“One Cow, One Customer”
Beckman Dairy Company

Inside:
Glass Manufacturing in Fort Smith
Hangin’ Times in Fort Smith, Part VI
Beckman Dairy Company

Vol. 28, No. 1, April 2004
**Contents**

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| Contents | 1 |
| In Memoriam: Amelia Whitaker Martin | 2 |
| Fire & Sand, Part I Glass Manufacturing in Fort Smith, 1917-40 | 4 |
| Fort Smith Glass Companies – An Initial List | 13 |
| One Cow, One Customer: Beckman Dairy Company | 16 |
| In Loving Memory: Mary Lou Jacobson | 21 |
| Hanging Times In Fort Smith | 22 |
| News & Opportunities | 30 |
| Business Sponsors | 35 |
| U.S. Marshals and Deputies Buried in Fort Smith | 36 |
| Fort Smith Elevator | 39 |
| Index | 42 |

**COVER:** Beckman Dairy Company, early horse-drawn milk wagon

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At the time the society was organized, there were 22 organizations in Fort Smith which dealt with history in some way, but none which addressed the need that the Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc. was formed to meet. Martin’s purpose, which became the mission of the Society, was to collect, identify, preserve and publish the written and oral history of the Fort Smith area. Martin rallied volunteers to help carry out that mission and to this day, the Society is operated entirely by volunteers as a non-profit organization.

At the time of her death, Martin leaves a legacy of 54 *Journals*. Two issues per year have been published for 27 years. *The Journal* is now in libraries across the country, including the Library of Congress, Harvard University, and the New York Public Library. It is also in the collection of the library of Cisterna, Italy, sister city to Fort Smith.

Since beginning publication, *The Journal* has received 14 awards in the Arkansas Historical Association competition for county and local history publications. Eight articles published in *The Journal* have been named Best in State, for which their authors received awards.
Beloved and Respected
Amelia is survived by her husband, Dr. Art Martin; daughter Nancy Heflin and her husband, George, of Bonanza, Ark.; daughter Marilyn Fulgham and her husband David of Birmingham, Ala.; son Bradley Martin and his wife Janice, of Martinsville, Va. She was a caring grandmother and great-grandmother to six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

She was a member of the Baptist church since 1930, and attended Southside Baptist Church of Fort Smith for many years. She was also a member of the Harrison Chapter Order of the Eastern Star.

Published Author, Historian, Founding Editor of Journal
Amelia was a graduate of Harrison (Arkansas) High School, Southwest Missouri State Teachers College and Draughons Business University. She became a freelance writer in 1937.

She was a member of the Poet's Roundtable of Arkansas, National League of American Pen Women, Chapter F, PEO, Daughters of the Confederacy, American Association of State and Local History, Arkansas Historical Association, Fort Smith Historical Society and Auxiliary to County, State and National Medical Association.

She had many publications, including _The Physicians and Medicine of Crawford and Sebastian Counties._

She received many awards, including Arkansas Doctor's Wife of the Year -1971, the Mayor's Spirit of the Frontier Award, Fort Smith Social Studies Educators Frontier Achievement Award in 1983 and Certificate of Commendation from American Association of State and Local History in 1979.

April 17, 1990, was declared Amelia Martin Day in Arkansas by Governor Bill Clinton to recognize her leadership in historical preservation. She also received citations from the Arkansas Senate and House of Representatives on that day.

With Husband, Co-Founder of Fort Smith Trolley Museum
Although many people primarily associate Amelia with the Historical Society and _The Journal_, she was also co-founder, with husband Dr. Art Martin, of the Fort Smith Trolley Museum.

“One day I came home to find Amelia sitting around with several ladies discussing what to write about in _The Journal_,” Dr. Martin recalled. “I made the suggestion that they write about the street cars in Fort Smith. Before I knew it, Amelia had given me the task of doing the research on street cars.”

“Luckily, I found Charles Winters who had done research and had written a paper on the subject. Sure saved me a lot of work. Charles Winters had stated that there were no cars remaining from Fort Smith but someone mentioned they had noticed in an antique paper a street car for sale in Bossier City, Louisiana. Amelia and I were going close to that area so we stopped off and found ole number 224 from the Fort Smith days for sale,” he said.

The Trolley Museum was soon formed. Early members raised funds and bought Car #224.

“That was the start of the Trolley Museum here in Fort Smith and Amelia was a co-founder and charter member,” Dr. Martin said. This is another lasting legacy left to the people of Fort Smith by Amelia Whitaker Martin.

Dedicated Editor
Amelia remained dedicated to the _Fort Smith Historical Society Journal_. According to her husband Art, he had urged her for several years to retire so that she could devote her time to what she really enjoyed – writing.

In her last months, she discussed with Chuck Raney, past president of the Society, that the April 2004 _Journal_ might be her last as Editor. Amelia made preparations for the April issue and had discussed in some detail the contents planned for this issue. Board members will continue to publish _The Journal_, mindful of the high standards of its founding editor.

Her imprint on _The Journal_ is personal and will be long-lasting. She encouraged writers and solicited articles, papers, photographs and documents that belonged in this permanent record of the history of Fort Smith. She also bore in mind that contemporary events had a place in _The Journal_.

“Because most people tend to think of history as events that happened twenty-five, fifty or a hundred years ago, often forgetting that today becomes history when the sun falls below the western horizon,” Martin said, “a select amount of current news is included in _The Journal_ in most issues.”

In honor of her incomparable service, every issue of _The Journal_ published in the future will include, at the top of the masthead, the memorial recognition “AMELIA MARTIN, Journal Editor & Co-Founder, 1977-2004.”
Author's Note: This article is the start of a long term effort by the Fort Smith Historical Society to begin documenting the history of the glass industry in Fort Smith. It is by no means a complete account. Oral histories and other information have yet to be uncovered and recorded. It is hoped that individuals with further information will contact the Fort Smith Historical Society and add their contributions to this effort.

The factory district of north Fort Smith and Midland Heights is rapidly assuming the atmosphere and the rush of a live factory town. Every morning and every evening... the Eleventh and Van Buren street cars are literally packed with workmen... going to or from the factory. And the two largest factory buildings in the district are not yet in operation.

—Southwest American, Aug. 26, 1917
Enter a New Industry

Fort Smith had plenty of reason to celebrate in the summer of 1917. Everyone was gearing up for the city's coming Centennial celebration. Neighborhoods on the north and south sides of town bustled with the sound of construction and the excitement of new factories. The Business Men's Club pointed with pride to a level of industrial expansion unprecedented in the city's previous one hundred years. Despite the darkening clouds of U.S. intervention in World War I, Fort Smith's efforts at industrial recruitment were certainly living up to the town's promotional promise as the "City of Opportunities."

No industry in 1917 epitomized this progress more than glass manufacturing. A new and dramatic entry onto Fort Smith's industrial scene, it was glass that filled the streetcars and sidewalks in the area around Midland Heights. Radiant Glass Company, a transplant from neighboring Tulsa, came first, starting operations on a limited scale on Aug. 15, 1917. Through the fall of that year, Radiant was joined by the Model Window Glass Company and the Harding Glass Company. A fourth manufacturer, the Arkansas Glass Company, was also established just to the north in Van Buren.

Once fully operational, these companies would add over a thousand new workmen to the annual payroll of the region.

Fort Smith, of course, was no stranger to factories. The city's well established furniture industry dominated the eastern bank of the Arkansas River and its wagon plant was one of the largest in the country. More than one hundred local factories produced everything from coffee and biscuits to sorghum syrup. Other recent additions like the Solid Steel Scissors Company and the Athletic Mining and Smelting Company also brought new products and processes to the city's working class neighborhoods.

But glass was different. Everything about the industry - the need for huge amounts of raw materials and fuel, the size of its physical plant requirements, and the drama of a production process based on molten liquid and temperatures in the thousands of degrees Fahrenheit - spoke to Fort Smith's aspirations of becoming a key industrial center in the southwest. The sheer expanse of acreage and buildings required for glass production changed the landscape in the vicinity of Midland Boulevard almost overnight. Travelers entering or leaving Fort Smith from the north could not fail to notice the new factories.

They were a dramatic sight, observed the Fort Smith Times Record, "... on account of their immense size. Each ... covers practically five acres of ground, and consists of five or six large buildings."

Glassmaking itself also drew a great deal of attention. Almost as soon as Radiant began operations, crowds started to gather along the company's shop windows, where the creation of lamp globes could be watched virtually from start to finish.

"The manufacture at this plant has not yet ceased to be a curiosity," remarked the Southwest American in early September, "... the daily stream of visitors does not yet appear to diminish."

Glass manufacturing, like its sister industry of molten liquid, steel, evoked the image of the industrial powerhouse of the east. The successful recruiting of three glass plants to Fort Smith was a bold move that underlined the city's industrial ambition. It was no accident that these plants were among the most heralded of the community's new manufacturing acquisitions.

Visits to Radiant were a featured component of the Centennial week festivities. City boosters and glass industry representatives, encouraged by the abundant natural gas fields discovered in the region, envisioned the emerging factories of Midland Heights as the beginning of a major glass manufacturing center. "If the gas fields of this section outlast those of other states," noted Radiant co-owner J. S. Parks, "all of the glass works will be wanting to get in here."

But alas, the glass industry's high opening profile in Fort Smith held a promise that went partially unfulfilled, a fact due largely to the challenges of the industry nationwide. By the time glass manufacturing arrived in Fort Smith, the business was in an almost constant state of transition, especially the production of window glass. Rapidly changing production processes, thin profit margins, and unrelentingly fierce industry competition forced glass manufacturers to continue investing huge outlays of scarce capital to upgrade their technological capacity or close. Many small- to moderate-sized operations simply could not keep up.

Through the 1920s, five additional glass companies organized or opened in Fort Smith. Carrying the dreams of prominent local businessmen or skilled craftsmen attracted to town by employment in other plants, these factories were exactly the kinds of enterprise that the city had hoped to foster, but most failed to live up to expectations. Only one lasted for more than seven years. Some lasted less than two.

Instead, for much of the next sixty years, two of those first three keystnones plants - Radiant and Harding - stood unchallenged as the dominant players in the city's glass industry.

The story of glass manufacturing in Fort Smith is largely, although not exclusively, their story.
The First Factory

Fire brought the Radiant Glass Company to Fort Smith. Formerly called the “Tulsa Glass Company,” this manufacturer of lamp chimneys, lantern globes, gas globes, and five-gallon water bottles suffered a disastrous fire during the summer of 1917 that obliterated most of its Oklahoma factory complex. Company owners George Carney and J.S. Parks, faced with the unwelcome necessity of rebuilding all but one small surviving furnace, apparently found Fort Smith’s offer of free factory sites, cheap natural gas, direct rail access (in this case on the Frisco and Iron Mountain lines), low cost of living, and other incentives enticing enough to start over. They left Tulsa behind, re-emerging as the more romantically named Radiant Glass Company in Fort Smith.

J. S. Parks oversaw the construction of the new steel factory buildings in Arkansas while Carney managed the disposal of the company’s assets in Oklahoma and supervised the disassembly and shipping of the surviving furnace to Fort Smith.

Radiant’s operation attracted public notice from the start. The company’s opening day was marked by a visiting delegation of prominent city businessmen, most likely representatives of the Businessmen’s Club celebrating the successful recruitment effort. The VIPs rode to the new factory site in a trolley and accepted gifts of hand-blown glass novelties from Radiant employees. Thousands of less prominent residents also visited the factory during that opening week, eager for the opportunity to “get their first glimpse of a glass plant in operation.”

The process that they watched was based on centuries of tradition merged with exciting new technologies. Radiant’s main operation was still based on the old shop system – trios of workmen organized around the actions of the “blower,” the person who created the form of the lamp chimney. The blower was assisted by the “gatherer,” who drew the molten glass from the furnace through the use of a long blow pipe, accumulated the needed amount of material, and allowed it to cool slightly before handing it off to the primary craftsman. The blower in turn passed the partially completed form on to the “finisher,” who did as his name implied – finishing the lamp chimney by running the top of the still-warm object through a machine that gave it the familiar crimped rim. While all the small chimneys were hand-blown, larger globes for lantern and gas station pumps were created by being blown into molds.

All told, Radiant started operations with 48 shops (or approximately 144 workmen) and a single furnace, but projected an additional 24 shops plus a backup capacity of 24 more when the second furnace was completed. Further expansion was anticipated when the third small furnace, used exclusively to make five-gallon water bottles, finally arrived. The two new furnaces were ten-ton continuous ovens, meaning each held up to ten tons of silica sand and other batched materials, which were deposited in one end, melted, and emerged at the other as the liquid molten glass, ready for the shops.

These “mammoth” furnaces, marveled the Fort Smith Times Record, were “remarkable testimonials to the advancement of modern science.” They consumed their contents in “2100 degrees of heat, yet the heat is hardly noticeable a few feet away from the furnace.”

Perhaps the heat could not be felt (plant workers probably would have disputed that claim), but the danger was still there. Less than two full weeks into operation, Radiant received a scare that must have been especially unsettling to its owners considering how the plant had arrived at Fort Smith in the first place.

On a Monday morning just five days after the factory’s opening, three workmen were burned on their faces, arms, and hands when a fan used to feed gas into one of the furnaces was started before a match was lit. The resulting minor explosion sent the three men to Sparks Hospital and elicited a front page notice in the Tuesday morning paper. “Every housewife knows,” helpfully observed the Southwest American, “that to allow the gas to flow too long into a gas oven before the match is applied has potencies of danger.”

Fort Smith would be reminded again of the dangers of glass manufacturing just three years later, but in the fall of 1917 little could dampen local enthusiasm for the opportunities that were opening up around Midland Heights. While production jobs at the rising glass plants would first be filled by skilled craftsmen from beyond the city limits, employment in packing, inspecting, inventorying, crate construction, and shipping the finished products would open up as those plants moved into full operation.

Likewise, the construction boom sparked by the building of so many new factories underscored other needs as well. Most of the thousand or so glass workers anticipated by the industry would be new residents to Fort Smith. While many glass journeymen bounced from city to city following available jobs, some would permanently relocate their families to Arkansas.

The influx of so many new people on the north side of town placed a premium on available housing. In effect, glass manufacturing helped to extend the city’s northern factory district further eastward (inland from the Arkansas River), a change that eventually transformed Midland Heights from a relatively rural neighborhood into a true urban residential district. This development was not lost on city boosters. “More
the who wound a thread of molten glass "capper" and snapped it off. The resulting tube was then cracked around the neck of the form, touched it with a cold iron, a hole in the tube. The piece was then passed along to the cylinder to the fire. The resulting rise of temperature of the pipe with his hand and exposed the other end of the other two big factories get into operation – as they soon will do. Streams of employees crowd every morning and evening street car while other streams of men carrying dinner pails walk to their homes . . . . Six or seven hundred additional workmen will be added to the streams very shortly. These conditions argue for the necessity of building new houses by the hundred on the north side of the city. Even now a group of cottages is under contract for erection within reach of the north and northwest factory district.

The Flat Glass Trade

Sometime over the course of the next two months, the throngs of glass workers headed to Radiant were joined by hundreds more headed to jobs at the city’s other two new glass factories. The Model Window Glass Company and the Harding Glass Company, in contrast to Radiant, both belonged to the flat glass trade – producing sheets, or lights, of unpolished glass for use in construction and the growing automobile industry.

