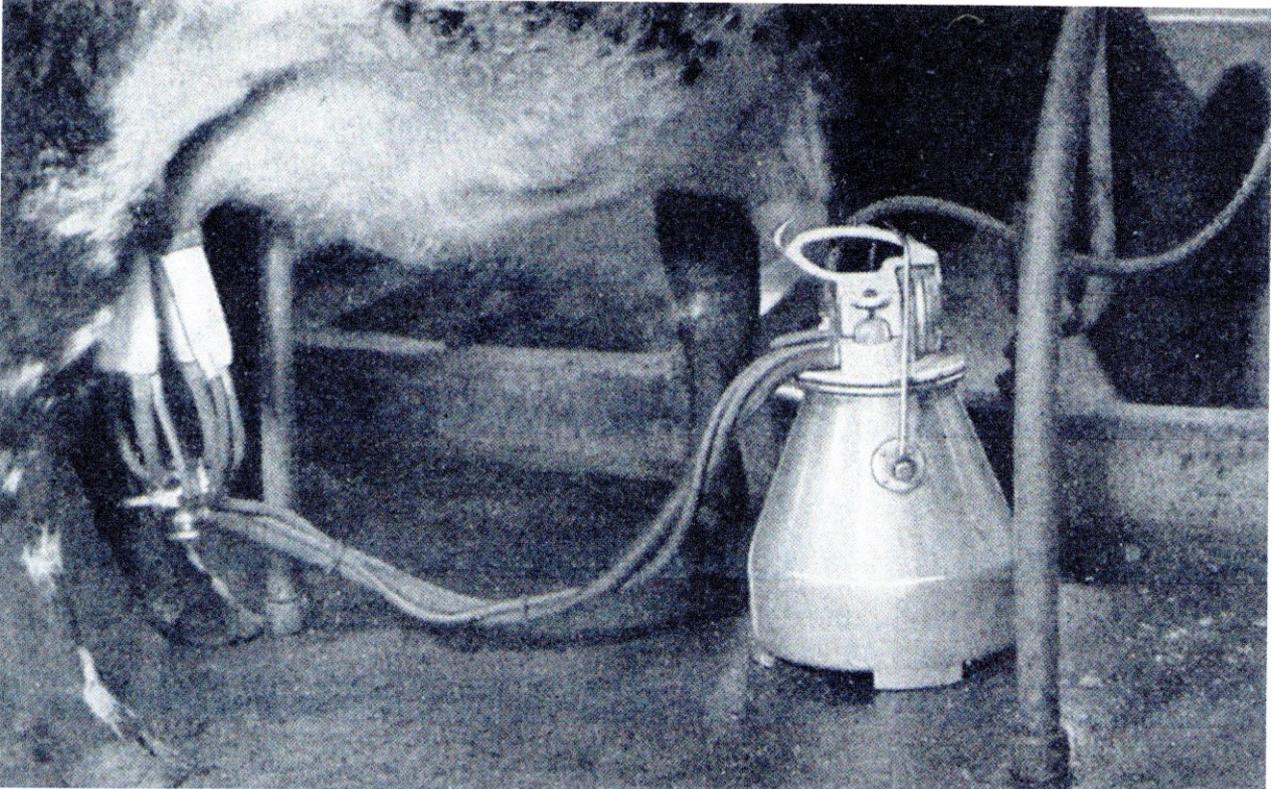
The photograph below shows a Ferguson Tractor with a with a Ferguson Mounted Cordwood Saw. In Wembury, during the 1950s, one of these was used by Fred Rowland at Train Farm.



