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Indiana Bridge Company Records, 1903, 1952-1981

1 box; .2 cu. ft.

History

The Indiana Bridge Company is Muncie's oldest manufacturer. When the Indiana Bridge Company was established by Theodore F. Rose and associates on May 17, 1886, the company built truss bridges not only for the needs of Indiana but nationwide. It later converted to making steel girders for the construction industry. On November 12, 1886 the company moved from Indianapolis to Muncie by train and on May 25, 1888 C.M. Kimbrough became president of the Indiana Bridge Company. He led the plant until his death in 1932. In 1904, the company upgraded by building new facilities at the present day site. During World War I, the Indiana Bridge Company participated in the mobilization for the war by producing steel for the United States and its allies. The company prospered after the war until the Great Depression hit in 1929. During the Great Depression J. Lloyd Kimbrough became president upon his father's death and served the company until 1937. Upon J. Lloyd Kimbrough's death his brother Frank H. Kimbrough was elected president of the company. Once again the Indiana Bridge Company helped mobilize for war from 1939 until 1945. When Frank H. Kimbrough died in 1946 his brother Hal C. Kimbrough decided to sell the company and on August 6, 1947 Taylor & Gaskin Inc. bought Indiana Bridge Company thus ending the long history of Kimbrough leadership.

The Indiana Bridge Company under the new management followed the ups and downs of the economy from 1947 to 1962 when the company had to close the doors. It was not for good though as local investors in Muncie put capital back into the business and reopened the doors in 1963. In 1971 the Indiana Bridge Company was bought by an Alabama firm and two years later bought by Debron. In 1978 Bristol Steel bought the Indiana Bridge Company from Debron, but four years later due to economic hardships the plant was closed. In 1984 the Indiana Bridge Company reopened its doors. Indiana Bridge Company still operates in Muncie, Indiana.

Scope and Content

The collection contains publications titled *The Indiana Bridge Catalogue* (n.d.), *Bristol Steel and Subsidiaries* (1978), *Debron Corporation* (1972), and *Indiana Bridge: A Hoosier Tradition* (1952), newsletters titled *A.I.S.C. News* (1977-78), *Bristeel Channel* (1979-81), and *Structural Fabricator* (1975-76). It also includes an article of incorporation (1903), newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous material.

M. Sears, 25 April 1994/J. Mullins 22 April 2004 rev.

Container List

Box Folder

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|---|----|--|
| 1 | 1 | Articles of Incorporation, 1903 |
| | 2 | <i>The Indiana Bridge Co. Catalogue</i> , no date |
| | 3 | Newspaper Clippings |
| | 4 | Newsletters, <i>A.I.S.C. News</i> , Winter 1977-1978 |
| | 5 | Newsletters, <i>Bristeel Channel</i> , 1979-1981 |
| | 6 | Newsletters, <i>Structural Fabricator</i> , 1975-76, 1980 |
| | 7 | Publication, <i>Bristol Steel and Subsidiaries</i> , 1978 |
| | 8 | Publication, <i>Debron Corporation</i> , 1972 |
| | 9 | Publication, <i>Indiana Bridge: A Hoosier Tradition</i> , 1952 |
| | 10 | Miscellany |

Oversized Records:

- Indiana Bridge Co. Records--Ledger, 1920-1924
- Indiana Bridge Co. Records--Ledger, 1927-1941

Photographs (people)

Portraits of J.L. Kimbrough, F.H. Kimbrough, C.M. Kimbrough, H.C. Kimbrough, M.G. Gaskin, and G.E. Rhodes. 6 photos: b/w, 20"x17"

Portraits of Frank, J. Lloyd, and Hal C. Kimbrough (copies, reduced). 3 photos: b/w; 5"x7"

Boss and workers, presentation of hard hat. 5 photos: b/w; 8"x10"

Workers in shop. 7 photos: b/w; 8"x10"

Nine men in front of loading door. 1 photo: b/w, matted; 8"x10"

Workers (31 men) standing and seated on front of brick wall. 1 photo: b/w; 8"x10" in mat 12"x14"

Group portraits of staff. 3 photos: b/w; 8"x10"

Group portrait of staff. 1 photo: b/w; 6"x8" in mat 9"x11"

Dignitaries at Warner Gear Plant (under construction). 1 photo: b/w; 8"x10"

Photo of dignitaries. 1 photo: b/w; 8"x10"

Photo of employees, "June 1951." 1 photo: b/w; 8"x10"

Photographs (Indiana Bridge Co. facilities and processes)

Aerial photos of Indiana Bridge Co. by Ruth Cin. 2 photos: b/w, matted; 8"x10"

Aerial photos of Indiana Bridge Co. before addition. 2 photos: b/w; 8"x10"

"1/30/74 pit for roto blast." 5 photos: b/w; 3"x5"

Machinery at the Willard Street shop prior to 1905 (machine is "some kind of punch" according to Terry Warner). 1 photo: b/w; 10"x8"

Foundry work. 18 photos: b/w; 8"x10", some dated May 15, 1986

Foundry work, photos by Ruth Chin, 1971. 37 photos: b/w; 8"x10"

Loading steel on flat car. 2 photos: b/w; 8"x10"

Photographs (Indiana Bridge Co. projects)

Muncie Malleable Foundry Co., 1925. 3 photos: b/w; 6"x9"

Three-span highway bridge under construction (Warren & Baltimore trusses). 1 photo: b/w, mounted and framed; 16"x21" on board 18"x26"

"Indiana Bridge Company, Muncie, Indiana," showing 7 bridges. 7 photos: b/w (faded), matted and framed; on board 17"x34"