Of the two, Harding was the larger plant, starting with a 48-pot or blower-tank operation and one furnace and by 1921, expanding to another 60-pot capacity with a second furnace. Although specific details about the Model Window Glass Company are much scarcer, it seems that the factory operated with a 24-pot capacity.

Both started as hand plants. Like Radiant, their production relied on a sequence of actions by skilled workmen. In the early 1900s, window glass was created by transforming long hand-blown cylinders into flattened sheets of glass. The process started with the "gatherer," who used a long blow pipe to accumulate a bubble of molten glass, repeatedly dipping the pipe into a melting pot until a ball of approximately 40 pounds was created. The gatherer then rested the glass bubble in a charcoal-lined mold and blew the molten material into a pear-like form.

The process was then taken over by the blower, who reheated the glass and swung the emerging cylinder back and forth in a ditch-like "swing hole" near the glass furnace. When the cylinder reached the desired length and uniform thickness, the blower closed the blowhole of the pipe with his hand and exposed the other end of the cylinder to the fire. The resulting rise of temperature and air pressure in the cylinder’s interior eventually blew a hole in the tube. The piece was then passed along to the "capper," who wound a thread of molten glass around the neck of the form, touched it with a cold iron, and snapped it off. The resulting tube was then cracked open by the "flattener" using hot and cold irons.

The now broken cylinder was reheated, spread open on a slab, and gradually ironed flat with a long-handled block of wood. The resulting sheet could then be cut into smaller panes of glass.

The cylinder process, while obviously labor-intensive, represented a significant advance over the previous method of low-cost flat glass production because it allowed for the creation of larger panes of glass marred with fewer imperfections. Nonetheless, by 1917 the method was quickly becoming obsolete. Machine-blown cylinder production had already made its way into the national industry center of the Ohio River Valley around Pittsburgh and eastern West Virginia, forcing some factories to close and displacing many skilled blowers and gatherers. While we can only speculate on the motivations of the owners of Fort Smith’s new hand plants, what is certain is that they were operating on borrowed time. Regardless of their early success, at some point they would be forced to confront the unavoidable reality of mechanized production. Perhaps the gamble was that the incentives offered by Fort Smith compounded by reduced regional competition, lower transportation costs, and a ready workforce of displaced blowers and gatherers presented these entrepreneurs with the hope of earning enough initial profit to stabilize their investment and be ready for capital improvements when the time and technology were right.

Entrances and Exits

Whatever the motivations, the gamble did not pay off for the organizers of the Model Window Glass Company. Although the factory opened to great celebration as part of the 1917 expansion, it lasted for less than seven years, disappearing from city directories around 1922-23. Its factory site at the corner of North and Midland may have been taken over briefly by a group of local businessmen that included J. R. Miller (president of the Star Cash Stores) and J.S. Hill (president of the Mechanics Lumber Company). But the resulting operation, hopefully if not picturesquely named the Magnolia Window Glass Company, had an even shorter life, and was gone by 1928.

This pattern of quick entrances and exits was shared by other glass factories. Between 1920 and 1928, at least four additional manufacturing plants made brief appearances in Fort Smith, with a few coming and going so quickly that it is virtually impossible to determine how functional they ever truly became.

The Crystal Glass Company opened around 1920 and briefly operated as a lamp globe plant at 1000 South D Street. The business ran into financial difficulties in 1921 and was clearly gone by 1925,
companies. But its continued existence through the survivors of the city's large-scale glass manufacturing a true Fort Smith institution and one of the final founded in 1917 at the intersection of Midland Blvd. and a thousand area residents. The plant ultimately became closures, one other manufacturing company joined that may have been a locally-produced product, enjoyed.

The plant's factory site was soon taken over by yet another local concern, this time headed by city merchandise brokers E.O. Simpson and John Witherspoon (former president of the Fort Smith Coffee Company and the Fort Smith Commission Company). Their new venture, the Witherspoon-Simpson Glass Company, finally proved a relative success, lasting through the early years of the Great Depression before closing sometime around 1939.

Any accounting of the glass companies that emerged during this period would also be incomplete without a mention of the Fort Smith Mirror & Glass Company, which opened a factory warehouse at North 1st and M Streets around 1918, changed its name to the Porter Mirror & Glass Company in 1920, and remained in business under that name through the 1940s. While the Porter Company probably did not actually make sheet glass (and is thus somewhat outside the boundaries of this survey) it did manufacture mirrors. The company was listed as one of the city's five glass-related industries by the Arkansas Directory of Manufactures in 1921. At least one example of the company's mirrors has been found with a bedroom set that may have been a locally-produced product, indicating a potential connection to Fort Smith's most prominent industry. If true, this would have given Porter a measure of stability that the city's glass factories never enjoyed.

In the midst of all the false starts and cyclical closures, one other manufacturing company joined Radiant as a solid industrial citizen. For Charles H. Harding, the gamble to establish a window glass factory in Fort Smith paid off handsomely. The company he founded in 1917 at the intersection of Midland Blvd. and Kelley Highway would last for another 60 years. At its height after World War II, Harding Glass employed over a thousand area residents. The plant ultimately became a true Fort Smith institution and one of the final survivors of the city's large-scale glass manufacturing companies. But its continued existence through the 1930s was not always a foregone conclusion.

**Harding Glass**

Charles Harding's roots in the flat glass trade extended deep into the heart of the industry's center in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, a connection that ultimately proved crucial to the survival of the company he founded in Arkansas. Born in rural northern Pennsylvania, Harding reportedly trained as a teacher but eventually found the promise of higher wages on the glass factory floor more enticing than the classroom. He worked seasonally as a flattener, spending time in window glass factories in the lumbering towns of Kane, Coudersport, and Bradford, Pennsylvania. He put his college education to good use by serving on the Wage Committee of the National Window Glass Workers organization.

Around 1905, Harding moved from the factory to the front office, becoming the manager of the Tuna Window Glass Company's facility in Bradford. Two years later, he made a bigger move, relocating to the glass industry town of Clarksburg, West Virginia to become the secretary and general manager of the Tuna Glass Company's Clarksburg plant.

In Clarksburg, Harding witnessed the impact of mechanization on both worker and employer firsthand. The Tuna Glass Company switched from hand production to the use of machine-cylinder production around 1914-1915. While the change obviously had a negative impact on glass workers displaced by the new equipment, the decision also seems to have been an unhappy one for Tuna, which invested in an early tank-drawn technology (Healy Consolidated machines) that produced too much inferior grade glass.

Later machine processes proved both more reliable and more profitable. By the time Charles Harding looked westward for new opportunities and moved to Fort Smith in 1917, the Tuna Glass Company was down to around 145 men. Whether the plant survived much longer is uncertain, but the experience must have played a role in Harding's approach to his new venture in Fort Smith.

**Early Challenges**

The Harding Glass Company was a family affair. Charles was joined in the management of the company by his son-in-law F.L. Reese and his son, Wayne, who had also been involved with operations at Tuna. This solidarity benefited the fledgling organization as it weathered some early difficulties.

Staggered operation was one inconvenience, a reality imposed on all hand glass plants by fuel conservation measures during World War I. Nonetheless, Harding Glass prospered, doing well
enough in its early years marketing a line of glass patriotically named the “1776 Brand” to warrant the construction of a second hand factory, a 60-blower plant scheduled to open in August 1920.

This was not to be. Instead of a triumphant opening, Harding Glass gave Fort Smith one of the most dramatic fires in city history when the floor of the new melting tank gave way around 7:30 a.m. on Friday morning, Aug. 6, 1920, just five days before the planned opening. Seven hundred tons of molten glass flooded the factory building, running “like water over the entire plant” and igniting an inferno that blazed in the early morning sky.

The drama quickly attracted a large crowd, gleefully reported the Southwest American, many of them “...women, some breakfastless, most of them still wearing daintily hued, flimsily made boudoir caps and embroidered slippers, rubbing the sleep from their eyes and crowding nearer the flames.”

At one point, the plant’s 200-foot high smokestack seemed in danger of collapse, causing a minor panic among the assembled crowd, but the structure stood.

Harding received another piece of much-needed good fortune when successful efforts to chop away the gangplank connecting the new factory to the original facility prevented the molten mass from reaching the older plant, sparing it extensive damage. The loss of the new facility was estimated to be $175,000, a sum only partly covered by $110,000 of insurance.

The fire was a major setback – Harding had paid extra to facilitate the rushed delivery of construction materials to meet the opening deadline of August 11 – but the company vowed to rebuild. In the meantime, they searched to find alternative placements for the glass workers who had come to town expecting new jobs but who now suddenly found themselves unemployed. The company also began repairs on factory number one immediately, and sought permission from the glass workers’ labor organizations to allow the surviving plant to reopen as soon as possible. This was quickly accomplished, and the facility was scheduled to reopen on Sept. 1, 1920. The ruined plant was rebuilt in 1921, and from that point on, Harding intermittently operated one or both factories as industry conditions allowed.

The spectacular fire in 1920 was yet another reminder of the dangers represented by the city’s industrial and commercial development. The owners of the Radiant Glass Company must have sympathized with their colleagues at Harding, thankful that their own opening mishap had not proved so disastrous and mindful of their previous misfortune in Tulsa. Perhaps the city’s glass business also received an ironic boost through a 1918 blaze at the Fort Smith Commission Company, a loss that may have spurred Company President John Witherspoon (one of the founders of the Witherspoon-Simpson Glass Company later in the 1920s) to begin considering the diversification of his investments.

The continual sequence of such blazes underlined the urgency behind the Fort Smith Fire Department’s move to become fully “mechanized” starting in 1917. But as Harding officials admitted, “...no fire department in the world could have controlled the flames and heat of 700 tons of molten glass.”

No Open Shops

Harding’s negotiations to reopen the surviving factory also highlighted a key difference that distinguished the new glass plants from many of the city’s other industries. The glass factories were union shops. Along with city smelters, the glass plants were among the few organized manufacturing plants in Fort Smith during this period, a fact that the city readily acknowledged in recruitment efforts to attract other businesses to the region.

Like smelting operations, glass workers’ unions were extremely influential, and no new plant could have survived without union employment. Nevertheless, the activities of the glass workers’ unions were rarely mentioned in the press coverage of the day, and too little is known about these groups in Fort Smith to include more than a passing reference here.

But with mechanization encroaching on glass plants nationwide by the late 1920s these unions were increasingly active, launching responses like a hostile strike by the Window Glass Cutters and Flatteners and the Window Glass Cutters League of America in 1927. Charles Harding, who began his career as a flatter, must have had a reaction to such events. And the city’s glass workers must have been aware, at the very least, of debates going on elsewhere. Certainly these organizations had some impact on the open shop climate of the period, but the nature of this relationship remains pure speculation. What is certain is that within a decade, the city’s experience with local labor unions took a dramatic turn. A major unionization drive around 1937 transformed Fort Smith into what one Works Progress Administration writer called “the most labor conscious city in the state.” The largest city local of the time was the Federation of Flat Glass Workers.

A Positive View

The ups and downs of the 1920s continued to challenge Fort Smith’s glass factories, but the decade also brought some positive notice. While the city’s smaller companies came and went in rapid succession, the presence of a window glass factory elicited great
admiration from delegates visiting the region overnight after a national Realtors convention in Tulsa in 1926.

Officially, the delegates were passing through Fort Smith in an auto caravan promoted as a “tour of the Ozarks.” The city feted them with a dinner dance at the Goldman, lunch at the County Club, and a tour of Harding Glass. Although this urban program hardly painted an accurate portrait of pastoral “Ozark charm,” local organizers succeeded in making their point. “While in your city I was amazed at the presence of a window glass factory,” wrote one delegate. Another visitor acknowledged that the Realtors were . . . “Surprised to find such a splendid country . . .” admitting that “ . . the mental picture I had of the state was somewhat different than the actual findings.”

Radiant Glass was also invited to contribute to the effort, but the company could respond only modestly, donating $10 to the tour fund and noting: “We are very sorry . . . you will recall that the Radiant Glass Factory has been closed down since the 12th of March and will probably be closed down until August or the first of September.” Secretary-Treasurer George Carney did offer a guest room for the overnight use of two delegates.

To Mechanize or Not?

While Radiant struggled with seasonal operation (a reality that continued to impact hand plants during the spring and summer months due to the intense heat of the processes involved), Harding Glass faced a dilemma typical of many independent flat glass producers in the 1920s. The increasing use of flat glass in new architectural applications and the rapidly expanding automobile industry offered great potential for companies that could manufacture and market a competitive product. Hand production simply could not meet the demand in quantity or quality.

Harding finally made the decision to mechanize their operation around 1924, installing cylinder machines in plant number one that year, and following with the addition of similar machines to plant two ca. 1926-1927. These machines replaced the actions of gatherers and blowers with a “revolving pot” process that used a mechanical bait and air pressure to draw molten glass from a rotating furnace and form the initial cylinder. The machines Harding installed were a variation patented by William Westbury of Elmira, NY in conjunction with company specifications. The Glass Worker’s Annual Catalog of the period was filled with such patents, each small innovation allowing a company or individual to avoid paying someone else royalties for a new production process. In fact, the Harding Glass Company itself was one of four regional glass makers that cooperatively patented their own splitting jack for glass cylinders in 1925.

Although Harding always portrayed this first step into mechanization as a positive one, it did not take long for the company to determine that more modern equipment was required. By 1928, the decision was made to further mechanize the production process with the installation of six vertical flat-drawn Fourcault machines. In 1930, the number two plant was altered to accommodate the addition of three more machines. The Fourcault method, introduced to the United States in 1923, involved the extrusion of molten glass through a clay block slit and then the drawing of continuous vertical sheets through a series of asbestos-covered rollers. The flow of material from the furnace was also continuous, with pre-mixed and weighed batched materials deposited at regular intervals. These machines improved both the quality of the glass and the speed of the production process, which no longer required actions previously involved with flattening glass sheets from cylinders.

The significant capital invested in these changes allowed Harding Glass to keep up with industry standards, but the situation remained difficult. Wayne Harding Sr. later recalled of the period: “Nothing eventful occurred between the years of 1930 and 1935 other than a highly competitive condition in the industry, causing profits to be nil or very modest.” Harding’s understated assessment of the industry’s financial challenges most likely applied to the city’s other glass factories as well. In fact, it was a credit to Fort Smith’s surviving operations that the city headed into the years of the Great Depression with three glass factories intact. Only two of them would still be around in 1940.

Harding at the Crossroads

More work needs to be done to document the situation of Radiant Glass during the depression, but the company did successfully weather this turbulent economic period. It is likely that they suffered periods of closure and cyclical operation, but their product line was flexible enough to still find a regional market.

Witherspoon-Simpson also continued to operate through 1937, but by 1940, its owners were listed again in city directories solely as merchandise brokers. The glass company was gone, perhaps an eventual victim of the kind of “nil” profit years that Wayne Harding recalled.