FARM MACHINERY - GASCOIGNE PAIL MILKING UNIT

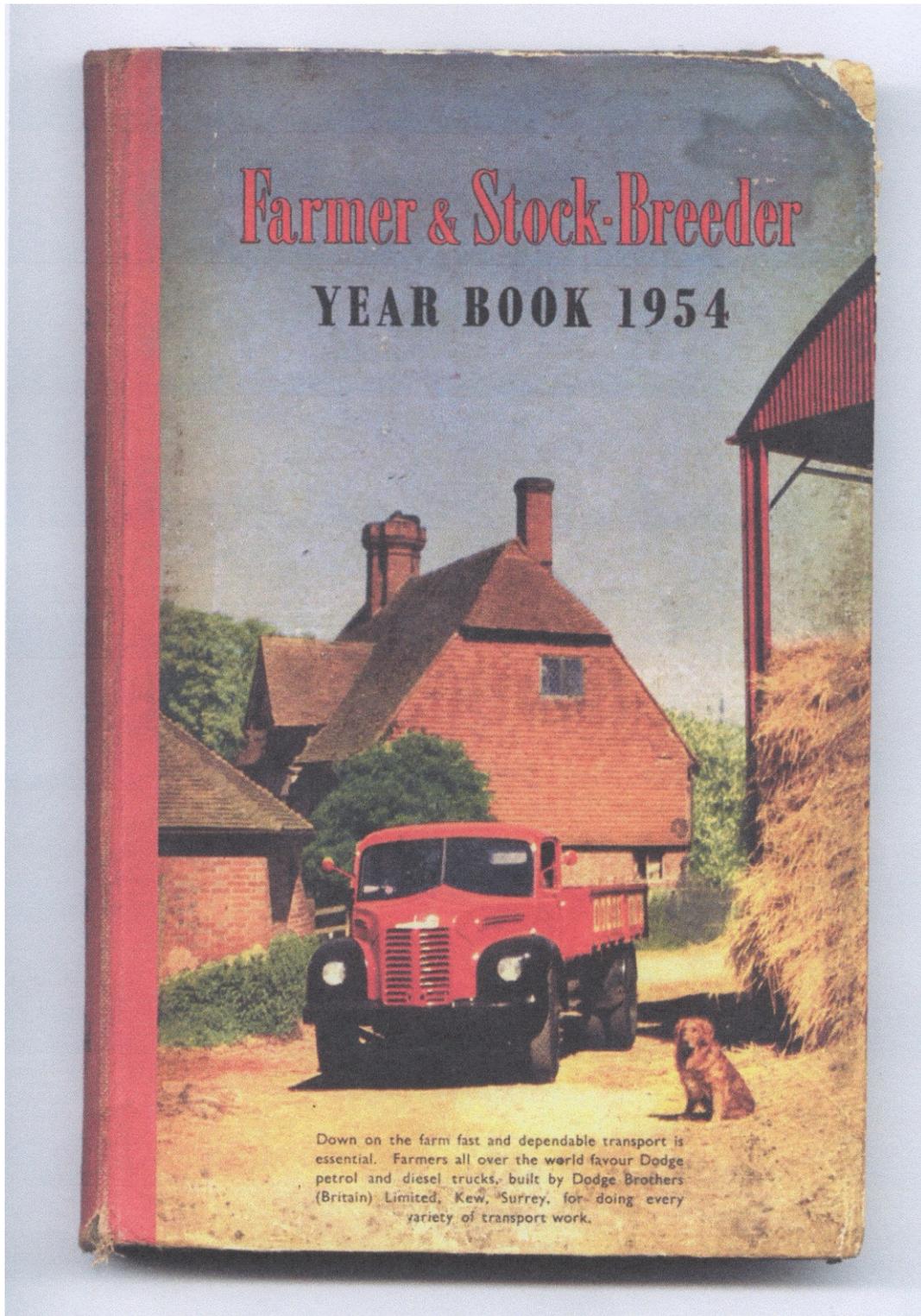
The photograph below shows a Gascoigne Pail Milking Unit

My Father had these in the shippen at Old Barton Farm in the 1940s. When we sold Old Barton they were sold to Farmer West at Brixton Tor. Thorn Farm which my Father kept on after selling Old Barton did not have electricity in the farm buildings down at Thorn, so the milking units were of no use to him. He had to revert to milking by hand.



FARMER & STOCKBREEDER YEAR BOOK

This publication, as its title suggests, came out at the beginning of each year. It contained a mine of information regarding the rearing of cattle and details of cattle sales, also tables listing cattle numbers in all of the counties of the United Kingdom, prices of cattle at markets, with comparison figures for previous years. There were many advertisements for different breeds of cattle and for farm equipment associated with the breeding of cattle. There were articles quite diverse in their subject matter. In this particular edition there is an article on concerns regarding imported pork and the impact this would have on the home producing market, and another one on the freezing of semen, as a step forward in AI technique, but pointing out the danger of inbreeding unless meticulous records were kept.



Down on the farm fast and dependable transport is essential. Farmers all over the world favour Dodge petrol and diesel trucks, built by Dodge Brothers (Britain) Limited, Kew, Surrey, for doing every variety of transport work.

