

I think I remember... The Argos Blacksmith Shop.

The shop was located on the south side of West Walnut St close to the intersection of North Yearick Ave. The shop property was surrounded on three sides by the Marshall County fairgrounds. It was owned and operated by Nick (Nig?) Kring. Nick, and his wife Evadeen lived east and adjacent to the shop in a mobile home. Evadeen worked for the Argos Phone Company on East Walnut St and taught Sunday School at the Argos Christian Church. A special memory of Evadeen was class in Sunday School pertaining to bad habits (or good). They are hard to get rid of. Take the "H" off of habit and you still have "abit" of it. Take off the "a" and you still have "bit" of it. Take off the "b" and you still have "it". Stuck with me...She was a very kind lady.

Nick, I believe, worked by himself and had no known employees. If you had work for Nick to do, you became the "helper" if you wanted the work done in a timely manner. Nick was a large, jovial fellow who loved to talk, often much to the detriment of folks needing work done immediately. Memories, local issues, opinions, etc seemed to preface any expediting of jobs at hand. He always wore a large hat with the bill turned up to accommodate face shields for grinding and welding. Always wore heavy boots and a large apron. The shop was well worn, barely standing and had many damage openings to the outside. It had all kinds of projects laying around in various state of completion. On the outside of the shop lay many projects left for repair, some it seemed were there for months. Nick's chair, tongs for handling hot iron, a glowing forge with hot coals and a large anvil for pounding out various shapes made up the heart of the shop. I remember him sharpening many teeth for sickle bar mowers. I don't remember that he did horseshoeing as part of the business or not. He may have.

At some point the shop moved to a newly built facility at the north edge of Argos just east of the intersection of North Maple and East Marshall Streets, not far from Wagers Junk yard. I don't think Nick worked long after the move but I am not sure how long he continued in business.