As for Harding Glass, the company remained stable but finances were tight. The biggest blow was yet to come. After a three-month illness, Charles Harding died at the age of 73 on Saturday, Oct. 5, 1935. His death and his picture made the front page of the Sunday paper, where he was mourned not only as a successful businessman, but also as a true civic leader, a powerful public speaker, and a leading member of the
Back Row (standing) L to R: Wayne E. Harding, Jr., Laura B. Harding (Wayne’s mother), W.E. Harding (Wayne’s father) F.L. Reese, Jr., Charles Reese and Catherine Reese.

Front view of Harding’s glass furnace in operation from which their safety glass “Cleartemp” is produced. The glass is specially tempered for greater impact strength than regular glass of comparable thickness.

After molten glass is drawn into sheet form and annealed, it moves by rollers to the second floor where it is automatically capped into required sizes. Employee above is receiving glass through opening in floor through which it moves on rollers.

Charles H. Reese of the Fourco Glass Company, a descendent of the Harding Glass Company’s founder.

Note: Bottom row of pictures, all ca. 1965.
that, in the long run, the sale probably kept Harding thoughts are pure speculation. What is fairly clear is delays in announcing the sale involved making arrangements with the relevant unions, but such employees reacted to the change. It is possible that employers, the news broke publicly in Fort Smith with a banner front page headline on Friday morning, May 1, agreed that outright sale was the preferred option. But by the beginning of 1936, everyone considered that the Fort Smith plant would become a marketing tool. The four organizing companies (three in West Virginia and one in Illinois) remained separate corporations but coordinated their production and sales efforts through Fourco. The new company was chartered in West Virginia in July 1935 and began operating on Oct. 21, just weeks after Charles Harding's death. By the time Rolland and Sine introduced themselves to Wayne Harding in Pittsburgh, Fourco had already purchased five other plants, all east of the Mississippi River.

In early discussions with Harding, the possibility was considered that the Fort Smith plant would become a partner with Fourco, retaining its independent corporate status and simply participating in the marketing program. But by the beginning of 1936, everyone agreed that outright sale was the preferred option. Harding Glass was sold to Fourco on April 1, 1936.

Befitting a story affecting one of the city's major employers, the news broke publicly in Fort Smith with a banner front page headline on Friday morning, May 1, 1936. No current evidence exists to suggest how employees reacted to the change. It is possible that delays in announcing the sale involved making arrangements with the relevant unions, but such thoughts are pure speculation. What is fairly clear is that, in the long run, the sale probably kept Harding Glass alive during an era that saw many such companies go under. The sale to Fourco preserved the plant as a crucial player in Fort Smith's industrial community and made the "Clearlite" brand (Fourco's product trade name) a familiar Fort Smith symbol. And while Radiant Glass remained independent through the 1930s, it too would face a similar transition by the 1950s, ultimately becoming a subsidiary of Thomas Industries, a national lighting fixture company based in Louisville, KY.

As the 1930s drew to a close, Fort Smith's glass manufacturing industry, at one time numbering as many as five factories, was down to two. But those two were the companies best positioned to survive their start up years and become viable long-term businesses. Certainly it was no accident that the two plants established by individuals with a clear previous track record in the glass industry were the two that made it to 1940.

A great deal more work needs to be done exploring the factors that contributed to their survival. While this may not have been the ideal result envisioned by city boosters during the heady days of the 1917 Centennial, those early recruitment efforts did pay off, ultimately providing steady high-paying jobs for thousands of Fort Smithians through the 1960s. The stories of these city residents, a fuller account of the neighborhoods they created, and an in-depth look at the histories of both Harding and Radiant through the Great Depression, World War II, and the post-War boom have yet to be written. They are all chapters deserving of future attention.

The stories of later glass manufacturers, dealers, and related businesses are also an important part of the story. (See the annotated list "Fort Smith Glass Companies" found on page 13 in this edition of The Journal.)

The Fort Smith Historical Society encourages anyone with information about the companies, the unions, officers and personnel, plant activities, or associated subjects to contribute what they know to recording and preserving this heritage.

Author's background: Leslie Przybylek has been curator of the Fort Smith Museum of History since 1996. She has an M.A. from the University of Delaware, and previous to her position in Arkansas was curator of the Crawford County Historical Society in Meadville, PA, where she was involved with a project recording the development of the tool and die industry there (in connection with Talon, Inc.). Her grandfather started working in the glass factories of Pittsburgh, PA, as a boy in the early 1900s and remained connected to the industry throughout his life.
Glass Companies of Fort Smith
An Initial List

Glass has been an important but largely unrecognized component of Fort Smith's economic life since 1917. The Fort Smith Historical Society is interested in documenting the contributions made by glass companies to the city's industrial heritage. The following is an initial list of companies but by no means a complete accounting. While a few current businesses are listed, primary research was directed at identifying and documenting glass companies that began operation before 1940. Many more recent companies have yet to be listed, and oral histories from individuals employed by or involved with the business still need to be collected. People with information, photographs, or product samples from any glass company in Fort Smith are encouraged to contact the Society or the Fort Smith Museum of History to contribute names or information. All listings are for Fort Smith unless otherwise indicated.

Arkansas Glass Company (Van Buren) 1917 - ?
The original AGC, which was described as a manufacturer of a "varied" line of goods, opened in 1917 along with the Radiant Glass, Harding Glass, and the Model Window Glass Company. Currently little else is on file about the company's operation. See the article "Fire and Sand" in this edition of The Journal for more information about the glass companies that were recruited to this region in 1917.

Arkansas Glass & Mirror Company
1956 - present
This extensive full-service glass distributor and dealership was opened in 1956, currently has two service centers (1201 Garrison and 1316 South Zero), and caters to both residential and industrial clients. It has no direct connection to the earlier company established in Van Buren.

Bailey-White Glass Company 1957 - ?
Product unknown; this manufacturer at 2617 Midland Boulevard first appears in city directories ca. 1957, with William McOlvin listed as manager.

Becraft Glass Company 1957 – ca. 1972
Alvin Becraft first appears in Fort Smith city directories as a glass blower with the Witherspoon-Simpson Glass Company in the late 1920s (along with Ira F., and Paul, all residents of 1200 North 5th Street). Another Becraft, Edward, was employed at Radiant Glass Company. The Becraft name continued to be connected with the city's glass companies through the 1950s, and Alvin became a blower at Radiant ca. 1938. In 1957 a "Gift Shop" for the Becraft Glass Company was opened at Alvin's residence, 2023 North 15th Street. Alvin died sometime around 1972, and a few of his tools from Radiant were eventually donated to the Fort Smith Museum of History.

Crystal Glass Company ca. 1920-21?
Two brief references in the Southwest American (9-10 June 1921) and one listing in the Fort Smith City Directory for 1920-21 are the only evidence documenting the existence of this company at 1000 South D Street. Crystal Glass apparently produced lamp chimneys like Radiant, but also planned an expansion into pressed glass. The company suffered financial difficulties in 1921 and most likely did not survive the year.

Dandoy Glass Company ca. 1921-22?
This short-lived business at 400 Garrison Avenue offered patrons showcases and fixtures, window and plate glass, and showcase repair services (advertised in the 1921-22 Fort Smith city directory). Company President George Dandoy first appeared in local directories in 1919-1920 listed as a "glass worker," but with no specified connection to any company. Considering the nature of the business he opened, he most likely worked for one of the window glass plants. The company's other officers – Leon V. Dandoy (Vice President) and William Archer (Secretary-Treasurer) were not listed as residents of Fort Smith prior to 1921. Judging by directory evidence, the company was not a success. By 1925-26, George was listed again as a "glass worker" and the Dandoy Company was no longer in existence.

Fort Smith Glass Company
dates unknown
A label for this company is found on a decorative vase in the possession of a private collector, but no early city glass business bore this specific name. A current "Fort Smith Glass Company" (1101 Atlanta) markets plate and window glass for architectural, commercial, and industrial purposes.
Fort Smith Mirror & Glass Company
1918 – 1940s
See also: "Porter Mirror & Glass Company / Willard Glass & Mirror Company"

Fort Smith Mirror & Glass first appeared in city directories in 1918 with a factory warehouse at North 1st and M Streets. This mirror manufacturer was clearly linked to Fort Smith’s prosperous furniture industry. (One example of its product label has been found on a bedroom set made in Fort Smith.) By 1920, the company’s name was changed to the "Porter Mirror & Glass Company," under which it was known through the early 1940s. Porter ceased to exist sometime during this period, but the Willard Mirror Company opened at 101 North 2nd Street in the 1940s. Its President, Clyde Willard, had been the Manager of Fort Smith Mirror & Glass since 1918.

Fourco Glass Company
See also: "Harding Glass Company"

This flat glass company based in Clarksburg, West Virginia bought out local interests in Harding Glass in 1936 and operated the plant as its Southwest Division center for “Clearlite Glass” until the late 1970s. Fourco was formed in 1935 by four flat glass plants as an innovative marketing effort designed to compete with industry giants like the American Window Glass Company, Libby-Owens, and Pittsburgh Plate Glass. Harding Glass was the company’s first purchase west of the Mississippi River. In 1977, after a long period of financial difficulty that eventually doomed Harding Glass, Fourco was taken over by Royal Safelight and eventually became part of what is now AFG Industries, one of North America’s leading window and industrial glass producers.

Harding Glass Company 1917 – 1977

This company started by Charles Harding, his son-in-law F. L. Reese, and Wayne E. Harding in 1917 became one of Fort Smith’s major employers and a keystone industry through the 1960s. Thanks to a unique combination of timing and location, Harding also became one of the few flat glass manufacturers in the United States to successfully make an unbroken transition from hand production to mechanical cylinder, and finally, to vertically drawn sheet glass. (Many companies survived one transition only to be felled by the next, or did not start as hand plants.) At its high point after World War II, Harding employed over a thousand local residents. See the article “Fire and Sand” in this edition of The Journal for a more complete account of the Harding Glass Company’s founding and early years.

McSwain Glass Company ca. 1925 – 1928?

McSwain Glass produced lamp globes and perhaps other blown glass items similar to Radiant. Three of its founders — Arthur B., Melvin E., and Roy B. McSwain — started at Radiant in 1921-22 before organizing the factory at 801 North 1st Street ca. 1925. (The other company officer was C.P. McSwain.)

Model Window Glass Company
1917 – ca. 1923?

The Model Window Glass Company was celebrated as one of the first three glass factories to open in Fort Smith in 1917, but little else is known about its operation. Its officers in 1919-1920 included Louis Maxwell, president, and Charles P. Zenor, vice president and general manager. The company disappeared from city directories sometime before 1925, when its factory site at the corner of Midland and North was listed as operating under the name of the Magnolia Glass Company (see separate listing).

Mutual Glass Company ca. 1921?

Of all Fort Smith’s glass companies, the Mutual Glass Company may have been the shortest-lived. Plans of the company’s existence got it listed in the state’s manufacturing directory for 1921, but little evidence survives to document that it ever became fully operational.
National Glass & Manufacturing Company
This company at 212 South 9th Street made showcases, display stands, restaurant fixtures, and other commercial products. National Glass & Mfg was one of four glass companies listed in the Chamber of Commerce’s business guide ("Industries and Products of Fort Smith") ca. the 1940s. Ca. 1948, the company President was listed as William E. Stell.

Porter Mirror & Glass Company
ca. 1920 – 1940s
See the entry for: “Fort Smith Mirror & Glass Company.”

Radiant Glass Company 1917 – ca. 1980
See also: “Thomas Industries”
Fort Smith’s first glass manufacturer, Radiant established a plant here after the company’s original factory in Tulsa, OK, was destroyed by fire in 1917. (The company was originally called the Tulsa Glass Company.) Radiant made lamp and gas globes, large cookie jars, and five gallon water bottles. Because of the nature of its product, Radiant continued to employ glass blowers and gatherers long after these positions became obsolete in other sectors of the industry. The company also maintained its mold-making capabilities. Its workers were known for making glass novelties, and at least two former Radiant employees started their own glass businesses in town. (See: “Becraft Glass Company” and “McSwain Glass Company”) Around 1958 Radiant became a division of Thomas Industries, making glass components for lighting fixtures marketed nationwide. The company was active through the 1970s, and was profiled in a series in the Southwest Times Record in 1969. ("Products of Local Radiant Glass Company Sold Throughout U.S.,” SWTR, 23 November, 1969). See the article “Fire and Sand” in this edition of The Journal for more information about Radiant’s founding and early years in Fort Smith.

Standard Glass Company 1940 –?
This general glass dealership operated by G. K. Cluck at 202 Towson Avenue (1940), then 1711 Towson (1948), promised its patrons “All kinds of glass and glass work.” The company also sold mirrors.

Thomas Industries 1958 – 1970s?
See also: Radiant Glass Company
This Louisville, KY-based manufacturer of home and commercial lighting fixtures purchased the Radiant Glass Company and operated it as a subdivision starting around 1958. Radiant’s decorative glass and crackle-glass globes were part of a production chain that also involved manufacturing and assembly facilities in Fort Atkins, Wisconsin, and Hopkinsville and Beaver Dam, KY. Thomas Industries also purchased flat glass from Harding (See: “Harding Glass Company”) to make light fixtures.

Willard Glass & Mirror Company
1940s – ?
This mirror manufacturing and distribution company was founded in the 1940s by Clyde Willard, the former Manager of the Fort Smith Mirror & Glass Company.
See the entry for: “Fort Smith Mirror & Glass Company.”

Witherspoon-Simpson Glass Company
ca. 1928 – 1938?
The Witherspoon-Simpson Company occupied the factory site previously established by the McSwain Glass Company (see separate listing) at 801 North 1st Street. The company was organized by names familiar to Fort Smith’s business community. E. O. Simpson and John Witherspoon also ran the Witherspoon & Company Merchandise Brokerage, and the glass factory’s administrative address remained at the brokerage firm’s 19 North 2nd Street office. Witherspoon was also well known as the former president of the Fort Smith Coffee Company and Fort Smith Commission Company. Although Witherspoon-Simpson’s product line is unknown, the company reportedly made glass minnow traps, an indication that their product line (like McSwain Glass) was similar to Radiant’s: lamp globes, cookie jars, large glass water bottles, and related items.

Acknowledgements
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- Leslie Przybylek
One Cow, One Customer
The Story of Beckman Dairy Company
By Pauline Beckman

I am writing about my memories of Burchard Frederick Beckman and Fanny Sheetz Beckman, and how the Beckman Dairy had its beginning with one cow and one customer, due to Fanny's patient and industrious nature.

My association with the Beckman family began when I married their son Jim Beckman. I was born Pauline Triplett on Dec. 10, 1914 in Dora, Arkansas to Rebecca and Amos Triplett.

Jim's parents met when they both attended Purdue University located in West Lafayette, Indiana. Fanny, Jim's mother, insisted that she be allowed to attend Purdue, where female students from out of town rented rooms in private homes. Fanny had four brothers but was the only original Beckman home at 218 N. 15th and Fanny were married Thanksgiving Day, 1900.

B.F.'s first job out of college was in Chariton, Iowa, where their first son Robert was born Feb. 22, 1902. Soon a better opportunity was available in Red Oak, Iowa and the little family moved there where another son, Jim, was born in 1904.

