

Elias Groff Out in the Sun and Fresh Air Again

By Elias R. Groff

You may remember the write-up LANCASTER FARMING had in its May 16 issue telling the story of how our neighbors and friends came together to plant our corn on May 8. That was one day we won't soon forget, as 33 men with 25 tractors plowed most of the ground, prepared, planted, and sprayed for weed control for about 80 acres.

Their reason for doing this was due to my coming down with rheumatic fever a week earlier. I'm writing now to tell you of my progress since then.

I had severe pain in the joints for the first six weeks. The pain would affect a joint or two for three to five days then move on to another area, till it had visited nearly all of my joints. June 12 was the last of such aches.

The doctor said I was to stay in bed or sit in the recliner till seven weeks were up. Then I was allowed for the first time to go outside in the sun and fresh air which we usually take so much for granted. It felt so good to me!

June 30th was the date for the blood sample to be taken and the results, which came in time for my birthday July 2nd, were encouraging. The doctors said I could get some exercise by walking around the buildings, lifting up to 20 pounds, and taking short drives. Another blood sample is scheduled for July 22nd.

I have a few aches in my hands and feet yet but I am so thankful those pains of the first six weeks are gone.

It was quite intriguing to see the fields of corn and the other crops I hadn't seen for nine and

one-half weeks. They really look good with the plentiful supply of rainfall we've had. The visitors that come say how big the corn is, well, that's because most of the ones that helped plant it did so before they took time to plant their own.

The 31 acres of hay were cut at two different times and we're grateful to say all of the more than 2,500 bales were gotten in without rain. When the first cutting was ready to bring in, we didn't know where all the help would come from, as it was hay-time for everyone else. By the end of the day there were about 14 men and boys here, and so it's been for us in getting the field work done. When something is to be done, there seems to be someone willing to share their time and muscle if they know of the need.

We have a 14 year-old boy, Harold Farmer, helping us over the summer. He helped us during tomato season last year and is staying with us during the week now. It's a great help to have him do the chores of feeding the livestock and other things he's able to do.

Today (Wednesday) they are getting the second cutting of alfalfa in.

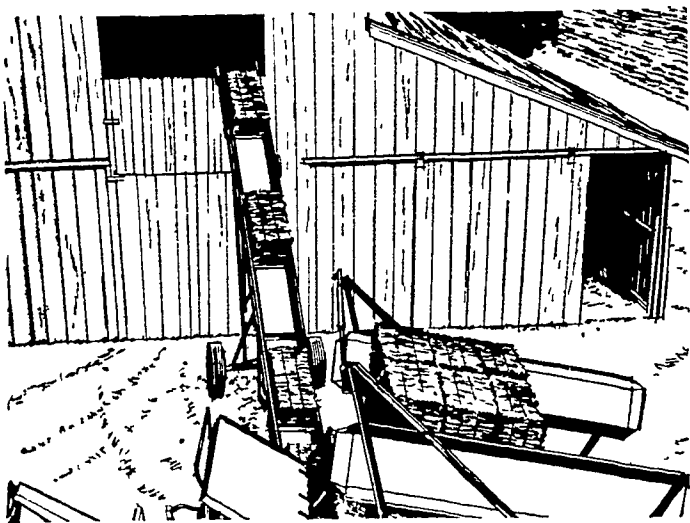
We've been encouraged by the many cards, phone calls, prayers, and many visits we have had. We have learned of how many friends we really have and hope to help anyone out we can in the future. This experience makes us more thankful for our past good health and blessings. Everyone's generosity is helping me get back on my feet.



Have you been wondering what happened to the Holtwood RD2 farmer who was laid up with rheumatic fever at planting time? Well, here he is, standing in the

corn his neighbors planted for him while he was bed-ridden. The accompanying story is a progress report in Elias R. Groff's own words.

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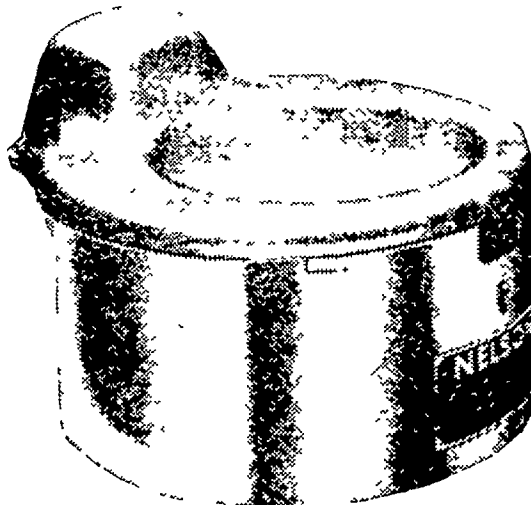
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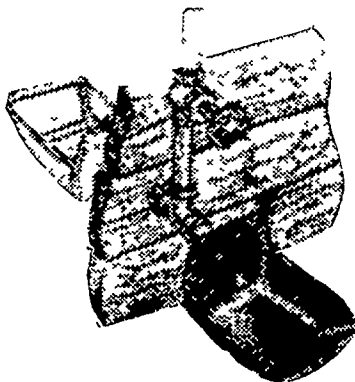
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