

Interview with William Walker McLean (3/31/1916 - 4/25/2007)

November 2, 2005

Conducted at the Kinsley Library

Interviewed by Joan Weaver for the Kansas Folklore Society

*(This previously conducted interview has been included in the **Patchwork of Democracy** project as an example of a man with a farm deferment who invented a silo unloader because of the shortage of help during the war.)*

Interviewer: Bill McLean is going to begin by telling us a little about himself.

Bill: I was the second son of Grover Cleveland McLean and Cora Walker McLean. My two brothers were Grover St. John McLean and Robert Edwin McLean.

We grew up on a farm 1 ½ miles south of Lewis. We attended Lewis High School and all became farmers.

My grandparents, on my father's side emigrated from Ireland and settled near Hoisington, Kansas. My grandfather was a tailor. He and my grandmother were married in the Little Church Around the Corner in New York City. They were Samuel McLean and Mary Watson McLean.

They moved from Hoisington to the farm south of Lewis. They turned the farm over to my dad and moved to Kinsley. He purchased land in Western Kansas and was in debt during the Dust Bowl days. I remember harvesting wheat when it was 25 cents a bushel, scooping it on the ground to wait for a better price and scooping it up again for the same price.

I graduated from high school in 1934 and things were rough on the farm. My dad said that if we boys would stay with him, he would leave the farm to them, Robert and Bill.

My dad sold the land near Johnson and bought in its place the farm where I live 8-25-18. We moved there in 1941.

I met Evelyn Brown in 1938. She grew up on a farm south of Centerview and was teaching in the grade school in Lewis. I was farming for my dad out west at what was called "suit-case farming". We dated for 4 years before we could get married. She was getting \$90 a month and my dad was paying me \$25 a month for hard labor on the farm.

In those days, if one member of a family had a job, jobs were saved for families who had no job. Thus, when we were married, my wife was let go from teaching job. Bob & Bill rented one sandy quarter together and used the crop to get married.

I had 3 children. They all attended Lewis High School. Brenda, the oldest, graduated in Physical Therapy and later got a specialist degree in Rehabilitation Counseling.

Christina, the second child, graduated from Ft. Hays College. She is a school teacher in Chickasha, Oklahoma. She married a local boy, Terril D. McBride.

Our youngest son, Valis Scott, was quite an athlete. He was quarterback for the high school team and was on the winning state basketball team from Lewis in 1971. His first love though was baseball. He graduated from Ft. Hays University, earned a Masters Degree from Kansas State University and a Doctorate later from Kansas State. He is baseball coach and head counselor in Allen

County Community College, Iola, Kansas. He has been there ever since he graduated with a Masters Degree at Kansas State.

One of the highlight of my life was that I invented a silo unloader for upright silos. I received a patent in that and sold it to New Holland Machine Company. They flew us to New Holland, Pennsylvania to sign the contract. They gave us a car to drive to New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. and then flew us home. While in New York, we saw the first rendition of "My Fair Lady" and the Rockettes.

My mother's people came from Dighton,, Kansas. They homesteaded a quarter of land next to the town. Cora graduated from High School and came to Lewis to work in the Home State Bank of Lewis. My dad was a bachelor living on the farm and married Cora Walker. The house that is on the farm now was moved from another quarter.

I have seven grandsons and one granddaughter and I am proud of them all.

Interviewer: Ok I have to know some more about this silo unloader.

Bill: See I fed a lot of cattle. Those upright silos, you'd have to climb up the silo and scoop it out and scoop it on a truck. I invented this silo unloader that would go on top of that silo and you were down below. You'd throw an electric switch, and it would come down to you like that.

Interviewer: What year did you invent that?

Bill: The girls were in high school. They picked the whole family up by airplane in Dodge City. It was a big twin engine airplane, and flew us back there. It was quite a deal for the girls. They got to see New York City, and all that. We went through the Capitol Building, you know what I mean.

Interviewer: Let's see, you were not an engineer or anything.

Bill: No.

Interviewer: You just invented this out of necessity.

Bill: Necessity is the mother of invention. You've heard that. And it worked good. I had all kinds of interest calls at 2 o'clock in the morning. When did you perfect this? And of course they was wanting to get around the patent, you see. I sold it to New Holland Machine Company. I have no idea if they are making them now or not. Things have changed in that field. They use to be the upright silo were a change from putting it in a trench silo. A trench silo would get water in it and they were a mess. OK, nowadays, they are stacking it on the ground. They can take a tractor and load it that way. So it has kind of done away with my machine. But I haven't heard whether they have been selling any of them or not.

