

# Images of Oklahoma



For more than seventy years, photographer Joseph W. Hardin captured images of Oklahoma—boomtowns, in their glory days, oil field workers and coal miners, weathered faces of Dust Bowl families on drought-stricken homesteads, portraits and working scenes alike. In addition to working for the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad, Hardin opened his first studio in McAlester, Oklahoma, in 1913, and his second in Henryetta five years later. Fascinated by politics, he attended sixteen consecutive presidential inaugurations, always with camera in hand, and was the official photographer for Governor "Alfalfa Bill" Murray.

Unfortunately, the majority of Joseph Hardin's estimated one million photographs have been accidentally or intentionally destroyed. Remaining photographs may be found in private collections and special libraries such as the University of Oklahoma Western History Collections. Hardin's heirs have designated the Henryetta Territorial Museum as "Home of the Joseph Hardin Photography Collection."

Photographs courtesy of the Henryetta Historical Society and the Henryetta Territorial Museum.

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