

Collection #
P 0686

**RIVERSIDE AMUSEMENT PARK
SLIDES, 1977**

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Processed by

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June 2018

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

**VOLUME OF
COLLECTION:** 1 slide bin

**COLLECTION
DATES:** 1977

PROVENANCE: Richard E. Harold, Noblesville, IN

RESTRICTIONS: Color slides in cold storage need at least 4 hours to acclimate, so patrons should call ahead if they wish to view materials that are in cold storage.

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**ALTERNATE
FORMATS:**

**RELATED
HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION
NUMBER:** 2008.0309

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Riverside Amusement Park opened in Indianapolis in 1903. Among other Indianapolis amusement parks in the early 1900s such as Wonderland and White City, Riverside was the longest running park. The thirty-acre amusement park, located across from Riverside City Park on West 30th Street, was developed by Frederick Ingersoll, J. Clyde Power, Bert Feibleman, and Albert Lieber. The park sat between White River and Central Canal. The park featured rides and attractions such as the Double Eight roller coaster, a miniature railway, skating rink, boating, and shooting galleries.

In 1919, Lewis Coleman of the Riverside Exhibition Company began operating the park. He passed management to his son John in 1939. The park saw high attendance after WWII until the 1960s.

Riverside held a “whites only” policy. Blacks were only allowed to attend the park on designated “Color Frolic Days,” which typically occurred only a couple of days throughout the year. In 1962, the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, along with the Mayor’s Human Rights Commission, sought to remove “whites only” signs from the park. Their efforts were unsuccessful, prompting a mass protest by the local NAACP at Riverside Methodist Church. The park eventually opened its doors to everyone, but saw a decrease in attendance after excessive expenses to repair rides, as well as many Indianapolis residents moving to suburban areas along the outskirts of the city. The park closed in 1971 and was demolished in 1979.

Sources:

Mitchell, Dawn, “RetroIndy: Riverside Amusement Park, the summer resort within city limits,” *Indy Star*, June 25, 2017, accessed 22 June, 2018.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains eighteen color slides from 1977 that show views of dilapidated scenes in Riverside Amusement Park including the roller coaster, Skateland, Parkway Grill, and Aladdins Land.

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