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SPRAY RIG

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This unusual photo of a spray rig was taken in 1918 on a farm owned by Lynn Moore Burrows, located on Allen Road in the Town of Albion. The barn in the background has since been destroyed but the farm house still remains and is the home of the Gary and Pat West and family.

Lynn Burrows is shown on the upper platform of the spray rig while an employee by the name of Dick stands on the lower deck. Frankly, I'm quite surprised to see the use of oxen for hauling this rig. By this century, oxen had been largely replaced with horses. Although, for pulling such a contraption as this, the oxen may have been preferred over horse power. I wouldn't have wanted to be in Mr. Burrows' position with a team of runaway horses. Oxen, by contrast, just plodded along.

The reason for such a high platform was because the fruit trees, especially apples and pears, were so high-growing back when this picture was taken. To squirt spray (pesticides) into the tops of fruit trees, long-handled equipment was necessary. A high platform like this, which was probably custom-built, aided in the process. The tank of spraying solution rests on four iron-spoked wheels. The spraying of fruit trees goes back to the late 19th Century. Early spraying solution included the use of blue vitriol, which dissolved in water. Prior to the use of sprays, worms and insects were hand-picked off fruit trees.

Lynn M. Burrows purchased this farm in 1910 and called it "Lynmore." It had 179 acres which included apple, peach and quince orchards. The farmstead also had several barns, a couple of tenant houses, a pig sty, scale house, tool shed, pump house and ice house. By 1913, Mr. Burrows had installed 2,000 feet of tile drainage. This feature bespeaks his civil engineering degree, which he received from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1907.

He grew up in Albion in the family home which is now the office of Cornell Cooperative Extension.



He and his wife, Beatrice Sigmor Burrows, later lived there until his death in 1944.

As a civil engineer, he oversaw the construction of a sewer system in Medina in 1908 and later worked on sections of the Canal when it was later widened and deepened. He was also involved in the drainage of the muck lands in the southern part of the county. He took an active interest in many civic affairs and was an avid yachtsman.

Mr. Burrows was a renaissance kind of man who had many diversified interests and projects during his lifetime.

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