

FARMSTEADS OF THE UNITED STATES  
of  
NORTH AMERICA  
at the  
MIDDLE OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

by  
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Introduction

Retirement after forty-five years in the Agricultural Extension Service came to me in 1950. Seven years were spent as Crops Specialist in Iowa, ten years as County Agricultural Agent in Iowa and Illinois and twenty-eight years as Farm Management Specialist in Illinois.

As I look back after sixteen years of retirement I realize that my major interest in promoting the economic welfare of the farmers during those years was as a means to the end of better lives for farm families rather than as an end in itself. Of course, I realize that from the beginning that was the major purpose of the Agricultural Extension Service. However, I was disappointed at times by the lack of emphasis of those things that are necessary parts of the better farm life.

During the rapid changes in agricultural development immediately following World War II, with many others, realized that the middle of the twentieth century marked the turning point in a great agricultural revolution. Foreseeing that this would bring important in the way farm people live, I suggested to M.L. Wilson then United States Director of the Agricultural Extension Service that he ask each of the 3,000 county agricultural agents to include in his annual report for 1950 photographs of a few typical farmsteads of his county which would form a permanent exhibit of the living conditions of the rank and file of farm families just before the expected change had begun to take place. It was thought that such a series of photographs kept on file on the Archives of the Agricultural Library in Washington would prove of great value as a pictorial and historic record of farm living conditions. Mr. Wilson approved of the idea but he was a busy man and other important things prevented the carrying out of the idea.

However, I believed in it enough that I began to take pictures of what we considered typical farmsteads as my wife and I traveled from place to place to attend national meeting and visit relatives and places of scenic and historic interest. During 163,00 miles of travel from the summer of 1949 to the fall of 1964, we collected photographs of about 1,600 farmsteads in forty-nine of the United States and in five provinces of Canada. Those in Alaska and a few in some western states were furnished by friends who were living or driving in the areas which we had missed.

We carried two cameras. One was a small 2 1/4 by 3 1/4 inch Graflex with which we got black and white negatives. The other was a 35mm Argus with which we got colored slides. Nearly all farmsteads were photographed from U.S. and state highways. As a result they show the farmsteads that tourists see and as tourists see them. It was often difficult to get satisfactory photographs in humid areas during the summer because so many farmstead buildings were more or less hidden from the highway by windbreaks and shade trees.

About six years ago friends persuaded me to select a few photographs in each state, have enlargements made and prepare a manuscript for a book to be called, "Farmsteads of the United States of North America at the Middle of the Twentieth Century". Encouragement came from people interested in Agricultural Economics, Rural Sociology, Geography, History, Rural

Architecture, and from Rural Development leaders going to and coming from so-called underdeveloped countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Nearly six hundred farmstead photographs distributed in the forty-eight mainland states and Alaska in about the same proportion as there were farms according to the 1950 census were included in the manuscript.

However the expense of publication and their idea of the limited sales prevented publishers from undertaking its publication.

Three hand made copies of the manuscript were made. Each of two copies include nearly six hundred enlargements trimmed to about four by six inches. The third copy includes contact prints from all of the black and white negatives. Each of the three copies has an introduction which gives some background information telling "how it came to be". An introductory statement by M.L. Wilson is included in the introduction. The pictures for each state are introduced by a half page of information regarding Land Tenure, Crop Production, Livestock Production and Economic Farm Income: all based on the 1950 census. Each of the three books has an appendix in which information as stated above for the individual states is shown in graphic form on a series of fifty United States maps. The maps were taken directly from United States Census Reports or made from data shown in such reports.

One copy of the book which contains the six hundred enlargements was presented to the Agricultural Hall of Fame and National Center located at Bonner Springs just west of Kansas City, Kansas, at the time of its opening in June, 1965. The second copy with the enlargements is now on my library shelves. I hope that it may eventually find a place in one of the national libraries in Washington D.C. The third copy which includes about 1,500 2 1/4 by 3 1/4 inch contact prints is being presented to the University of Illinois Library. With this third copy was presented all of the 1,500 black and white negatives and the 1,500 colored slides. The negatives and slides are carefully catalogued and placed in a small cabinet which I made especially for them. The catalogue shows for each farmstead its location by highway number, distance from a nearby town, county and date photographed.