ADVERTISEMENTS FROM THE 1940s

The advertisements in this section would have been familiar to all farming households in Wembury. Most appeared quite regularly in such publications as "Farmer and Stockbreeder" and "Farmer's Weekly". Also in calendars and diaries sent by the suppliers each year.



From Coal To Crops

Believe it or not, Ford produces wheat and vegetables! This is the way of it. The miner draws the coal from the earth. At Dagenham, the coal is separated into coke and by-products by the most up-to-date plant — the only plant of its kind in the British Motor Industry. The coke serves to smelt the iron ore and this makes Tractors (there are over 200,000 Fordson Tractors on British Farms to-day). The by-products yield tar and fertilisers; the tar gives the farmer spraying liquids, sheep dips and disinfectants; the fertilisers help him to get more food from his soil. Nothing is wasted at Dagenham. The whole cycle of Ford production provides similar examples of careful planning and British enterprise — the kind of enterprise that is helping to restore the Nation's prosperity.

Fordson MAJOR TRACTOR

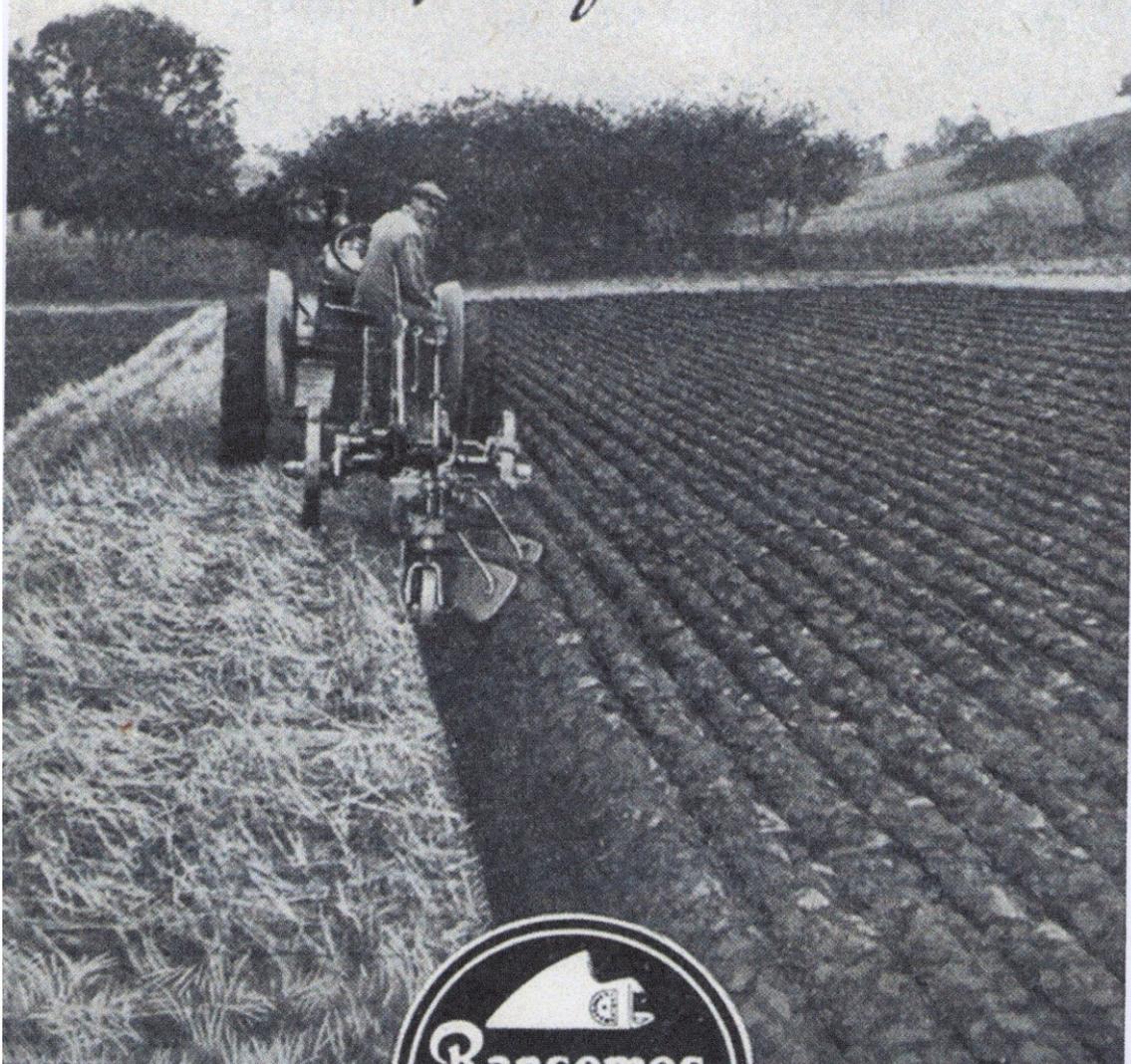


FORD ENTERPRISE FOR BRITISH PROSPERITY

FORD MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED, DAGENHAM

ADVERTISEMENT FROM THE 1940s

RANSOMES PLOUGHS *For preference*



EST.