In Fort Smith, Arkansas, there was a small railroad to be extended into Oklahoma across the Arkansas River. This railroad would extend to Oklahoma City and provide a link with large railroads to serve businesses all across the entire country. This offered a challenge for the young B.F. Beckman.

With their two little boys, they moved to Fort Smith. Their relatives thought they had lost their minds, moving to the “jumping off place of the whole United States.”

B.F. became the chief engineer of the Fort Smith and Western Railroad. He supervised the installation of new cross ties and crushed rock ballast, which put the roadbed and track in the best condition known since construction of the road during 1901-1903.

The family bought a home on North 15th Street. The house sat where now stands the chapel of the First Methodist Church; their cow was staked out to graze where the First Methodist Church itself now stands. Strangely this house number, 218, was the same as the house number on Sheetz Street on the Purdue campus.

The Beckman family lived at this location for twenty-two years. During the early years, two more sons were born – Frank in 1910 and Bill in 1914.

It was at this location, early on, that one of the neighbors asked Fanny if she would sell some of the extra milk not needed by the Beckman family. Before long another neighbor also wanted to buy some of
the extra milk.

Fanny boiled the bottles on the kitchen stove, filled the bottles with milk, then closed them with small cardboard caps used in those days. The older boys delivered the milk by hand to the neighbors before school or on their way to school.

As time passed more people were anxious to buy milk from Fanny. Sanitation and information about safe food preparation was not as generally known or followed as it is today. The neighbors were well aware that Fanny was industrious and took special care to keep the milk clean, pure, and safe for consumption, so there was a growing demand for the milk she sold.

The boys were growing up pretty fast. B.F. and Fanny discussed the matter of "job training," which was becoming a necessity. The boys should have work to do, and they decided farm related work would be best, since more people were clamoring for milk bottled by Fanny.

In 1921, they bought an acreage on the outskirts of the budding little town of Fort Smith. At that time it was a few miles from the area called "downtown." This location is now on the street named Spradling Avenue. At the time of their purchase it was considered "out in the country."

More cattle were bought, as more were needed to supply the demand for milk. This was becoming a small business, and Fanny was kept busy boiling bottles on the kitchen stove. They then acquired a small manually operated machine that could cap the bottles much more quickly, one step above hand capping.

Twenty acres had been purchased in the beginning, but later 140 acres were purchased totaling a full section of 160 acres. Early in the ownership B.F. had grafted Stewart and papershell pecan trees onto the native pecan grove in the lower forty acres. He also leased out some acreage for wheat crops and other grains.

When stricter laws were passed regarding the handling of foods, particularly milk and meats, Jim built the new milk pasteurizing plant, in 1939. It was equipped with a lab for testing the milk right on the premises. By that time B.F. was approaching retirement from the Fort Smith and Western Railroad, which would allow him more time to spend on the farm.

Another important event took place in 1939. Jim and I were married that year. The Depression was in full swing so we moved into the farmhouse with B.F. and Fanny. Too, the new dairy was just outside the back door. What a convenience.

More cattle were bought, as more were needed to supply the demand for milk. There was plenty of grassland on which they grazed and a barn for milking had served over the interim period. The herd of cattle had to be fed, watered and milked. One of the men hired to milk the cows was John Gallagher, who we simply called "Uncle."

When new laws were put in place governing all aspects of the milk business the dairy cattle were sold, the milking barn torn down, and milk was then purchased from dairy farmers in the area. The Health Department inspected this milk on a regular basis. The farmers used ten gallon galvanized milk cans for transporting the milk from farm to pasteurizing plant.

There had, of course, been a transition period of several years between Fanny's boiling bottles on the kitchen stove at her home on North 15th Street and the pasteurizing plant with its complete automation from receiving cans of milk and pasteurizing, to packaging of the milk ready for delivery. In this interim period between kitchen stove and pasteurizing plant, a milking barn was built, as well as a building called the "milk house" where bottles were prepared and filled with milk for delivery.

With the change in operation over a period of time all preparation for delivery of milk had become automatic, which relieved Fanny of boiling bottles on the stove, once and for all.
In the early years, milk was delivered by horse and wagon. This same plan was applied here in Fort Smith by what was then known as the Beckman Bros. Dairy. Their wagon was comparatively small but was sufficient for the number of customers served at that time.

By the war years of the 1940s, the dairy had switched to milk delivery by trucks. Rationing of things such as tires and gasoline posed a problem for the dairy. All efforts were made to provide for our soldiers and the war effort. Jim, being a good citizen, hit upon an idea; he decided to once again employ the original method of a horse-drawn milk wagon. This plan was made easier by the fact that the dairy itself was located right on the Beckman family farm. Everything needed for the change was readily available, including the horse, wagon and an experienced driver. By this time we had moved to our home on South 25th Street. This street was still paved with brick. I'll never forget the sound of the horse's hooves going “clippity-clop” upon the brick paved street. All the neighborhood children were thrilled and excited beyond measure as the horse-drawn wagon moved up the street.

Jim was always industrious and never missed an opportunity. After the war ended, the government had many ambulances left over with no further use for them so they were sold to the general public. I don't know for sure how this was handled, but I do know Jim bought at least one of them to be used for deliveries for I have a picture of one of them with the Beckman Dairy logo on the door.

Jim was a humanitarian and took every opportunity to help his fellow man. The flood that took place in the early 1940s washed out the underpinnings of the bridge between Fort Smith and Van Buren. Floodwaters on Broadway in Van Buren were several feet deep on the north side of the river. The water on the south side of the river was also several feet deep cutting off traffic and therefore milk delivery to Barling and Camp Chaffee. Jim was determined to continue to make these important deliveries so therefore took the longer roundabout route through Ozark and then on to Barling and Camp Chaffee. When the severe drought occurred in eastern Oklahoma, milk bottles were filled with water and delivered to these small towns, free of charge. Though Jim died suddenly in 1966, the Beckman Dairy carried on for a matter of a few years. In 1968, a tornado struck the little town of Greenwood, Arkansas. It was a devastating blow, sweeping away many businesses and services. Again Beckman Dairy carried on Jim’s commitment to helping others by filling milk bottles with fresh water for the people.

The Beckman farm was known for its wooded area that was perfect for campouts. It was close to home yet it felt as if it were out in the country. Scout groups and classes of elementary schools were welcomed to go through the pasteurizing plant and watch the process, and were then treated to a bottle of chocolate milk. In recent years, I have heard the now grown-up visitors reminisce about the chocolate milk they were served as a child and how they enjoyed it.

Over time the Beckman Dairy under the management of my husband, Jim Beckman, was a partner in the growth of Fort Smith. Jim was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and was instrumental in the building of the first Civic Center, the Nelson Hall Homes for low-income families, The Beckman Senior Center, as well as many other important developments.

He was always interested in Fort Smith, especially in the youth of the area. Jim played an important role in the building of the Boy Scout Camp in Jasper, Arkansas. He received the “Silver Beaver” award for his years of service to the Boy Scouts of America; this is the highest award given by this organization.

Over the years many changes were made in the methods of preparation and delivery of milk, all stemming from Fanny's dream and passion. Many people, especially our former customers, still remember the advertising slogan, “Beckman's, Of Course.” There are always smiles on the faces when we recount that the Beckman Dairy began with “One Cow and One Customer.”
Beckman Dairy herd (right, top)
First Beckman delivery wagon (left, below)

The Beckman fleet increases (right, center)
From horse to auto delivery (left, below),
but back to a horse during WWII rationing

Beckman Dairy delivery trucks were a familiar sight on Fort Smith streets through the years.
The B.F. Beckman family, above, on a Fort Smith & Western Railroad train.

B.F. Beckman, right, with hunting dog, rifle and what appears to be a fine brace of birds.

Left to right, Fanny, Frank, B.F., Bill and Jim.

Jim Beckman and his parents, Fanny and B.F. (right)
Mary Lou Hauert was born in Mena, Arkansas on March 12, 1922. Her parents built the house that was her home at 1023 No. 13th St. in Fort Smith in 1927, and a family member has owned and occupied it ever since.

Mary Lou lived there with her parents, brother, and her mother’s aunt/adopted mother, until she graduated from Fort Smith High School.

She graduated from Marion College in Marion, Va., and returned to Fort Smith and where she was employed by Berry Dry Goods.

She married a soldier from Fort Chaffee, Marvin Jacobsen, and they had three children, Cynthia, Andrew and Peter.

She was preceded in death by her son, Peter, and survived by Cynthia Hatfield of Sandy, Utah, and Andrew Jacobsen of Fort Smith; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a brother, Carl Hauert of Dora, Okla.

Mary Lou was divorced from Marvin Jacobsen and resumed living with her parents and brother.

“She was faced with the awesome responsibility of raising three children alone. But I never heard her complain about her circumstances, nor did she criticize her husband,” said her friend, Chloe Lamon. “Her parents and brother were strong supporters, and she was very grateful for their help.”

Mary Lou worked at the Arkansas Highway Department and Fort Chaffee. She retired from the Social Security Administration in 1982 after 32 years of service.

Outside of her work, her life was devoted to her family and St. Luke Lutheran Church where she served on the church council and taught Sunday School. She lived with and cared for her parents until their deaths.

She was a board member of the historic Clayton House and active in the Cisterna, Italy, Sister City project.

Mary Lou was commended by Fort Smith Mayor Ray Baker, who proclaimed her 80th birthday “Mary Lou Jacobsen Day,” in recognition of her work for the preservation of Fort Smith’s history and heritage.

“Mary Lou loved to sew, and was a fine seamstress. She made clothing for her children, and then for her granddaughters,” friend Chloe Lamon recalled. “When a new member was added to the family, whether it was a new baby or in-law, her first project was to make that person a Christmas stocking.”

At Christmas, she prepared plates of cookies, candies, and cakes for the neighbors. On Easter, Halloween or Thanksgiving, there were always treats for each family member, and for the children in the neighborhood. If someone was out of work, she would try to help them find a job. “I know of people whom she helped financially, but she didn’t want anyone to know it,” Lamon added.

“When she came home from work, she always stopped and picked up any trash that had blown in the yard. She felt that if she set a good example for the neighbors, maybe they would take an interest in the neighborhood, too,” Lamon said.

“When she died so tragically from a house fire, one neighbor said, ‘What will we do now? She was the glue that held the neighborhood together.’”

“Mary Lou was a good and loyal friend, and a strong supporter of her home and community. We will miss her,” said Lamon.
Part I of *Hangin' Times in Fort Smith*, published in Volume 25, Number 2 of *The Journal*, covered the seven hangings that occurred prior to May 1875 when Judge Parker's term began.

Part II, published in Volume 26, Number 1, began with Judge Isaac C. Parker's address on Saturday, June 26, 1875, to William J. Whittington, the first man he sentenced to hang, and covered the eight men who were convicted of murder in the spring session of the Western District Court.

Part III, published in Volume 26, Number 2, began with men condemned to die on April 21, 1876. They were:

Aaron Wilson  Isham Seeley  
Gibson Istanubbee  Orpheus McGee  
Osey Sanders  William Leach  
Orpheus McGee  William Leach  

It also covers September 8, 1876 executions.

They are:

Osey Sanders  John Valley  
Samuel Peters  Sinker Wilson

Part IV, published in Volume 27, Number 1, examines the two years following September 8, 1876, when there were no hangings, but the Court of the Western District of Arkansas was trying criminals for every crime within the court's jurisdiction. It continues with the hanging of John Postoak and James Diggs on December 20, 1878.

Part V begins on September 5, 1879, and ends June 30, 1882. Seven men were sentenced to hang. Arena Howe, a woman, was sentenced to prison. The men who hanged were:

Henri Stewart  William Elliott Wiley  
George W. Padgett  William T. Brown  
Patrick M. McGowen  Amos Manley  
Abler Manley  Edward Fulsom

Part VI covers the court and executions of 1883. Robert Massey was executed for the murder of Edmond P. Clark. Belle Starr and Sam Starr were convicted. Martin Joseph, William H. Finch and Te-o-lit-se, a Creek Indian were hanged. An Indian police sergeant, Sam Paul, was also convicted of criminal activity in the line of duty.

The years 1882 and 1883 were years when outlaw legends were born, or died, as the case may be. On Tuesday, April 4, 1882, the Kansas City, Missouri *Journal* ran the headline, "Good Bye, Jesse." Bob Ford had shot Jesse James just up the river at St. Joseph the day before, Monday, April 3, 1882. On Oct. 6, 1882 the same paper ran the headline, "Surrendered". On Oct. 5, 1882, at Jefferson City, Missouri, Frank James had surrendered himself and his weapon to Governor Crittendon. Also on Oct. 6, the following telegram was sent from New York City to Kansas City, "To Mr. Speers, Chief of Police: Has Frank James surrendered? Let me know immediately. Bob Ford."

And down at Fort Smith the U. S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas, in February 1883, convicted Sam and Belle Starr for horse stealing. But, in between all of those events, Robert Massey was tried in December 1882 in the Western District Court for the murder of Edmond P. Clark, a young man not quite 20.

The story of Massey and Clark sounds like the outline of a B grade western movie or a dime novel. In 1881, they had driven a herd of cattle from Dodge City, Kansas, up to Dakota Territory. After delivery of the herd they had started back to their homes in Texas, Massey being from Grayson County and Clark from Comanche County. While passing through Indian Territory about Dec. 1, 1881 they camped near the South Canadian about 225 miles west of Fort Smith. While encamped, Massey shot Clark through the head and dragged his body to a hole about 50 yards from the camp and concealed it. He then proceeded to burn Clark's saddle, coat, shirt, leggings and other belongings but kept his gun, belt and horse, turning his own worn-out horse...
loose. Massey then went on his way, thinking the evidence disposed of, little knowing of a letter Clark had sent to his parents telling them he would be home for Christmas.

Edmond Clark had written his family from Abilene, Kansas, that he would be home for Christmas. When Christmas came and went and no word was heard from his son, Clark’s father began to make inquiries and placed ads in several Kansas newspapers describing the young man. In mid-February 1882, a man named Bean was hunting in the Chickasaw Nation when he saw wolf tracks leading to a hole in a creek bank. Following the tracks he found a body hidden by debris. At first he thought it was the body of an animal, but on removing the covering, he found the naked foot of a man. When he and neighbors uncovered the body, they found that it had been shot in the back of the head, the bullet exiting over the right eye. The body had been stripped of clothing except for pants and a red bandanna around its neck. One of the parties who had seen the description of Clark in the newspapers wrote to Mr. Clark suggesting that it might be his son.

Mr. Clark immediately set out to investigate, taking a picture of his son, Edmond, with him. His inquiries revealed that his son and Massey had set out together from Kansas and had been seen together along the way. At the scene of the murder, in a pile of ashes, were found the irons of the saddle, a hull of a cartridge, some shirt buttons, the buttons from a rain slicker, copper fastenings belonging to the leggings and some buckles. Clark’s boots and a spur were found a few steps from the fire. The belongings were carefully gathered up and Clark, satisfied that Massey had killed his son, set out in search of him. Mr. Clark found his man in April about 25 miles from Fort Sill, arrested him without incident, and turned him over to authorities to be brought to Fort Smith.

