INDIANA RAIL ROAD COMPANY COLLECTION, 1983–2007

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 7 manuscript boxes, 1 half-size oversize manuscript box, 6 flat file folders, 1 color photographs folder, 1 artifact

COLLECTION DATES: 1983–2007

PROVENANCE: The Indiana Rail Road Company, April and October, 2013

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2013.0131, 2013.0362

NOTES:
HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Indiana Rail Road Company originated in a time when many big railroad companies were failing, mainly because of the trucking industry. New railroad companies were born, "shortlines" that bought small feeder lines from the big companies. These smaller railroads reduced costs through various strategies, including the use of smaller crews, improving service quality, and catering to the smaller customers that were often ignored by the bigger companies.

The rail lines now operated by the Indiana Rail Road were once part of the Illinois Central line. This particular section, which runs from Effingham, Illinois to Indianapolis, Indiana, was known as the "Hi-Dry," and was never a stellar performer. Passenger service disappeared after World War II. Merchandise traffic dwindled with the growth of the trucking industry, and by the mid-1970s all that kept the rail line going was coal from Southern Indiana to Indianapolis Power & Light in Indianapolis. With the Staggers Rail Act of 1980, bigger companies could more easily sell off their properties.

Thomas G. Hoback, a manager at Illinois Central, looked at 70-80 possible railroads to buy and grow. He bought the Effingham to Indianapolis part of the rail line in 1986 and endeavored to rebuild it. While running the company often proved difficult, especially in light of demands by Indianapolis Power & Light, Hoback persisted and the Indiana Rail Road Company grew. This effort resulted in carloads increasing by nearly 1,000 percent by 2006. The Indiana Rail Road Company showcases innovative railroading through new technologies and operating techniques that made the company successful.

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The majority of the collection contains correspondence, agreements, and other materials related to the Indiana Rail Road Company's business with other companies.

Series One: Business with Other Companies contains correspondence and agreements, financial statements and invoices, memoranda, and other business-related information. While some files are quite extensive, others are a page or little more from brief interactions.

Series Two: Operations consists of reports, operational and safety manuals, operations through other yards and locations, inspections, plans, and reports of accidents on the rails.

Series Three: Acquisitions and Improvements includes correspondence, plans, and documents related to acquisitions of other companies/properties and improvements to the railroad's tracks.
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CATALOGING INFORMATION

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1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://opac.indianahistory.org/
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1113).
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