Interviewer: That is really interesting. If you had any of the papers we could copy them and put in our files.

Bill: I do have. I have the patents and the rights and all of that. But we made the deal. I'll tell you a funny thing about it. These two guys come out. They were supposed to meet me at my place to make this deal, kind of the semi deal. They got there at 2 o'clock in the morning. It was raining in the east and they were slowed up by the rain. They got there at 2 o'clock, and we came to the agreement, what it was suppose to be. But then, of course later on, they picked us up at Dodge City and flew us back there.

Interviewer: That was probably a nice little chunk of change for you.

Bill: It was pretty good. Well, the first deal was \$100,000. But they went back to the company and a little young guy got it down to about \$50,000. But that is a pretty good chunk.

Interviewer: That's pretty good for something you were going to invent for yourself anyway.

Bill: That's true. And it was at the time the girls were getting ready to go to college. That put them through college.

Interviewer: You said your grandparents on your father's side were from Ireland. What brought them here?

Bill: I have no idea, but they run a tailor shop. I did mention that. They run a tailor shop in New York City, and they were married in the Little Church Around the Corner.

Interviewer: They came out here and he remained a tailor?

Bill: I have no idea why they came to Hoisington.

Interviewer: Did he remain a tailor in Hoisington.

Bill: No.

Interviewer: Did he become a farmer?

Bill: In fact, he left the family. There was about, I don't know how many, about 8 or 10 in the family, and he left them. No good son of a gun.

Interviewer: Yes, take them to a new place and then leave.

Bill: Yes, that's what he did. And you know, I saw the place. My dad took me up there to the farm in Hoisington where they lived. It was a bank house. It was scooped out into the side of a hill. That was their home, and how they live in it, I'll never know.

Interviewer: It was kind of like soddy?

Bill: It was sort of like a silo if you scooped into the side of a hill.

Interviewer: it had a wooden roof. How old was your father when his father left.

Bill: You know, I don't know. I don't know where he was born. He was evidently born in New York City before they moved out there.

Interviewer: How did the family survive without their bread winner?

Bill: I have not idea about that either. Probably didn't do very good.

Interviewer: Were they poor.

Bill: I have never heard. But I will tell you this. There was a cousin to my dad who came to New York City probably 'cause he couldn't get a job. He joined the army there. The army put him out around Hays, Kansas fighting Indians. He was in an Indian skirmish up around Hays one time and Custer's horse got killed. And he (*Custer*) took his horse. He played dead. He'd hide in the daytime. He knew he had these people at Hoisington, and he was going down there to get out of his army uniform. One night he run in the wrong direction and he woke in sight of Fort Hays the next morning. He had run the wrong way. But you know he homesteaded a quarter of land there in his own name. It is a wonder they didn't find him. The records have him there.

Interviewer: Let me get this straight. He was with Custer?

Bill: He was with Custer, and Custer's horse got shot. So Custer commandeered his horse.

Interviewer: And he thought this was a good time to walk?

Bill: That's right. Well, I haven't got that down. It was really a peculiar thing. He (*the cousin*) went finally to Canada. He had no children. Or I guess he had one child; I forget. But later on, when this second child died, he left my dad an estate of about two or three thousand dollars. And they didn't touch much of it. Canada didn't take it up. It looks like the lawyers would get it all, but they didn't.

Interviewer: So what was it like for you to grow up as a farm boy? You told us a little bit, that you only got \$25 dollars.

Bill: It was tough. It was tough. In 1934, I graduated. They were starting to get their farm programs in a little bit. So things eased up a little bit, but before that a peculiar thing about it, before 1929 when the stock market broke. They had money just pretty easily. I raised a crop of watermelons, and I came over here to Kinsley with a truck load and everybody was willing to buy one. I went home with my pockets full of money. The next think you know, you couldn't make a dime on anything. It changed that quickly. Sort of like right now

Interviewer: Did you have both livestock and crops?

Bill: At the time, we were growing wheat, and wheat only. And the drought come in, you know what I mean, the crop would be ready to come in, and you'd need the rain to finish it, and it would burn up. You'd go out and use the water hose in the low places to get your seed wheat for the next year. It was bad; it was tough.

Then my dad went into cattle business. We bought cattle. They wouldn't make as much but we'd pass to the cattle. We'd make a little bit, about \$10 a head on them. I think it saved us through the Depression and a little later on. But he finally come on and give us the land like he said.

