

Collection #
P 0903

**INDIANA HARBOR BELT RAILROAD EMPLOYEE
PHOTOGRAPHS,
CA. 1946–1948**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 folder of photographs

COLLECTION
DATES: Ca. 1946–1948

PROVENANCE: Gift from Peggy Tuck Sinko of Illinois, March 2018

RESTRICTIONS: None

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NUMBER: 2018.0064

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad was established in 1907 as a result of mergers of smaller systems operating around Chicago, with its earliest predecessors being the East Chicago Belt Railroad and the Chicago, Hammond and Western Railroad, which began in 1896. Belt line railroads are short line rail operations in or around a city. They exchange carload shipments with larger trunk line railroads that handle long distance transportation. In the 1940s, the IHBRR's main line ran only forty miles from Hammond, Indiana, to Franklin Park, Illinois, but with all of its connecting lines and sidings, it maintained 561 total miles of track. It connected to all Chicago railroads. The Gibson Yards in Hammond, among some of its other facilities, are still in operation.

Sources:

Banik, Jerry. "Pardon me boy, is that the Harbor Belt choo-choo?" [The Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad in 1943 — Whiting-Robertsdale Historical Society](#) Accessed 1 April 2025.

Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad. "About Us" [Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad | About Us](#) Accessed 1 April 2025.

"Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad History" [Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad Archive - History](#) Accessed 1 April 2025.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ethel Hudson Tuck worked for the Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad in the Freight Transportation Department at the Gibson Yards in Hammond, Indiana, from about 1944 to 1949. She belonged to the IHBRR bowling team and was a devoted member of "The Club," which consisted of seven friends who worked at IHBRR during World War II and beyond and continued to meet for the next six decades.

Ethel Marie Hudson Tuck was born on 13 February 1924 in Hammond, Lake County, Indiana. She was the middle of three daughters of Clyde Harold Hudson and Ethel Bernice Hilton Hudson. She graduated from Hammond High School in 1942. On 17 April 1943, she married Clifford Eugene Tuck (1912–2015). They had two daughters, Peggy and Susan.

Ethel Hudson Tuck was a lifelong member of the First Christian Church of Highland. She was an active Girl Scout volunteer, serving as a troop leader, neighborhood chair, and day camp director. She was awarded the Girl Scout Thanks badge for exceptional service to Girl Scouting. She was also a member of the Psi Iota Xi sorority. She died on 15 October 2016 in Hammond.

Sources:

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 1 April 2025):

Find a Grave
Indiana, U.S., Birth Certificates, 1907–1944
Indiana, U.S., Marriage Certificates, 1960–2012
United States Federal Census, 1930–1950
U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900–2016

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of four black-and-white photographs of employees of the Freight Department of the Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad (IHBRR) at Gibson Yards in Hammond, Lake County, Indiana. The photographs belonged to Ethel Hudson Tuck, who was an employee there from about 1944 to 1949. All four photographs are group portraits, including women on the company's bowling team, attendees of a retirement party, and employee group portraits on the outdoor steps of the IHBRR Office of the Superintendent of Freight Transportation. Some individuals were identified by the donor of this collection and her mother, Ethel Hudson Tuck.

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Group photo of four women on the IHBRR bowling team posing with bowling balls and pins. Ethel Hudson Tuck is at the far left. The other women are named on the back of the photo as Edna Kasin [Mills] [1921–1983]; Lois Williams, Gen. Dorsey (photo by Dave Payton of Anderson, Ind., 1946).

Group photo of approximately 61 men and women gathered for an IHBRR retirement party in what appears to be a church fellowship hall (photo by Mercury Pictures of Hammond, Ind., ca. 1946–1948).

Group photo of more than sixty IHBRR employees on the outdoor steps of the “Office of Supt. Freight Transportation / I.H.B.R.R. C.J.-C.R.&I.R.R. / May 9, 1946 / Gibson, Ind.” Some have been identified: Ferdie Ratajack, Angie Tsouchlos, Ruth Phillips, Eunice Steinmetz, Gladys Lenz, Mary Lou Ratajack, Ruth Fondrie [Ruth Fandrei], Ginny Warner, Virginia McDonald, Larry Wimmer, Ethel Hudson Tuck, Mr. Hannon – Boss [H. P. Hannan], Lucy, Margaret, and Nick (photo by Max F. Kolin of Chicago).

Group photo of more than forty women IHBRR employees on the outdoor steps of the Office of the Freight Department, Gibson, Ind., May 9, 1948. Some are identified: Ethel Hudson Tuck, Ginny Warner, Eunice Steinmetz, Angie Tsouchlos, Gladys Lenz, Ruth Fondrie [Ruth Fandrei], Mary Lou Ratajack, Virginia McDonald, Rose, Lucy, Margaret, and _____ McFadden (photo by Max F. Kolin of Chicago).

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