CHARLES R. CHILDS COMPANY COLLECTION, CA. 1900–CA. 1950

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Processed by

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

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF Visual Materials: 4 boxes of photographs, 1 broken glass

COLLECTION: plate negative

Artifact: R1963

COLLECTION

DATES:

Ca. 1900-ca. 1950

PROVENANCE: Earl Moore, Wooddale, Illinois, 1960, 1962

RESTRICTIONS: Glass plate may be viewed only with the assistance of library

staff.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION

1960.1002, 1962.0610

NUMBER:

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Charles R. Childs (1875–1960) was a prominent Chicago photographer and post card manufacturer. He produced postcards from the early 1900s and continued working into the 1950s. The 1910 Federal Census shows Childs as single and living in Chicago. His profession was listed as "Manufacturer of postcards" at that time. By 1920 the Census listed his profession as "Printer."

The C.R. Childs Company produced postcard images from the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The donor, Earl Moore, a postcard collector from Wooddale, Illinois, met Childs prior to his death about 1960. It was at that time that Moore acquired the Childs Company inventory of photographs, sample postcards, and glass negatives and was present the final day his office on Lake Street was being cleared.

According to the donor, Mr. Childs sent photographers out on the interurban trains from Chicago to various towns in the mid-west to capture views that could be saleable as postcard views. C.F. Walters, one of the photographers, contributed pictures to the collection.

Sources:

Correspondence in Accession files

United States Census Records for 1910 and 1920

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains photographs, postcards, and one glass plate negative that were used by the C. R. Child's Company to produce scenic postcards. Approximately 500 items depict views of recreation areas, lakes, resorts, and resort towns across Indiana. Most of the photographs show families and individuals on vacation at beaches, state parks, and playgrounds. Views of resort towns show amenities such as dance halls, pavilions, and shopping areas. A small number of photographs show natural features, and "car camping" sites in Indiana Dunes State Park, and Turkey Run State Park. The collection also includes scenes of student activities and buildings at Culver Military Academy, and photographs of hospitals, hotels, schools and other public buildings in small towns across Indiana. The photographs were made between ca. 1900 and ca. 1950.

The following Indiana counties are represented in this collection: Brown County, Fulton County, Hendricks County, Kosciusko County, Lake County, Marshall, Monroe County, Owen County, LaPorte County, Parke County, Porter County, St. Joseph, Starke County, Tippecanoe County, and Wayne County.

Many of the photographs and "proof" postcards have typed and handwritten notes in various hands on their verso. The notes sometimes list numbers and provide identification and instructions for printers. The processors have transcribed the identifying information for each image in the Contents section of the collection guide. Some images are not identified and in those cases the processors have provided that information in square [] brackets.

The collection is stored in four full-size document cases. An I.H.S. processor arranged the photographs alphabetically according to the geographical location. 1 broken glass plate negative is stored in a flat box.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS CONTAINER

Battle Ground, Tippecanoe County:

Photographer: C. F. Walters

Descriptions:

Prophet's Rock, adjacent to the Tippecanoe Battlefield,

on Prophet's Rock Road

A scene on the Tippecanoe Battlefield

A view of the entrances to the Tippecanoe Battlefield

and the M.E. Camp Meeting Association grounds.

Swimming pool, M.E. Camp Meeting Association

Tippecanoe Township Consolidated School, built 1922

Bourbon, Marshall County:

Descriptions:

United Brethren Church, two views

First M.E. Church

First Presbyterian Church

J. H. Tribley Residence

Brown County:

Numbered: 90300–90311

Descriptions:

Pioneer home in Brown County hills, shocked corn in

foreground

Picturesque Street, Brown County Pottery in Nashville,

Pioneer home at entrance to Brown County State Park

Shelter House in Brown County State Park

Christian Church, Nashville

The ford at Stone Head, Nashville

Two views of Log Jail, Nashville, built in 1837

On Road 46 en route to Bloomington, Indiana

Making sorghum near Nashville, Indiana, boiling shed

under tree, shocked grain in field

Man cooking pumpkins in iron kettle near Nashville

Covered bridge over Bean Blossom Creek

Farmstead scene on road to Stone Head

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Photographs: Box 1. Folder 1

box 1, Folder

Photographs: Box 1. Folder 2

Brown County:

