

Collection #
SC 3133

**INLAND CONTAINER CORPORATION
MATERIALS, CA. 1920S–1977**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder, 1 photographs folder

COLLECTION DATES: ca.1920s–1977

PROVENANCE: Mrs. Joan Woodhull, January 2012

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Inland Container Corporation papers, 1921-2001 (M 0861, OMB 0103, BV 3530)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2012.0011

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Herman C. Krannert started in the corrugated packaging operation in 1914 when he was hired by Sefton Manufacturing Company, a Chicago-based firm, to make ventilated corrugated boxes for the shipment of baby chicks. These boxes met the growing need for lightweight and inexpensive containers to replace traditional wooden crates and barrels. In 1918, he was transferred to Anderson, Indiana, where he was plant manager of the Anderson Box Company.

In the beginning, Anderson Box Company purchased all of the “Chick Pullmans” from Sefton. They bought in large quantities and resold in smaller lots. In this way, Anderson developed its own trade name and prestige with the farmers and hatcherymen in states surrounding Indiana. Krannert’s superior skill, motivation, and innovations at Anderson were rewarded with the company president’s invitation to become a director. There was one restriction: Krannert would be required to vote as the president voted. Feeling this directive was unprofessional and unethical, he resigned his position in 1924.

He moved to Indianapolis and in 1925 organized his own company, the Inland Box Company. In 1930, the company’s name changed to Inland Container Corporation and opened its second box plant in Middletown, Ohio. The third box plant, in Evansville, Indiana, was added in 1937. From the beginning of Inland, Anderson Box Company’s volume gave it a substantial backlog. It was doubly advantageous because Anderson’s shipment demands came in the off-peak months of December through March, while Inland’s volume was low. In this way there developed the close coordination between Anderson’s and Inland’s business to utilize to the best advantage the manufacturing and shipping facilities provided.

Thanks to Krannert’s hard work and shrewd business sense, the company thrived and expanded. It survived the Great Depression of the 1930s due to the demand for corrugated boxes for domestic commerce. By 1939, the company had acquired its fourth box plant and initiated vertical integration. During World War II, the United States government began buying large quantities of Inland’s moisture-resistant “V-Board” boxes. The growth accelerated in the mid-1940s as the number of sites, the range of products, and the base of customers expanded.

In 1945, Inland planned a mill venture to produce Kraft containerboard from pine trees in the south at Macon, Georgia. Kraft linerboard is one of the components used in making all types of containers. This gave Inland an assured source of supply for a portion of its requirements. Inland’s program of expansion has moved rapidly since 1946 in both mills and box plants.

During the 1960s the thrust of Inland’s planning was directed to growth through the development of new products, more efficient packaging systems, geographic expansion, and acquisitions. By the early 1970s, Inland Container was America’s second-largest manufacturer of corrugated shipping containers, with a complex of 25 plants grossing \$200 million in annual sales.

In 1973 Time, Inc. acquired Temple-Industries Inc., merging it with Eastex Pulp and Paper Company to form Temple-Eastex Inc. In 1978, Inland became part of Time, Inc. and in 1983 the companies were spun off as Temple-Inland Inc.

Today, Temple-Inland is the third largest manufacturer of corrugated packaging in North America. Inland is an international manufacturer of containerboard, bleached paperboard and a wide variety of packaging products, operating or managing 47 converting facilities and eight paper mills in the United States and Latin America. Based in Indianapolis, Indiana, the company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Temple-Inland Inc., headquartered in Diboll, Texas.

No biographical information on this collection's original owner, John C. Brawner, was found through available resources. Mr. Brawner reportedly worked at Inland Container's Plant One in Indianapolis, Indiana, for thirty-five years (dates unknown).

Sources:

M 0861 Inland Container Corporation Collection, ca. 1921-2001. "Historical Sketch." Indianapolis, Ind: Indiana Historical Society, 2005.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains miscellaneous materials relating to the Inland Container Corporation. In manuscript materials, there are three issues from January, February, and March 1970 of *The Inland News Call*, a monthly newsletter issued to Inland Container employees which includes such information as new staff announcements, personal announcements (engagements, births, deaths, illness, etc.), awards and safety notices, and employee bowling league news for both men's and women's teams.

There is also a program dated 15 November 1969 for a service award banquet honoring employees who worked at Inland Container for twenty-five years. Within this program, an unknown person has noted which employees are deceased, though it is unknown who inscribed them or when these notes were taken. Additionally, there is a miniature Inland Container hanging calendar dated 1977, with smaller calendars for 1976 and 1978 on the reverse.

In visual materials, there are two black and white photographs. The first depicts Inland Container employees ca. 1975. The second is a print photograph of the Bill Wheat Grocery Store in Beech Grove, Indiana, in the 1920s; included with the photograph is a short description of its contents and historical context. Although included in the donation of this collection, the connection between the Bill Wheat Grocery Store, Inland Container, or the collection's original owner is unknown.

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Inland Container Corporation 25 Year Service Award
Program, 15 November 1969

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Inland Container Corporation 1977 Mini Calendar

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Photograph, Inland Container Employees, ca. 1975

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Photograph, Bill Wheat Grocery Store, ca. 1920s

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