"I'm trying to determine what year my tractor is. I have an 8N. There is no serial number on the engine. Would anyone have a guess as to why?"

You might have a replacement block with no serial number, or maybe it's just been painted over too many times. If you are trying to determine the age of the tractor you can get somewhere in the neighborhood by decoding the date codes that are cast into various parts of the tractor. The easiest to decode is the one on the hydraulic reservoir cover (under the tractor) next to the drain plug. Take a rag, some degreaser and a flashlight with you when you crawl under there. It's usually stamped in standard date format (mm-dd-yy). That's supposedly the date the aluminum cover was made. Here's what it will look like:
Other date codes are usually on the axle trumpets on the forward facing surface, sometimes upside down. It is not uncommon to find a different date on each axle trumpet if one has been replaced over the years.
Here’s another example from an 8N engine:

Here’s the casting dates information that I recorded when I rebuilt my ’50 8N. The legend for the code is, as I understand it, like this:

Month = A (Jan), B (Feb), etc.
Day = one or two digit number.
Year = one digit number.

But some of the codes are the mm/dd/yy format. So, in my case, the number on the head, A190, is Jan. 19, 1950.

Here’s what I found:

Cylinder Head - A190 (between the #2 and #3 plug holes) – Jan. 19, 1950
Oil pan - A250 (bottom) – Jan. 25, 1950
Hydraulic pump - 2/7/50 (bottom) – Feb. 7, 1950
Transmission case - B30 (right side, forward, low) – Feb. 3, 1950
Right axle housing - 1-13-50
Rear end housing - B30 (left side under PTO shaft, upside down) – Feb. 3, 1950
Engine - B20, on starter bump out – Feb. 2, 1950
This is serial # 257591. The range is Jan 13 to Feb 7, a pretty tight grouping.
There is an excellent web site that is devoted to supporting and helping identify N-tractors. It has an extensive section that details the differences between models, even differences introduced during a single model year. John Smith is the site’s Webmaster, and the URL is: http://www.oldfordtractors.com/idhistory.htm.