Numbered: 90312–90327

Descriptions:

Old block house tower in Brown County State Park

Oldest covered well in Brown County

Old log community house showing "dog trot"

The Nashville House, Nashville, Indiana

Brown County Court House, red brick

Abe Martin Lodge, Brown County State Park

View of farm field with shocked corn and pumpkins,

cabin in background

Cabin life in Possum Holler

View in Pleasant Valley showing historic village of

Gnaw Bone

Bean Blossom Overlook from picnic area

Village of Nashville, Indiana from Town Hill,

Brown County Art Gallery in Nashville, Indiana

Cabin life in Possum Holler

Historic cabin on Greasy Creek Road

Brown County:

Descriptions:

Historic homestead on North Bloomington-Columbus

Road

[Farmstead cabin]

Historic log cabin at Stony Lonesome

Salt Creek Valley near Nashville

Marcus Dickey home on Bear Wallow Hill

Old road marker at Stone Head

"Friendship Cabin" near Helmsburg

On State Route 46 [4 views]

[Cabin with barn/storehouse built into hillside]

[Church on ridge above Nashville]

[Farmstead with barn. 2 views]

[Cabin under large tree alongside road with mailbox]

[Small outbuilding with picket fencing]

[Large cabin, field picket fenced, cordwood stacked]

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 4

Brown County:

Descriptions:

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 6

Porch of Friendship Cabin Estate, Helmsburg

[Old barn on hillside]

[Corn shocks in fields, 3 photos]

Pioneer home near Nashville

[Small cabin, tin roof, outbuilding, kettle in front]

[Farmstead, two-story home with porch rail, tin roof, neatly stacked firewood, footbridge in foreground]

Small cabin amidst sumac, tree in foreground

[Cabin among sumac]

[Two-story cabin, wide log sidewalls, window in attic]

[Cabin with hillside cellar]

[Sorghum mill, 3 photos, same scene in Folder 3]

[Farmstead, outbuildings, corn shocks in field, 2 views]

[Barn on hill]

[Old Log Community House]

Brown County, Bean Blossom:

Descriptions:

Panoramic view of Bean Blossom Valley from Road

135 [5 photos]

The road into Bean Blossom

Brown County, Nashville:

Descriptions:

Bird's-eye view of Nashville from Town Hill

[3 photos]

Brown County Museum

A peaceful street noted for it's historic maple trees

Brown County Pottery

Brown County State Park:

Descriptions:

[Scenic view from ridge]

[Abe Martin Lodge]

Roadway into park from old covered bridge

Looking out on Brown County hills from Blockhouse

Tower

[Covered bridge, 2 views from streamside]

Reflections on Echo Lake,

Sunset Glory on Brown County lake

Moonlight view of Echo Lake

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 7

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 8

Numbered: 52800–52823 Descriptions:

Binyon's a famous chicken dinner house [2 photos]

View of Cedar Point Park from pier

Dick Smith's North Shore Inn

View of San Souci Resort from boat landing

View of lake from State Road 10 showing Cedar Point

in distance

"The Outlet" people wading in stream]

Lassen's Hotel and Pavilion [2 views]

View from Binyon's Resort showing Lassen's Pavilion

Entrance to Cedar Lake Conference Grounds [3 views]

Picnic Area on Conference Grounds

Moonlight on Cedar Lake

Cottages on Conference Grounds [3 photos]

View of the pier from the Conference Grounds

Dining Hall & Refreshment Booth on Conference

Grounds

Young Women's and Young Men's Dormitories

Cedar Lake, Lake County:

Numbered: 52824–52832

Descriptions:

Tennis Courts in front of Glendinning Hotel

Torrey Hall and Office, Conference Grounds

Glendinning Hotel, Conference Grounds

Croquet Courts and Gardens, Conference Grounds

Baseball Field, Conference Grounds

Shuffleboard Courts, Conference Grounds

Picnic Grounds, Conference Grounds

Dining Hall and Refreshment Booth, Conference

Grounds

Bathing Beach, Conference Grounds

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 10

Numbered: 52834–52850

Descriptions:

