

INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS ADVISOR

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

[LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES](#) | [INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY](#) | [PAST ISSUES](#) | FOLLOW LHS ON: [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#)

Issue 118 | August 2021

ALL THOSE NEWSPAPERS

By Karen DePauw, manager, IHS Local History Services

For centuries newspapers have provided us with up-to-date information of what is happening in our local community, our region, and our world. We carefully snip out recipes, special articles, and even photos of important events. We might paste them into scrapbooks, use them as bookmarks in our current read, or put them somewhere for safekeeping. Newspaper is everywhere, especially in our historical collections. But, what can we do to preserve it? Is there a way to save it for future generations or is it a losing battle?



[Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper Carriers](#). (Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

WHAT IS IT MADE OF?

You may have noticed that the older the newspaper the better shape it is often in. Older newspapers are often made with a percentage of cotton rag content. This use of cotton makes the paper more stable than the wood-pulp based paper used in more modern paper. Newspapers have always been created as ephemeral objects, meaning they were never meant to be saved for generations. Thus, they are made of poor-quality

[APPLY
FOR A
HERITAGE
SUPPORT
GRANT](#)

ONLINE RESOURCES

[Collections
Advisors](#)
(Indiana Historical
Society)

[4.4 Storage
Enclosures for
Books and
Artifacts on Paper](#)
(Northeast
Document
Conservation
Center)

[4.9 Storage
Solutions for
Oversized Paper
Artifacts](#)
(Northeast
Document
Conservation
Center)

[Preservation
Measures for
Newspapers](#)
(Library of
Congress)

[Preserving Historic
Newspapers](#)
(University of
Kansas)

[Storing and
Preserving
Newspapers](#)
(Gaylord Archival)

[Storing
Newspapers and
Clippings](#)
(Archival Methods
Blog)

[TRAINING
AND
PROGRAMS](#)

materials that carry inherent vice (meaning that part of the reason they deteriorate is because of the very materials they are made of, acidic wood pulp).

[Digitization for Small Institutions](#)
 Aug. 4 and 5 -
 Lyrasis webinar.

[Introduction to Audio Preservation](#)
 Aug 10 -
 Northeast Document Conservation Center webinar.

[Webinars Recorded - Indiana Historical Society.](#)

BURSTS and DUDS
 VOL. 13, NO. 1 CANTON, INDIANA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1955

COMMITTEE STARTS NEW AWARDS PROGRAM!

BENNY SUGGS PAY \$330 TO ELEVEN EMPLOYEES

In January, 11 awards of cash awards for eight accepted suggestions started to payments totaling \$330. In addition to the awards paid here on the Depot, five other suggestions were forwarded to the Navy Invention Award Board in Washington, for possible use in other Navy installations throughout the nation.

Ordinance Quartermaster John T. Goss received the lay award of \$285 for devising a new and economical method of repacking mortar sheets, which had been sent in for modification by Percy Oliver suggestions and their "idea" came as follows: James W. Alexander, Ordnance Storage, 215; Paul Graber, Communication Department, 224; Charles H. Haines, 224; John T. Hunt, 224; Electric Shop, 224; John Goss, Engine and Repair, 224; Robert W. Hunter and Vernon H. Farrell of the Ordnance Shop divided a \$25 award, and Barney D. Williams and James E. Holman shared in a \$65 award.

In addition to the payments associated with these suggestions were accepted by the Committee, but now reflected in various departments for an amount of awards for the additional material now which to save the amount of the cash awards for intangible benefits. These suggestions and awards will be announced at a later date.

The Government Employees Invention Awards Act, (Title 35 of Public Law 784, 81st Congress), approved September 4, 1944, was made effective December 31, 1944. A new Navy Civilian Personnel Instruction (NCPPI 41), on Invention Awards was issued November 25, 1954.

Beneficial Suggestions are received from civilian employees on all levels. New forms for submitting suggestions have been designed and are promptly available from supervisory personnel in all departments. Suggestions forms will NOT be used in other suggestions. The new forms, properly filled out and signed by the employee and his immediate supervisor, will be forwarded via Depot mail to the Director, Beneficial Suggestions Committee. Mr. Gary C.

THIRTEENTH YEAR BEGINS FOR BURSTS AND DUDS

This edition of Bursts and Duds marks the beginning of the thirteenth year of publication of the Depot newspaper. For the past twelve years B & D has served in the Depot news medium and has tried to bring to its readers news stories, feature articles, and pertinent articles of interest.

