

Glossary

bedded: to have put fresh straw under and around an animal to keep it clean and comfortable

chute: the enclosed metal or wooden tube fastened to the side of a silo. The chute covers the silo doors and ladder used by farmers to climb the side of the silo to reach the top of the heap of silage. They open a door to the inside of the silo and pitch the silage out into the chute, where it falls onto a pile in the silo room below.

draw: a shallow waterway or gully in a field

euchre: a card game. In the story the adults play several games of six-handed euchre, where there are three partners on a side.

hayloft: the area where hay is stored, located on the floor above where the cattle are kept

home-canned tomatoes: during the summer months when tomatoes from the garden are plentiful, people preserve them in jars so they can enjoy them during winter months when tomatoes are not available

icing the hill: the practice of sprinkling water on a hillside in order to create a layer of ice, which makes the sleds slide faster down the hill

kolacky: a bun made by people of Czech heritage. The bun is made with rich dough and filled with poppy seed, prune, or other types of filling.

lard: the processed fat from an animal, usually a hog. Lard is used for cooking. If lard is kept at cold temperatures, its texture is very hard. It would feel lifeless.

peak: the area in the hayloft where the rafters meet. It is the highest point inside the hayloft and also the highest point on the roof outside.

silage: feed for cattle made by chopping the entire corn plant, including the stalk, leaves, and ears, and storing it under its own pressure in a silo until it ferments into a fodder ready to be fed to cattle

silo: the tall, round structure used to create and store silage. In 1950, the year in which this story takes place, silos ranged from 30 feet to 60 feet high and 12 feet to 16 feet in diameter. Older silos were made of wood, tile, or poured cement. Newer silos were made of cement staves held in place by steel hoops.

silo room: a small area at the bottom of the silo chute where the silage could be thrown down and stored until it was fed to the cattle the next day. Typically, silage was thrown down a day in advance so that frozen chunks would thaw before being fed to the cattle.

the old drill: a series of actions repeated so many times that it is very familiar to the participants

