

Collection #
P 0711

**INLAND STEEL COMPANY, INDIANA HARBOR WORKS
PHOTOGRAPHS, 1926–1927**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: One half size OVA photographs box

COLLECTION DATES: 1926–1927

PROVENANCE: Joan E. Hostetler, Heritage Photo Services; Indianapolis, IN; 2002

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: 50 Years of Inland Steel, Folio Q HD9519.I6 A5 1943; Inland Steel at 100: beginning a second century of progress, HD9519.I6 M67 1993; Frederick Ruiz Maravilla Oral History Interview, SC 3355; Edward Medina Oral History Interview, SC 3387

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2002.0140

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Inland Steel Company incorporated in 1893 in Chicago Heights, Illinois. The company comprised of several investors from defunct steel companies, such as the Chicago Steel Company, and several new investors, including father and son Joseph and Phillip Block. They produced mostly agricultural equipment.

In 1897, the company bought the East Chicago Iron and Forge Company for \$50,000, which they used to produce railroad equipment. They sold this piece of the business in 1901 for \$500,000.

In 1901, the company was offered fifty acres of land near the Lake Michigan coast, at Indiana Harbor, if they would invest \$1 million to build a steel plant there. They decided to proceed and initial construction was completed by 1902.

By 1917, the company reached a production capacity of one million tons of steel. WWI brought an increase in business, and the company added a second plant to meet the demand. After the war the company was able to electrify all of their machinery, making for more efficient production. The company made steel for railroads after the war as well, instead of for agriculture.

In the early 1920s, Inland decided to improve working conditions and gave its employees an 8-hour work day and a pension. The shortened work day did not stay long when the rest of the steel industry did not make the switch, meaning they could make more steel than Inland with employees working longer.

From the 1920s through the 1930s, Inland expanded its holdings, acquiring other steel manufacturers, steel warehouse companies, coke production, and mills. They also added coal fields, ore deposits, and a limestone quarry, allowing the company to fully integrate every step of steel-making under its roofs.

WWII increased demand again, allowing the company to prosper further. In 1946, a 26-day strike brought production to a halt. Inland gave its employees an 18.5 cent-per-hour wage increase. After the war, the company turned to automobile and home-appliance steel manufacturing.

1955 saw a large strike that brought the entire steel industry to its knees. Companies would struggle to regain previous production levels and profits until 1962.

The 1960s and 1970s were fairly prosperous. However, the 1980s and early 1990s saw a decline in demand, forcing Inland to close several facilities, including coke production. Profits came back with an automobile boom in the 1990s. Inland merged with a Japanese company and bought assets in Mexico.

Ispat International, N.V. bought Inland Steel Company in 1998 for \$2 billion.

Sources:

"The Modern History of Inland Steel." Accessed online.

<<http://www.nwisteelheritagemuseum.org/inland-history.htm>>.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains forty-three photographs mounted on 11" x 8 1/2" paper. All photographs are labeled with the date and a brief description, which have been listed out in the Contents section of the guide.

The photographs show interior and exterior views of the Indiana Harbor Steel Works facility in East Chicago, Lake County, Indiana, including construction.

Each photograph on paper is individually sleeved, rather than foldered, for preservation.

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CONTAINER

OVA Photographs,

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