Interviewer: So you were earning the land all of those years.

Bill: You betcha, you betcha.

Interviewer: That would have been different with your wife making \$90 and you making \$25, and she had to give up the job.

Bill: I don't know if I ought to record this or not, but my dad was on the school board. They didn't want two people to have a job. So there was one lady that was later on the school board. Her husband was a grocery man there. So if you had two jobs So Evelyn and I couldn't get married because she had a job. That's why they dropped her off.

Interviewer: Yes, I think that was typical.

Bill: Yes, in those days, only one guy could have a job.

Interviewer: When you were a kid, what did you do for fun? When you weren't doing all those chores?

Bill: I'd make little tractors, and stuff like that. Work with my hands in the shop, you see what I mean.

Interviewer: Did you use metal or wood?

Bill: Metal or anything I could. I made little tractors. I always tinkered with my hands. Probably why I

invented the silo. I had a hired hand by the name of Henry West and he had all kinds of tools. He'd loan me the tools to work with.

Interviewer: Do you still have any of those little tractors?

Bill: No, they're all gone. But I was always doing something, or flying kites, stuff like that.

Interviewer: You had to make your own kites too?

Bill: Yes. I use to put a can on the tail of the kite and put a parachute in there. Then I'd take that kite off and go way up there, get it as high as I could. Then I jerked it, and the parachute would come floating down.

Interviewer: I've never seen that. How about the holidays? We just got done with Halloween and we've got Thanksgiving and Christmas coming up. Did you celebrate much?

Bill: We didn't do much for Halloween. I did make a gun once. It was a piece of an implement that I thought was shaped like a gun. It had a hollow barrel and I cut a notch in it to put a firecracker wick out of it. And I could hit the west barn which was about 300 yards up there with it. It was a wonder I didn't get hurt.

Interviewer: I was going to say. It's a wonder you didn't blow up your face. Did you hunt back then? As a kid?

Bill: No, my dad kept us pretty busy. We had cows to milk and things like that.

Interviewer: And there wasn't much hunting when you were a kid.

Bill: He never hunted, and he never even had a shot gun. No. But I enjoy hunting. I use to hunt, but I've kind a quit. I let the boys do it. In fact, I'm going to have a crowd. My grandkids are all going to be there. It will be the week after this. We're getting ready for the house, beds. I'll let them sleep in my garage and stuff like that. They love it; they've been doing that for about 3 or 4 years. And we all meet at Mesa (*Arizona*) at Christmas time. The whole family comes there. I have a house with a bedroom in it. Then I have a lean to. Then I rent rooms out there. For our 50th wedding anniversary they came out to celebrate it, and they've been coming every year since. They love it out there.

Interviewer: How many years have you been married?

Bill: About 64. We were married in '41, see, have to figure that out.

Interviewer: How about Thanksgiving? How did you celebrate that as a kid?

Bill: We always use to have a turkey. My mother was a very good cook. I had a very good mother.

Interviewer: Well, tell me about her.

Bill: Not much to tell. Any church service we went to, she had more than enough food to go to the church suppers. She wasn't tight at all and a good cook.

Interviewer: What did you do for Christmas?

Bill: I can remember our Christmas just wasn't too rosy then. We didn't have the money. My folks didn't. I remember one time we went church and they went to handing out gifts. And my dad didn't want to tell publically what he was giving me. I got a little pocket comb. I know he was ashamed of it see.

Interviewer: You took your gifts to the church to give to your families?

Bill: Yeh, they had a gift exchange at the church, you see. They'd call (*your name*). I remember a kid by the name of Leroy Brown. Oh man, everybody as calling him up to get his presents. But they didn't call me.

Interviewer: Did you have a Christmas tree?

Bill: He did that one time. He put a Christmas tree at home. He gave that up after that.

Interviewer: Just a cedar tree from the field? Well when you and your wife were first married, what did you do for entertainment?

Bill: She taught school for a while after we were married. They come on and let her do that. She first taught at Centerview School; no I believe it was Fellsburg. Then they asked her to come back to Belpre. And then later, she went to Macksville Schools. And what did we do. We played golf; we took up the game of golf.

Interviewer: Where did you play?

Bill: Over here in Kinsley on the Kinsley course. She can't play now; she has something wrong with her feet. She can't do it.

Interviewer: Were there a lot of young couples that played?

