

Collection #  
P 0811

**AMERICAN TENT & AWNING CO., INC.  
PHOTOGRAPHS, 1897–1966, N.D.**

Collection Information	1
Biographical and Historical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

Processed by

Stephen Good  
December 2020

Revised by Barbara Quigley, 3 December 2021

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

\*

## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 half-size box of photographs, 2 panoramic photographs, 1 photograph album

COLLECTION DATES: 1897–1966, n.d.

PROVENANCE: Gift from American Tent & Awning Co., Inc. of Indianapolis

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2016.0156

NOTES: *See also:* American Tent & Awning Company Float in Liberty Loan Parade. Liberty Loan Parade, American Tent and Awning float, 1918 (Bass #62961-F). Liberty Loan Parade, Monument Circle, American Tent and Awning Co. float, 1918 (Bass #50406-F)

## BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL SKETCH

American Tent & Awning was founded in 1873 by Charles Truemper. It provided tent and awning services, as well as decorations for parties and other events, made floats for various parades, and had the distinction of decorating Union Station when Prince Henry of Germany visited Indianapolis in 1902. American Tent & Awning is still in operation at the time this guide was written.

Charles John Truemper was born May 4, 1853 in Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1873. He married Anna Stumph on November 9, 1878 and together they had three sons and a daughter: Adolph H. "Ollie", John Christopher, Lillian "Lillie", and Agedious Valintin. At the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, Truemper served as the Chief Decorator in the Horticulture and Floral Culture Departments as Chief Decorator of the World's Fair. He founded the Bellevue resort where people could go for their health and hosted a bicycle club. Truemper died on December 3, 1924 from pharyngeal cancer and left the bulk of his estate to his son John Christopher.

John Christopher Truemper (April 27, 1885–January 30, 1954) took control of the bulk of his father's estate, including management of American Tent & Awning, which he operated from 1921 until his retirement in 1949. On September 6, 1905, Truemper married May Etta Froschauer (May 1, 1885–November 26, 1975), with whom he had two children, Anna May and Charles John Jr.

Anna May Truemper was born April 18, 1907 and worked as a public-school teacher. She married Roland Trimpe on August 9, 1930 and together they had a son named John Roland.

Charles John Truemper Jr. was born July 29, 1910. He attended Arsenal Technical High School where he played football, graduating in 1928. He married Phyllis Pease. He managed American Tent & Awning from 1951–1984. He died on December 8, 2006 of hypostatic pneumonia.

Bellevue Resort was a campground resort founded by Charles Truemper Sr. as a place for people to relax and heal from ailments and served as the headquarters of a bicycle club. To help people heal from ailments, Truemper employed the Kneipp cure, taken from a Father Kneipp in Germany, that had people walk barefoot through dewy grass. There was some controversy surrounding Bellevue when a man who had been visiting the resort was killed. Bellevue was supposedly selling alcohol on Sundays, when it was illegal to do so, and a group of men stumbled drunk from the resort to a nearby homestead and tried to steal a horse. The owner of the horse fired a shotgun at the man on the horse, killing him. Truemper had been subletting Bellevue and argued he had no knowledge of the alcohol, but it was ruled that he was responsible for the incident and he was given a heavy fine.

Sources:

AncestryLibrary.com

Hoosier State Chronicles

*Indianapolis News*, Truemper Fined, 18 November 1899

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection contains six folders of photographs, a leather-bound photo album, and two panoramic photographs. The folders contain various photographs of the Truemper family, tents and decorations that American Tent & Awning made, Bellevue Resort, and a gymnastics event that took place June 6, 1925. The photo album contains images of displays for various companies including Blanton Milling, Calumet Baking Powder, Diamond Match, Genesee Pure Food, Mercantile Heat & Light, Reynolds Corporation, and Taggart Tags; flags and bunting for political events; a float for the Chamber of Commerce and a float with the theme of preventing plague; and pictures of the decoration of Union Station for Prince Henry of Germany's visit to Indianapolis in 1902. The panoramic photographs show the Fifteenth Annual Convention of the National Tent and Awning Manufacturer's Association.

## CONTENTS

### CONTENTS

Truemper family photos, 1931–1966

American Tent & Awning Product Samples, 1907

Bellevue Resort, n.d.

Indianapolis Cycle Club, 1897

Bridge construction, n.d.

Gymnastics event, 1925

Truemper's Patent Ventilating Roll Window, Door  
and Porch Awning Photo Album, 1917

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the National Tent and  
Awning Manufacturers' Association, West Baden  
Springs Hotel (panoramic photo, 1926)

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the National Tent and  
Awning Manufacturers' Association, West Baden  
Springs Hotel (panoramic photo, 1926)

### CONTAINER

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 1 of 6

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 2 of 6

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 3 of 6

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 4 of 6

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 5 of 6

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 6 of 6

PAB Album

Cirkut Photographs,  
Folder 1

Cirkut Photographs,  
Folder 1