

The 1921 Cameron High School yearbook contained a History of Industry in Cameron.

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THE HILLTOP



VOLUME ONE
1 9 2 1



PUBLISHED BY
CAMERON HIGH SCHOOL
CAMERON, WEST VIRGINIA



The History of Industry in Cameron

The Cameron industries are noted for their quality rather than their quantity. From 1880 to 1900, the industries of Cameron were: the stave factory, small wagon shop, flour mill, and blacksmith shop. The wagon shop, or factory stood where Dr. Hill's residence now stands. The industry of most importance at that time was stave factory which operated some forty years ago. It was owned and operated by Mr. Miller and Mr. Boerner of Cameron and employed about forty men. It stood where the Monroe Tool Company stood in 1920. The wages of the employees ranged from fifty cents to one dollar a day. The lumber for making the staves was hauled from Littleton, W. Va. The staves were shaped, cut, and dried, then sent to the Wagner Keg Company of Wheeling. Many of the older citizens of Cameron have worked in the stave factory and it was thought to be a large industry at that time.

The next industry was the Eljer Pottery Company which operated under the supervision of a home company about twenty-five years ago. Since that time, it has increased many fold in quality and quantity, and is the most important industry in Cameron at the present. The Pottery is owned by Mr. Merritt and Mr. Crane and managed by Mr. Lawrence. This industry is of very much importance to Cameron as it employs about one hundred and fifty men. The quality of their sanitary ware is noted all over the United States. They supplied much ware for the Government during the late war.

The Cameron Tool Company started into operation as a Blacksmith shop some twenty years ago and during the oil and gas boom began to repair and manufacture supplies for the oil field. The supplies were noted for resistance and were demanded to the extent that the interests were merged with those of Spang and Company of Butler, Pa. This new foundry of Spang and Monroe is situated in the East end of Cameron. The former Tool Company employed about twenty men during the boom in Texas and almost their entire output was sent to the Texas oil fields.

The Patterson window glass factory is situated in the West end of Cameron near the Eljer Pottery Company. When running to full capacity, this factory employs about two hundred men. This factory is owned by Guy B. Patterson of Cameron. This factory has been in operation for twenty years and has been steadily progressing in output and size since Mr. Patterson took over the management from the home company. The window glass is always in demand because of its quality. In the last year or so the factory has increased about fifty percent and is now making wind shield glass for automobiles. The employees were paid from four to forty dollars per day in 1920. This industry has helped put Cameron on the map.

Fifteen years ago, the B. & O. "Y" stood where the depot now stands. It employed several men but hindered the growth of the town considerably because, it was situated in the center of the town. It was moved to the West end of Cameron and was destroyed by fire several years ago, and was not rebuilt. The citizens said next to the fire of 1894, the moving of the "Y" has been the greatest help to Cameron. Cameron's business district and many homes were completely wiped out by fire in 1894. It has been making fine progress in rebuilding the town commercially, and other ways.

Two industries founded within the past few years are: the Diamond Flint Glass Company and The Industrial Glass Company situated in the East end of Town. Their products are glassware such as bottles, globes, and tumblers. The smaller companies are: the Moundsville Lumber Company, Cameron Green House, and two flour mills owned respectively by Hagans & Islemen and Watson Brothers.





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