Bill: Yep, quite a few young couples our age. We enjoyed it. It's good entertainment.

Interviewer: How was the course back then? Was it pretty rough?

Bill: We started and it had sand greens. We started out there one summer. And they said, let's just quit this and go fix this place up. We didn't have any engineer or anything, but they did a very good job of making greens, you know. We made greens and the fairways were beautiful. Have you been out there?

Interviewer: I don't play golf, but I've been out there.

Bill: But it's beautiful. And we have a man there that just loves to work on it.

Interviewer: Was that all volunteer work then?

Bill: A lot of it. When they dug the trenches and put the water lines in, I went out there. I was familiar with the grader, and I got a tractor. Yes, volunteer work.

Interviewer: What year was that?

Bill: That was about the 40's, just after we were married, probably '45. In that neighborhood

Interviewer: After the war?

Bill: That's right.

Interviewer: Did you have a farm deferment?

Bill: During the war, yes, I did. Oh I worked myself to death scooping that silage. The peculiar thing about it, you could get a hired hand to help you. I don't know why they weren't in the army. But they weren't worth a damn. But I helped scoop the silage on a truck. Then we'd go scoop it off and feed the cattle like that.

Interviewer: How many head did you have?

Bill: We had about three or four hundred head. We were pretty busy. And I milked a bunch of cows. I'd milk 8 or 10 cows and then go over on the farm where I was raised.

Interviewer: The milk was sold to a dairy?

Bill: Yes. They'd come and pick it up in the big 10 gallon cans. They would come around. Of course, I didn't milk them by hand. I had a milking machine. But still you had to be out there early in the morning. And I worked after everybody was off too.

Interviewer: Every day and twice a day. Milk cows are a lot of work.

Bill: You betcha. I don't complain at all about the price of milk.

Interviewer: I'm trying to remember; you were born in 1916. What kinds of cars do you remember?

Bill: Model T's. I can remember my dad bought a new Model T. No curtain or anything. I can remember sitting in the back, and I wanted to pretend that I was warm 'cause it was a nice, new car. But it was colder than hell.

Interviewer: But he was able to buy a new car.

Bill: Oh yea,

Interviewer: What was your first car?

Bill: A used V-8, I forget the model. But I can remember one time they were liberal on who could drive, the license age and all of that. I drove that Model T of my dad's up town for some reason or another. I don't know what it was. I went to turn, and the clutch thing . . . I got my foot... you know, they got three levers on it, and I jumped 4 wheels over the curb. Some guy was sitting on a bench; there was a bench there where they sold cream or something like that. I could see him grab some kid and get him out of the rode safe. He was nice enough to back it up and I just turned around and went back home.

Interviewer: How old were you do you think?

Bill: I suppose 13. I don't remember exactly, but I was too young to be driving.

Interviewer: Sounds like it. What do you remember about going to school?

Bill: We had a consolidated school then. I didn't go to a country school. And the school bus came by and picked us up. We had a lot of experiences on school busses too, you know.

Interviewer: Like what?

Bill: Oh, we'd get some kid's hat and throw it around.

Interviewer: I don't think it has changed. Did you like school?

Bill: Oh, I was more interested in the things I had, the projects at home. Now I look back on it, I could

have been a lot better student if I had concentrated on school rather than what I wanted to do when I got back home.

Interviewer: You might have become an engineer with your inventing.

Bill: I've got one grandson right now that's going to Little Rock, Arkansas, in the Engineering School. He makes straight A's. And he's just about ready to graduate as an electrical engineer.

Interviewer: What was the best day of your life?

Bill: I should say when I married my wife.

Interviewer: But you don't have to.

Bill: Let's put that down.

Interviewer: Yes, you certainly have had a long, nice marriage.

Bill: Yes, she's really nice. She's just so much smarter than I am, it's pitiful.

Interviewer: What was the worst day of your life?

Bill: When I found out she had to have an operation. She's had all kinds of operations. She had what you call a tubal pregnancy. Damn near killed her. In those days we went around to Dodge City to the Doctor. He didn't do anything. Finally our regular Doctor, Doctor Shepherd, was on vacation or something, and he came home. I called and he was home. I took her and he diagnosed it just like that. It's a tubal pregnancy. Well, her mother died at 38. My wife and her sisters raised a little boy. That was what caused her tubal pregnancy. The little boy was in the tube there. She had a terrible life. They were poor and a bunch of them, you know. In fact the house was over a block, or up this way, a little house that is vacant now. She was raised in that little house. Seven of them, you know about how tight that was.

