

JOHN SMITHERMAN, ONE OF THE FIRST NEGRO POLICEMEN IN TULSA. HE HAD A REPUTATION OF NEVER HAVING TO SHOOT A PRISONER IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTY OR OTHERWISE. HIS FIRST BEAT WAS FROM ARCHER ST. TO THE BACKYARD HILLS. HIS TRANSPORTATION WAS BY BICYCLE. IF HE COULD NOT APPREHEND HIS PRISONER BY OTHER MEANS, HE WOULD GET DOWN HIM ON FEET.

HE WORKED FOR TULSA, EITHER ON THE POLICE DEPT, OR THE SHERIFFS DEPT. - FOR APPROX. 40 YEARS, EXCEPT WHEN POLITICS CHANGED BY ELECTIONS AND THE WRONG PARTY WON.

HE WAS THE FIRST NEGRO TO BE NAMED SARGENT & HAVE A OFFICE IN THE POLICE STATION OF THE TULSA POLICE DEPT. HE LEFT A REPUTATION FOR OTHER OFFICERS TO EMULATE IN LATER YEARS.