



Committee Chairmen—Top row, Trav Rash, cashier and gates; Estel Hardy, underwriting; Harold Clapper, construction; J. R. Stalcup, spectacle division; Paul Todd, special events; William K. Lasley, scenario and title; Welch Greenwell, parade; Rev. Earl C. Griffith, religious day; S. S. Barkelew, promenade and caravan; Herbert Gilbert, tickets; W. R. Howell; Henry Parkelew, general chairman; Art Carlson, queen contest; A. Loy Jones, headquarters; Walter Lucas, merchants' promotion; Edgar P. Blanton, historical program. Bottom row, Mrs. M. G. Ridgway, publicity; Mrs. Harlan O'Daniel, Belles of The Bonnet; Mrs. C. A. Lichty, ladies' and children's day; Mrs. Josephine Holtgreve, choir director; Mrs. Charles Corbin, music; and Mrs. Carl Rash.

ton Adams and Silas Threlkeld bought the milling business from Fox, Frye & Co., who operated the original Prairie Star Mill, and they in turn changed the process to rollers. This was a modern mill and was located on South Center street near the present Gillispie residence.

In the early 80s an axe handle factory was opened and it became one of the town's most important industries. Another industry was the flourishing tobacco and cigar business. In 1861 Sparks & Hill Co. had a considerable tobacco and cigar factory on the north side of the tracks. The other contemporary factory was owned by Leonard Sparks on the corner of Chestnut and Center streets, where Miles & Bates store now stands. This factory employed eight people. The tobacco was shipped into Shelbyville. Some of the brands were "L. S.," "Little Jewel," "Odd Shape," and "Little Dutchman." They were sold for 5 cents. The "La Pearl de Cuba" retailed for 10 cents. Another cigar factory operated by A. L. Jenks stood on East Walnut at the location of the present Railway Express office. Carl Heninger was employed there. One other cigar factory was operated by Mr. Turner on the second floor of the Reid building. Tobacco at one time was worth 4 and 5 cents a pound. In 1876 a half million pounds of tobacco were grown near Shelbyville. A tobacco barn stood for many years on the site of T. C. Sumpter's residence. It finally burned down.

The poultry business which flourished for many years in Shelbyville began with J. M. Dean in 1890. He sold to the Chicago and New York markets from his establishment on East Walnut street. Later he opened the first cash and carry market on Chestnut street.

Some other factories were a creamery, also a cheese factory. A local industry was the broom factory started in 1889 by Robert L. Holdsworth and now carried on by his sons, Harry and Frank. It has been in continuous operation at the same location.

To John W. Vandiver (of Shelbyville at the time of his invention) goes the honor and credit of inventing the first corn planter ever used by the American farmer. Obviously this in-

vention aided the agricultural advancement of the entire country. It was patented in October, 1863 and was called the Vandiver Corn Planter. It was a standard planter for many years. The first model was constructed in the David Morgan Wagon Factory.

The increasing volume of freight and passenger traffic between Shelbyville and Shelbyville created an urgent need for a county railroad. This project began in 1906 when local people and merchants subscribed \$100,000 for its construction. On December 28, 1907 the first passenger train steamed from Shelbyville to Shelbyville and the Shelby County Railway took its place among the carriers of the state. In 1913 this was extended to Novelty, Mo., under the name of the Shelby Northwestern Railroad.

The first record of a telephone line to Shelbyville was built from Bethel to Shelbyville in 1893. The real beginning of an organized telephone industry was in 1895. And in 1896 Shelbyville boasted of a city exchange and 75 miles of telephone line in the entire county.

In the spring of 1910 enough coal was found just north of Shelbyville to be of commercial value. Jacob Raby established the Brick and Tile Plant. Great quantities of valuable white clay were found locally and shipped to Illinois.

Following is a partial list of local businesses which had early beginnings:

The Miller Furniture Store is discussed elsewhere.

Lasley Clothing Co., founded by Charles Henry Lasley in 1875. The founder was born in Monroe county in 1853. His first partner was Chester Cotton. The firm is now operated by three sons of C. H. Lasley—Russell, Roland and Kenneth. The business is now entering its 83rd year of continuous operation.

Miles & Bates Mercantile Co. had its beginning in 1903. The first owners were the late John S. Miles and Tom F. Bates. In 1912 L. H. Livermore entered the partnership, withdrawing in 1927. In 1920 A. B. Weston and T. G. Crawford became partners and since 1950 have operated the business.

Bedwell Granite Works has Ray C. Bedwell as proprietor. He is the 4th generation in the marble and granite business.