Massey was defended by Messrs. Mallette, Barnes and William M. Cravens who entered for him a plea of self-defense. Massey claimed that he and Clark had an argument the morning of the day of the killing over money owed him by Clark. Later in the day, the argument had escalated to the point that Clark fired three shots at him. Massey then fired the fatal shot that hit Clark in the head. His explanation for the wound being in the back of the head was that Clark had turned his head at that moment. The prosecution's counter to that claim was that Clark had been asleep, using his saddle as a pillow; the bullet had pierced the saddle and blood had stained the other articles and that was the reason for the burning of those items. Massey said that he had kept the horse, gun and belt for the money that Clark owed him and burned the rest to avoid being caught. When asked why he didn’t burn the boots, he replied that he had intended to but was excited and must have overlooked them.

The jury was given the case late on Saturday evening, Dec. 9, 1882, but deliberated until about 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 11 before delivering the guilty verdict. When the verdict was read Massey’s mother, who had attended the entire proceeding along with his brother George, was almost prostrated with grief.

On Feb. 1, 1883, Robert Massey along with John Jacobs, who was also convicted of murder, due to the work of Mr. Clark and the Marshal’s Office. Massey and Clark had stopped two nights with two cowboys about 35 miles from where the murder would take place and those men identified the boots of Clark and the ivory handled pistol with the letter E. Apparently, from the various newspaper reports, they stopped at more than one camp and in at least one Massey used the alias of Bob Burns and called his partner Bill Dixon. At that camp, Massey told a Mr. Smith that the reason for the assumed names was that he had killed a man in Dakota and then gave Mr. Smith his right name. They were next seen at a camp about 10 miles from the killing, Massey riding a large brown horse that seemed to be exhausted and Clark on a gray mare. At that camp, according to one report, Clark and Massey got into an argument and Massey told someone that he would blow Clark’s head off. Massey was next seen a few days later at a ferry about 20 miles from the murder scene alone and riding a gray mare. He went on to his home in Texas where he swapped the mare for another horse.
in December 1882, was sentenced to hang on Friday, April 13, 1883. Jacobs would be more fortunate than Massey and have his sentence commuted.

**SAM AND BELLE STARR CONVICTED**

That same February, on the 19th, Sam and Belle Starr were convicted of horse stealing and sentenced to the Federal Prison at Detroit, Michigan. The way the articles were written in the papers of the day make it appear that Belle was not as personally well known in Fort Smith as later historians would lead us to believe. The contemporary articles give the impression that she was someone that the reporters had heard a lot about, but of whom they had little first-hand knowledge. Many sentences in the articles begin, "It is said that...".

The event did get a lot of print space in one paper, though, for several reasons. Tom Starr, the patriarch of the Starr clan, rated some notice because he had become notorious as he was a partisan in the "bloody vendetta" between the Ross and the Treaty Factions in the Cherokee Nation. Secondly, a woman convicted for horse stealing was unusual and even more so, a husband and wife convicted together. And beyond that, the husband got one year for one count of horse stealing and the wife got two years for two counts. Those things alone would have rated at least a paragraph no matter what the names of the subjects.

On March 19, 1883, Sam and Belle Starr, along with twenty other prisoners, Deputy Marshal Barnes and four guards, departed for Detroit Prison. *Wheeler's Independent* reported, "Belle Starr had a repugnance to the expose in marching off with a squad of prisoners, she was courteously furnished with a well dressed guard and escorted (sic) to the depot in bon ton style." (The fact is that all guards were "well dressed" especially when transferring prisoners. They had been so since 1881 when U. S. District Marshal V. Dell had ordered military style uniforms for them.)

**EXECUTION OF MASSEY CARRIED OUT**

Massey's representatives made all the usual appeals to the President for pardon or commutation but to no avail. During his incarceration he received the care of Rev. D. McManus and two ladies of the Episcopal Church and was baptized. The prisoner slept soundly the night before his execution and at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 13, 1883, Chief Deputy C. M. Barnes read the death warrant. The procession of deputies, guards and prisoner accompanied by the minister and physicians then started toward the gallows. Rev. McManus, who walked beside Massey on the left, began the reading service, the miserere and de profundis, the others in attendance reverently removing their hats as he read. Massey, being handcuffed, asked guard Williams to remove his hat. "Although he was going to his doom, no man in the party walked more erect, nor with a firmer, steadier step than the condemned Massey." (Elevator 4-20-83)

On the scaffold Rev. McManus continued the service and Massey sat, stood or kneeled as the occasion called for. When seated Massey calmly looked at the gallows, the rope and the spectators gathered below. When the religious services were completed Massey's counsel, DuVal, Cravens and Thomas H. Barnes, as well as the jailer and the guards, shook hands with him. Massey remained composed throughout the proceedings. He began a conversation with his counsel requesting them to make a public statement for him after his death denying his guilt. Chief Deputy Barnes, thinking he wished to make a statement, said, "Mr. Massey, if you have anything to say, please speak up so that all may hear you." Without appearing disturbed or "discomposed" by the request Massey stepped to the front of the platform and spoke in "clear, strong, unfaltering tones" claiming, as before, that he had killed in self-defense and that, although the evidence was against him, he was innocent. He was then placed under the cross-beam and on the trap, his hands and feet bound, the black cap and noose put in place and Deputy Barnes by the wave of his hand signaled jailer Burns who sprang the drop. The drop was made at 11:37 a.m. and in 12 minutes his pulse had ceased.

The hanging was private, as all hangings had been since July 1878, when the platform had been lowered and the wooden fence raised in anticipation of the execution of Carolina Grayson. Besides the guards, there were only a few spectators (twenty by one report) including the reporters. Among them was Edmond Clark's father who had pursued and captured Massey and had come from Texas to witness the execution. This was the second time in two years that a father had tracked down his son's murderer and witnessed his execution.
After the body was taken down Captain John Williams, who was sent by the Massey family, took charge of the body which was placed in “a neat coffin” and buried in the city cemetery where Rev. McManus performed the burial service.

The gallows would have a respite of just over two months until it was called into service again.

Sources:
The Journal, Kansas City, Mo.
Elevator, Fort Smith
Wheeler’s Independent, Fort Smith
New Era, Fort Smith

3 HANG FOR THEIR CRIMES

“Last Friday [5-29-83] the three condemned men, Martin Joseph, Wm. H. Finch and Tualistas, (sic) expiated their crimes upon the gallows.” (New Era July 5, 1883)

The aforementioned three plus one lawman who was tried for murder and convicted of manslaughter represent some of the diversity of men tried for capital crimes in the U. S. District Court in the court terms from November 1882 through May 1883. These four make up only about a third of the people indicted and tried for capital crimes during that time period.

William H. Finch

William Finch was a remarkable man among soldiers at that time. Born a slave in Georgia he had joined the U. S. Army after the Civil War. At the beginning of the events that led to his trial, he was a tailor at Fort Sill, I. T. One account has him belonging to the 24th Infantry at Fort Sill and another says that he had been a member of the 25th Infantry and was not in the Army in July 1882 but a tailor at the post. Finch was reputed to have been a very good tailor and must have educated himself extensively judging from his long and eloquent speeches and letters during his sentencing and his wait for execution.

In July 1882, the post commander had summoned Finch to answer for some minor infraction. Instead of reporting to the officer, he stole a horse and fled to Texas where he was captured by civil authorities. Sergeant Johnson and privates Grimky and McCarty were detailed to return the prisoner to Fort Sill. A short distance from the post, 20 miles or so, the detail stopped to rest around two or three o’clock in the afternoon. After they had eaten and smoked, Sergeant Johnson and Grimky lay down and went to sleep and the prisoner, shackled only at the feet, feigned sleep. Private Jerry McCarty went to a nearby spring to fill the canteens. At the first opportunity, Finch grabbed a carbine and pistol and shot Grimky with the pistol and Johnson with the carbine. On hearing the shot, McCarty returned in time to see Finch shoot Johnson. McCarty watched from the safety of some bushes while Finch took the keys from Johnson’s pocket and freed himself. Finch then hid two carbines in the grass, saddled and bridled a horse, took a carbine, a pistol and provisions and “flew over the plains to Caddo”. At Caddo, he took a train to Dennison, Texas, where he was arrested and brought to Fort Smith.

When Finch left the camp, McCarty returned to find Grimky dead and Sgt. Johnson dying. Johnson told McCarty that Finch shot him and then Grimky and sent him to the fort for a doctor. McCarty set out for Fort Sill after spreading a sheet over Johnson, as asked, to keep the mosquitoes off. He arrived at the fort about 8:00 p.m., related the facts to the authorities and about midnight a detachment of teamsters, a doctor and McCarty started for the camp. They didn’t find the camp until about 9:00 a.m. the next morning and there they found Sgt. Johnson dead. The bodies of the murdered men were placed in the wagon and returned to the fort, arriving there the evening of the same day.

Finch was tried in February 1883 and was defended by DuVal and Barnes. His defense was that McCarty had killed the other two and freed him. He claimed that he had defected from the fort in the first place to escape the tyranny of the commanding officer. The jury was out but a few minutes before returning the guilty verdict.

Te-o-lit-se
(Tualista, Tee-o-lit-sa, Tual-ista)

In March of 1883, following Finch’s conviction, Teolitse, a Creek Indian became the next candidate for the gallows. Teolitse had been seen on July 6, 1881, following, at a distance, a white man named Emanuel C. Cochrane. Cochrane was traveling through the Indian Territory on his return to his home in Texas from Eureka Springs, Arkansas. He had been to Arkansas for treatment of his chronically sore eyes. He was walking, carrying his boots and had wrapped his sore feet in cloths to protect them from the hot road. About 20 miles south of Okmulgee, in the Chickasaw Nation, the murderer rode up behind Cochrane
and, with his rifle, shot him in the head, dismounted and robbed the victim of his few dollars. The body was found the next day, the face partly eaten by hogs.

The murder was a mystery for a while until Cochrane’s brothers offered a $200 reward and Deputy Marshal Beck began working on the case. Beck was assisted by citizens of the area and the trail led to Teolitse. Another Creek Indian, John Sinner, was called on to parley with the suspect and eventually got the story from the murderer himself. Beck then obtained a writ for the arrest of Teolitse, but when he went to serve it, he found that Teolitse had been found guilty of horse stealing by his people’s tribal court. The sentence was whipping and when the suspect was released from the whipping post Beck served his writ and arrested him for murder. Teolitse was brought to Fort Smith in August 1882, over a year after the murder was committed. He languished in the jail until March 1883 when he was tried. The Fort Smith Elevator reported, “He was ably defended, but the evidence was so overwhelming that a defense was scarcely necessary.”

**Martin Joseph**

(aka “Bully” Johnson)

The crime of Martin Joseph was an extreme example of wantonness, but the crime and the collection of evidence have been “elaborated on” over the years. The stories in the newspapers of the time came not only from evidence and from people associated with the events but also from Joseph’s own confession.

Martin Joseph, “an Indian Negro” residing in the Chickasaw Nation was in the business of horse stealing in partnership with Bud Stephens, white, and Henry Loftis, black. In April 1882, the three men went to the woods in the Arbuckle Mountain region to build a corral to contain the proceeds from their planned foray. One account has Joseph and Stephens stringing a rope around a circle of trees to form the corral while Loftis was somewhere else. Another has all three together and Joseph and Loftis collaborating in what took place. In Joseph’s confession, he said that Loftis shot Stephens behind the ear and then Joseph went to the camp where they had left Mrs. Stephens, “a comely young woman of eighteen” (16, 17 and 18 in other articles). He told her that her husband had been injured and was calling for her and took her up on the horse behind him to go to the place. Instead of going to her dead husband, Joseph took the woman to a cave where he was joined by Loftis and they both raped her. Joseph then shot her as she sat crying with her apron over her face. They threw her body into the cave and threw in after her some clothing, saddlebags and a quilt.

Some time later Joseph, while intoxicated, told the story to William Loftis, brother of Henry Loftis, and the tale spread but was disbelieved. Later, Joseph got into an argument with Henry and accused him of telling their secret and killed him too. He then, apparently, left the country and, suspicions being aroused, a party went to the cave to verify the story. The party discovered the bones and clothing and went to Mr. Henderson, a merchant in the area, who alerted U. S. Deputy J. M. Mershon who took a posse to the cave to investigate. At the cave, a young man named John Spencer, a guard for Mershon (not Deputy Mershon himself) was let down into the pit and discovered the remains of Mrs. Stephens covered by rattlesnakes. He signaled the men at the top and was drawn up where he “obtained a pistol and descended to the bottom of the cave and commenced war upon the snakes.” (Fort Smith Elevator, April 13, 1883) Spencer proceeded to gather up the bones and clothing and brought them out. The party then went to find the location of the murder of Bud Stephens and collected as many bones there as they could find. The evidence, bones and all, was displayed on a table in the courtroom during the trial in April 1883.

“Who can imagine the thoughts that must have passed through the mind of the culprit when, on the witness stand, the attorney for the government placed in his hands the skull of the murdered man. It required a second bidding for him to take it.” (Fort Smith New Era April 12, 1883)

The trial lasted five days and the jury, after being charged by Judge Parker, was out thirty minutes. When the jury of seven black men, including the jury foreman, Allen Bobo, and five white men re-entered the courtroom “it required no prophet to foretell what the verdict would be.” (New Era) “...there was a deathlike stillness in the crowded room. Everyone present, who knew anything of the facts in the case, said in his heart of the jury, when the verdict of guilty was announced by the court in each case, "well done, good and faithful servants." (Elevator)

**Sam Paul**

Just a few days after Martin Joseph was
convicted, a sergeant of the Indian Police stood before the jury and heard himself pronounced guilty. Guilty not of murder, with which he was charged, but of the reduced charge of manslaughter. It was not unheard of for the lawmen to be charged and tried for crimes. Apparently, if there were any questionable circumstances in killings involving law officers investigations were made and charges filed if applicable. In March 1883, Jimmy Jones, chief of Indian Police of the Kiowa and Comanche Indians, was tried for murder and acquitted and some years later one of the most effective and most famous deputy marshals would be tried for shooting his cook.

Sam Paul, the sergeant convicted, may have not been the most exemplary lawman, although he had been an Indian Policeman for a number of years. In gleaning what little information is available from the National Archives, this is the chronology that appears, muddled and overlapping as it may seem. Dec. 1, 1877 a warrant was issued for Sam Paul and One Jake for the murder of John Farrell on Nov. 1, 1877. The warrant was served on Dec. 5, 1877, signed by J.M. Mershon. In the same month and week, on Dec. 6, 1877, a warrant was issued for Mrs. Briley, first name unknown, and Sam Paul for on or about Oct. 17, 1877 introducing spirituous liquors into the Indian Territory. That warrant was served Dec. 7, 1877. On June 27, 1882 a warrant was issued and served on June 28, 1882, for Sam Paul and four others named on the warrant for the murder of One Smith in June 1881. There is nothing in the archives to indicate the outcome of the case of introducing liquor and in the murder cases there are only the depositions of witnesses. If Sam was convicted in the liquor case there would only have been a fine and since he continued on as a lawman, he was never convicted on the murder charges in those two cases.