During the past ten years I have shown a selected lot of the pictures in illustrated lecture before many farm, service club and other groups. Seventy-six colored slides are used including at least one from each of forty-seven of the mainland states. The lecture is reproduced here with the slides referred to by number.

Copy for the lecture follows.

FARMSTEADS OF THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA  
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I shall show these colored pictures of farmsteads as my wife and I saw them while traveling over about 160,000 miles of U.S. and state highways during the sixteen years of 1949 to 1964 inclusive. At least one farmstead in each of forty-seven states will be shown. We have no slides of farmsteads in Nevada. We will begin in the northeast tip of Maine and close in the southeast corner of California.

SLIDE No.1 - Maine, No.3

We will begin here in Aroostook County in northeast Maine. Aroostook County is well

known as the leading potato growing county in the United States. This picture was taken in August, 1954, from a 35 acre potato field in full bloom. It was a beautiful sight. Typical of many New England farmsteads the fine seventy-five year old residence on the left is connected to the livestock barn on the right with the storage and service building in the center. Many fine old farm houses indicate that Aroostook County has been a prosperous farming area for many years.

SLIDE No.2 - New Hampshire, No.5

This New Hampshire farmstead shows the same oldtime New England plan of connected residence and livestock barn as was seen in the Maine picture. The forest background is typical of New Hampshire because eighty-seven percent of the land area of the state is reported as most suitable for commercial forest or farm woodland.

SLIDE No.3 - Vermont, No.5

Again in this Vermont farmstead notice the forest covered mountain background. This farmstead with the old green-shuttered residence on the right, the red barn on the left and the connecting service building surrounding a court open to the south forms a comfortable farm headquarters during the long snow-covered winters. The beautiful sugar maple trees to the right of the house are typical of most farms in Vermont, which is the leading maple-sugar state.

SLIDE No.4 - Massachusetts, No.3

For Massachusetts we show another typical New England farmstead with its connected buildings and maple trees. The corn on the left is grown for silage and reminds midwest farmers that more or less corn is grown in every mainland state - not only in the Corn Belt.

SLIDE No.5 - Massachusetts, No.15

This shows a replica of the Richard Warren house in the reconstructed Plimoth Plantation at Plymouth, Massachusetts. The original was built soon after the colony was settled in 1620. Richard Warren was one of the signers of the Mayflower Pact.

SLIDE No.6 - Rhode Island, No.5

Notice, along with this plain oldtime Rhode Island residence, the large barn with its eight-sided, ornamental cupola. Such cupolas were used as lookouts, ventilators and for ornament.

SLIDE No.7 - Connecticut, No.9

This Connecticut farmstead is a fine specimen of many seen on modern New England farms. The silo back of the barn and the large poultry house in the left foreground identify it as a dairy and poultry farm. The stone wall along the highway is typical of many miles of such stone fences seen on New England farms. It was the common non-cash-cost fence used by New England pioneer farmers.

SLIDE No.8 - New York, No.38

We are now in central New York. This T-shaped residence is similar to thousands of such

on the North Atlantic States and all across the north central part of the United States. Many of them were built all through the nineteenth century. Note the small second residence where a son or son-in-law or hired man or, in their later years, the parents may live. Farm records of the past half-century show that the two-man farm has been and is now a most economic sized unit for commercial farms.

SLIDE No.9 - Pennsylvania, No.16

Here in Lancaster County in southeast Pennsylvania we saw many of these large, plain, roomy residences and large well kept farmsteads on relatively small farms. A ride through Lancaster County is a delight to one interested in good country living.

SLIDE No.10 - New Jersey, No.6

Our route in New Jersey took us past many of the 19th century, T-shaped houses with their front porches and gable-windowed attics such as this. The silo and large barn indicate dairy farming.

