

MORNING STORIES TRANSCRIPT

My Last Nail: Poet Don Kennington, who has been shoeing horses for 60 years, drives his last nail.

TONY KAHN:

Hi. I'm Tony Kahn, producer and director of *Morning Stories* on WGBH, public radio's first podcast. Today's story is from an old cowboy in Utah named Don Kennington, who writes poetry and who used to shoe horses.... Well, not any more. It's called *My Last Nail*.

[Guitar music plays under the following]

DON KENNINGTON:

I love shoein' horses.
There's pain throbbin' in my back.
And my hips and knees are sore.
Guess I oughta see a doctor

But, I know just what he's going to say,
"You oughta quit that shoein', Don.
You've been doin' it too long.
He just doesn't understand
That that's the center of my life.
I love it more than anything.

'Cause when I'm shoein' that old horse,
That's when I am someone!
I've been out there shoein' horses
And making friends over thirty years.
And when Doc says, I ought to quit
I start fightin' back the tears.

'Cause I love a shoein' horses.
I know that sounds pretty dumb,
But when I'm under that old horse,
That's when I am someone.

We're supposed to tend God's creatures,
But some folks get rough.
That's when some of God's creatures
Live a life that's pretty tough.

Like – like when you walk up to a pony
And he's shakin' like a leaf.
You whisper and you scratch him,

And you keep scratchin' and whisperin'
'Cause you're trying to be a friend.

That pony starts to relax
And he starts to comprehend.
And -- and when that pony licks his lips
And you can feel him settle down,
You won't have any trouble
Working his feet up off the ground.

And when that pony walks away
His legs are swingin' straight and true.
And it -- it really is amazing
What a little love can do.

Oh, it hasn't been all roses,
But for the most part it's been fun.
I've met a lot of real, nice folk
And come to love near everyone.

So let me drive just one more nail
And snug that shoe down good and tight.
There, that's a little better.
Those shoes will keep you on the trail.
But I won't be coming back
'Cause I've just driven my last nail.

[Music ends]

TONY KAHN:

Morning Stories is produced by WGBH-FM in Boston. For more *Morning Stories* why not check out our website at <wgbh.org/morningstories>, all one word. I'm Tony Kahn.

[End of recording]

Transcribed by: Bev Sykes