

The One Row Digger with a Motor

We had a one-row harvester, which was about all a team of horses could pull. Uh, but the one he had had a motor on it. And as you started the row and lifted your handles to let the digger bed go down, uh sitting on the seat you would reach up and hit the handle that engaged the clutch. And your motor would start the digger bed moving which consisted of lags. Now if you didn't know what those were you wouldn't know what a digger bed of lags looked like. But a lag is a rod $\frac{7}{16}$ in diameter with a hook on each end that would hook on to the next lag in this sequence of lags. And the sprockets that drive 'em stick up between the lags and the sprocket turns the lags move. The lags were not straight across. Every other lag was bent. One was bent up, the next one was bent down. So between the ups and downs you had probably an inch, inch and a half space where the dirt would fall through. And these potato diggers back then the lags raised up an incline probably thirty degrees and then went back down, Uh, to a foot off the ground where the potatoes fell on to the ground. But that raise would make the dirt tumble and fall through and leave the potatoes on the lags so after the digger goes by all you'd see on the row was the potatoes and the tops. And, uh, that worked pretty good now. The digger lags were not one hundred percent perfect because we had rocks up there. And they would get caught and it would bend the lag or it would make 'em come apart. Of course when the little kids were picking they get tired once in a while and they thought that was great. The digger was broke so they could fool around before the digger comes by their section and gives them more work to do. But, uh, that's just part of the fall operation.