1789

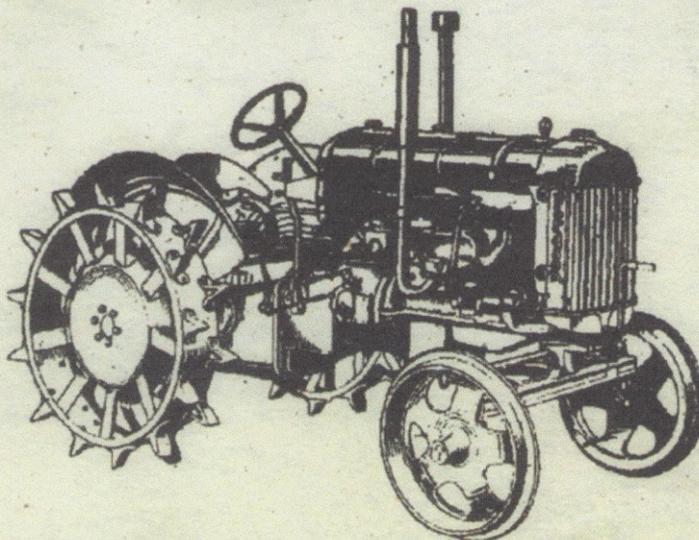
RANSOMES, SIMS & JEFFERIES, LTD., Orwell Works, IPSWICH

WATKINS & ROSEVEARE

Have Pleasure in Introducing

==the **NEW**==

Fordson MAJOR



Standard
& Rowcrop **TRACTORS**

NOW ON VIEW

at our **CANTRELL WORKS, IVYBRIDGE**
and on **Wednesday next, May 16th**
at **NEWTON ABBOT MARKET**

WATKINS & ROSEVEARE (Tractors)
LIMITED

"The Power Farming Specialists."

Cantrell Works, IVYBRIDGE Phone 111
(2 LINES)

BRANCHES:

TORPOINT—52
(8 a.m. to 6 p.m. only)

LISKEARD—206
(2 LINES)

HELSTON—71

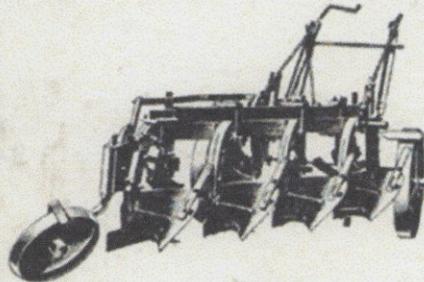
9888

"Best in the Land"



BALERS & ELEVATORS

Sturdy, strong, simple to operate: fitted with special semi-automatic needle device using string. Neat, compact Elevator can be quickly fitted or removed.



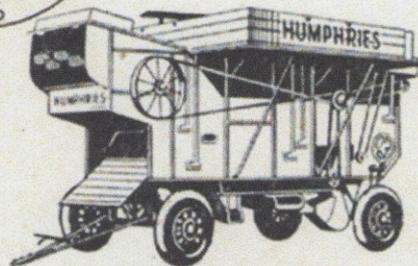
PLOUGHS

Made almost entirely of steel, in two, three and four-furrow sizes, and also a single-furrow 'deep-digger' model. Extended controls provided when used behind crawler or large-wheeled tractors.



HEDGE-CUTTING MACHINES

Operated from P.T.O. of Tractor. Cuts any type or condition of hedge up to 3-year sticks; also undergrowth and lateral. Extensor arm and easily adjusted cutter. Convenient controls.



THRESHING MACHINES

All-steel welded frames, giving utmost strength and stability. Mechanical feeder, chaff blower and cavings blower. Necessary labour reduced to a minimum. Provide the finest grain sample.