Tennis Courts and Hotel Restawhile, Conference

Grounds

Fountain Pool on Conference Grounds

[Swimming area, pier, and diving platform]

Kandy Kabin at Conference Grounds

Children's playground, Conference Grounds

Speedboat landing at Mother's Pantry

People resting on lakefront benches, Conference

Grounds

Speedboat Rides from the Pier, Conference Grounds

Swimming scene from end of pier

Boating on Cedar Lake [sailboat and speedboat]

Speedboat Ride

Sailing on Cedar Lake

On the beach at Conference Grounds

The Pier from Conference Grounds, [sign-Private Pier

for Conference Grounds Guests Only, No Sunday

Bathing]

Cedar Lake, Lake County:

Descriptions:

Children's Slide

Torry Hall and Office [2 photos]

[Derby Hotel, pier, office/refreshment building,

Housing Unit [2 photos]

[Resort grounds and buildings, 5 views]

[uprooted tree at edge of lake, 3 views]

[Swimming beach with swimmers, 4 views]

[Cedar Lake Conference Grounds entrance, 2 photos]

[Building at lake edge]

[Road along business area by lake, 2 views]

Cedar Lake, Lake County:

Descriptions:

[Swimming area, pier and diving deck, 2 views]

[Office and parking, Conference Grounds, 3 views]

[Glendinning Hotel, Conference Grounds, 2 views]

Torrey Hall, Conference Grounds

Dining Hall, Conference Grounds

[Picnic on grounds underneath trees, 2 views]

[Autos parked near Torrey Hall]

Picnic grounds and recreation center

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 12

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 13

Descriptions:

[Entrance sign at entrance to Conference Grounds]

[Picnic area adjacent to beach with pier]

[End of swimming pier, 2 views]

[Party leaving pier in speedboat, two persons on deck]

[Boat leaving dock, 2 views]

[Water skiing, 3 views]

[Sailboat on Cedar Lake]

[Floatplane on Cedar Lake, 2 views]

[Cabin and picnic area along shore]

[Cabins with trail, power line, men seated at table]

[Recreation on Conference Grounds, kids playground and ballgame, 2 views]

[Refreshment center on Conference Grounds, 3 views]

[Go carts on track, spectators in background]

Cedar Lake, Lake County: Descriptions:

[Business area, restaurants, gas station, pedestrians, 2 views]

[Business area, cars parked in front of store]

[Boating on the lake, 2 views]

[Golf Clubhouse and grounds, 2 views]

[Conference Grounds, swimming pier, & boat landing]

[People observing the swimming area, 8 views]

Cedar Lake, Lake County: Descriptions:

[Swimming area with dock & water slide, 7 views]

[Scenic view of lake, dock and excursion boat, 2 views]

[Picnic grounds, 3 views]

[Auto parking areas, 2 views]

[Camera Shop along lake edge, parked auto]

[Lake edge view with autos, boat dock, and rental]

[Derby Hotel and grocery stores, 4 views]

[Large hotel with wraparound porch]

Photographs: Box 2, Folder 1

Photographs: Box 2, Folder 2

Descriptions:

[Lakefront cottage and gazebo, 3 views]

["The outlet" into lake]

[Photographers along side of lake]

[Excursion boats along dock, 2 views]

[Hotels along lake, 2 views]

[Dining Room, parking lot, people waiting for

excursion boat, 3 views]

[Swimmers on pier, Young's Restaurant, Bakery &

Food Shop on shore]

[Lake edge, swimmers, Parked cars, people on shore]

[Picnic grounds]

[Entrance sign to Noble Oaks Park]

Cedar Lake, Lake County:

Descriptions:

[Speedboat and water skiers, 7 views]

[Excursion boat, 2 views]

[Hotel with porch, people in front of hotel]

[Swimming area, 9 views]

Chesterton, Porter County:

Descriptions:

Business section of town from Railroad Park

Chesterton High School

Miniature historic church at Bailleytown

[Teibel's Restaurant, 2 views]