SLIDE No.11 - Delaware, No.4

T-shaped houses are common in Delaware also as seen here beside U.S. 13 in northern Delaware. Windmills such as this are no longer common east of the Allegheny Mountains. The plantings in the foreground are of nursery shrubs and trees.

SLIDE No.12 - Maryland, No.11

The reason that we selected so many of the 19th century T-shaped and L-shaped houses in this North Atlantic area is because we passed so many of them, like this one in eastern Maryland. Notice the oldtime poultry house in the left center. Poultry and egg production has long been a major enterprise in eastern Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey.

SLIDE No.13 - Virginia, No.19

Here near Richmond, Virginia, we are about half way down the Atlantic Coast from Maine to Florida. This beautiful old southern mansion is a fine example of many of the same style of architecture - high in the center and low at either end - that we saw all across the "Old South" from Virginia to Arkansas.

SLIDE No.14 - Virginia, No.15

This neat, partially hidden farmstead back of rich crops of grass and corn is only two miles north of the ruins of the Jamestown Colony in eastern Virginia. The colony was founded in 1607, thirteen years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts. One can easily imagine that Indians were growing tobacco on this same ground when the English arrived 350 years ago.

SLIDE No.15 - North Carolina, No.8

Travelers in North Carolina have seen many of these one, one and one-half and two story houses built on wooden or brick pillars rather than solid foundations and with large fireplace chimneys at both ends of the houses. Such houses and the unpainted tobacco drying sheds as seen on the left are familiar parts of farmsteads not only in

North Carolina but also in South Carolina and Georgia.

SLIDE No.16 - South Carolina, No.6

This South Carolina farmstead with its two houses and large red barn indicates that it is a fairly large commercial family-sized farm. Notice the two porches extending out at angles from the front of the house.

SLIDE No.17 - Georgia, No.4

This fine oldtime Georgia mansion framed between two large pecan trees is a familiar sight to travelers as they tour across the Old South from Georgia west to Louisiana. Many have visited some of them at Natchez, Mississippi. Note the tall pillars and the oldtime fireplace chimneys.

SLIDE No.18 - Georgia, No.3

The joy of contemplating the gracious living of residents of homes such as we have just seen and like the beautiful Virginia country house which we viewed a few minutes ago was greatly neutralized as we passed house after house like this for miles around the stately mansion shown in the last picture. This evident difference in the living conditions of the landowners and the share-cropper laborers in this old plantation area is in marked contrast to the generally pleasant mid-level living conditions as seen on the family sized farms of the New England and North Atlantic States and as we will see later in the northern and western states.

SLIDE No.19 - Florida, No.23

Here we are beside a beautiful rural home tucked into the side of a fruit laden orange grove in central Florida. Many of the owner-operators of Florida's citrus groves and vegetable farms live in nearby towns and cities.

SLIDE No.20 - Florida, No.3

Neat cattle-ranch farmsteads such as this in northeast Florida may be seen in many parts of the state. Indeed one of the surprises to the northerner who expects to see most of Florida covered with orange groves and vegetable farms is to find that fully two-thirds of the land area of the state is now suitable only for grazing or forest. My guess is that one hundred years from now travellers will see improved farmsteads such as this distributed over much of Florida.

SLIDE No.21 - Florida, No.2

We must not leave Florida without showing this back-yard view of the oldest house in the United States built by Europeans. It was built in St. Augustine in the year 1565 by colonists from Spain.

SLIDE No.22 - Alabama, No.23

This beautiful old Alabama mansion is similar to the one we saw near Richmond, Virginia, is typical of many which still stand on the oldtime plantations.

SLIDE No.23 - Alabama, No.8

And here is another of the share-cropper type of farm homes which dot the landscape throughout much of the South. However, my wife and I have noticed that many of the poorer types of cabins which were occupied when we first traveled there in 1951 were unoccupied or missing when we toured across the South in 1963.

