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THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH

Born: 1887 Theodore Poppke Died: 1962

Herbert Poppke (his son, b1921)

15 April 1984

1889?-1907? Apprenticeship with Karl Albrech (Albrecht?)
from age 1½ to 20. In Lesowschtschisna?/Volhynia,
Russia.

1907?-1910? At a sawmill?. This is where he met Looey Seiford
(Seifert?)?. This might have been in Espovich/
Volhynia, Russia. See The Great Escape.

1910--1917? Goodrich, ND; the shop was located on the SE
corner of the intersection, the same location
as Albert Pfaff's Mobil Station. This would be
SE of the water tower.

Looey Seiford worked for Pa in 1911?.

Joe Mueller worked for Pa Oct 1913 to Jan 1914.(?)
They were partners from Jan 1914 to June 1914. (?)
They didn't get along to well!

1917?-1927? There was a "Fremont" Hotel in Goodrich, ND.
It was located on the west side of the street;
NE of the water tower.

Pa bought this Hotel and made a Blacksmith Shop out
of it.

Besides Blacksmithing, they sold gas, service^d cars,
sold farm machinery, and the like.

Jake Engel, Joe's brother, worked for Pa (or he may
have been a partner). Jake vanished one day; he
has never(?) been heard from.

I think that Adolph Luetke (born 1899?) (Lütke)
worked as an apprentice. I think that that is he
on the picture with Pa in the shop along with an
old car.

Pa became ill; he sold the shop to Joe Mueller in
1927?.

John Rothacker had the shop last?.

The "Hotel" was torn down recently, 19 .

1927?-1929? Pa sold insurance!

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b1887 Theodore Poppke

d1962

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1935--1935 Continued, Tuttle ND.
We backed a flat bed truck into the former garage, which was now the Poppke Blacksmith Shop; jacked up the Shop, put a couple of timbers across the truck bed and took off down the road from Denhoff to Tuttle.

Pa set up his shop on the former Looey Seiford location. Looey's place had burned down in 1931. This was on the west side of main street; just west of the City Hall, and 2 doors(?) north of the movie theatre.

1935--19? The former Shop of Jake Nathan was located in the SW part of town. On the north side of the road to Wing; just across the street and north of Jake Fetzer's house. George Irons owned the Shop. Pa bought this shop from Irons.

We moved from the Seiford location to the Nathan location, and the next day a big storm came along and demolished the old shop on the Seiford location.

Tuttle, ND, 50th Anniversary, 1911-1961, on page 32
gives the date of the storm as 3 July 1935.
I sort of remember the 5th of July(?).

The years in Tuttle were pretty good years. The Depression was coming to an end, and the farmers were again getting crops. We kids were now big enough to help out. I, John, David, and Walter all learn Blacksmithing and welding. We worked many long hard hours. The women folk also had their chores to do.

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