In July 1882 things took a turn for the worse for Sam. On July 5, 1882, Sam Paul and Jim Ross (two others were named in the warrant but their names never appear on later records) were arrested on a warrant issued on May 29, 1882, for the murder of John Hawkins on or about May 10, 1882. This murder charge was the one for which he was convicted in April 1883. The only records of the proceedings in the National Archives are copies of the warrants and summonses and the depositions of the witnesses. The newspapers of the time gave no account of the two trials Paul and Ross received, only one-sentence statements that they were in progress. However, the results of the second trial and the sentence did get some ink because both the verdict and the penalty were surprises.

In November 1882, Paul and Ross were tried in a trial that resulted in a hung jury. They were retried in April 1883, the case being given to the jury on Friday, April 13, 1883. The jury deliberated all that day and the next and finally returned a guilty verdict about midnight Sunday, April 15, 1883. No records exist of the trial, only the depositions of witnesses. The statements of defense witnesses are only to confirm that Sam Paul was a 2nd sergeant of Indian Police, Union Agency and a constable in Pickens County, an elected office. All of the witnesses for the prosecution were connected somehow with the John Hawkins, but their testimonies were very consistent.

William Hawkins, 19-year-old brother of the deceased, testified that before daylight on Saturday, April 22, 1882, John Hawkins was awakened by someone calling his name from outside his house. He went outside and saw no one and returned to the house but was called a second time and told whoever was calling to come to the house. Ten to twelve armed men, who were in the bushes, came to the house and told Hawkins that they wanted to take him to Governor Birnie's house to identify someone they were holding there. John and William Hawkins mounted and went with the group to Birnie's and then were told that they were being taken to Tishomingo. However, they were taken by an indirect route and on the way they stopped and John was taken off the road by Paul, Ross and two others. While they were gone the remainder of the posse tried to make William think that they would hang him from a limb if he didn't give them information about two other men. While that was happening, there were four rapid gunshots followed by two shots and Sam Paul reappeared and told William that they had killed his brother.

Sam Paul, after the shooting, went to the Crocket home and told them that he had shot Hawkins and then gone to the home of William Spicer, father-in-law of Hawkins. He told both of those families that he had shot Hawkins and that he was barely breathing when he left him and that he might be saved. Paul said that Hawkins grabbed the barrel of his rifle, it discharged and he shot him while he was trying to escape. Testimony of William Spicer and others who went to retrieve
the body and who examined the area did not completely agree with Paul’s description of the action.

The newspapers had not given much notice of the trial, it falling in the same week as Martin Joseph’s sensational trial but they did note the surprising sentence. The court gave Sam the maximum sentence allowed, ten years in prison and $500 dollars fine, and the Elevator rose to his defense. The Elevator described Paul’s reason for arresting Hawkins in the first place. In that version he was in Tishomingo on business and “was summoned to go with the sheriff to protect the governor from assassination by a band of desperadoes who were threatening his life.” How that put him in charge of a group that arrested Hawkins isn’t explained. But the article had previously stated that Paul, being a constable and sergeant of Indian Police, had instructions from Agent Tufts “to be active in suppressing disorder and the arrest of notorious thieves and criminals depredating in the territory.” The Elevator mentioned Paul’s service as a lawman and his many friends, both in the Indian and white communities and called for his pardon before he ever was sent to prison. Col. DuVal, one of Paul’s counsels, told Judge Parker that the jury, at the time of agreeing on a verdict, had agreed to sign a petition to the court asking for mercy. In February of the next year, Attorneys DuVal and Cravens, the Elevator and local citizens were still petitioning for a pardon.

Paul, when asked if he had anything to say as to why sentence should not be pronounced against him gave, “in a clear and distinct voice, a little tremulous at first”, a speech of which “an imperfect synopsis” was printed in the Elevator. “In the first place I am not guilty of the crime. I did not shoot. I drew my pistol when the deceased had seized my gun and would have shot me, probably, if he had not dropped it. I was forced by the summons of the sheriff to go out on that expedition to enforce the law and I did what I thought was right. For doing this, it is possible that I am guilty in the eyes of the law, but my conscience is clear as to actual guilt and it is hard to be disgraced and have a stigma cast upon my family whom I tenderly love and to be separated from them for years. I was acting under instructions as an officer with orders from my superior when this thing occurred. Suppose Marshal Boles, or yourself we will say, had been in charge of a posse and they had killed a person who had seized your gun and was attempting to escape. Would it have been right to send you or the marshal to hell? I think not. I shall apply for pardon and when the petition is presented to you and Col. Clayton I shall ask your clemency, then your and his signature.”

Judge Parker then addressed the prisoner, telling him that he had no complaint, that he had two fair trials and was ably defended. He added that there had been “an utter disregard of human life in the Indian country” and that it was necessary to make an example. Parker also told Paul that his mistake was in taking his prisoner from the road and that he did not believe that he intended to kill him but that he (Paul) had no right to do what he did.

The prison time and fine were not the total of Sam Paul’s problems. The sentence had not been only ten years and $500, it was ten years, $500 and costs. The costs were $2,017.15, so that on May 12, 1883, there was a judgment against Sam Paul for $2517.15 and that at a time when the average income in the United States was less than $500 per year.

THEIR DOOM PRONOUNCED
(Elevator, May 11, 1883)
Saturday, May 5, 1883, five days after Sam Paul’s sentencing, the three murderers, Finch, Teolitse, and Joseph, were sentenced “to be hanged by the neck until they were dead.” First to stand before the bar was William Finch “looking somewhat delicate from his long confinement.” When asked if he had anything to say as to why the sentence of death should not be pronounced upon him, Finch launched into a long and eloquent speech of several minutes that evidenced an education far beyond what would be expected of an enlisted man of the U. S. Army in 1883. His speech was “clothed in elegant phraseology, evidently prepared with great care and committed to memory. He indulged in insinuations against the judge, jury and prosecuting attorney and made the usual complaint of not having a fair trial.” (Independent May 9, 1883) In conclusion, he asked the judge to recommend him to the mercy of the president. In answer, the judge admonished Finch not to cling to the last hope of escape from punishment and advised him to use the time he had left to prepare to meet his maker.

Teolitse next came before the judge and heard his sentence through the aid of the interpreter,
Grayson. He had nothing to say in his defense and the judge, as with Finch, advised him to spend his time seeking forgiveness and preparing for his fate.

Martin Joseph, when asked if he had anything to say, replied that he was not guilty of the crimes. The Independent had a different opinion that they expressed in this way: “The atrocity manifest in the crimes committed by Joseph have left no sympathy for him in the public mind. No apology or excuse whatever can be entertained in his behalf even by a fanatical philanthropist. His advocates must have blushed when they pleaded for him before the jury. The crack of his neck under the rope will be music in the ears of justice, and we can hardly believe that any benefit of clergy will be of future avail to him.”

EXECUTION

Friday, June 29, 1883, 11:00 a.m., Chief Deputy Barnes entered cell number one at the garrison and read the death warrants to the three condemned men. Teolitse had confessed to his crime shortly before the final hour, adding that Cochrane was not the only man he had killed and showed the interviewers four buttons sewn on his hat, each representing a killing. Martin Joseph, too, confessed to all three murders and gave details of the crimes. At 11:10, the condemned and the usual accompaniment of guards, deputies, clergymen, reporters and invited guests, started the walk to the gallows. At the gallows the usual ceremony of prayers, singing and hand shaking was observed with Finch and Joseph joining in the singing. Then all of the men were asked if they had any last words. Teolitse only pointed to his heart and shook his bowed head. Martin Joseph said that he had no statement to make. Finch, however, in a manner that belied his slave/soldier history made a “very mannerly bow” and stepped to the front of the platform. At that time, Teolitse collapsed and had to be helped to a seat.

Finch’s speech was quoted in the Elevator July 6, 1883 “in substance as follows”:

“My friends, we meet here this morning upon a very solemn occasion and words are inadequate to express my feelings as I stand here before you. I make this statement because I think it is my duty and after that I can take the noose as freely as did Socrates when he drank the cup of hemlock. If I had been permitted to say anything at my trial, I would not make a murmur now, but as I was not allowed to speak in my own behalf, then I deem it now my duty to myself, to you and to my God to either confirm what I have said before or retract. When I do this, I feel that I can die with a clear conscience. I taken that horse and left the post to escape the commander’s tyranny and rather than be taken back there I taken that gun and killed those men to make good my escape. And now I have done all I can do; my conscience is clear, and when I am gone people may picture me as black as Nero, Tiberius and Caligula those tyrants of old. But no matter what the world may say, I ask you gentlemen of the press, for the sake of those dear ones I leave behind, especially that little boy there (his young brother) not to calumniate my character. Let me see the picture once more, and then I am ready to go beyond that unfathomable abyss of eternity.”

Finch was handed a photograph of his sister, which he took in both hands, and gazed at for a while then exclaimed, “God bless that dear girl. May she ever live to cherish my fond memory.” He then returned the picture, hands were shaken all around with ministers, physician, guards and deputies. Finch then indicated his brother, “a bright negro boy”, and said, “I hope this will be a warning to you, boy.” When the cap was drawn on Joseph he “began to quail.” Teolitse had appeared weak and sick from the time they had left the jail and had to be supported until the fatal drop.

At 11:35 the drop fell. Teolitse never quivered and was dead in three and one half minutes. Finch and Joseph’s “bodies and limbs writhed and twitched convulsively for several minutes after they dropped below the platform.” Joseph was dead in six and one half minutes and Finch in nine minutes. The execution was observed by about forty people, among them members of Finch’s family who had his body shipped to Georgia.

Shortly before the execution Finch had written four letters, one each to his father, his sister and his two brothers. His letters were as long and as expressive as his speeches. He apparently had acquired an education beyond that of the average person of that day. It would be interesting to know.

Sources: National Archives
Elevator, Fort Smith
Independent, Fort Smith
New Era, Fort Smith
News Chronology
July 1 – Dec. 31, 2003

(Abstracted from Times Record and Arkansas Democrat-Gazette)
by Becky and J. P. Chancey

July 2003

7 – Toy Collection Returns to Fort Smith – The Marilyn and Hervy Huie fire truck collection has been donated to the Fort Smith Fire Department. Over the years, the Huies collected about 350 toy fire vehicles. The collection was housed at the Fort Smith Fire Station No. 1 for about 15 years, in an old display case. Someone broke into the case and stole eight antique trucks, so the collection was moved back to the Huie’s home, where it stayed another 15 years. Now, thanks to Marilyn, it’s back at the fire house, displayed in the same display case (refinished by Battalion Chief Larry Hall) and now equipped with locks.

10 – Law Firm to Move Downtown – The Fort Smith law firm of Smith, Maurras, Cohen, Redd and Horan, PLC, announced July 9, the $1.3 million renovation of an 18,000 square-foot building at 1120 Garrison Avenue. The building, built in 1924 by Fred Brown, once housed the Food Center Grocery and at one time a bowling alley. In the late 1930s, a cab company operated from the building and outdoor wrestling matches were held, CBID Commissioner Richard Griffin said. More recent use of the building has been for meeting space by BancorpSouth.

17 – The Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce has named Tom Manskey as its new president. Manskey is currently president and CEO of Lufkins/Angeline County, Texas Chamber of Commerce in Lufkin, Texas.

18 – Trust Puts Land on Sale – The Fort Chaffee Public Trust finally has a “for sale” sign on some of the 7000 acres it controls. Members of the trust board Thursday authorized putting 110 acres on the market. Most of it, 102 acres, is slated for residential development. The remaining land is available for commercial or retail use.

23 – Norton Proppants on Tuesday announced a $10 million, 20,000 plus square-foot expansion of its Fort Smith plant at 5300 Gerber Road.

August 2003

6 – Passengers on the first American Eagle jetliner arrives at the Fort Smith Regional Airport from Dallas, Tuesday, Aug. 5. Airport manager, Bob Johnson, said the airport is one step closer to its goal of all jet service, and American Eagle will provide jet service by Nov. 1, with four flights to and from Dallas each day.

13 – Billy Dooly Leaves Chamber Helm After 12 Years – Dooly said he is retiring now because the Chamber is financially sound and he trusts the operation to a dedicated staff that knows the Chamber’s work and its economic development philosophy well. Construction of Interstate 49 dominated Dooly’s focus during his tenure at the Chamber.

7 – Fort Smith Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Committee Chairman, Jody Weiche, and Fort Smith historian, Fred Patton, dedicated a monument donated by the committee for the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Celebration commemorating the participation of the city of Fort Smith as a partner city, Wednesday, at Fort Smith River Park. The French flag flew over what
is now Arkansas from 1683 to 1763 and again from 1800 to 1803.

10 – Air Museum Chronicles Aviation in Area – Fort Smith is a hotbed when it comes to the history of aviation. That fact quickly flies into focus at the Fort Smith Air Museum, an expansive exhibit located in the northwest corner of the Fort Smith Regional Airport, open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, the free museum showcases hundreds of photographs of area pilots, many still living, as well as original postcards, letters, flight logs, pilot certificates, clothing, model planes, newspaper clippings and equipment. Pictures of Maj. Pierce McKennen, Arkansas’ leading World War II ace; Navy Lt. Simpson Evans, who shot down a Russian MIG 15 in the Korean War; and Warren McLellan, flying the TMB that crashed into the Pacific, are on display in the Fort Smith Air Museum.

12 – UAFS Officials Tout Low Tuition Fees – Annual tuition and fees for an incoming freshman at UA-FS is $2,200, more than $1,000 less than the cost of the University of Arkansas at Monticello. UAM has the second lowest rate at $3,385 per year for incoming freshmen. Highest tuition and fee is Arkansas State University, that being $4,810.

16 – Air Guard Granted Use of Airport – The Fort Smith Airport Commission approved a lease and joint-use agreement at a special meeting Friday, August 15, giving the 188th Fighter Wing of the Arkansas Air National Guard use of the Fort Smith Regional Airport until 2054.

23 – Builders Detail Downtown Plans – The ERC Development Group announced Friday, plans to build 26 apartments, space for a restaurant, and 11,000 square feet of retail space for $4.1 million, the block bounded by North Second, Third, A and B streets. While building the project in stages, ERC, as developer and contractor, will have the restaurant and the first apartments ready in the summer of 2004.

27 – Prehistoric Finds Raise Costs of Lake Project – Earlier in work on the Lake Fort Smith water supply expansion project, modern-day residents of the Crawford County site posed a challenge to the city. Now some of the area’s prehistoric residents are doing the same. Additional expense, in the amount of $2.1 million on the project will be needed to address cultural resources work in the project area, according to director of utilities, Steve Parks. The figure is part of $3.2 million in additional costs. Among discoveries is a pre-historic American Indian site dating back 5,000 to 7,000 years, the second of its type ever found in Northwest Arkansas. At another site, a prehistoric hearth and spear point dating from 6000 to 8000 BC has been found.

September 2003

3 – To comply with a new state law, Fort Smith directors reluctantly voted September 2 to allow manufactured homes on single lots. Act 624 requires municipalities with zoning ordinances to allow manufactured homes on individually owned lots in at least one residential district.

4 – Student Count Up – Enrollment at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith is at a record high for the third straight year. Official fall enrollment at the university is 6,404, up more than 200 students from last fall.