SLIDE No.24 - Mississippi, No.8

This nice farm home with the large livestock barns in the background is a common sight to travelers in Central Mississippi. Such farmsteads indicate that the southern states have many family sized farms which provide a medium level of living for their owners and operators.

SLIDE No.25 - Louisiana, No.17

This beautiful old rambling, six-chimneyed mansion surrounded by moss covered live oak trees is in the intensive sugar cane area to the southwest of New Orleans in Louisiana. It appealed to us as one of the finest of the oldtime residences that we saw in all our journeys. Sorry to say, some other oldtime mansions in the same area are falling into decay.

SLIDE No.26 - Louisiana, No.28

This home in the Red River Valley in the middle of Louisiana illustrates what this tourist recognized as a typical share-cropper's cabin. It stands in the edge of a large cotton field which was being harvested with a mechanical cotton harvester when we drove by in October, 1963.

SLIDE No.27 - Arkansas, No.24

This Ozark Mountain poultry farm is similar to many in northwest Arkansas. This farmstead is, however, more typical of the Ozark Mountain area than of Arkansas as a whole. The Mississippi Delta country of eastern Arkansas is quite similar to large areas across the Mississippi River in Tennessee and Mississippi.

SLIDE No.28 - Tennessee, No.2

This is the most attractive farmstead we had seen during many miles of travel through northwest Mississippi and western Tennessee. We talked with the owner-operator. He was a well educated negro farmer.

SLIDE No.29 - Kentucky, No.3

Here one gets only a glimpse of a fine mansion among the trees on a prosperous appearing horse and cattle farm near Lexington, Kentucky.

SLIDE No.30 - Tennessee, No.4

The next few pictures are typical of many farmsteads which we saw as we drove on U.S. highways through the large area of relatively unproductive farms in the Southern Appalachian Mountain area. This log cabin home is in eastern Tennessee.

SLIDE No.31 - Kentucky, No.14

A small field of corn can be seen in the left center of this view of an eastern Kentucky

mountain farmstead.

SLIDE No.32 - North Carolina, No.17

Many travelers have seen and photographed this Smoky Mountain valley of small farms a few miles east of Cherokee on North Carolina Highway 19.

SLIDE No.33 - Virginia, No.1

This small but neat farm with corn and tobacco in the foreground and a forested hillside as a backdrop is typical of many of Virginia's mountain farms.

SLIDE No.34 - West Virginia, No.5

Notice that this West Virginia sheep and cow pasture is enclosed with a rail fence. The rail fence was the common non-cash-cost farm fence on the pioneer farms in all wooded areas of our country. We saw in New England oldtime stone-wall fences built by pioneer farmers still in use. Here in the Appalachian Mountain area, and also in a few spots in the South and West, rail fences are still seen.

SLIDE No.35 - West Virginia, No.3

Here is seen one of the more attractive West Virginia farmsteads that we passed during two trips across the state. The small haystack built around a central pole indicates that only hand methods of handling hay were used. This picture was taken in April, 1953. The average West Virginia farmer received only \$1010.00 from the sale of farm products in 1950. This was the lowest income per farm in any state. The many share-cropper farms in Alabama and Mississippi brought average incomes in those states down to almost as low a level.

SLIDE No.36 - Virginia, No.23

However there is an oasis in the desert of small, low producing farms of the Southern Appalachian Mountain area. Such an oasis is found in the Shenandoah Valley of western Virginia. Many fine old farm homes such as this one indicate a longtime prosperous area of family sized farms. As we drove through the Valley in 1950 and again in 1963 the farmsteads reminded us of rural living conditions in Aroostook County in Maine, the Willamette Valley in Oregon and much of the North Central states.

SLIDE No.37 - Ohio, No.12

Let us now move north across the Ohio River into Ohio and wander back and forth across the North Central States. When a native of Ohio saw one of these old brick residences with the lookout on top used to illustrate Ohio farm homes he objected saying that it was not at all typical. Our reply was that, while it did not represent a majority of Ohio farm homes, it was representative of a goodly number in the North Carolina states and was more common in Ohio than in other states. He was not satisfied. This particular farmhouse is just east of the Indiana line on Ohio No.35.