Interviewer: Is there one person in your life that stands out or influenced you or important to you.

Bill: I really can't think of any one person.

Interviewer: Which one of your friends or relatives when you were growing up was most influential? I guess that could be good or bad.

Bill: I can't think of anybody.

Interviewer: Your father, you said had lots of chores for you.

Bill: Definitely. I was running the tractor. I don't know how young I was but I was running the tractor.

Interviewer: But he gave you time to make your things?

Bill: Oh yeh, I had time.

Interviewer: Did he encourage you?

Bill: No, he thought it was foolish. But that was a real interesting thing when we got to fly back to New York City on that plane. My little boy, he was just preschool. There were clouds underneath that airplane and he wanted to know if he could get out and play on those clouds. He got so he thought he owned that damn airplane. He'd walk up those stairs. He tried to catch those doves. You've seen those doves in New York City. He would try to run and catch those, you see.

Interviewer: How long were you there? A week or two weeks?

Bill: Yeh, I suppose it was about 2 weeks. We got to go in the Halls of Congress.

Interviewer: Had you traveled much before then, outside of Kansas?

Bill: No. Not much, but that was interesting. *My Fair Lady*, we saw the stage show, *My Fair Lady*.

Interviewer: Was that with Rex Harris?

Bill: Yes, that was a good one. We sat by ladies who had big fur coats on and stuff. That did not cost me. The company I sold the patent to had arranged for the tickets. And that is an experience coming out from under that tunnel under the Hudson River. You go in there, and there would be a guy standing there saying "hurry up." You see you had a tendency to slow down. They don't want you slowing down. They give you a motion to hurry up. And when you come out the other end, po-ohhhhh. All the buildings! But I will say this, the traffic, when you were in a lane and wanted to change, they would let you yield. They'd live well enough with them so that they knew you had to. Then we drove up to a hotel and checked it in. Then they took the car. From there, we went bus sightseeing.

Interviewer: That had to be quite a trip for your kids. That was something that everybody around you weren't doing.

Bill: It really was. We went down to one place what do you call it, the bowery. It was a terrible. One man had mess his pants and he was washing it out with the hose. It's a place like that. One place,

there was a church there. And we went into the church in the bowery where you sat on a bench. The minister, of course, come up and talked to us a bit. It was pretty interesting. He said, "I've had guys come in here so drunk they couldn't hardly sit on that bench to be preached to."

Interviewer: Did you go out to the Statue of Liberty?

Bill: Yes, we went up to that. I thought that Stature of Liberty, in my vision, was east of New York City. It's south. We rode out there on a boat and I walked up those stairs, you know what I mean. And my legs give out on me. I thought they was going to have to carry me to the boat.

Interviewer: You don't do stairs in Kansas, do you?

Bill: No. Not that many, but I did. But I tell you, I thought my legs were going to quit me. We went clear up.

Interviewer: And the Rockettes are still going. I think they were on the TV this morning.

Bill: That was interesting. Yeh, the Rockettes, they had a stage. They can make it move. It was interesting to see them Rockettes. They were good. But that show, *My Fair Lady* though, was a good one.

Interviewer: I like musicals. I like a good musical.

Bill: I do too.

Interviewer: I don't know if you want to answer this one. It is a hard one. What is one thing from your life you'd rather no one knew? And then you're going to tell me.

Bill: No I don't have anything like that.

Interviewer: What is the one thing from your life that you think everyone should know?

Bill: I guess, I suppose, my religion. I was born again. I suppose that would be it.

Interviewer: Was it your mother and father that raised you in the faith?

Bill: Yes. He was raised an Episcopalian. In fact, you know this little church you got here (*Holy Nativity Episcopal Church*, that was his church. My grandmother was quite active in that church. Braddell was her name. One thing I remember about that. They were going to dedicate a window. They had an out-of-town priest up here to narrate it. When it come to calling her name, he'd forgotten her name.

“We want to dedicate this window to” and he couldn’t remember her name. I’ll never for that. That was a pause that was embarrassing. But his side of the family are all Episcopalians.

Interviewer: And then, your mother’s side?

Bill: I think Methodist. I think they decided to compromise and go to the Christian Church. But she was raised Methodist. He was raised Episcopalian and with an agreement they had, they decided to go to the Christian Church.

Interviewer: Your faith has played an important part in your life?

Bill: Yes, I think so.

