

Collection #  
P 0852

**IDEAL AUTO COMPANY PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM  
CA. 1911–1912**

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 PAB photograph album, 1 folder of printed illustrations enclosed with album

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1911–1912

PROVENANCE: Gift from the Indianapolis–Marion County Public Library, 2017

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2017.0232

NOTES: See also: *Ideal Commercial Power Wagons* [ca. 1911–1916]. Pamphlet Collection: pam TL 230.5 .I34 I34 1911

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Ideal Auto Company was a manufacturer of commercial vehicles, such as delivery vans and trucks, located in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Its first factory opened in 1910 at 1413 Clay Street. In 1911 the company moved to 616 High Street. Madison Festus Jones [1881–1968] was the manager. Production ended in 1916, but the company continued as a distributor of Haynes and Oakland automobiles and Republic motor trucks. Beginning in 1917 the business was located at 256 W. Main Street, and then moved to the corner of Webster and Pearl streets in 1921, offering service and repairs. It appears that the company moved to Columbia City, Indiana, in 1923.

A 1911 advertisement announced the company's new 1912 models of Ideal four-cylinder commercial trucks with long stroke motors and four-speed selective sliding gear transmissions, with very heavy design throughout. It noted that there were a few two-cylinder trucks that could be sold for "very attractive prices."

### Sources:

Advertisements, including, e.g.:

*Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*

15 October 1911, p. 31

8 September 1912, p. 29

30 April 1916, p. 50

*Fort Wayne Sentinel*

19 October 1911, p. 13

*Ideal Commercial Power Wagons* [ca. 1911–1916]. Pamphlet Collection: pam TL 230.5  
.I34 I34 1911

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of one album of the Ideal Auto Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana, holding fifty photographs of commercial trucks and delivery vans as well as vehicle components. There are also nine loose printed illustrations of vehicles and components in a folder enclosed with the album.

## CONTENTS

### CONTENTS

Ideal truck

Ideal delivery van for Wayne Knitting Mills

Ideal delivery truck for Indiana Furniture Co.  
[Model G, 3000-pound capacity, sold for \$2250]

Ideal truck [Model H-2, 2000-pound capacity, sold for \$2000]

Ideal delivery truck for Packard Music House

Ideal delivery truck for M.F. Kaag & Sons China and Glassware [shown in advertisement in *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette* on 8 September 1912 as a bargain that “will be sold very cheaply because of change of models for 1913”]

Four pages showing Ideal delivery trucks

Ideal delivery truck [Model I, 1500-pound capacity, sold for \$1500] (“Fort Wayne Eng Co.” printed below picture)

Three pages showing trucks

Three pages showing seat and front of vehicles

Ideal flatbed truck

Three pages showing chassis

Vehicle seen from the back with exposed chassis

### CONTAINER

PAB Photograph Album,  
photo 1

PAB Photograph Album,  
photo 2

PAB Photograph Album,  
photo 3

PAB Photograph Album,  
photo 4

PAB Photograph Album,  
photo 5

PAB Photograph Album,  
photo 6

PAB Photograph Album,  
photos 7–10

PAB Photograph Album,  
photo 11

PAB Photograph Album,  
photos 12–14

PAB Photograph Album,  
photo 15–17

PAB Photograph Album,  
photo 18

PAB Photograph Album,  
photos 19–21

PAB Photograph Album,  
photo 22

Two pages showing vehicle with front grill 1) open and 2) closed	PAB Photograph Album, photos 23–24
Seven pages showing engines and other components such as wheel and truck bed (uncovered and covered)	PAB Photograph Album, photos 25–31
Ideal Auto Co. truck, with houses in background	PAB Photograph Album, photo 32
Delivery van for Reliable Garment Cleaners	PAB Photograph Album, photo 33
Delivery van for Wayne Knitting Mills	PAB Photograph Album, photo 34
Delivery truck for Wm. Scheele / Ft. Wayne Mineral Water Works, parked in the middle of a residential street	PAB Photograph Album, photo 35
Truck for Merchants Delivery Company [shown in advertisement in <i>Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette</i> on 15 October 1911 with caption “The Ideal Auto Co. Announces Its New Line of 1912 Trucks”]	PAB Photograph Album, photo 36
Ideal Auto Co. truck, with houses in background	PAB Photograph Album, photo 37
Delivery truck with roof	PAB Photograph Album, photo 38
Queen City Transfer Co. vehicle with man at the steering wheel	PAB Photograph Album, photo 39
Truck with roof and windshield	PAB Photograph Album, photo 40
Man standing at front of truck, with snow on the ground	PAB Photograph Album, photo 41
Vehicle seen from front	PAB Photograph Album, photo 42
Three pages of vehicle components, including wheel and chain	PAB Photograph Album, photos 43–45
Seat and truck bed with roof for Wm. Scheele / Ft. Wayne Mineral Water Works	PAB Photograph Album, photo 46

Man standing near chassis

PAB Photograph Album,  
photo 47

Two photos on one page of two men in Ideal Auto Co. truck with sign reading "Model F one ton truck made 1800 miles in 100 hours with full load in Four State Tour." In one of the photos the truck appears to be passing The Oliver [hotel in South Bend?].

PAB Photograph Album,  
photos 48–49

Two men driving Ideal Auto Co. truck with houses in background

PAB Photograph Album,  
photo 50

Nine printed illustrations of vehicles and components. One is labeled "Clutch used on Models 'H' and 'I' Ideal trucks"

Folder 1 (enclosed with  
album)