Chesterton, Johnson Beach, Porter County:

Numbered: 89100–33300

Descriptions:

On Johnson's beach at Lake Michigan [6 views]

Johnson's Inn, Lake Michigan shore. Photo taken from

Pageant Sand Dune

Photographs: Box 2, Folder 4

Photographs: Box 2. Folder 5

Photographs: Box 2, Folder 6

Crown Point, Lake County:

Numbered: 53200–53208

Descriptions:

Entrance to Lake County Courthouse [2 views]

Masonic Temple

Public Library [2views]

Catholic Church and School

Presbyterian Church

Race track, Lake County Fairgrounds

Main Street

Houses on South Court Street

Photographs: Box 2, Folder 9

Photographs:

Box 2, Folder 8

Crown Point, Lake County:

Descriptions:

[Lake County Courthouse, 3 views]

Masonic Temple [2 views]

Public Library [2 views]

[Methodist Church]

[Presbyterian Church, 2 views]

[School or institution with tower]

[Track at Lake County Fairgrounds]

[Tree lined neighborhood streets, 3 views]

[Main business area, 2 views]

[Large business building, 3 views]

[brick building, unidentified]

Culver Military Academy, Marshall County:Photographs: Box 2, Folder 10

Cadets drilling, YMCA building in one view [2 views]

Armory, horse and wagon at main entrance

Black horse Calvary troop

Horses and heavy artillery on parade ground

Bridge building [2 views]

Track team racing on track

Culver Military Academy Band

Gary, Marquette Park, Lake County:

Numbered: 7600–7603, unnumbered

Descriptions:

Father Marquette Statue in park

Pavilion from Sand Dune [8 views]

Feeding ducks on Dune across from Pavilion [3 views]

[Shoreline scene]

[Photographing couple on Pavilion terrace]

[Gary steel mill seen from Pavilion terrace, 3 views]

Gary, Wells Street Beach, Lake County:

Numbered: 7605–7607

Description:

People on Wells Street Beach [7 views]

Gary, Lake County: Number: 24960

Description: E.J. & E. Ry YMCA [newly constructed brick building, steam train on track in background,

auto parked at bottom of stairs]

Hagerstown, Wayne County:

Descriptions:

Christian Church High School

Perfect Circle Factory

Hudson Lake, St. Joseph County:

Numbered: 33400–33426

Description:

[Hudson Lake Grocery]

[Cabin beside lake]

Along the North Shore [Bath House in background]

[Large two-story building with porch]

Glimpse of Hudson Lake [railroad track beside lake]

Hudson Lake Casino, rear view from boat landing

Hotel and Casino

Beautiful Hudson Lake [water slide]

Beach scene

Ellwood's Store [1938, autos and motorcycle, 2 views]

Diving scene [swimmers]

View from picnic grounds

Boat landing, casino, picnic grounds

Blue Bird Beach

West End Beach

Farm scene at lake [sheep and cornfield]

Photographs: Box 2, Folder 12

Photographs: Box 2, Folder 13

Photographs: Box 2, Folder 14

Hudson Lake, St. Joseph County:

Descriptions:

"Bather's Paradise" [

[swimmers and Bath House. 4 views]

[large picnic group by lake]

West End Beach

Vista of Hudson Lake

[Bathers at water's edge, 2 views]

[Rowboats on lake, 4 views]

[Lane with cottonwood trees and road, 3 views]

Photographs: Box 3, Folder 1

Photographs:

Box 2, Folder 16

Hudson Lake, St. Joseph County:

Descriptions:

[Pier with gazebo and diving platform]

[Boat rental area]

[Water slide, 2 views]

[Beach scenes with swimmers, 8 views]

[Road along the lake, 5 views]

[Scenic views of lake, 2 views]

Hudson Lake, St. Joseph County: Descriptions:

A. Best & Sons [house]

Cottages on Lookout Point, 1915

[Scenic view of lake with four boats]

[Casino dance floor surrounded by tables and chairs]

Photographs: Box 3, Folder 2

Indiana Dunes State Park, Porter County:

