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For Immediate Release

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Fikes Truck Line Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Hope, Arkansas... On April 13, 2006, Fikes Truck Line will commemorate its 25th year under the ownership of Jim and Hannah Smith. Originally founded in 1941 as a regional lumber hauler, the Smiths purchased the company in 1981 and started with just eleven trucks and authority to operate in Arkansas. They have expanded operations steadily over the past quarter century. Today, Fikes has a fleet of more than 500 independent trucking professionals and 48-state operating authority. The company specializes in the shipment of steel, machinery, building materials and manufactured goods utilizing flatbeds, drop decks, RGNs and side kits. Headquartered in Hope, Arkansas, Fikes has terminals in Kentucky, Texas and Colorado, and sales offices in Oklahoma and Tennessee. A group of 200 people including employees, long-time customers, vendors and friends celebrated the occasion on April 8th at the Texarkana Country Club in Texarkana, AR.

"Our intention from the start was to expand," says Jim Smith, President, "and we are proud of what we have accomplished. Standing beside us is one of the best teams in trucking, a committed and caring staff. We consider them part of our family because our futures are all tied together."

"Jim has a talent for putting the right people in the right jobs," adds Hannah Smith, Secretary and Treasurer, "It's his formula for success, to see the potential in people and to encourage them to grow."

The April 8th festivities featured photos and memorabilia from the Fikes archives and a video tribute to the Smiths, sharing the company's unique history and distinctive family-like culture. Highlights from the company's history include:

- 1941: Fikes Truck Line is founded by the Fikes family in Arkansas.
- 1981: Jim Smith purchases Fikes Truck Line, an Arkansas intrastate carrier. Among his first leases are Owner Operators, Gary Salisbury (current Senior Vice President and COO) and Jerry Davis (current Vice President, Safety and Insurance).

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- 1982: Fikes moves its headquarters from Pine Bluff, AR to Hope, AR and receives Common Carrier Authority for Arkansas and the surrounding states.
- 1984: Fikes receives Common Carrier Authority for 22 states, and later in the year gains 48-state Operating Authority.
- 1987 Recruiting new accounts becomes a top priority and the focus of the first Sales Office which opens in West Memphis, AR.
- 2000: With a solid Texas customer base, Fikes creates an Intrastate Texas Terminal in Fort Worth.
- 2001: Targeting accounts and drivers in the Midwest, a Regional Office is established in Rockport, IN.
- 2003: The Midwest Operation relocates to a terminal in Owensboro, KY and a third terminal opens in Pueblo, CO to support operations in the West.
- 2005: Fikes introduces a new logo and brand story -- *Connecting People with Purpose*. The Arkansas Business Publishing Group recognizes Fikes and Jim Smith in the top five for "Business of the Year" and "Business Executive of the Year."
- 2006: Fikes celebrates their 25th Anniversary.

"It's just amazing what a dream can do," says Gary Salisbury, Senior Vice President and COO. "When I look around this room, I see so many people whose lives have been touched by Jim and Hannah Smith. They have created in us a sense of purpose and they have connected us."

To learn more about Fikes Truck Line, please log onto www.fikes.com or call 1-800-643-6611.

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For additional photography from the Fikes 25th Anniversary Celebration, please contact Cynthia Forstmann at (970) 328-0786 or cynthia@writeedgeinc.com.