SLIDE No.38 - Ohio, No.38

Here in northwestern Ohio in Fulton County we see one of the 19th century T-shaped houses

which we saw so commonly in the North Atlantic States. About one-third of all residences that we photographed in eight North Central States are of this type. Notice the two gambrel-roofed barns standing side by side. Many such "twin barns" are on the prosperous livestock farms of northwest Ohio. We did not see any such in any other part of the United States. They seem unique in this area.

SLIDE No.39 - Indiana, No.52

This northeast Indiana farmstead with its T-shaped residence, large livestock and hay barn and corn and small-grain storage building in the center is typical of thousands of farmsteads throughout the Corn Belt.

SLIDE No.40 - Michigan, No.9

The old gentleman shown by this northern Michigan farmstead is Professor P.G. Holden, a native of the area who, at University of Illinois in 1900, became the first person to have the title, Professor of Agronomy. Later in 1906 in Iowa he organized and for six years directed the first state department of Extension in Agriculture and Home Economics. I began Extension work in 1906 under his leadership.

SLIDE No.41 - Wisconsin, No.15

This longtime prosperous appearing farmstead is in the cheese producing area of southwest Wisconsin.

SLIDE No.42 - Illinois, No.61-A

To represent Illinois we choose this fine central Illinois farmstead which was the boyhood home of Joseph Ackerman who has been the Director of the Farm Foundation for many years. His brother and nephew still operate the farm.

SLIDE No.43 - Illinois, No.65

This is the best example we found after a two- years' search for an oldtime trimmed Osage orange hedge fence. Just as the old Connecticut stone wall and the West Virginia rail fence illustrated the non-cash-cost fence of New England and forest area pioneers, this Osage orange hedge fence illustrates the common fence of the prairie farmers. There were tens of thousands of miles of such fences on Illinois and Iowa farms. When I was a teen-age boy one of my jobs was to trim a half mile of such fence twice each year. They have all but disappeared during the past fifty years.

SLIDE No.44 - Missouri, No.30

This relatively modern farmstead - modern to the eyes of the informed person - is used to illustrate Missouri farmsteads, not because it is typical of all Missouri but because it represents farmsteads built during the last half century in the upper Mississippi Delta. It is just north of the "boot heel" of southeast Missouri. It was built on a farm developed by a classmate of mine at the Iowa State University. Missouri, like most states, would require several different types of farmsteads to represent the many different farming type areas of the state.

SLIDE No.45 - Iowa, No.59

This fine farmstead was selected to represent Iowa, which is the leading corn and livestock state. Iowa farms had an appreciatively higher level-of-living index than in any other state, according to a U.S.D.A. report based on the 1950 census. Connecticut on the Atlantic coast and California on the Pacific Coast were next highest. The level-of-living index is a composite figure based on the percent of farms having electricity, the percent of farms having telephones, the percent of farms having automobiles and the gross farm income. Several items seen in this late July picture are typical of good Iowa farms: The field of third-cutting alfalfa in the foreground; the square two-story house with a large attic lighted by dormer windows - with a full sized basement probability - many of which were built in the Corn Belt during the last of the 19th and the first of the 20th centuries (about 15 percent of the farm houses photographed in Iowa were of this type); the double corn-crib for ear corn and small grain storage in the center of the picture; the large cattle barn; and the brick silo with its ornamented top, many of which were built early in the 20th century.

SLIDE No.46 - Minnesota, No.1

We chose this better-than-average Minnesota farmstead in the Red River Valley to represent Minnesota. We wanted one in the Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota because we recognized in its deep, black lake-bed soil a marvelous potential for longtime production of food and fiber.

SLIDE No.47 - North Dakota, No.3

This neat farmstead in the middle of North Dakota with its treeless, shrubless setting, its windmill by the barn for pumping water and its airplane propeller type of windmill for operating a home electric light plant back of the house was a common sight when we traveled through the northernmost of the Great Plains States in 1952.