Numbered: 89100–89120

Descriptions:

Views on Three Mile Beach [5 views]

Hotel and parkway [2 views]

Vista of beach

[Pavilion and hotel from beach [2 views]

Group camp, totem pole [3 views]

[Camping area. 3 views]

Indiana Dunes State Park, Porter County:

Numbered: 89121–89144

Descriptions:

Dunes Park Grocery Dunes Park entrance Wilson Camp area

Tepees in the Group Camp [Beach scenes along Lake Michigan, 4 views]

Dunes Arcade Hotel [2 views]

[Pavilion Restaurant & Bath House, 4 views] [Prickly pear cactus, top of dune, 2 views

Indiana Dunes State Park, Porter County: Description:

[Lake Michigan beach scenes, 12 views]

Indiana Dunes State Park, Porter County: Descriptions:

[Buildings, Pavilion, parking, Hotel, Entrance, Group Camp, Cottage, Wilson shelter canteen, 16 views]

Indiana Dunes State Park, Porter County: Descriptions:

[Campgrounds, scenic photos of dunes, 9 views]

Indiana Dunes State Park, Porter County: Description:

"Greetings from Delightful Duneland: Twelve original camera studies" [postal pack of printed scenic views]

Photographs: Box 3, Folder 4

Photographs: Box 3, Folder 5

Photographs: Box 3, Folder 6

Photographs: Box 3, Folder 7

Knox and Bass Lake, Starke County:

Numbered: 60206–60270

Descriptions:

Cranberry Point, Camp Gridley, Bass Lake

Roepstorff Bros. Bathing Beach, Bass Lake

Tomassi's Resort, Bass Lake

Cottages along West Shore Drive, Bass Lake

Main Street, Bass Lake

Crystal Ballroom, Bass Lake

Scene on Yellow River, Knox

Bass Lake Park, Bass Lake

Lover's Lane, Bass Lake

Hotel Taggart, Bass Lake

[Beach view]

Main Street, Knox

Free Tourist Camp on Yellow River, Knox

State Fish Hatchery, Bass Lake

Bass Lake Golf Club, Bass Lake

Lover's Lane leading to Bass Lake

Sunrise on Bass Lake from Hotel Taggert

Bass Lake from the road

Knox and Bass Lake, Starke County: Descriptions:

[Beach scenes by Bass Hotel, 3 views]

[Trees beside lake, 3 views]

[Hotel grounds with people, 4 views]

[Swimming hole beside bridge, 2 views]

[Parked autos by buildings, 2 views]

[Main Street in Knox, 2 views[

[Bass Hotel]

[High school, Knox]

[Court House, 2 views]

[Golf Club, 6 views].

Knox and Bass Lake, Starke County:

Descriptions:

[Scenic views of lake, Swimming area by water slide, Rock entrance towers to hotel, Fish hatchery, Hotels

and other lodging places by lake, 28 views]

Koontz Lake, Starke County:

Description:

Scene on Koontz Lake, Walkerton

Photographs: Box 3, Folder 9

Photographs: Box 3, Folder 10

Photographs: Box 3, Folder 11

Lake Bruce, Fulton County:

Description:

Shawley's Cottages

Photographs: Box 3, Folder 13

Photographs:

McCormick's Creek State Park, Owen County:

Numbered: 90400–90409

Descriptions: Rustic Shelter

Beechwoods Shelter House Beechwoods Drive over canyon

Overhanging Rock

The Falls

Along the creek

Canyon Inn in autumn

The Bend, White River

Outdoor Theatre

The Old Historic Quarry

Box 3, Folder 14

McCormick's Creek State Park, Owen County:

Descriptions:

Shelter House, Museum, Rock steps up the trail, Scenic views along creek, bridge, Road through the park, White River, 14 views]

Photographs: Box 3, Folder 15

New Carlisle, St. Joseph County:

Numbered: 31800–31810, unnumbered

Descriptions:

High School [5 views]

Hubbard Memorial Home

Hudson Lake Casino

Community Christian Church

Main Street looking West [3 views]

Residential street scenes [2 views]

View of Hudson Lake

[Country road]