... and backed by a Service

Expert advice on any technical problems or difficulties gladly given at all times by F.H. agricultural engineers, and quick Spares and Repairs Service always available to all F.H. users. Attractive Hire Purchase terms are also available, to facilitate immediate personal use of F.H. machines and save disturbing capital. Full particulars from Dealer or direct from Fisher Humphries & Co., Ltd.

FISHER HUMPHRIES & CO., LTD.

PHONE: PERSHORE 253 PERSHORE, WORCS GRAMS: 'FISHER,' PERSHORE

All-crop HARVESTERS



Allis-Chalmers All-crop Harvesters efficiently and profitably harvest every variety of crop, including grain, seed and bean, and all without expensive special equipment or complicated changes. A-C All-crop Harvesters stop waste inevitable with old-time methods, end hard work and enable you to do a bigger and better job in less time—to be master of your harvest.

Cutting and Threshing the crop is a simple operation with an Allis-Chalmers All-crop Harvester.

ALLIS-CHALMERS

MANUFACTURING CO.

TOTTON, SOUTHAMPTON

Telephone: Totton 3161.

Telegrams: "Gvrating, Totton."

WHOLESALE ONLY

ESTABLISHED 1808

SINGLETON, FLINT & Co. Ltd.

Manufacturers of

BINDER CANVASES

For all makes of HORSE and POWER BINDERS, we are Specialists and guarantee all our canvases to fit machines specified

**DETACHABLE CANOPIES FOR TRACTORS
TARPAULINS WATERPROOF COVERS
BRUSHES FOR ALL PURPOSES**

NEWLAND WORKS, LINCOLN

Telegrams : SINGLETON, LINCOLN

Telephone : 8372/3

" AS GOOD AS A ROOF "

PERFECT CROP GRADING with the

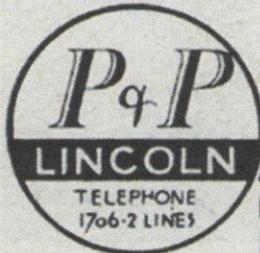
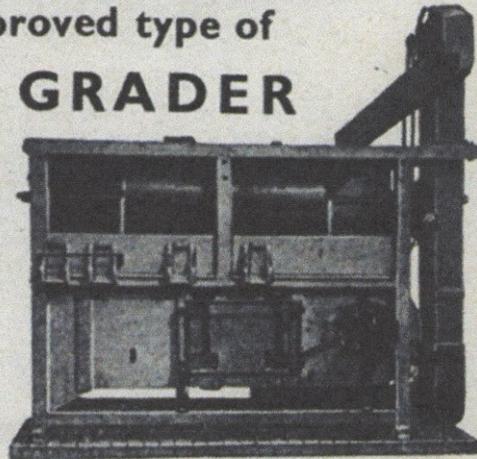
★ **WINNOGRADER** ★

a new and improved type of

ADJUSTABLE GRADER

- Efficient and simple ● Removes all waste
- Simple rapid adjustment to fine limits
- Separates grain into three grades
- Produces perfectly graded samples ●
- Essential for grading for seed purposes
- Easy feeding ● Ideal for working with Combine Harvesters

Write TO-DAY for
descriptive leaflet
Our technical staff are
at your disposal for
FREE ADVICE



Good Samples make Good Prices

**PENNEY AND PORTER LIMITED
RIVERSIDE WORKS • LINCOLN**



The answer is Johnsons' wire, whether plain or barbed, or their "Bulwark" and "Trellink" fences. Johnsons' Galvanised, they resist rust, and are made to give long and efficient protection to crops and stock of all kinds.

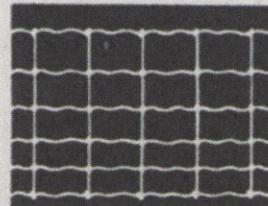
Erect Johnsons'—and then forget it!
Available through all Agricultural Suppliers

The Johnsons' protective Galvanising adds years more life—and saves the expense of constant repairs and renewals. Its extra heavy layer of galvanising zinc is deposited in such a manner that it becomes alloyed to the steel, and even when bent or hammered, will not flake or peel off.

Richard
JOHNSON & NEPHEW
L I M I T E D

Founder member of British Export Trade Research Organisation

RICHARD JOHNSON & NEPHEW LIMITED
BRADFORD IRONWORKS · FORGE LANE · MANCHESTER II



BULWARK



TRELLINK



PORCUPINE

THE WONDER OF THE FARM

This book cover illustration absolutely encapsulates what it was like to be a child living on a farm in Wembury in the 1940s and 1950s.