SLIDE No.48 - North Dakota, No.12

However, when we drove across the state in 1958, attractive farmsteads such as this in the northwest corner of North Dakota were being developed. Irrigation of the garden and house yard had done wonders for the home value of farms in this semi-arid dry-farming area.

SLIDE No.49 - South Dakota, No.8

Notice the similarity of this bare farmstead photographed near Pierre in the center of South Dakota and the first one just shown in North Dakota.

SLIDE No.50 - South Dakota, No.25

Also notice its contrast with this very attractive nicely landscaped farmstead in the northwest part of South Dakota photographed in 1958. There is a "New look" coming over the Great Plains area. Farmers are learning how to cope with the problems of climate and soil found there. It is easy to prophesy that future years will see a fine rural civilization developed in this same Great Plains area.

SLIDE No.51 - Nebraska, No.5

Moving south into Nebraska we find ourselves on the great Sand Hills grazing area. For hundreds of miles in northern Nebraska and southern South Dakota one sees little other than grass, haystacks, windmills, and cattle.

SLIDE No.52 - Nebraska, No.19

However, Nebraska is not all sand hills and grass. This farmstead in the Platte River Valley is typical of many in the Platte and Republican River Valleys through the length of southern Nebraska. Irrigation during dry seasons is transforming farming in large areas of Nebraska.

SLIDE No.53 - Kansas, No.14

This farmstead in east central Kansas is in the well known Flint Hills cattle country. Many Flint Hills feeder cattle have been shipped to Corn Belt farmers for fattening for the market.

SLIDE No.54 - Kansas, No.15

Here we see hundreds of cattle nearby on a Flint Hills grazing area. The caretaker's home appears on the extreme left.

SLIDE No.55 - Oklahoma, No.1

This Oklahoma farmstead north of Enid indicates prosperous farming in this winter wheat area of northern Oklahoma and western Kansas. The green-tinted field in the foreground of a field of winter wheat which had been closely grazed during late fall. The picture was taken February 8, 1952.

SLIDE No.56 - Texas, No.67

As we selected a few photographs from among more than sixty taken across northern, eastern and southeast Texas we realized that Texas people have a right to be proud of theirs as an agricultural state. This first picture is of a twelve room house built by the owner and his sons about the year of 1950 on a 640-acre cotton, wheat, and feed grain farm at the southeast corner of the Texas Panhandle.

SLIDE No.57 - Texas No.53

This beautiful modern rural mansion stands a few miles southeast of Lubbock, Texas, which is in the middle of the marvelous cotton and grain growing section of the Great Plains of northwest Texas. Irrigation from deep wells and modern dry farming have turned this part of what we oldtimers knew from our geographies as the Great American Desert into one of the most profitable farming areas of the United States.

SLIDE No.58 - Texas, No.34

More barns are out of sight to the right of this picture of a neat farmstead just east of Dallas on U.S. 80 and in the north edge of a great cattle producing country.

SLIDE No.59 - Texas, No.10

This watering, feeding, and loading corral is in the range country to the southwest of San Antonio. It is in the general area in which President Johnson's Texas ranch is

located.

SLIDE No.60 - Texas, No.11

This typical farmstead is in the rice growing area of southeast Texas. The plowed field is leveled, terraced and ditched ready for seeding and flooding rice. This picture was taken April 9, 1951

SLIDE No.61 - New Mexico, No.4

We move west now into the wide open cattle ranges of New Mexico and Arizona. This large cattle ranch headquarters is in east central New Mexico where we often drove twenty to fifty miles between any signs of farmsteads.

SLIDE No.62 - Arizona, No.11

This cattle ranch farmstead is in west central Arizona a few miles south of Prescott. Notice the small but neat modern residence, the hay barn back of the insulated water tank, and the livestock corrals in the far right background at the foot of the hillside.

SLIDE No.63 - Arizona, No.1

Any picture of rural living conditions in the great southwest would be incomplete without one of these small community groups of Navajo Indian hogans, as their houses are called. This group is in the large Navajo Indian Reservation in northeast Arizona. We saw several groups of two to five hogans here and there in the open sage brush country.

