WHITE RIVER RAILROAD COMPANY LEDGER
1930-1948

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Contents

Processed by
Morgan Lee Wilson
December 2016

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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<th>COLLECTION INFORMATION</th>
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<td>VOLUME OF COLLECTION:</td>
<td>1 bound volume, 1 folder</td>
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<td>COLLECTION DATES:</td>
<td>1930-1948</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROVENANCE:</td>
<td>Brad Gougeon, Midland, Michigan</td>
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<td>RESTRICTIONS:</td>
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HISTORICAL SKETCH

Thomas and Samuel Kingan came from Belfast, Ireland, in 1848. In 1863, they moved to Indianapolis and built a five-story plant on the west side of the White River. Though a fire put a brief hold on operations the following May, the brothers rebuilt and success followed. The business grew quickly, profiting both from sales to the Union Army and shipments back to England. In 1873, the Kingan brothers bought a competing pork-house on the other side of the railroad tracks and connected it to their plant with a tunnel. Two years later, they merged with the Belfast firm of J&T Sinclair to form Kingan & Company. By the end of the 19th century, the Kingans’ Indianapolis plant spanned 27 acres along both sides of the White River just south of Washington Street in the area that is now the Indianapolis Zoo and Victory Field. Kingan & Company was one of the largest meat-packing companies in the world, a position it would hold for nearly a century.

The White River Railroad Company owned and controlled two lines of railway with two miles of track which ran parallel to each other and began on the private grounds of Kingan & Company. These lines connected with all railroads and with the 250 refrigerator cars owned by Kingan & Co., were used for the shipment of meats. On October 29, 1948, the company was liquidated and all its assets were transferred to Kingan & Co. as its parent corporation.

Sources:
Collection
historicindianapolis.com
Indianapolis of to-day, Consolidated Illustrating Co., 1896

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection includes one ledger of meeting minutes from November 15, 1930 to November 15, 1935. There are also loose typed papers of meeting minutes from 1934-1936, an affidavit of publication from Nov. 16, 1934, and minutes from the company's liquidation in 1948.
CONTENTS

CONTENTS
Ledger
Meeting Minutes

CONTAINER
BV 5218
Folder 1