

**Collection #  
P 0718  
DVD 1477**

**RIVERSIDE AMUSEMENT PARK  
PHOTOGRAPHS, 1954**

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Processed by

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder cold storage color photographs, 1 OVA photographs folder, 1 DVD

COLLECTION DATES: 1954

PROVENANCE: Jim Ashmore, Losantville, IN, 2004

RESTRICTIONS: Items listed as being in Cold Storage need at least four hours to acclimate, so patrons are advised to call ahead of their visit if they wish to view those items to allow for thawing time.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Walter N Carpenter, Louise Carpenter Stanfield Family Collection, P 0236; Larry Foster Collection, P 0569.

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2005.0075

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Riverside Amusement Park first opened in 1903 on West 30th Street Indianapolis. The thirty-acre park was developed by Frederick Ingersoll in cooperation with J. Clyde Power, Bert Feibleman, and Albert Lieber. The early attractions of the park included the Circle Swings, Walking Glass Maze, and pony rides in addition to swimming and boating off the banks of the White River. In 1906, two new amusement parks opened, Wonderland and White City. To combat this competition J.S. Sandy took over management of the park and expanded it to include a carousel, mini railway, a "Gee-Whiz" ride, entertainment shows, and a trolley that transported visitors two and from the park.

The park again changed management in 1919 with the Riverside Exhibition Company taking over, led by Lewis Coleman. During this time, Coleman added two roller coasters to the park, the Flash and the Thriller. In 1939, he passed the park to his son, John Coleman, who used the park to provide patriotic services during World War II. These services included donating ten percent of all tickets sales every Wednesday evening to Army and Navy relief, and hosing servicemen outings.

Under John Coleman's management, Riverside Amusement Park supported segregation. Though integrated in 1962, signs remained posted calling for white patronage only. Such signage sparked action by the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, the Mayor's Human Rights Commission, and a protest by the NAACP. Despite finally fully integrating, the park soon late closed its doors in 1971 after being open for sixty eight years. After failed efforts by Meyer Cohen to reopen the park in 1976, the amusement park was demolished and is now home to the Rivers Edge housing division.

### Sources:

Mitchell, Dawn. "RetroIndy: Riverside Amusement Park, the Summer Resort within City Limits." *IndyStar*, June 25, 2017.

<https://www.indystar.com/story/news/history/retroindy/2017/06/25/retroindy-riverside-amusement-park-summer-resort-within-city-limits/399225001/>

Sunkel, Gwen. "In the Park: Riverside Amusement Park." *Historic Indianapolis*.

<http://historicindianapolis.com/in-the-park-riverside-amusement-park/>

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This item contains one original photograph (11" x 12"), six scanned color and black and white prints (8 1/2" x 11") of nine images, and a DVD containing four images of some of the prints. The photos depict the interior skating rink, view of the Flying Scooter ride, and the view from atop the Ferris wheel.

## **CONTENTS**

### CONTENTS

Riverside rides and skating rink interior photos, 1954

Skating rink interior original photograph, 1954

Copies of rides and rink interior photos, n.d.

Copies of rides and rink interior photos, n.d.

### CONTAINER

Cold Storage:  
Color Photographs,  
Folder 1 of 1

OVA Photographs,

Folder 1 of 1

DVD 1477, Master Copy

DVD 1477, User Copy