"#5166." 1 photo: b/w, mounted and framed; 5"x8" on board 9"x12"

Three-span Pratt truss bridge under construction, Gordon Photo, Indianapolis. 1 photo: b/w, mounted; 13"x21" on board 21"x28"

"Structural steel fabricated and erected by Indiana Bridge Company." 8 photos in one mat: b/w; 24"x34"

Addition to Ross-Ade stadium, West Lafayette, Ind., 1949. Envelope of photos: b/w; 3"x5"

Christ Hospital Cincinnati, Ohio. Envelope of photos: color; 3"x3"

Hangars for Air Force. Envelope of photos: b/w; 3"x4"

Various projects built and under construction. 24 photos: b/w, matted; 11"x14" and smaller

Railroad bridge for Indiana Union Traction Co., 1909. 1 photo: b/w; 8"x10"

"Pipe bridge for Continental Steel, Kokomo, In." 3 photos: b/w; 8"x10"

"College Ave. United Methodist Church, Muncie, In." 4 photos: b/w; 3"x5"

"TV story of Indiana Bridge CO. Inc., Chamber of Commerce industry week, July 19 to 26 [1955?]." 1 photo album; 10"x12"

"Job 147-66 So. E. Elementary School, Marion. G.C. Harrold Bros." 11 photos: b/w; 8"x10", in

envelope

Miscellaneous photographs. 17 photos; b/w; 8"x10", in envelope
Central Foundry, Div. Of G.M., Saginaw, Mich., "The world's most advanced foundry," built in part by Indiana Bridge Co. 1 photo & letter from G. F. Ditzhazy
"Misc. jobs." 27 photos: b/w; 8"x10", in envelope
Masonic Temple, Muncie, under construction. 1 photo: b/w; 8"x10"
Delaware County Courthouse. 1 photo: b/w; 8"x10"
Delaware County Building, architects' rendering. 1 photo: b/w; 8"x10"
Delco-Remy plant II, Anderson, In. 6 photos: b/w; 8"x10"
"Guide Lamp, Anderson, In." 1 photo: color
Pedestrian bridge by Indiana Bridge Co. 5 photos: b/w; 8"x10" & letter from Cadillac Motor Car Co., 9/17/53
Delco-Remy, Anderson, In. (steel frame), 1937. 1 photo negative
"Gymnasium for Southport High School, Indianapolis, In." 11 photos: b/w; 8"x10" in envelope
"Chevrolet, Toledo, structural steel erection, south plant addition: 307,200 square ft., 2780 tons, March 13, 1967, May 3, 1967" 16 photos: b/w; 8"x10" booklet
"Guide Lamp, 1965, Anderson, In., job 101-65 Argonaut 1425." 1 photo; in envelope
"Job 145-64." 2 photos: b/w; 8"x10"
"Central Foundry, Defiance, Oh. 136-65 erected fall 1965." Envelope of photos: b/w; 8"x10"
Buildings under construction. 21 photos: b/w; 8"x10"
"Manufacturing plant for R. C. A. Indianapolis, In." 3 photos: b/w; 8"x10"
"Check assembly continuous riveted girder spans State of Ohio." 1 photo: b/w; 8"x10"
"Power house Marion Products, Dayton, Oh." 1 photo: b/w; 8"x10"
"Jet fighter on exhibit at Del. Co. Fairgrounds." 1 photos: b/w; 8"x10"
S & M Breed Plant. 2 photos: b/w; 8"x10"
"Diffuserstacks for sintering plant, U.S. Steel Corp. south works." 2 photos: b/w; 8"x10"
"Ford Motor Co., Romulus Mich." 2 photos: b/w; 8"x10"
"Pipe bridge for Continental Steel Corp., Kokomo, In." 2 photos: b/w; 8"x10"

Company and Trade Publications

Indiana Bridge: a Hoosier Tradition. Muncie, Ind.: Indiana Bridge Co., 1952. 1 copy
The Indiana Bridge Co., Catalogue. Muncie, Ind.: Indiana Bridge Co., no date. 31 p.: ill.; 4"x6"
and letter of transmittal from Robert E. Hair to Joan Winkle
Bristeel Channel, issues 13:1 through 13:6, 14:1, 15:2, 15:4
Bristol Steel and Subsidiaries. Bristol, Va.: Bristol Steel and Iron Works, (ca. 1978)
Four publications of Debron Corporation
Structural Fabricator, June 1980 (2 copies) and Winter 1975
AISC News 34:1 (Winter 1977-78)

Clippings

"Indiana Bridge Co.," *Muncie Star*, May 25, 1986, Section D.
"Caterpillar Expansion," *Peoira Journal Star*, May 23, 1972.
"Bridge 400 feet long," Wichita Kansas, built June 1911. Clipping from unknown publication.
"AHS Gym Roof Rises," Anderson [Indiana] *Sunday Morning*, June 26, 1960.

Metal Plaque

“Pat Sep’t 1886. Indiana Bridge Co., Muncie, Ind.” 1 plaque: cast iron; 6”x11”

Other

Engineering exercises for “Eng’g 5d” by J.L. Kimbrough, ca. 1901. 2 bound sets; 11”x8 ½”

“Plate IV,” landscape plan by J.L. Kimbrough. 1 sheet: ink; 6”x8”

Indiana Bridge Company articles of association (certificates of incorporation and of increases in capital stock), 1886-1903. 8 p: photocopies; 14”

Transfer General Records [September 1920-December 1924]. 1 ledger book.

General Ledger [1927-1940]. 1 ledger book.