CDR E. E. McLean, a former Executive Officer, originated the paper, which was named by Charles H. Miller in a two-column article. Mr. Miller was a two-column article for his suggestion. B & D has been published semi-monthly since that time, with occasional exceptions.

A later winning of the first Depot news story, published Tuesday, Feb. 16, (Continued on Page 2)

160th ANNIVERSARY

NAD, Crane's Supply Department celebrates 160th Anniversary of Corps on Feb. 23. See pages 4 and 8 for details.

BENEFICIAL SUGGESTIONS WINNERS FOR JANUARY

From row, left to right: Paul Graber, Frank Heaton, Barney Williams, Susan Greenwell, and John Goss. (Mr. Goss received a non-cashed check for \$285 and is shown receiving his certificate of award by CAPT Healey.)
 Back row, left to right: Vernon Caroch, James Alexander, James Holman, and Robert Hunt.
 Grace Rogers and Charles Hunter were absent when the picture was taken.

[Bursts and Duds, Vol. 13, No. 1, February 18, 1955.](#) (Indiana Historical Society)

WHAT CHALLENGES DO THEY HAVE?

Like all objects, two different factors can cause deterioration: inherent vice and environment (for more information about these factors check out [Deterioration: Environmental versus Inherent Vice](#)). In newspapers, the inherent vice is the naturally occurring acid in the wood pulp being used to make it that causes some of the degradation. As for environmental factors, the main culprits are light, heat, humidity, and handling. All of these factors work together to make newspapers brittle, discolored, faded, and prone to tearing.



[Newspaper Correspondent News of the Battle](#). (Indiana Historical Society)

HOW DO WE PROTECT THEM?

It can be difficult to preserve items being destroyed by inherent vice, but it is possible to protect them from environmental factors and at least extend their existence. First, one of the best things to do with something like a newspaper is to consider why it is being preserved in the first place. If the primary reason is for the information it contains, which is why many newspapers are preserved, consider digitizing them. Both microfilm and digital files are a good option for newspapers. These processes will save the information so that once the newspaper is no longer viable (for display, research, et. cetera) the contents of the newspaper are still around.

While digitization is the best way to preserve a newspaper's content, there are certainly cases where the newspaper itself is important and in need of preservation. Newspapers should be stored in acid-free and lignin-free environments. Even though the newspaper will contribute acid to the environment, by not adding additional deteriorating factors the longevity of the newspaper can be extended. Although we typically get newspapers folded, it is important to store them as flat as possible. Often brittle paper tears and breaks first along any folds, so minimizing folds can help. Once flat, newspapers can then be stored in large flat file drawers or large acid- and lignin-free boxes. For newspapers that are heavily used, it can be helpful to also place them into polyester sleeves to protect them from damage when being handled (however, never laminate them, more on that can be found here: [Encapsulation vs Lamination](#)). The best way to display newspapers is to use high quality copies, as the already fragile newspaper can quickly become even more fragile in the often less-than ideal environments of exhibits.



[Tribune Employees and Carriers](#). (Martin Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

Like other items with inherent vice, preservation can sometimes feel like a losing battle. This is why it can be helpful to consider *why* the organization is striving to save the newspapers. Collections are often so inundated with newspapers that it can sometimes be necessary to prioritize which newspapers will get an active versus passive approach to preservation. Active, meaning they are housed in acid- and lignin-free environments and stored at optimum environmental conditions. Passive might mean the newspapers are safely stored, but are on open shelves with simple dust covers and kept in the best conditions possible even if they are not optimal.

As with any item, there are conservation treatments to stabilize or repair newspapers in the collection. A conservator can talk through options. However you determine to care for your newspapers, consider how they will be useful to future generations. They capture moments in time but also only last for a moment. Careful preservation and digitization can help extend the life of the physical paper but also the information it contains.

This is a free publication. Anyone may subscribe.

[Local History Services](#)

Indiana Historical Society, 450 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 232-1882 | localhistoryservices@indianahistory.org

**WE DO
HISTORY.**
INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Smithsonian
Affiliate



PROUD MEMBER OF THE
International Coalition of
SITES of CONSCIENCE

Indiana's Storyteller™, Connecting People to the Past