

Collection #  
SC 3632

**SERVEL, INC.  
PAPERS, 1937-1955**

Collection Information	1
Historical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	3

Processed by

Stephen Good  
September 2020

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

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1937-1955

PROVENANCE: Gift from Howard L Happe on September 30, 2017

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: *New beauty, economy, convenience in the advanced Serval Hermetic*, TP497 .S47 1933

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2017.0237

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Originally the National Electric Products Company, the company of Servel was created in 1923. The slogan was "Serving Electric," and this was shortened to give the company its name. Servel signed a ten-year contract with Hercules in 1924 as a sales agency for ice-making machines, and when Hercules was sold in 1925 the name changed to Servel Manufacturing. Servel Manufacturing was based in Evansville, Indiana, where it manufactured cabinets for gas-powered refrigerators, while the refrigerator part was made in Newburgh, New York. These refrigerators were called Electrolux units under Electrolux Servel, which became Servel, Inc. in 1931.

In 1933, Servel began researching a chilling unit, and by 1939 had made a gas-powered air-conditioning unit. From 1942 to the end of WWII, Servel manufactured wings for the P-47 Thunderbolt. After the war, Servel transitioned back to making four main products: Servel gas and kerosene refrigerators, the Servel Gas water heater, the Servel "All Year" air conditioner, and the Servel electric commercial refrigerator. In 1946, Servel began full production of water heaters and air conditioner units and introduced an air-cooled ammonia/water gas fired air conditioner unit in the mid-1960s that was produced and marketed nationally and globally for thirty years. In 1991, the Servel gas air conditioning division was acquired by the Robur Company, an Italian company that was founded in 1956, that continued to manufacture Servel Chiller units.

Sources:

Materials in collection

Roburcorp.com

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains a death announcement for the vice chairman of the board and former president of the company, W. Paul Jones. The collection also contains a newsletter to the treasury division, detailing the different products Servel, Inc. offers, like a refrigerator that runs on a gas burner and gas water heater that both run on bottled gas, providing service to people without access to gas lines. The collection also contains announcements made by Louis Ruthenburg (president of Servel) to the employees. These announcements are about policies, investor interference, stock dividends, and updates on worker relation agencies. The collection also contains fact sheets about the company, that give details on wages, dividends, and net earnings. The collection also contains an advertisement cartoon, depicting the benefits of doing business with Servel, Inc.

## **CONTENTS**

### **CONTENTS**

Business papers, 1937-1955

### **CONTAINER**

Folder 1 of 1