

## **Tecumseh Products Company is the subject of the upcoming exhibit and employee reunion.**

The Tecumseh Products Retrospective Exhibit and informal employee reunion will take place in conjunction with Tecumseh's Bicentennial Celebration, July 18–21. The Tecumseh Products History Committee is partnering with the Underwood Orr Post of the American Legion, which will host the exhibit at 101 W. Pottawatamie Street.

For decades after Ray Herrick moved his fledgling business here at the height of the Great Depression in 1934, Tecumseh Products (TPC) was the town's largest employer and a cornerstone of the community. This Retrospective Exhibit weaves together photos, memorabilia, and personal accounts to tell the story of "The Products" and the growth and development of our city since its arrival.

"Nearly everybody in town worked there, or their family members did," said Cheri Hinkleman, one of the organizers of the event. "It was a good-paying job, but it was also a community. They had sports teams, a theatre players group, a photography club, and an orchestra, and annually they had a company picnic with as many as five thousand people attending. The exhibit covers a lot of ground; I guarantee that everybody will learn something new."

The exhibit focuses on the people of TPC because it was the people that made the company successful, according to Hinkleman. "Employees felt a lot of loyalty to the company and to Ray Herrick personally. A lot of talented and dedicated employees helped make the Products a success, and we want to celebrate that. We will also focus on the philanthropy of the Herrick family and other changes brought about by the company."

The retrospective spans all four days of Tecumseh's Bicentennial Celebration. "We think that the public will be amazed by this story, and we hope that all the former employees and their families will come out and reconnect," Hinkleman said. "Tecumseh would not be the town it is today without the Tecumseh Products Company. We have much to be grateful for!"

In conjunction with the Bicentennial Celebration, the American Legion will host its annual chicken barbeque on Saturday, July 20, starting at noon. The public is welcome! There will be tents with seating and beer will be available for purchase. Also, the Scottville Clown Band will perform on the street as part of the block party from 1pm-3 pm.

**WHAT: Tecumseh Products Retrospective Exhibition**

**WHERE: American Legion, 101 W. Pottawatamie St.**

**WHEN: Thursday, July 18: (2pm–6pm)**

**Friday, July 19 & Saturday, July 20: (12pm to 8pm)**

**Sunday, July 21: (2pm to 6pm)**

**ADMISSION: Free**