SHARP BROTHERS IMPLEMENT COMPANY COLLECTION, CA. 1949–1986

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

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

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Visual Materials: 1 folder of photographs, 1 folder of color photographs, 1 folder of OVA photographs, Manuscript Materials: 1 manuscripts folder, Artifacts: 9 artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1949–1986
HISTORICAL SKETCH

Ned Walker and J. O. Sharp established the Sharp Brothers Implement Company at 1730 South Harding Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, ca. 1949. The business sold agricultural implements at this location until 1975, when the company moved to 1799 Kentucky Avenue in Indianapolis. Sharp Brothers sold farm machinery made in the United States and Canada, including Oliver, White, and Versatile products. The company liquidated its assets in 1986.

The White Farm Equipment Company of Oak Brook, Illinois, operated a factory in South Bend, Indiana, from ca. 1973 to ca. 1989. The consolidation of the Minneapolis-Moline, Oliver, and Cockshutt branches of the White Motor Corporation created the company.

Sources:

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains seventeen black-and-white photographs, thirteen color photographs, one color mechanically reproduced post card, two printed items, and nine artifacts. The photographs of farm machinery include tractors, plows, cultivators, and planters made by the White, Oliver, Versatile, Westendorf, and Massey-Harris farm equipment companies. The machines are on display or shown operating in fields. Five photographs show Oliver tractors on display at a fair in 1949–50. There is also one portrait of Ben Sharp and Bunkie Knudsen, and one image of a steam-powered automobile.

The printed material consists of the September 1963 issue of the Indiana Implement Dealers’ Association newsletter.
the *Indiana Association News* (volume 21, number 9); and a notice of a public auction of the assets of Sharp Brothers Implement Company in 1986. The artifacts include stickers, a sign, and an award plaque.

**SERIES CONTENTS**

**Series 1: Photographs**

- **CONTENTS**
  - Farm machinery, Ben Sharp and Bunkie Knudsen
  - Tractor engine and operator ca. 1970s
  - Farm machinery, steam powered automobile, White Farm Equipment Company postcard, and tractor pull winner

- **CONTAINER**
  - Photographs, Folder 1
  - OVA Photographs, Folder 1
  - Color Photographs, Folder 1

**Series 2: Printed materials**

- **CONTENTS**

- **CONTAINER**
  - Manuscript Collections, Folder 1

**Series 3: Artifacts**

- **CONTENTS**
  - Sharp Brothers bumper stickers (6)
  - Heston Farm Equipment sticker
  - White Farm Equipment sign
  - White Farm Equipment Company 1972 “New Horizons Award” plaque

- **CONTAINER**
  - Artifacts: R2666–R2671
  - Artifacts: R2672
  - Artifacts: R2673
  - Artifacts: R2674

**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:
   
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, P 0331).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.