11 – Sparks Gets $1 Million Donation – The Sparks Guild celebrated its 100th Anniversary September 10 by presenting a $1 million check to the Fort Smith hospital to be used to purchase a new magnetic resonance imaging unit.

13 – Fort Smith Christian School invested in new software this year giving parents the ability to monitor grades, assignments and attendance with the click of a mouse.
19 – Arkansas Best Founder to Enter Hall of Fame – Robert A. Young, Jr., founder of holding company Arkansas Best Corp. of Fort Smith, will be inducted into the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame, according to an announcement Sept. 18 by the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville Sam M. Walton College of Business.

28 – City Transforms Old Church – A 117-year old-Fort Smith frame building where faithful church members for years heard sermons on resurrection has experienced its own rebirth. Fort Smith's old First Christian Church, at North C and Seventh Streets, has been restored and soon will open for public use as the Darby Community Center.

October 2003

1 – Study on New Port Begins – The Arkansas Department of Highways and Transportation in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce is starting a yearlong study of regional freight traffic to determine if the area needs a new port.

3 – Museum Considers Fort Smith – Fort Smith officials are angling to lure the U.S. Marshals Museum to the city, saying the law-and-order legacy of Judge Isaac Parker makes it a natural. The museum was established in 1990 by the Smithsonian Institution to celebrate the bicentennial of the Marshals Service. It traveled to 13 cities before settling at a rural horse barn in Laramie, Wyoming, where it drew 40,000 visitors a year. The museum closed earlier this year after marshals expressed concern about inadequate security.

3 – City Landmarks Coming Down – Work is scheduled to begin next week on demolition of two downtown buildings near the Fort Smith Convention Center. The old Times Record building at 920 Rogers Avenue and the Koprovich building at 34 S. 10th St. will be razed to clear land for continued development.

9 – New Downtown Buildings Planned – Developers discussed at Wednesday's meeting of the Central Business Improvement District Commission, plans for two office buildings with a total of more than 44,000 square feet for the area of South 5th Street and Parker Avenue in downtown Fort Smith. Bill Hanna, president of Hanna Oil & Gas Co., announced his company's plans to build a new $2 million corporate headquarters, facing a new street planned by the city. Curtis Properties is developing a $5 million, 30,000 square-foot building for the southwest corner of Fifth Street and Parker Avenue for a long-term lease to the federal government for use by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

11 – 188th Takes First Step in Renovations – The 188th Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard announced Oct. 10 that a Van Buren contractor would construct $6.7 million in buildings for the Guard at the Fort Smith Regional Airport.

12 – The Fort Smith Air Show 2003 marked the first performance of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds since the crash of Thunderbird 6 in an Idaho air show September 14.

13 – Paul Bridges, dean of River Valley Christian School, said land in the 500 block of Strozier Lane in Barling will be the future site for a campus that will house students from preschool through the 12th grade. Officials hope to move into the new facility for the 2005-06 school year.

24 – Congressmen Talk Up I-49 – Proposed interstate would link New Orleans to Kansas City – Seven U.S. Congressmen, six from the south and one from the north, joined local leaders at Fort Chaffee on Thursday in talking up the
advantages of building Interstate 49, but none would commit to a schedule for building the road. Using state funds, the Arkansas Department of Highways and Transportation will do $14.5 million in groundwork on I-49 from Arkansas 22 to Jenny Lind, starting in 2005.

25 - Arkansas-Missouri Railroad Seals Site for Excursion Train - Springdale based A&M Railroad wants to run a Sunday afternoon excursion train from Fort Smith to Winslow/Chester in addition to the regular seasonal Van Buren runs. Different options are being considered for a departure point, National Historic Site's old Frisco Depot being one.

27 - In the middle of Fort Smith's often busy downtown now lies a rock-solid reminder of the sacrifices America's military makes. Members of the Arkansas Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart unveiled a granite monument Friday that pays tribute to recipients of the medal, which honors all servicemen and women wounded in combat. The 3,000-pound monument is the first of its kind in Arkansas and rests just north of the Sebastian County Courthouse.

29 - Sparks Health System's board of trustees Tuesday signed a letter of intent with Plano, Texas-based Triad Hospital, Inc. to build, jointly own and operate a private for-profit hospital in Fort Smith. Sparks board Chairman Tom Webb said the transaction proves "an opportunity for growth," and is the result of a careful, months-long search for "the right partners".

November 2003

3 - A Forever Young Gala was held October 24 at Lyon College to pay tribute to Mary and Robert A. Young III of Fort Smith for almost 30 years of service. Young stepped down in May as chairman of the Lyon Board of Trustees after 13 years in that leadership role. He continues to serve as a trustee. He is president and chief executive officer of Arkansas Best Corp, chairman of Arkansas Best Freight Systems and a director of ABC Treadco.

3 - Darby Dedication Set - The Belle Grove Historic District will observe its 30th anniversary with the dedication of the Darby Community Center at 220 N. Seventh on Nov. 6. The one story frame structure, built in 1886, first housed the First Christian Church. It subsequently served as a place of worship for several other denominations. The wooden frame structure exemplifies the Victorian Gothic architectural style. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program and the Community Development Block Grant program funded restoration of the building. The center is managed by the Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Department and is available for rental.

7 - About 20 Fort Smith residents took the initial step of developing a trails and greenways plan for the city Thursday, marking proposed routes for the system the city hopes eventually to build. The trails developed in the city will be designed to connect homes to destinations in the city, such as schools, parks, and places of employment or business centers. The paths will have a minimum width of 10 feet and will be paved surfaces.

11 - Disabled American Veterans Van and Volunteers provide transportation to and from hospital - Veterans of all ages are participating in a free program that transports them via vans from the Fort Smith area to Fayetteville, to the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center for treatment and back. The DAV provides the vans, and volunteer veterans drive Monday through Friday, except on holidays.

15 - Fort Smith police chief Randy Reed presented a badge to Dawn Sprayberry, who was promoted to sergeant Friday. Sprayberry is the department's first female sergeant in the patrol division.
24 - The End of the Worldburger Drive In - As the Worldburger Drive In was torn down last week, and pieces of history were tossed into a salvage truck, past patrons recalled the passing of an era. Worldburger, a fixture at 2806 Towson Avenue for some 50 years, was the setting for many memorable moments - first dates, marriage proposals, cruising, tasty burgers and a mean milkshake. According to information from Della Yocum, widow of Ken Yocum, the last owner of Worldburger, the restaurant actually got its start about 1947, when Ray Porter sold ice, melons and burgers from a trailer at 801 N. 10th St. In 1950, Nick Sakis opened Worldburger 2 at 2300 Towson, which was moved to 2806 Towson around 1952. W.T. “Dub” Bromley bought both locations from Fay Nation in 1954 and opened a third Worldburger at 3617 Jenny Lind, which closed in 1961. In 1977, Yocum said, Bromley sold the 10th Street location, which left the Towson location as the only Worldburger in town. Ken Yocum bought the drive in 1985 and in 1994 Worldburger Two opened at 6308 U.S. 271. Yocum operated both locations until his death in 2002. With each piece of metal scrapped, fond memories were stirred of the Fort Smith icon.

25 - Trust Accepts Developer’s Bid - With a bid of $1.26 million, ERC Land Development Group of Barling received approval Monday from the Fort Chaffee Public Trust to begin the first substantial residential development on former Fort Chaffee property. Trust members voted 6-0 to accept the bid to develop a 235 single-family home development on 104 acres of what is now known as Chaffee Crossing. The 104 acres will be called “The Woods at Chaffee Crossing”. The ERC proposal also includes 4 acres of single commercial development and six acres of single or multi-family development on the land southeast of Zero Street and Massard Road.

December 2003

2 - Night Bus Runs Get Public Nod - About 15 people attended a hearing on the proposal service during a meeting of the Fort Smith Transit Commission. Transit Director Ken Savage said the evening service would run on a fixed route Monday through Friday from 7 pm until 10 pm. The proposed route will cover Rogers Avenue between Massard Road and Waldron Road, Waldron Road between Rogers Avenue and Grand Avenue, and Grand Avenue from Interstate 540 to Greenwood Avenue. Savage said Para transit and demand response services will be integrated to serve as “feeder” busses to the fixed route when it is operating.

4 – Doe’s to Open in Brewery – The Fort Smith franchise of Doe’s Eat Place will open Jan. 1, 2004 in the historic Knoble Brewery building, which was built in 1848.

8 – Bachelor’s in Imaging Planned – UAFS seeks to extend its radiography program as technology grows. UAFS started a two-year radiography program in the fall of 1998 to meet the need in western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. Trustees of the University of Arkansas System approved, last month, a new bachelor’s degree in imaging sciences. The four-year degree needs further approval from the state Higher Education Coordinating Board next spring.

8 – The 188th Fighter Wing is compiling a history book to commemorate its 50th Anniversary. A full-color book approximately 160 pages long, the history book will be available in the spring. Included will be photos and news bits from 1953 to the present.

9 – In preparation for the 100th anniversary of Frisco Depot, an original 1903 watercolor of the new passenger depot and offices of Frisco System was hung. The open house will be from 11 am to 6 pm today at the station, Garrison Avenue and North 2nd Street. The Frisco Depot is a part of the Fort Smith National Historic Site. The anniversary observance will include a re-enactment of the 1903 dedication speech, tours, and music by the Charles Dye Family Band.
12 – Area Fire Departments Getting FEMA Grants – Fort Smith is in line to receive a $230,895 grant. Fort Smith firefighters won’t have to breath their own fire truck’s exhaust or risk getting each other’s germs when they share face masks anymore. The Fort Smith Fire Department will receive $230,895, three quarters of which will go toward ventilation systems in each of the city’s 10 stations, Fire Chief Jerry Tomlin said.

*****

15 – SADDAM HUSSEIN CAPTURED – American forces captured deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in a tiny cellar or “spider hole” in a farmhouse 10 miles south of the city of Tikrit, Iraq. Hussein, 66, had not been seen since the fall of Bagdad to U.S. forces in April, 2003. The operations, involving various combined U.S. units, was launched within 24 hours of receiving a tip from a member of Saddam Hussein’s clan. Hussein surrendered without incident and video was released showing him disheveled, with a long gray and black beard, during a medical examination.

*****

18 – Hats Off To The New Year – The City of Fort Smith will host the annual New Year’s Eve Celebration from 8:30 pm to 12:30 am at the Fort Smith Convention Center. The event is free and will feature music by Supper Club Dance Band led by James Shoffey.

*****

22 – Frontier Winners Announced – Winners of the Spirit of the Frontier Awards were announced by Mayor Ray Baker’s office. The awards are given to individuals who have been examples of the Frontier Spirit that has helped make Fort Smith one of the outstanding cities in the United States. Winners for 2003 are: Polly Crews, Dr. J. P. Shermer, John Crocker, Gerald Price, Bob Boyer, Richard Griffin, Joel Stubblefield, Monsignor John O’Donnell, Amelia Martin, Bea Lyons, Bob Jones, Jr. Tony Leraris, Dr. Jerry Wagner, Eddie Christian, Pete Kennemer, Tom

24 – Contributions to this year’s Community Christmas Card have given $28,135 to the Good Samaritan Clinic.
The following is a list of U.S. marshals, deputy marshals, bailiffs, jailers, criers and possemen buried in Oak Cemetery, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

As of January 2004, the list of marshals, deputies, etc., has grown considerably. The research completed as of this date indicates far more marshals buried in Oak Cemetery than originally thought. There are 4 marshals, 116 deputy marshals and 29 guards, posse, bailiffs, jailers and related U.S. Court employees now identified as buried in Oak Cemetery.

A program was initiated in 1996 called: "Tombstones For Judge Parker's Marshals." A ceremony was held in Oak Cemetery, presided over by Mayor Ray Baker, for the purpose of placing marshal stones at the graves of those that did not have one. This group was able to purchase eleven monuments and had four donated. As a result of this effort, known marshals at the time that did not have a stone had one placed on their grave site. On April 4, 1996, the list of marshals and deputies buried in Fort Smith outside of Oak Cemetery contained:

- 7 Deputies in Calvary Cemetery
- 5 Deputies in Forest Park Cemetery
- 9 Deputies and 1 Marshal in National Cemetery
- 58 Total Deputies and Marshals buried in Fort Smith (identified as of 1996)

In addition to the stones for marshals in Fort Smith, a stone was placed on the graves of marshals buried outside Fort Smith and identified by relatives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADAMS</td>
<td>DEPUTY MARSHAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALLEN, JOHN</td>
<td>DEPUTY MARSHAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALLISON</td>
<td>GUARD</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARMORER, WILLIAM EDWARD</td>
<td>DEPUTY MARSHAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARMSTRONG, JOHN</td>
<td>GUARD</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARMSTRONG, JR. HENRY CLAY</td>
<td>U.S. MARSHAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>AYERS, CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS</td>
<td>DEPUTY/JAILER/POSSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AYERS, JACOB T</td>
<td>DEPUTY MARSHAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAKER, JAMES H.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BARLING, FRANK RECTOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>BARLING, JERRY KANNADY</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARNES, C. M.</td>
<td>DEPUTY/CHIEF DEPUTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEAN, WICKLIFF</td>
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<td>BECK, ADDISON</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>BERRY, JOHN D.</td>
<td>U.S. JAILER</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIRNIE, CORNELIUS S.</td>
<td>DEPUTY MARSHAL</td>
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<td>BIRNIE, HENRY C.</td>
<td>DEPUTY MARSHAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIRNIE, WILLIAM STREEBECK</td>
<td>DEPUTY MARSHAL</td>
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<td>BLOOMBURG, JOHN R.</td>
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<td>BOWLING, FRANK PIERCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>BROWN, GEORGE H.</td>
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<td>BROWN, ELIZA ELLEN</td>
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<td>BROWN, E.L.</td>
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<td>BROWN, JAMES D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BROWN, THOMAS</td>
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<td>BUSBY, SHEPPARD</td>
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<td>FENTRESS, WILLIAM E.</td>
<td>DEPUTY MARSHAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>FISHER, SAMUEL N.</td>
<td>DEPUTY/GUARD</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRY, REUBEN MACON</td>
<td>DEPUTY MARSHAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FURNER, EDWARD F.</td>
<td>DEPUTY MARSHAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GILL, JOHN HEDRICK</td>
<td>DEPUTY MARSHAL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Killed in the line of duty.
** BLACK MARSHALS OR DEPUTY MARSHALS
*** WOMEN
Deputy U.S. Marshals Who Served During Judge Parker's Tenure and Are Buried In Fort Smith Cemeteries Other than Oak Cemetery:

Calvary Cemetery
EDWARD H. BURNS 1857-1882
RENFROE B. CREEKMORE 1849-1894
JOHN KEMP 1843-1886
JOHN H. LAUDERBACK 1852-1881
THOMAS H. SCOTT 1826-1882
ARTHUR PERKINS WALKER 1851-1923
MICHAEL C. WALLACE 1843-1925

Forest Park Cemetery
W. H. H. BARBEE 1841-1910
JOSIAH FOSTER 1844-1912
EDWARD HAGLIN 1862-1951
SAMUEL F. LAWRENCE 1847-1940
FRANK M. MORGAN 1854-1927

Fort Smith National Cemetery
RANDOLPH BROWN CREEKMORE 1845-1893
CHRISTOPHER DUFF 1838-1899
JOSEPH GRAMLICH 1845-1930
JAMES ANDERSON JOHNSON 1894
JAMES K. PEMBERTON 1848-1932
ANTON SCHUSTER 1830-1892
JAMES W. SEARLE 1886
CALVIN WHITSON 1860-1892
FLOYD A. WILSON 1860-1892
JACOB YOES, U.S. MARSHAL 1839-1906

MEMORIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS IMPORTANT TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

When making a gift to honor or remember someone important to you, please remember the Fort Smith Historical Society. Gifts may be made in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a birthday, graduation, anniversary or other event.