Photographs: Box 4, Folder 1

Rolling Prairie, LaPorte County:

Numbered: 3500-3509, unnumbered

Descriptions:

Peacock Fountain Inn Coffee Shop [2 views]

Peacock Fountain Inn Restaurant [4 views]

Peacock Fountain Inn Cottage

Peacock Fountain Inn Gardens [9 views]

Tremont, Porter County:

Descriptions:

[Old Indian Medicine Man shop, photos of sign and office, 1939, 8 views]

Photographs: Box 4, Folder 3

Turkey Run State Park, Parke County: Descriptions:

Richard Lieber Monument Juliet Strauss Memorial

[Inn and views from rear of Inn, 3 views]

[Two log structures, 2 views]

[Covered bridge over Sugar Creek, 2 views]

[Suspension bridge over Sugar Creek, 5 views]

[Stone bridge over canyon]

Box 4, Folder 4

Photographs:

Turkey Run State Park, Parke County: Description:

[Scenic trails and canyons in park, 14 views]

Photographs: Box 4, Folder 5

Winona Lake, Kosciusko County: Numbered: 54800–54804, unnumbered

Descriptions:

Lodge at Camp Lucerne

North Cabins
South Cabins

Hillside Amphitheatre

Waterfront looking South from pier

[Canoeists and views of Winona Lake, 3 views]

Photographs: Box 4, Folder 6

Winona Lake, Kosciusko County: Descriptions:

Camp Kosciusko [swimmers and building, 3 views] Chicago Boys Club Camp: Main Lodge, Swim area, Beach House, Camp Creek, Archery Range, Spring Fountain, Waterfront at Sunset [7 views] Photographs: Box 4, Folder 7

Winona Lake, Kosciusko County:

Descriptions:

[Camp Kosciusko, main buildings, Haynes Chapel, creek, lake front, group of swimmers, 9 views]

Winona Lake, Kosciusko County:

Descriptions:

Chicago Boys Club Camp [entrance sign, main building, camp store, spring fountain, flag ceremony, canoe classes, scenic views of lake and grounds, 18 views] Photographs: Box 4, Folder 9

Photographs:

Box 4, Folder 10

Various Identified Photographs: Descriptions:

The Water Works Plant, Morocco, Ind. Methodist Church, Royal Center, Ind.

New Elks Home, Lafayette, Ind.

Columbia Woolen Mills, Columbia City, Ind.

Williamsport Falls, Williamsport, Ind.

Culver Library, Culver, Ind.

St. Joseph's Hospital, Mishawaka, Ind.

Central Normal College, Danville, Ind.

Lyndora Hotel, Hammond, Ind.

James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children,

Indianapolis University School of Medicine-

Indianapolis, Ind.

Norway Dam, Monticello, Ind.

Penn Station, Warsaw, Ind.

Public Library, Delphi, Ind.

M.E. Church, Columbia City, Ind.

Photographs: Box 4, Folder 11

Various Unidentified Photographs:

Descriptions:

[Swimming and boating on lake]

[Small log cabins, 3 views]

[Creek or River with overhanging trees]

[Interior of hotel or inn with dining rooms, sunroom,

reading room, entrance lobby, bedroom, 6 views]

Danville, Indiana, Hendricks County:

Descriptions:

Christian Church, built 1914

High School

Central Normal College

North Side of Public Square [ca. 1910]

Hammond, Indiana, Lake County:

Descriptions:

Homan Street looking North [ca. 1900]

W. B. Conkey Company, Publishers [ca. 1900]

Photographs: Box 4. Folder 12

Knox, Indiana, Starke County:Photographs: **Descriptions:**Box 4, Folder 14

View on Main Street looking North [Koffel's Drug Store on corner]

M.E. Church [3 views]

Kouts, Indiana, Porter County:Photographs:
Box 4, Folder 13

Main Street looking South [ca. 1910]

Cedar Lake, Lake County:

Broken Glass Plate:

Description: Flat storage

[parking area beside hotel]

Chest used in shipping photographs and glass negatives to
Indiana Historical Society by donor Earl Moore in 1960

R1963