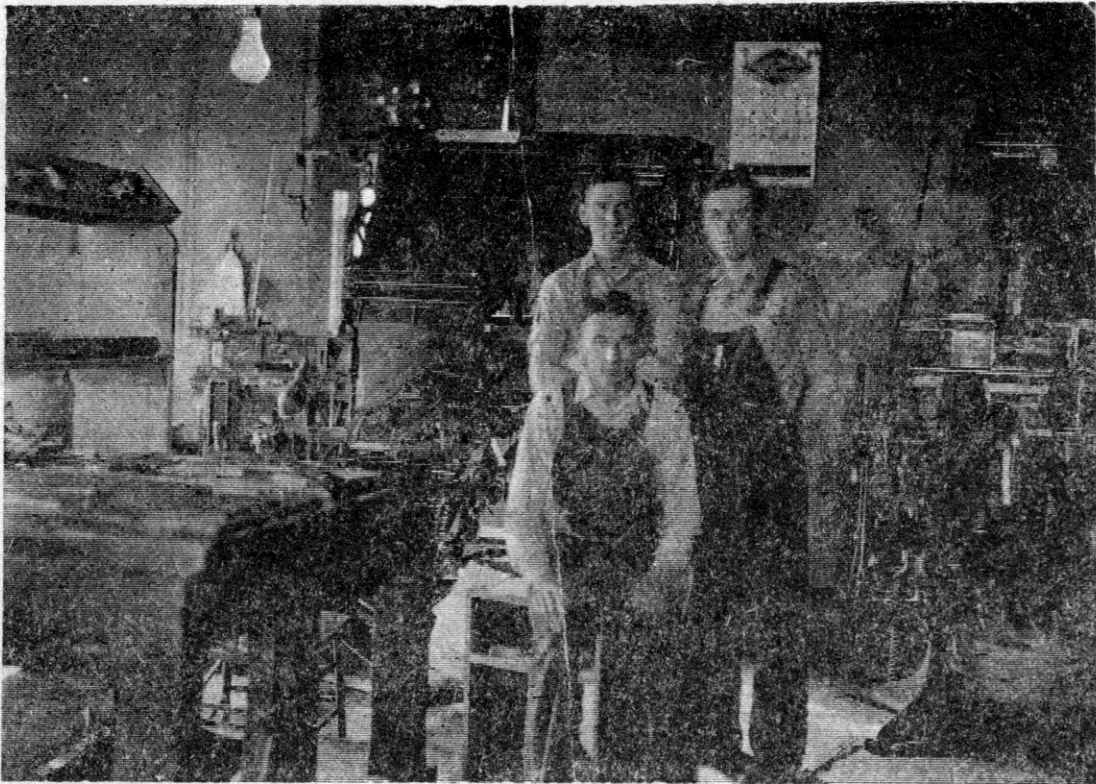
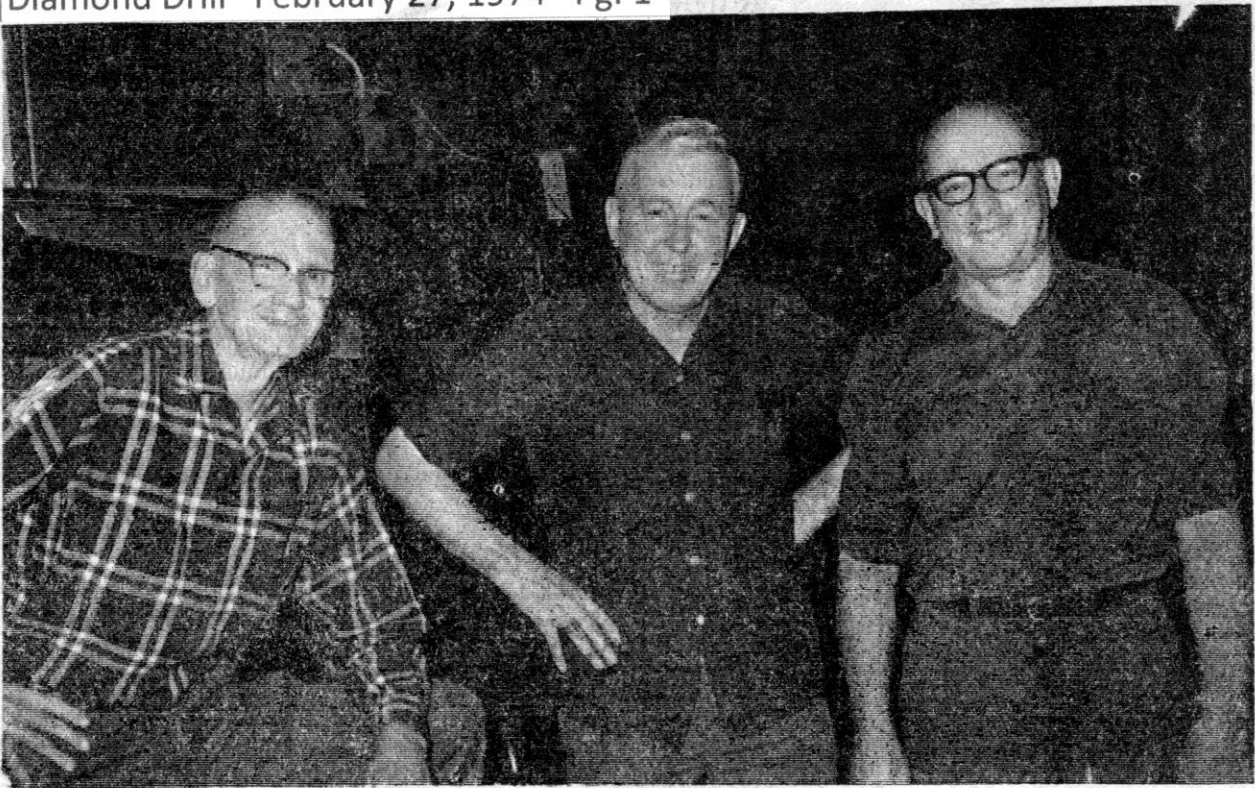


Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

March 6, 1974

The Diamond Drill's transition from letterpress to the offset printing process provides an opportunity to dwell on the careers in the trade of three local brothers who together have a combined 132 years of experience. The Dalpra brothers, Alex "Tuffy", Rudy Sr. "Nab" and Paul "Tet" all now retired after working careers predominately involved at the Diamond Drill Newspaper. The three started as teenagers under the late Thomas Conlin Sr., a gruff and domineering taskmaster, who for decades owned and published the local paper. The brothers were involved in the mechanical end of the business but accumulated enough knowledge to purchase the business in 1949 from Thomas Conlin Jr. The business was a partnership until dissolved in 1953 when Rudy Sr. purchased his brothers interests. Long double shifts of work at straight time of 15 cents per hour in the early years made for a hectic work week. Alex with 50 years of experience began full time at the newspaper at the age of 13. Rudy Sr. with 40 years of experience started part time in 1925 and full time in 1929. Paul with 42 years of experience started in 1926 being the only brother to complete High School.



THREE BROTHERS, whose combined total of employment in the printing trade spans over 130 years, spent most of that period as employees of The Diamond Drill under Thomas Conlin and later his son, and still later as owners of the newspaper and job shop. Pictured left to right are Alex, Paul, and Rudy Dalpra, following

their retirements. Rudy spent all of his years in the trade here at The Diamond Drill. Paul and Alex worked at newspapers and job shops elsewhere in addition to many years with their hometown newspaper. In the second photo the same trio are shown in the Drill "back shop" in their early years with the paper.