SLIDE No.64 - Utah No.3

This is the edge-of-a-village farmstead of a Utah farmer. Many Utah farmers still live in villages and go out to their farms as did their pioneer forefathers. The Utah Agricultural College and Experiment Station is a few miles, as the crow flies, to the right of this picture; across the mountains.

SLIDE No.65 - Utah No.6

One has to look close to see the attractive white ranch house nearly a mile away at the edge of a snow covered mountain valley near the Wyoming line in northeast Utah. Many people enjoy life in such quiet, isolated areas.

SLIDE No.66 - Colorado No.7

Here in southwest Colorado we photographed this L-shaped residence similar to so many seen in the North Atlantic and North Central States. This snow scene with the Rocky Mountain background was photographed in February, 1952.

SLIDE No.67 - Colorado No.1

Strange as it may seem this fine modern home with its extensive farm buildings (several are out of the picture to the right) was photographed in 1949 in the eastern edge of Colorado and in the north edge of the Dust Bowl area of the 1930s. It is a major wheat growing area.

SLIDE No.68 - Wyoming No.15

This almost treeless farmstead is very similar to those seen in the Dakotas, is in northeast Wyoming not far east of the Big Horn Mountains and in the west side of the northern Great Plains area.

SLIDE No.69 - Montana No.25

This attractive farmstead is better than the average seen in this Mission Valley of western Montana. It is in an irrigated area.

SLIDE No.70 - Montana No.36

We take you now to the area known a generation ago as the "Great Bonanza Wheat Area" of northern Montana. This farmstead is about one hundred miles east of Glacier National Park. The buildings are evidently on a large dry-land wheat farm. In this area wheat is grown on alternate strips of wheat and summer-fallow; the stored up moisture of one year combined with the scant rainfall the second year being required for profitable grain production. Many farms contain thousand of acres. The average size of Montana farms was nearly 1,700 acres in 1950. This average included many small irrigated farms as well as the large dry-land and livestock-range farms.

SLIDE No.71 - Idaho No.6

This Twin Falls County, Idaho, farmstead is in the well known Snake River Valley potato area where the celebrated Idaho baking potatoes are produced. The large but low white building on the right is the roof over a potato cellar which holds thousands of bushels of potatoes.

SLIDE No.72 - Washington No.4

This well kept southeastern Washington farmstead is in the large Palouse wheat area of western Idaho, southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon. The deep rich soil continues to produce remarkably large yields of wheat after a century of farming.

SLIDE No.73 - Oregon No.5

We saw very few more attractive farmsteads on family sized farms anywhere in the United States than this one in the Willamette Valley of western Oregon. We were reminded again of the farmsteads in Aroostook County in Maine, Lancaster County in Pennsylvania, the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia and much of the central Corn Belt region.

SLIDE No.74 - California No.47

Here we drop down the Pacific Coast to an area of dairy farms in the cut-over Redwood Forest area of northwest California. This farm is in the general area where conservationists are trying to "save the redwoods" by enlarging the National Redwood Forest Park areas.

SLIDE No.75 - California No.31-A

This is a better than average appearing farmstead among those seen in the San Joaquin Valley of southern California. However, it is typical of the best appearing

farmsteads in that area. Notice the well kept farmhouse surrounded by fine plantings of shrubs and trees, the large livestock barn and the insulated ranch in Arizona. They are common in the hot irrigated and desert range areas of California and Arizona.

SLIDE No.76 - California No.2

We close this series down near sea level on the Imperial Valley on southeast California. Notice the neat farmstead with the orange trees on the left and the tall eucalyptus trees on the right. Isolated farmsteads such as this appeared rare in the Imperial Valley. Many of the farm operators live in nearby villages and cities

With this we close this attempt to show with pictures the living conditions of farm people in all sections of the United States at the middle of the twentieth century which marks the turning point in a great agricultural revolution which will change the living conditions of farm people throughout the country.