LONE STAR CEMENT CORPORATION
GREENCASTLE, INDIANA PLANT
PHOTOGRAPHS, 1946-1967

Collection Information

Historical and Biographical Sketches

Scope and Content Note

Folder List

Cataloging Information

Processed by

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

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 85 photographs (63 images with 22 duplicates), 8” x 10” or smaller; one typed report. Stored in a half-width, letter-size document case.

COLLECTION: 1946-1967
HISTORICAL SKETCH

Lone Star Industries, Inc. was incorporated in Maine in 1919 as International Cement Corporation and, in 1936, changed its name to Lone Star Cement Corporation. The company opened its Indiana division circa 1924. In 1969, Lone Star Cement changed its state of incorporation to Delaware and in 1971 changed its name to Lone Star Industries, Inc. As of December 2000, the corporation is headquartered in Stamford, Connecticut. The sales, marketing, and operations office for the company is located in Indianapolis.

Lone Star Industries operates one of its five plants in Putnam County, Indiana near Greencastle on 3301 S County Road 150 W, approximately 40 miles southwest of Indianapolis. A portion of the Greencastle plant's production is a high quality Type III portland cement.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

George E. Pierson began his career at Lone Star’s Kansas division on 15 August 1924 and transferred to Indiana “shortly thereafter.” He began with the company as a sales manager and before becoming the company’s vice president and manager of the Indiana division. He retired on 15 August 1949.

Carl Erdman was the Greencastle plant superintendent. He retired 1 August 1948, having started at the Greencastle plant in April 1933, coming from the company’s Hudson Plant.

I. C. Brotzman was superintendent of Lone Star’s Birmingham plant before becoming the company’s general superintendent in late 1944 and domestic operations manager in 1947. He worked from the company’s New York office, but often visited the Greencastle plant.

A. C. Harragin was Lone Star’s comptroller based in the New York office who also visited the Greencastle plant.

Fred C. Shrieber was the general superintendent by 1947, working from the New York office but regularly visiting the Greencastle plant.
SOURCES:
Lone Star Industries web site (http://www.lonestarind.com)

The Gold Star. Greencastle, Indiana: Lone Star Cement Corporation. Employee newsletter; various issues held by the Indiana State Library, Indiana Division.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE
IHS received the collection material in random order, so the processor arranged the material chronologically. Some of the documents bear the name “Harragin,” and could be the material’s likely provenance.

Folder 1 contains two typed, carbon copies of the March 1946 production report written by plant superintendant C. Erdman to company Vice President G. E. Pierson in Indianapolis. The report includes five photographs adhered to some of its pages. The two reports were originally stapled together, thus the processor stored them in the same folder. The first copy has Mr. Harragin’s name written in pencil on the upper left corner; the second copy, “Mr. Brotzman.” The processor removed the staples for reasons of conservation.

Folder 2 contains two photographs on a loose page from a 1946 report and depict the construction of a floor for an addition to the plant.

Folder 3 contains a three pages with five photographs dated 26 September 1949 illustrating construction, a recording tachometer, and a spout and rotary valve.

Folders 4 and 5 contain separate copies of the same report; one for “Mr. Schieber,” another for “Harragin.” Both names on these reports are crossed through. Each report has it’s own folder because, unlike the reports in Folder 1, they were not stapled together.

Folder 6 contains four interior photographs by Hirschburg, not dated. Captioned photographs in Folders 4 and 5 identify these images as various rooms within the newly constructed Service Building, circa 1949. Folder 7 contains an exterior view of the building, likewise identified from an image in Folders 4 and 5.

Folder 8 contains two photographs adhered onto one sheet of paper entitled “Greencastle First-aid Room.” Examining the photographs from the verso of the sheet with backlighting reveals typed captions on the verso of the photographs that place the room in the “new service building,” and are dated 6 March 1950.

Folder 9 contains seven photographs dated 15 November 1950 depicting quarry excavation. The processor removed five of the photographs from loose sheet of paper because of failing adhesive. Two of the three sheets were entitled “Greencastle – 1950.”

Folder 10 contains four sheets with twelve photographs. Whether the sheets were part of one report or more was not evident, so the processor brought them together by year. The verso of an 8” x 10” photograph has an ink-stamped form (filled in) that reads:

REFER TO LETTER
FROM J. J. Van Alstyne TO C. C. VanZendt
DATE 9/18/53 FILE G-8-E

Folder 11 contains four bird’s-eye views of the Greencastle plant by Fairchild Aerial Surveys, Inc. The processor removed these photographs from the acidic paper onto which they were mounted because of failing adhesive. Two of the photographs are very similar in appearance, but close examination reveals additional buildings on the site. Negative numbers suggest Fairchild Aerial Surveys made the earlier view in 1950 and the late views in 1956.

Folder 12 contains one sheet with two mounted exterior view photographs of the crusher building on 27 March 1957.
Folder 13 contains four photographs dated 1967 showing excavation on the site for a crusher seventy-two feet below the surface, the construction of clinker silo foundations, and an overall bird’s-eye view of the clinker silo construction site on 30 September.

FOLDER LISTING

FOLDER CONTENTS

1  [Production report for March] April 4, 1946 (Mr. Harragin)
2  [Plant addition construction photographs, 1946]
3  Greencastle, Sept. 1949
4  Greencastle, November 1949 (Harragin)
5  Greencastle, November 1949 (Mr. Shieber)
6  [Service Building, interior photographs by Hirschburg, circa 1949]
7  [Service Building, northeast elevation, photograph circa 1949]
8  Greencastle First-aid Room, New Service Building, 6 March 1950
9  Greencastle – 1950 (15 November)
10 [Greencastle, 1953]
11 [Bird’s eye photographs by Fairchild Aerial Surveys, Inc., 1950 and 1956]
12 Greencastle Plant, Crusher Building, March 27, 1957
13 [Plant photographs, 1967]

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  http://157.91.92.2
2. Click on the "Traditional Search" icon.
3. Click on the "Call Number" radio button.
4. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and four digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.