

Collection #
P 0727

**HETHERINGTON & BERNER INC.
COLLECTION, CA. 1900–1975**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 photograph box, 1 manuscript box, 1 OVA photograph folder, 1 box 4x5 acetate negatives, 2 envelopes 5x7 acetate negatives, and 7 envelopes 8x10 acetate negatives

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1900–1975

PROVENANCE: Sue Myers, Fort Wayne, Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: Negatives are in cold storage and need at least 4 hours to acclimate. They must be requested in advance and may be viewed by appointment only and with the assistance of library staff.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2006.0198

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Hetherington & Berner has the title of first builders of asphalt mixing equipment in the United States. The company was established in 1867 by Benjamin Franklin Hetherington (1828–1906) and Frederick Berner (1832–1901). Hetherington emigrated to the United States from England around 1841 and Berner from Prussia in the 1850s. Both men had worked as machinists in Cincinnati prior to moving to Indiana.

After moving to Indianapolis, the two men decided to form their own company and built their first plant on West South Street, between Meridian and Illinois Streets. They started out building asphalt mixing plants, selling and installing the plants all over the Midwest. Later, their services grew to include the production of sand and gravel pumping equipment, special weldments, jacketed pipe and fittings, fluidometers, special machining, and structural steel design and fabrication.

Upon the deaths of both founders, Hetherington's son, Frederick Alexander Hetherington (1859–1931), took over as president of the company. Berner's son, Robert Berner (1884–1973), served as the operating head of the company. Despite the deaths of the founders, the company continued to grow, and by 1909 a new building was constructed to accommodate their increasing space needs. This building was located on the southwest side of downtown Indianapolis at 701-45 Kentucky Avenue. Later, after the second building was constructed, this would become the main plant and office, housing the machinery assembly building, machine shop and steel fabrication department. The second building was located at 401 South Harding Street and housed the engineering, fabrication, parts, and erection departments as well as the loading yard.

Robert Berner separated from Hetherington & Berner in 1923 to form his own company, Robert Berner Structural Steel Company. A few years later in 1929, he merged his company with Hetherington & Berner. After Frederick stepped down as President, Robert took over and ran the company for the rest of its existence. Hetherington & Berner ceased operations in the late 1970s.

Sources:

Butsch Freeland, Sharon. "HI Mailbag: Hetherington & Berner." Historic Indianapolis. August 5, 2014. Accessed August 28, 2018. <https://historicindianapolis.com/hi-mailbag-hetherington-berner/>.

Materials in Collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains a mix of photographs and other materials relating to the heavy equipment manufacturing company Hetherington & Berner.

Series 1: Hetherington & Berner Bulletins for several of their products are contained in this series. The bulletins are separated by model numbers. There is also a hand-written list of all of the bulletins they had produced between 1955 and 1962.

Series 2: This series contains various documents related to H & B. There are ads and brochures and several copies of the company's newsletter "News & Views" as well as some mechanical drawings and more in-depth descriptions of two of the company's products.

Series 3: The photographs in this series are primarily made up of images of the plants constructed by H & B that were built all over the Midwest as well as some Eastern and Southern States. There is also some product imagery as well as some scenes from the company's Indianapolis plant, though which plant is unidentified. Most of the photographs are undated, but are likely from the period between 1900 and the 1950s.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Hetherington & Berner Product Bulletins

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
H & B Bulletin: M-40, M-57, M-58, M-234, MC-49, MH-53, MP-51, MP-53, MP-55, MPD-53, MS-56, MX-105, 1950-1959	Box 1, Folder 1
H & B Bulletin: F-56, F1-49, FL-49, 1952-1961	Box 1, Folder 2
H & B Bulletin: E-49 (in Spanish and French), 1953	Box 1, Folder 3
H & B Bulletin: CH-54, CH-58, 1954-1959	Box 1, Folder 4
H & B Bulletin: T-54, T-55, T-101B, T-102A, 1954-1960	Box 1, Folder 5
H & B Bulletin: AA-56, AB-11, 1956-1962, 1956-1962	Box 1, Folder 6
H & B Bulletin: J-50, J-57, 1956-1962	Box 1, Folder 7
H & B Bulletin: S-58, S-59, SP-101 through 110, 1958-1960	Box 1, Folder 8
H & B Bulletin: R-49, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 9
H & B Bulletin: P-52, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 10
H & B Bulletin: D-43, D-55, DP-59, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 11
H & B Bulletin List, 1955–1962	Box 1, Folder 12

Series 2: Hetherington & Berner Documents

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Ads and Catalogs, ca. 1900–1960s	Box 1, Folder 13
Correspondence, 1937 & 1971	Box 1, Folder 14
Brochure, 1950–1960	Box 1, Folder 15
H & B Proposal Cover Sheet (Blank), 1954–1959; Asphalt Seminar Title Page, 1970	Box 1, Folder 16
"News & Views", H & B Newsletter, 1959–1961	Box 1, Folder 17

Deister Machine Co., Bulletins 56-A, 60, & 80, ca. 1960s

Box 1, Folder 18

Staff Meeting/Presentation Info, 1968–1975

Box 1, Folder 19

Asphalt Patch Plant Type R-400, Machinery Description, n.d.; Sand and Gravel Dredging Pump Model 26A, Machinery Description, n.d.

Box 1, Folder 20

Mechanical Drawings, n.d.

Box 1, Folder 21

Series 3: Hetherington & Berner Photographs

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

Plants Constructed by H & B, 1906–1938 (1 of 3)

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

Plants Constructed by H & B, n.d. (2 of 3)

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 2

Plants Constructed by H & B, n.d. (3 of 3)

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 3

Plants Constructed by H & B, n.d.

Cold Storage:
5 x 7 Acetate Negatives,
Envelopes 1-2

Plants Constructed by H & B, n.d.

Cold Storage:
8 x 10 Acetate Negatives,
Envelopes 1–7

Plants Constructed by H & B, ca. 1910s

OVA Photographs:
Folder 1

MotoPaver #H-246, August 1952

Cold Storage:
4 x 5 Acetate Negatives,
Box 1, Envelopes 1-6

H & B Indianapolis Plant, n.d.

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 4

Asphalt Road Construction, n.d.

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 5

Machinery Product Photos, n.d. (1 of 2)

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 6

Machinery Product Photos, n.d. (2 of 2)

Machinery and Plant Photos, n.d.

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 7

Cold Storage:
4 x 5 Acetate Negatives,
Box 1, Envelopes 7-16