

Pop's Fruit Trees

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Pop had a true love for his fruit trees. He made sure we boys pruned them when they started looking like they needed attention. He made sure we picked the fruit also, especially the cherries. Man, he could make a good cherry wine. Of course we kids didn't really appreciate his wine then, but later? We picked apples also but he favored the cherries, I think. And he was always doing his grafting. We had a cherry tree with two different cherries on it and some of his apple trees may have sported more than two strains. Don't recall him messing around with the figs much. I think he would have grafted something onto the big pine trees he made us limb if he thought it would take. Pop had us, well I remember it being ME, climb up to within about twenty feet from the top of the tree and limb the tree all the way down. I think he was trying to reduce the amount of pine needles in the field under the trees, but just imagine, pineapples? His apple trees were mostly down in the field near his lower pond, close to Russell Road. Way back when I first came to Hugo Russell didn't go all the way through to Merlin. It was about a mile or so long on the Merlin end but at the Three Pines Road end it was just a path. Jackpine Road was there and when Russell did get pushed on further part of it was right on top of Jackpine. We kids put Pop's tractor in action during snowy days, but for fun then. We had an old car hood that we attached to the tractor with a rope and towed kids up and down what later became Russell Road. We worked hard on the old farm, but played hard, too. Imagine kids riding car hoods on county roads these days.