

Collection #  
P 0368

**HARRY ORVAL ROEBUCK PHOTOGRAPHS  
CA. 1925**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** Two black-and-white photographs in one folder

**COLLECTION DATES:** Ca. 1925

**PROVENANCE:** Gift from Frank T. Aker of Madison, Tennessee, 26 February 2003

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2003.0287

**NOTES:**

## **BIOGRAPHICAL / HISTORICAL SKETCH**

### **Harry Orval Roebuck**

Harry Orval Roebuck was born 16 July 1885 in Delphos, Ohio. He moved to Indianapolis in 1908 where he was an electrician employed by Hatfield Electric Co. for thirty years.

Harry married Amy R. Bertram (14 March 1886–19 June 1937) on 24 July 1909 in Marion County, Indiana. They had a son, Harry Bertram Roebuck (8 September 1914–3 October 1915), and a daughter, Janet (7 February 1917–29 January 2007). Harry married Helen Johanna Ritter (23 March 1901–11 December 2004) on 27 November 1924 in Marion County.

In 1945 Harry and Helen moved to Orlando, Florida. There Harry worked for Johnson Electric Co. He inaugurated the Electrical Apprenticeship Training School in Orlando in 1947. He was appointed administrator of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 606's inside apprenticeship program in 1955, and later was made its executive secretary and director. He was a member of IBEW for sixty years, having belonged to Local 481 while in Indianapolis. Harry retired in the spring of 1967. He was a member of the Free & Accepted Masons Lodge 69, Retired Citizens Association, and Broadway Methodist Church in Orlando. He died 16 April 1968.

Sources:

Ancestry <ancestrylibrary.com>. Accessed 18 April 2019:

- Indiana Birth Certificates, 1907–1940
- Indiana Death Certificates, 1899–2011
- Indiana Marriage Index, 1800–1941
- Indiana Select Marriages Index, 1748–1993
- U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014
- U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942

*The Orlando Sentinel*. Obituary for Harry O. Roebuck, 18 April 1968, p. 15 <newspapers.com>. Accessed 18 April 2019.

### **American Legion Building**

The American Legion was founded in 1919 at the close of World War I and soon selected Indianapolis to be the site of its national headquarters. A Citizens Planning Committee designated two city blocks (Vermont to North streets between Meridian and Pennsylvania), along with St. Clair Park and the public library to the north and University Park to the south, to form a five-block civic plaza that would incorporate a memorial to veterans, the American Legion headquarters, and other public buildings.

Preliminary work began on the plaza in early 1921. In 1923 the War Memorial Board selected Frank B. Walker and Harry E. Weeks of Cleveland, Ohio, to serve as architects of the plaza. The Craig-Curtiss Company of Cleveland was chosen as contractor for the American Legion building. The two-story limestone building was constructed in 1925 on the west side of the plaza. The Legion's Department of Indiana had an office in this national headquarters building. Another building was erected on the east side of the plaza in 1950. The American Legion national headquarters moved into the newer building, while

the Department of Indiana and the National Women's Auxiliary expanded throughout the original structure on the west side of the plaza.

Sources:

*The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, edited by Bodenhamer, David J. and Robert G. Barrows. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994. General Collection: F534 .I55 E4 1994:

“American Legion” by Thomas A. Rumer, p. 254.

“American Legion, Department of Indiana” by Thomas A. Rumer, pp. 254–255.

“Indiana World War Memorial Plaza” by Suzanne T. Rollins, pp. 762–763.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of two 8x10 black-and-white photographs. One is of Building “B” of the Indiana World War Memorial (initially the home of the American Legion national headquarters) and shows workers in front of it when it was newly built. The other is a group photograph of nineteen electrical engineers who worked on the building; only Harry Orval Roebuck has been identified.

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Group photograph of the electrical engineers who worked on the Indiana World War Memorial, Building B [initially the home of the American Legion national headquarters, on the west side of the plaza]. The photo shows nineteen men; Harry Orval Roebuck is in the front row, far right [ca. 1925].

Building “B” [initially the home of the American Legion national headquarters], Indiana World War Memorial, Indianapolis. Walker & Weeks, architects. The Craig-Curtiss Co., contractors. Shows three workers with a wheelbarrow and piles of dirt and a couple of cars in front of the building. (Photo by W. H. Bass Photo Co., 14 May 1925.)

### CONTAINER

Photographs, Folder 1 of 1

Photographs, Folder 1 of 1