

## BLACKSMITHING

### *Johnson & Myhre, Blacksmiths*

THE American scene lost something picturesque and so characteristic of an earlier day when the blacksmith shop passed from view. These shops made and repaired all sorts of metal equipment for the home, farm and industry, such as wagons, sleighs, buggies, and many other useful items. Horseshoeing was a specialty; shoes and nails were made by hand.

We are indebted to Olaf A. Myhre for the following sketch. Olaf relates that his father, Ole, coming to this region in Neenah's early days, walked from Neenah to Stevens Point and back to determine where he would locate. He never regretted, Olaf says, that he chose Neenah.

"It was in 1866 that Evan Johnson and Ole O. Myhre bought the property now occupied by the Wieckert Lumber Company office, setting up a partnership in the blacksmithing business. During the '80s Johnson sold his interest to Myhre, who continued until his death April 12, 1904, when his son, Olaf, took over, merging with the J. W. Hewitt Machine Company in 1914."

Following is Olaf's listing of the blacksmiths who have served Neenah across the years:

Pat McNary  
William Schumann  
August Raddatz  
Henry and George Julius  
John Sturm  
Lauritz Nielson  
Max Thermansen

Charles Bergstrom  
Johnson & Myhre  
Bill Butterfield  
Tom Hurley  
Hans Oleson  
Fred and Will Mason  
John Bergstrom

