

Collection #  
SC 3464  
BV 5373–5374

**CHARLES C. CAPEL  
COLLECTION, CA. 1927–1969**

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 3 manuscript folders, 2 bound volumes, 1 cold storage photo folder, 1 OVB photo folder

**COLLECTION DATES:** Ca. 1927–1969

**PROVENANCE:** Jean Jansen and Carol Elrod, Carmel, IN and Bokeelia, FL; September 2007

**RESTRICTIONS:** Items listed as being in cold storage need at least four hours to acclimate, so patrons are advised to call ahead of their visit if they wish to view those items to allow for thawing time.

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2007.0279

**NOTES:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

**Charles C. Capel** was born in New Albany, Indiana, on 1 May 1904 to William Capel and Fannie Mae Compton. Charles went to Evansville College, where he completed a degree in electrical engineering. He joined the Indiana Bell Telephone Company in 1925, as a student engineer. Charles worked for the company while in Evansville and moved to Indianapolis in June 1927 after his graduation. On 3 February 1928, he married Dorothy Snethen.

In 1938, Charles became a division plant engineer for Indiana Bell and became plant extension engineer in 1949. He also held the roles of Indianapolis division plant manager and general plant supervisor. Charles was named acting chief engineer of Indiana Bell in March 1956, and was appointed to the position in January 1957. In mid-1964, Charles became the company's assistant vice president in charge of planning. He retired in 1968 after 43 years at the company. In addition to his long career with the Indiana Bell Telephone Company, Charles served as president of the Indiana Society of Professional Engineers for a year.

Dorothy died on 21 July 1980. After his first wife's death, Charles married Mary Koontz. Charles died on 30 July 1999.

The **Indiana Bell Telephone Company** was created in January 1920 by the consolidation of five Indiana telephone companies. The company's headquarters was located on the corner of New York and Meridian streets in downtown Indianapolis. In 1930, the headquarters was put on rollers and moved to create space for the construction of a new headquarters in 1932. In 1984, the Bell System was broken up and AT&T relinquished their control of the companies. Indiana Bell became a part of Ameritech, a Midwest holding company.

### Sources:

Bodenhamer, David J. and Robert G. Barrows, ed. *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1994.

"Charles C. Capel, 95, had worked 43 years for Indiana Bell Telephone" *Indianapolis Star*, July 31, 1999.

Indiana, Death Certificates, 1899-2011, via Ancestry.com

Materials in collection.

Web: Marion County, Indiana, Marriage Index, 1925-2012, via Ancestry.com

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains materials related to Charles C. Capel and his employer, the Indiana Bell Telephone Company. Items include articles about Capel's work with Indiana Bell, a life membership card for Telephone Pioneers of America given to Capel, notes about company locations, a Bell system executive conference attendee list, a hierarchy of Indiana Bell officers and department heads, and photos of Capel, the Indiana Bell building, and its employees. Other materials in the collection include assorted issues and loose pages of the following publications: "Indiana Telephone News," "Indiana Bell Management Bulletin," "Indiana Bell News," "Hoosier Pioneer." Finally, the collection contains two scrapbooks. The first is about the 1937 flood in New Albany, Jeffersonville, and Evansville, containing photos and news clippings. The second scrapbook is about the ca. 1930 construction of a new Indiana Bell Telephone Company building and the moving of the old building. This scrapbook includes photos and pages from 1930 Indiana Telephone News.

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Building construction and move scrapbook, ca. 1930

Charles Capel materials, ca. 1927–1968

Indiana Bell materials, 1956–1966; n.d.

Indiana Bell officers photograph, 21 May 1958

Photos, ca. 1929–1968

Publications, 1949–1969

Scrapbook, New Albany, Jeffersonville, and  
Evansville flood , ca. 1937

### CONTAINER

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Folder 1 of 3

Folder 2 of 3

OVB Photographs,  
Folder 1 of 1

Cold Storage  
Color Photographs,  
Folder 1 of 1

Folder 3 of 3

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