

Indiana Bridge Company records

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December 15, 2011

Describing Archives: A Content Standard



Ball State University Archives and Special Collections

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Summary Information

Repository	Ball State University Archives and Special Collections
Title	Indiana Bridge Company records
Date	1903-1981
Extent	0.3 Cubic feet 1 box
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.
Text [Box]	1

Preferred Citation

Indiana Bridge Company records, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries

Administrative History

The Indiana Bridge Company is Muncie, Indiana'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 and 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 Contents

This collection includes publications, newspaper clippings, and ledgers from the Indiana Bridge Company in Muncie, Indiana ranging from 1903 to 1981 regarding the business and the steel industry.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in the following series:

Series 1: Indiana Bridge Company documents, 1903-1981

Series 2: Indiana Bridge Company oversized ledgers, 1920-1941

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Ball State University Archives and Special Collections

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries, Muncie, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Archives and Special Collections.

Custodial History

This collection was received by Archives and Special Collections as a records transfer from the Drawings and Documents Archive on 1987/07/27.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

Collection processing completed 1994/04/25 by M. Sears. Collection processing revised 2004/04/22 by J. Mullins. EAD finding aid created 2010/12/20 by Bethany Fiechter. EAD finding aid revised 2010/12/20 by Bethany Fiechter.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

Materials relating to this collection may be found in the following collections in Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries, Muncie IN:

P.024: Indiana Bridge Company photographs

POVB.009: Indiana Bridge Company oversize records

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Catalogs
- Documents
- Financial records
- Newsletters
- Newspapers
- Publications

Geographic Name(s)

- Muncie (Ind.)

Subject(s)

- Industries
- Legal documents
- Stoeckel Archives of Local History

Indiana Bridge Company documents, 1903-1981

Collection Inventory

Indiana Bridge Company documents, 1903-1981		
Articles of Incorporation document, 1903		
Text	Box 1	Folder 1
Indiana Bridge Company catalogue, undated		
Text	Box 1	Folder 2
Newspaper clippings, 1960-1986		
Text	Box 1	Folder 3
American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) newsletter, 1977-1978		
Text	Box 1	Folder 4
Bristeel Channel newsletters, 1979-1981		
Text	Box 1	Folder 5
Debron Corporation Structural Fabricator newsletter, 1975-1980		
	Box	Folder

Indiana Bridge Company oversized ledgers, 1920-1941

Text	1	6
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Bristol Steel and Subsidiaries. Bristol, Virginia: Bristol Steel and Iron Works, Inc., 1978.

	Box	Folder
Text	1	7

Debron Corporation. St. Ann, Missouri: Debron Corporation, 1972.

	Box	Folder
Text	1	8

Indiana Bridge Company: A Hoosier Tradition. Muncie, Indiana: Indiana Bridge Company, 1952.

	Box	Folder
Text	1	9

J. L. Kimbrough documents, circa 1901

	Box	Folder
Text	1	10

Indiana Bridge Company oversized ledgers, 1920-1941

Oversize

Indiana Bridge Company ledger, 1920-1924

1

Indiana Bridge Company ledger, 1927-1941

2