Interviewer: Is there anything else you want to add?

Bill: I will tell you this. That guy that went to Canada, had no children, his wife died. He left us an estate of about six to seven thousand dollars. I was talking to an Uncle of mine in Oklahoma. He was in the hospital and wondering how he was going to pay his hospital bill. And he got his share of that estate, and he said, “I’ll be damned. Somebody I didn’t even know give me this money to pay the damn hospital bill.

Interviewer: What was that cousin’s name who went to Canada?

Bill: I don’t know what his name was.

Interviewer: It would be your grandfather’s cousin?

Bill: I presume it would be. I don’t know if he was a McLean or not. I don’t know. It would be on the... My dad made a trip up to Hoisington to go thought the books to see if it was true that he had homesteaded that quarter land. And his name was on the book recorded to that land. But I don’t know what his name was; he didn’t tell me. He left that estate there. My dad got about two or three thousand dollars. A nice time. But his uncle, he swore. “I’ll be god damned. Somebody I didn’t even know left me money that paid my hospital bill.”

Interviewer: It’s funny how things happen.

Bill: That’s right.

Interviewer: I appreciate you coming in.

Bill: I hope I have helped you.

Taken from the **KANSAS FARMER**, March 2, 1957

Kansas-Invented Silo Unloader Develops Into Progressive Business of Silage Equipment, Inc., Wichita

By Carl Eiche, Associate Editor, **KANSAS FARMER**

Silo Unloader . . . was conceived and built by William McLean, Lewis, during farm labor shortages of World War II. . . .

"The old expression, "Necessity is the mother of invention," never was more thoroughly proved than in the case of a silo unloader built by William W. McLean, Lewis. A farmer by choice and an inventor by accident, Mr. McLean has become part owner of a well-known and progressive manufacturing company.

Hundreds of farmers have seen the unloaders exhibited at fairs. It is the behind-the-scene activity, history and development of the machine that makes the McLean silo unloader story so interesting.

"The first idea concerning a silo unloader came to me in about 1941 when we were feeding 500 calves by the old fork method. At that time, there was a machine on the market that advertised it could throw out ensilage at rate of 72 pounds per minute.

"Feeding 500 calves that would take most of the day, so I began to think about various ways of accomplishing the job more easily. Finally deciding that I had the most practical way in mind, I began to pick up parts to start to assemble the first machine. Although things did not always go smoothly, I could see it was going to be the machine for the job.

"It is quite difficult to get into a silo with welding equipment. When changes were made, it was over the side of the silo and back to the work shop.

His first Model

"My first model weighted about twice as much as our models today. Some parts were used, some new. I had use of an electric welder and acetylene torch in the farm work shop.

"This first machine had a capacity of about 300 pounds per minute. I used a 5-horsepower electric motor; silo was a 22-foot structure. This model worked to my satisfaction and has been changed very little, basically, to date.

"I decided the machine was patentable and went to a patent attorney. I steadily made improvements until I thought the machine was ready to be manufactured and marketed.

"First showing for the machine was at the State Fair at Hutchinson September, 1952. It attracted interest of the Dodson Silo manufacturing Company, Wichita. A corporation eventually was formed, with them at the head. Much credit must be given them as they have endeavored to get machines to handle all types of silage since taking over its manufacture in 1952. Glen Dodson has flown thousands of miles to make minor adjustments.

"At present our machines are scattered over the United States from Washington state to New York and from Texas to Wisconsin.

“Our present machine has unloaded about 3,500 tons of ensilage with very minor repairs. The unloader does work with one man easily. Install a machine, throw a switch, and you never fork silage again. A patent was granted in May, 1954.” (*US Patent 2,671,696*)

Different makers of silos need different size augers but otherwise the same machine can be adjusted to fit any silo. It rests on top of silage and requires no suspension. While in operation, it is pushed against inside of silo walls at the same time drive wheels give it forward propulsion without damaging silo walls.

As the unit moves around, silage is plowed up by auger and conveyed to center of silo where it is kicked into fan which blows it into chute. Since length of unit is slightly more than half the diameter of silo, all silage is picked up, leaving no mound in middle. It eats itself down and around, keeping silage perfectly level until it reaches bottom of silo.

User of machine claim palatability of silage is increased as it eliminates lumpy, moldy silage and makes a fine aerified-silage that cattle really like. If silage is frozen, machine shreds it and there are no frozen chunks to nose around to later spoil. It leaves a fine feed for cattle.