Memorial gifts are a beautiful and lasting way to honor those who are dear to us. All memorials and commemorative gifts are acknowledged with a letter to both the donor and the family of the person honored.

Gifts are tax deductible and may be made in any amount.

Descendants of U.S. Marshals Invited to Attend May 1, 2004 Meeting to Bring Fort Smith a U.S. Marshal Service Museum

Fort Smith's rich and colorful frontier history is just one quality that makes our community so unique, but it is also the primary motivation behind current efforts for Fort Smith to be considered as a prospective new home for the U.S. Marshal Service Museum.

"Just about everyone in Fort Smith knows someone who has a story to tell about the role that either a relative or acquaintance played in the history of the Marshal Service in Fort Smith," says Dick O'Connell, U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas. "Many of the family members of those who contributed to our great history are still in the area, and have been keeping that history alive through stories that have been passed through the generations, so our heritage continues to live on through them."

As part of City's efforts to show the U.S. Marshal Service why Fort Smith would be the natural choice for the Museum, O'Connell says a group is being formed to record the histories of their family members.

"We're going to call this support group 'The Descendants,' and we're really looking forward to meeting anyone who has a story to tell about the U.S. Marshal Service in Fort Smith. We're inviting anyone with a story to tell to join us and bring any artifacts they may have so that we might photograph and log the items. We will literally be recording our history that we know is being cherished throughout the area."

The Steering Committee will hold an open house for "The Descendants" at the Frisco Depot at the foot of the Garrison Avenue Bridge on Saturday, May 1, 2004 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

O'Connell encourages anyone who would like to be a part of the effort to record this history to attend. "We know there are hundreds of stories out there, but we have never gotten them all together at one time."
FORT SMITH ELEVATOR
Jan 1, 1904 – June 24, 1904
(Abstracted from microfilm in the
Fort Smith Public Library
by Dorothy Doville)
(Editor: Spelling, punctuation and grammar appear
as printed in Fort Smith Elevator)

JAN. 8, 1904

The till of the Black Diamond saloon was tapped
to the extent of $12 one morning last week.

****

Whiskey went out of Mulberry on petition and
as a result Mulberry people will wrestle with blind
tigers for the next year. (Note: A “blind tiger” is an
old slang term for an unlicensed, and thus
illegal, saloon.)

****

The retail Merchants have all agreed to close
their store at 7 o’clock from now until the first of
October, Saturdays and railroad paydays have
been excepted.

****

Ed Stahle, manager of the Grand Opera
House, is negotiating with Captain Richard
Hobson for a lecture in February. Capt. Hobson
is wonderfully popular in Fort Smith and could
prove a drawing card.

JAN. 15, 1904

The annual meeting of the fire department last
week resulted in the choice of the following
officers: Thad Reynolds was re-elected Assistant
Chief, W.W. Phillips, secretary, Morris Breen,
assistant secretary, and Barney Dunne, treasurer.

JAN. 22, 1904

The Midland Valley Railroad has ordered three
locomotives for its service between Hartford and
Greenwood.

****

Lon Hensen, indicted by the federal grand jury
for violating the postal laws, was arrested at
Springdale on Sunday by Deputy Marshal E. F.
Furner.

JAN. 29, 1904

Dr. Brock has been returned to the pastorate of
the Methodist Episcopal Church of this city, a fact
that is gratifying to all the members of his
congregation.

****

Addie Bryan, deputy marshall, reported at the
federal jail last week with Jake Hiss and James
Beckworth, who got into trouble in Howard
county for bootlegging.

****

Mr. J.H. Rawlings, for several years
bookkeeper at the Merchants Bank, has resigned
his position for the purpose of returning to
Tennessee and engaging in business there. Mr.
Robert McClure has succeeded him.

FEB. 5, 1904

Among the other enterprises on foot in Fort
Smith is a company which has been organized
for the purpose of prospecting for oil on land
owned by Mrs. E.R. Duval on Mazzard Prairie.
Capt. W.J. Perdue is president.

FEB. 12, 1904

Last week the governor issued a pardon to
C.O. and R.L. Greaves, who were convicted in
the Circuit Court of the southern district of Logan
county of the offense of playing cards on Sunday
and fined $25 each.

FEB. 9, 1904

The Fort Smith Trust Company has recorded a
lease of the Cohn building on the corner of
Garrison avenue and Sixth street, and will move
into it about the first of September.
FEB. 26, 1904

The Fort Smith and Western has begun suits against those who failed to pay their notes given to secure the building of the road named into this city.

*****

Bennett Brown, Tom King and P.R. Stewart met at the Main Hotel in this city Monday and arranged a scale for wages for the mines recently opened in Poteau.

*****

Natural gas is the material with which George H. Coleman now lights his house and cooks his meals. Several months ago Mr. Coleman concluded to sink a well in the expectation of striking something, and employed Joe Young to do the work. The result was the discovery of a very satisfactory flow of gas.

MARCH 11, 1904

Bob Payne has been awarded the contract for the building the dwelling to be erected by Mr. J.B. McDonough on the Free Ferry Road. The building will be a handsome structure and costs about $8,000.

*****

Dr. I.A. Ryan has bought the Baker place on Lexington avenue, paying therefore the sum of $3,000. The property is of the choicest in the city.

*****

The general offices of the Potter Coal & Coke Company have been removed to Fort Smith and are located over 815 Garrison avenue, where the business of the concern is being conducted by a full corps employees.

*****

The old Bomford property on the northwest corner of North Sixth and A streets last week was bought by Dr. J.D. Southard, the price being $3,600. The property is especially desirable, and the house a landmark, having been built many years ago.

MARCH 25, 1904

J.J. Mahoney has bought from the Birnie Real Estate company, the property on the corner of North Seventh and F streets, paying therefore the sum of $2,100.

*****

Monday of last week Ed Webb and Garland Lewis became involved in a row over Maida McDavid, and the row ended by Webb taking a crack at Lewis with a revolver. The bullet struck Lewis in the forehead and glancing, turned itself in the shoulder of the gentle Maida. Maida McDavid is the girl who was accidentally shot in the forehead by John Frierson several years ago.

APRIL 1, 1904

Bill Edmondson, step-son of Judge Sam Edmondson, was poisoned last week by eating a sample of washing powder which had been thrown in the yard at his home. By the prompt application of proper antidotes the bad effect of the stuff were overcome.

*****

The Masons have arranged to open their elegantly refitted lodge room to the fraternity and their friends Thursday evening, March 31, for receiving in a formal manner the portrait of the highly esteemed and much loved man and Mason, Dr. E.R. DuVal.

APRIL 15, 1904

The United States Court of Poteau last week ruled that "Uno" is a substitute for beer and intoxicating in its effects. J.S.Kirkpatrick, who was charged with selling it was convicted and sentenced to six months imprisonment. The liquor dealers made a vigorous fight over the case but lost out. Uno is alleged to be a mild substitute for beer, with little or no intoxicating properties, but the fact is it is but little less intoxicating then the genuine lager.

APRIL 22, 1904

At the annual election of the officers of the Jewish synagogue last Sunday I. Isaacson was chosen President, Mr. Rudolph Ney retiring on account of ill health. The resignation of Rabbi Kahn was tendered at the same meeting.
On the night of the 14th of April fire destroyed fifteen spans of the Missouri Pacific bridge across the Illinois river in the Territory. Several Fort Smithians who were caught on the other side had to come home by way of the Kansas City Southern, which took them up around by Tahlequah and Fort Gibson.

APRIL 29, 1904

In the Circuit Court Monday Judge Rowe overruled a motion for a new trial in the case of Andy Carr vs. the Street Car company, in which Mr. Carr received a verdict of $1,000 personal damages.

MAY 6, 1904

Miss Batson Cravens of Clarksville, sister of Mrs. John W. Howell, of this city, has been appointed by Gen. W.I. Cabell as sponsor for the Trans-Mississippi Department of the Confederate reunion at Nashville.

MAY 20, 1904

The first lot of sand brick made by the Sand Brick Company was turned out last week. There were 2,000 in the batch and all were perfect in form and quality. The owners of the plant are in ecstasy over the output and feel confident that their goods will find a ready market.

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Mrs. Carrie Nation, the bar room smasher, passed through the city Monday on her way to Texas, by way of the Cannon Ball. While her train was standing on the depot she managed to make a short speech from the car window on the evils of whiskey and tobacco, and incidently she sold a few of her hatchets.

MAY 29, 1904

Miss Sue Martin, daughter of Mr. W.R. Martin was horseback riding, her horse stumbled and threw her out of the saddle. In falling, one of her feet caught in a stirrup and held her fast, but the animal did not attempt to run, and fortunately she was not greatly injured.

JUNE 3, 1904

Kate Beecher, one of the river front dizzies attempted last week to kill herself by taking corrosive sublimate, being urged to self-destruction by suffering resulting from a prolonged spree. Prompt medical attention saved her life.

JUNE 10, 1904

Mrs. Elizabeth Trent, Mother of Prof. O.E. Trent, principal of the Fort Smith colored schools, died in this city last week from the effect of a stroke of paralysis.

JUNE 17, 1904

The joke is on Col. Ed Hiner. At Swift & Company’s sale last week he bought a fine ham, and not having his buggy with him spoke to Dave Cheney, who was nearby, about getting it home. Dave said his own buggy was near by and that he would carry it out for him. Col. Hiner placed the ham under the seat of a buggy he found in the street and went back and bought another, which was placed alongside of the first he purchased. Upon coming out of the building some time afterward the buggy was missing, and later it was learned that the buggy in which Hiner had put the hams was not Cheney’s but belonged to someone else.

JUNE 24, 1904

Judge W.A. Falconer is in receipt of a letter from Senator A.C. Latimer, of South Carolina, accepting the Judge’s invitation to speak in Fort Smith on July 16, on the subject of good roads.

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The contract for the erection of the Mayo building on the lot adjoining Murta’s furniture establishment has been awarded to F.F. Reddick. The building will be three stories high and will cost about $15,000. Len O’Neal is doing the work of excavation.
Index

Note: The article “U.S. Marshals Buried in Oak Cemetery” (pages 36-38) is in alphabetical order and the Marshals have not been included in this index.

100th anniversary of Frisco Depot, 34
188th Fighter Wing Arkansas Air National Guard, 31, 32, 34
1000 South D Street, 7
1776 Brand, 9
1917 Centennial, 12
1 and M Streets, 8
801 North 1st Street, 8

-- A --
A Forever Young Gala, 33
ABC Treadco, 33
AFG Industries, 14, 15
Akins, Jerry, 22
American Eagle, 30
American Window Glass Company, 12
Arbuckle Mountain, 26
Archer, William, 13
Arkansas Best Corp., 32
Arkansas Best Freight Systems, 33
Arkansas Business Hall of Fame, 32
Arkansas Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, 33
Arkansas Department of Highways and Transportation, 32
Arkansas Directory of Manufacturers, 8
Arkansas Glass Company, Van Buren, 5, 13
Arkansas Glass & Mirror Company, 13
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 33
Arkansas-Missouri Railroad, 33
Arkansas State Bureau of Markets, 8
Athletic Mining and Smelting Company, 5

-- B --
Bailey-White Glass Company, 13
Baker, Mayor Ray, 35
BancorpSouth, 30
Barnes, Chief Deputy C.M., 24
Beck, Deputy Marshal, 26
Beckman Bros. Dairy, 18
Beckman Dairy, 16
Beckman, Bill, 16
Beckman Senior Center, 18
Beckman's Of Course, 18
Beckworth, James, 39
Becraft Glass Company, 13
Becraft, Alvin, 13
Becraft, Edward, 13
Becraft, Ira F., 13
Becraft, Paul, 13
Beecher, Kate, 41
Belle Grove Historic District, 33
Bell, William, Posse, 35
Bell Point Beverages, Inc., 35
Bergy Goods, 21
Birnie Real Estate Company, 40
Black Diamond Saloon, 33
Bobo, Alan, 26
Boles, Marshal, 28
Bomford Property, 40
Boyer, Bob, 35
Breen, Morris, 39
Bridges, Paul, 32
Brown, Bennett, 40
Brown, Fred, 30
Brown, William T., 22
Bryan, Addie, 39

-- C --
Cabell, Gen. W.I., 41
Calderara, Tom, 35
Car #224, 3
Carney, George, 6, 10
Carr, Andy, 41
Central Business Improvement District, 32
Chancey, Becky, 30
Chancey, J.P., 30
Chariton, Iowa, 16
Charles Dye Family Band, 35
Cheyne, Dave, 41
Christian, Eddie, 35
City of Fort Smith, 35
Civic Center, 18
Clark, Edmond P., 22
Clarksville, West Virginia, 12
Cleartemp, 11
Clinton, Governor Bill, 3
Cluck, G.K., 15
Cochrane, Emanuel C., 25
Cohn Building, 40
Coleman, George H., 40
Community Christmas Card, 35
Community Development Block Grant Program, 33
Conrad, Marcia, 15

Court of the Western District of Arkansas, 22
Cravens, Miss Batson, 41
Crews, Polly, 35
Crocket, John, 35
Crystal Glass Company, 7, 13
Curtis Properties, 32

-- D --
Dandoy Glass Company, 13
Danford, George, 13
Danford, Leon V., 13
Darby Community Center, 32
Dell, U.S. District Marshal V., 24
Descendants of U.S. Marshals, 38
Diggs, James, 22
Disabled Veterans Van program, 33
Doe's Eat Place, 34
Dooley, Billy, 30
Dob, Chad, 15
Dovile, Dorothy, 39
Dunne, Barney, 39
DuVal and Barnes, 25
DuVal, Dr. E.R., 40
DuVal, Mrs. E.R., 39

-- E --
Edmondson, Bill, 40
Edmondson, Judge Sam, 40
Ema Foods Company, Inc., 35
Entertainment Fort Smith Magazine, 35
ERC Development Group, 31
Evans, Navy Lt. Simpson, 31

-- F --
Falconer, Judge W.A., 41
Farrell, John, 27
Fayetteville Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 33
Federal Prison at Detroit, Michigan, 24
Federation of Flat Glass Workers, 9
FEMA Grants, 35
Finch, William H., 22, 25, 28, 29
Fire and Sand -- Part I, 4
First Methodist Church, 16
Food Center Grocery, 30
Ford, Bob, 22
Forest Park Cemetery, 12
Fort Chaffee, 33
Fort Chaffee Public Trust, 30
Fort Smith Air Museum, 31
Fort Smith Airport Commission, 31
Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce, 35
Fort Smith Christian School, 31
Fort Smith Coffee Company, 8, 15