

# Farmer's 'tractors' show mulish determination

By Gordon Johnson

A Malcolm farmer's tractors have hooves instead of tires, but that's normal equipment for mules.

Fred Bluma, 68, has farmed with mules for 44 years and claims to do it for sentimental as well as practical reasons. Bluma, who bought his first tractor in 1952, said about

half of the work done on his 150 acre farm is done with mules.

Working with mules allows him to keep his tractor free to do other chores less suited for mules such as combining, he said.

He also uses mules because of habit. He has used them his entire life, he said.

### All chores

The mules are able to do almost all of the chores a tractor does, such as plant corn, cultivate, mow hay, and haul feed and manure.

Bluma said he does not know whether or not the mules are cheaper to operate than tractors.

A tractor costs about \$20 a day to operate he said. A mule is cheaper because he can grow the mule's fuel. The only problem with mules, he said, is that they eat if they work or not.

The advantage mules have over tractors, however, is that the repair bills for mules are cheaper than they are for tractors.

### Expensive machines

A recent overhaul on a four cylinder tractor cost him \$1,100, he said.

According to Bluma many of the financial problems of the farmers are attributable to the fact that they spend so much money on new farm equipment.

"I can't see how these guys can meet expenses when they buy all this high priced stuff," he said.

Some farm equipment will cost as much as \$40,000, he said. A good team of mules will cost about \$1500. The last mules he bought 10 years ago were of \$500 for two.

### Began using horses

He said he has not always used mules. He started using horses and eventually changed to mules. Mules are smarter and harder workers, he said.

"Mules have forgotten more than a horse ever learned," he said.

Mules are also harder workers than horses. They may seem slower and more plodding, but when the conditions get adverse, a mule will out perform a horse, he said.



"WHAT FUEL SHORTAGE?", says Fred Bluma a farmer from Malcolm Ne.

Photo by Dwight Morehead

# Men's p.e. building closed to conserve energy

By Gordon Johnson

Dimes add up to dollars and so do small cuts in energy consumption, a UNL official said.

Robert Lovitt, acting vice chancellor for business and finance, said the university is presently looking at ways to make small cuts in energy consumption.

The men's physical education building has been closed as a result of this energy consumption cutback Lovitt said.

"It's going to be a big electrical savings," Lovitt said.

Harley Schrader, director of the UNL Physical Plant, said that \$7,000-\$8,000 will be saved.

The building close will displace about six office people, Lovitt said.

Other small things the university is doing to save energy include shutting blowers off in buildings for a part of every hour and turning off lights in vending machines, he said.

The administration building's air conditioning blowers are shut off 20 minutes out of every hour, he said.

### Vending machines

The energy savings made by shutting off vending machine lights is small, but the university needs to save all it can he said.

Lights are also being shut off in the coliseum except for scheduled recreation periods and classes.

Ovitt said that no more buildings have been considered for close down, although to consolidate classrooms into fewer buildings has been under consideration.

Under classroom consolidation plans, buildings which have a low number of classes will be closed and the classes moved to another building, he said.

Schrader said that the people of this country have been living at a high standard which consumes a lot of energy, that those standards may have to be lowered some in order to save energy and money.

### No Ice water

Some methods considered to save money are shutting off cooling units in water fountains. There is no reason one must drink ice water, he said.

A savings can also be made, he explained, if hot water usage is cut.

However, even in these times of energy shortages, people don't seem to appreciate university efforts to

conserve, Lovitt said.

### Vandals too

Since the closing of the Men's P.E. building last Saturday, the building has been vandalized.

Light switches in the coliseum have also been vandalized by attempts to turn them on, he said.

As much as we try to save on energy, some people just don't appreciate it," he said.

Schrader said that in the past five years the university has cut energy consumption by 35 percent, although the university's total building area of the university has increased.

