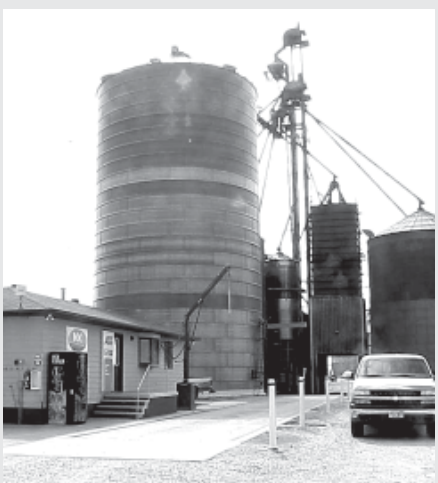


## Spotlight on...



TOP: St. John's Catholic Church was rebuilt after a fire in 1997. It was established in 1887.

MIDDLE TOP: The Smithfield Emporium includes a gift and floral shop as well as a coffee shop that sells Danish pastries and Italian sodas.

MIDDLE BOTTOM: Patrons enjoy the Emporium's charming atmosphere.

BOTTOM: The Agri-Co-op has been an important part of the Smithfield community for several years.

"No, it isn't in Kansas or in the Sandhills. No, it's not the one in Virginia either."

If you live near Smithfield, Nebraska you get several questions about the little town's location. Other people will tell you legends from Tuffy's Tavern heyday. However, this little Gosper County community holds a special place in many people's hearts -- even those who have never lived there.

The once prosperous Smithfield community has faced some hard times, but it continues to improve. Recently, more of the town's streets have been paved and a village water system has been installed.

Postmaster Marie Kuck says that the town is special because it is a quiet small town. She and husband, Al, chose a home in Smithfield due, in part, to the small population.

The businesses in town are diverse. The town boasts a small post office, two repair shops, a towing and impound business and the Agri-Coop elevator. The town even has a community building and playground area.

Perhaps the most unique store is the Smithfield Emporium, which includes Four Seasons Floral. Proprietor Illa Anders has rejuvenated the old grocery store building and turned it into a gathering spot. Antiques, collectibles and gifts are on display. They serve coffee, tea and Italian sodas in addition to Danish pastries. They also serve special dinners on Valentine's Day



or by appointment.

Smithfield holds community potluck dinners and even has its own exercise group. The Community Club does fund-raisers to support the Tuffy Hagan scholarship fund. A Red Hat Society, called the Smithfield Smoothies, has been founded. Area residents have recently formed a non-denominational community bible study group.

The village's only remaining church, St. John's Catholic, was rebuilt after lightning struck the old building and burned it to the ground in 1997. It was originally established in 1887.

The Smithfield School graduated its last senior class in 1949. It was kept open as an elementary school until 1968 when it was consolidated with Bertrand. Now the massive brick building has been turned into a home.

The Village is guided by a board of trustees. The members are Ann Hagan, Raymond Hagan, Kathy Jones, Sherri Rhone and Jack Cline.



Several young men from the Smithfield area enjoy a day off work at their farms in 1944. They are pictured in front of the grocery store. The riders and their horses are from left to right they are: Alfred Holscher on Dixie, Owen Hock on Queen, Harlen Hock on Topsy, Dale Fox on May, Francis Fox on Bell, Dean Brand and Vaughn Junkin on Tarzan.