## Meditation Lecture Scheduled

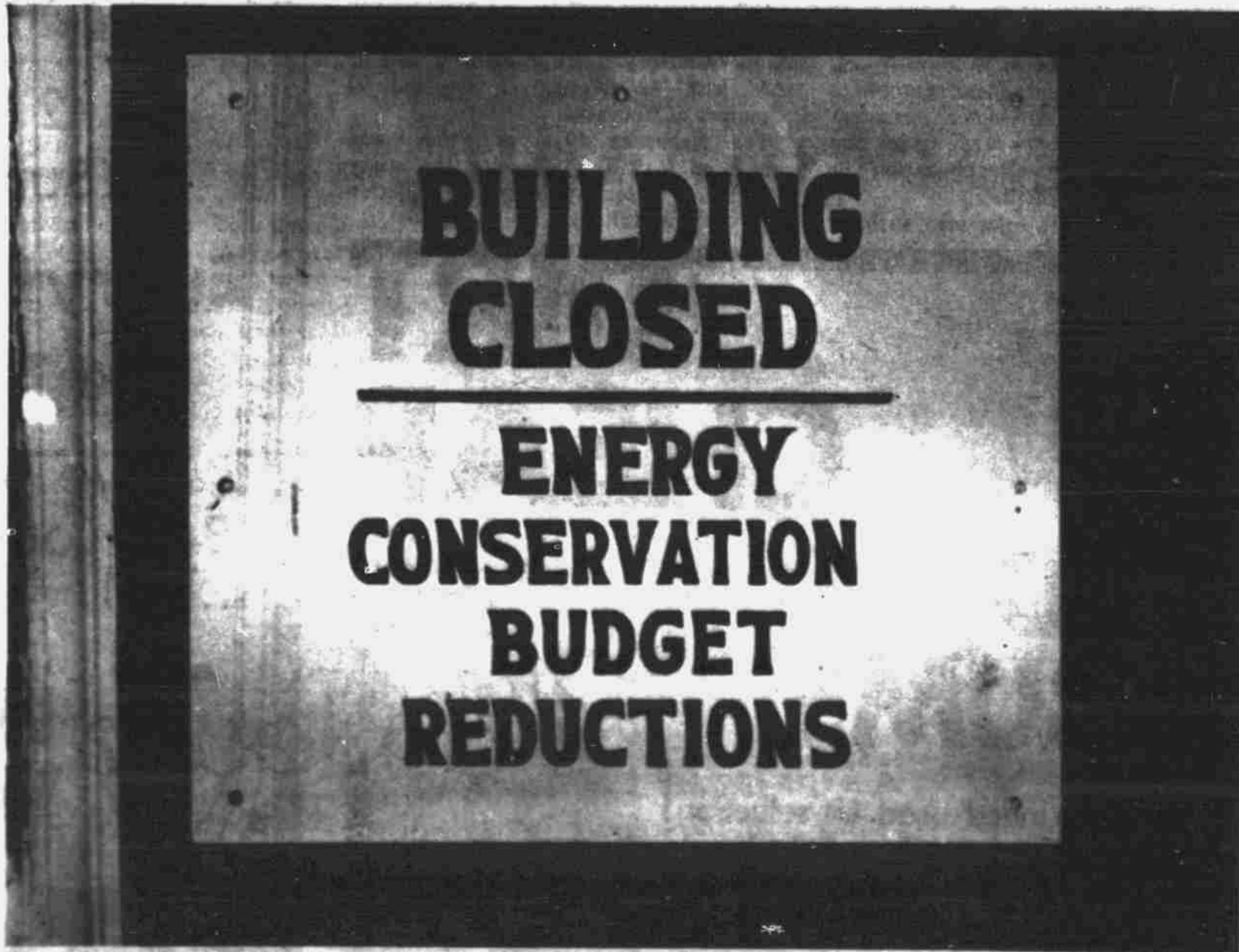
"Meditation and Holistic Health" will be discussed by Swami Ajaya (Allan Weinstein, PhD) on Friday, July 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Commonsplace, 333 N. 14th St.

Swami Ajaya is a close student of Swami Rama, founder of the Himalayan Institute. He is the author of Yoga Psychology and co-author of Yoga and Psychotherapy, Emotion and Enlightenment and the editor of Psychology East and West and Meditational

### Therapy.

He was a Post Doctoral Fellow at the University of Wisconsin Medical School in Madison where he later taught. For the past 11 years he has been practicing clinical psychology and has been a consultant to several mental health centers.

The lecture is sponsored by the Himalayan Institute of Omaha, Dr. John Harvey, Director. General Admission is \$3.50, and \$3.00 for students.



The men's P.E. building will be closed this summer to conserve energy.

Photo by Gordon Johnson