# INDIANAPOLIS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY NEGATIVES, CA. 1939–CA. 1947

**Collection Information** 

**Historical Sketch** 

Scope and Content Note

**Contents** 

**Cataloging Information** 

Processed by

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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

www.indianahistory.org

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF 5 boxes of 4x5 acetate negatives

COLLECTION:

COLLECTION Ca. 1939-ca. 1947

DATES:

PROVENANCE: Athenaeum Foundation, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis,

March 1993

RESTRICTIONS: Negatives may be viewed only with the assistance of a library

staff member.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION 1993.0331

NUMBER:

NOTES:

### HISTORICAL SKETCH

A merger between the Indianapolis Light and Power Company and the Marion County Hot Water Heating Company created the Indianapolis Light and Heat Company on 31 December 1904. On 27 October 1926 the Merchant Public Utility Company acquired the Indianapolis Light and Heat Company and transferred its assets to the newly incorporated Indianapolis Power and Light Company.

The Second World War created an increased need for industrial and residential power in Indianapolis. Preventative maintenance work on transmission and distribution lines began as early as 1939. From 1941 the company's repair, construction, and maintenance activities focused on providing and maintaining an efficient flow of electricity to meet the demands of the war effort. The rise in factory production, construction of new industries, and an influx of new residential customers raised peak demand for electricity to levels seven times greater than those recorded in the First World War.

#### Sources:

Boddenhammer, David S., and Robert G. Barrows. *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994.

"Cunningham Appointed Safety Director," IMPALCO News For All Employees 8, no. 8 (October 1944): 1.

"Employees Rig Up New Device to Find Cable Faults," IMPALCO News For All Employees 9, no. 2 (March 1945): 6.

"Fire Protection Provided for Transformers at the Perry-K Plant," *IMPALCO News For All Employees* 8, no. 6 (July-August 1944): 3.

"Floods Cause Little Damage for Company," IMPALCO News For All Employees 7, no. 5 (May-June 1943): 1.

"Hobby Show Aids Fund for Entertaining Soldiers," IMPALCO News For All Employees 8, no. 4 (May 1944): 6.

"IMPALCO Members Enjoy Christmas Program of Honors, Gifts, and Entertainment," *IMPALCO News For All Employees* 8, no. 1 (January-February 1944): 6.

"Levee Raised to Curb River at Plant's Dam," IMPALCO News For All Employees 9, no. 3 (April-May 1945): 1.

"Men and Women of Company Give Blood to Red Cross," *IMPALCO News For All Employees* 9, no. 2 (March 1944): 5.

"New Street Light Installation on Capitol Avenue Provides Greater Safety," *IMPALCO News For All Employees* 9, no. 3 (April 1947): 3.

"Special Equipment Used, Road Constructed, Big Job," IMPALCO News For All Employees 4, no. 7 (April 1943): 2.

Todd, Zane. *Electrifying Indianapolis*. 1881–1954. A History of the Indianapolis Power and Light Company and its *Predecessors*. Indianapolis: Indianapolis Power and Light Company, 1954.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection contains 134 black-and-white cellulose acetate negatives. The collection documents Indianapolis Power & Light Company with images of installation and repair crews at work, equipment at electrical sub-stations and factories in Indianapolis, and employees participating in company-sponsored social events. Unidentified photographers made the images between ca. 1939 and ca. 1947. Nine images were used to illustrate articles in the company newsletter, *IMPALCO News for All Employees* between 1943 and 1947.

Images show lighting on streets in Beech Grove, Speedway, and Indianapolis. Scenes photographed at sub-stations include crews installing and repairing transformers and other equipment. Twenty-six images document repair and reconstruction of the Harding Street Levee in March 1943. Other images show transformers and equipment at the following industrial sites: Link-Belt, Packard Manufacturing Company, RCA, and the Kingan & Company meat packing plant. Portraits include images of safety directors J. J. Steurwald and Joe Cunningham. Employee activities include a group portrait of blood donors from the Morris Street Substation, winners of safety awards, and participants in a hobby show.

The negatives are stored in individual, acid-free paper sleeves in five flip-top boxes in the negative storage area. The negatives were originally stored by subject in thirty-three non-archival paper envelopes. The processor retained the original subject groupings and assigned a number to each set of negatives. Each sleeve was then marked with the group number, individual letter code, and title. The processor transcribed title information from the envelopes to each new sleeve. Titles on these envelopes corresponded to the subjects or events depicted in the negatives. Descriptive information supplied by the processor is in square brackets [ ].

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M-G SetFormerly at Sub. #4 [turbines]	4x5 Acetate Negatives: Box 1, [2A-B]
Morris St. Blood Donor Group [March 1944] [employees in front of building with American Red Cross vehicle]	4x5 Acetate Negatives: Box 1, [3A-B]
Fire Damage-Perry "K" E. Sub. SW-Hse [damaged equipment]	4x5 Acetate Negatives: Box 1, [4A-B]
Installation of St. Lighting-Speedway City	4x5 Acetate Negatives:

[night views of street lighting]	Box 1, [5A-E]	
Installation of St. Lighting-Beech Grove [night views of street lighting]	4x5 Acetate Negatives: Box 1, [6A-B]	
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Wire Reeling-Morris St. [crews with wire reels]	4x5 Acetate Negatives: Box 1, [8A-C]	
Link-Belt, Dodge Sub. [equipment surrounded by barbed wire fence]	4x5 Acetate Negatives: Box 1, [9A-B]	
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Employee Location Maps [view of staff with location maps]	4x5 Acetate Negatives: Box 2, [13A-B]	
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S-E Sub-Construction for #2 Bank Addition [workmen installing electrical equipment]	4x5 Acetate Negatives: Box 2, [17A-I]	
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Coil Winding Transformer Shop 4x5 Acetate Negatives: [men at worktable with coils of wire] Box 3, [22] 4x5 Acetate Negatives: Line Dept. Group-with aircraft antenna dropped over Box 3, [23] primary line [4 workmen] IPACLO X-mas Group. Johnson, Hile, Goodrich 4x5 Acetate Negatives: [P. H. Goodrich, M. B. Hile, Paul H. Johnson, Box 3, [24A-B] December 1943] Old #4 Vert.[icle] Turbo-Gen.[erator] Mill St. 4x5 Acetate Negatives: 1939-40? Box 3, [25A-D] 4x5 Acetate Negatives: AB Cracked Turbine Casing-Mill St. before and Box 4, [26A-B] after welding E. Wash St. Transformer in Shop 4x5 Acetate Negatives: [workmen repairing transformer] Box 4, [27A-F] Port Sub. At East Wash St. Sub. 4x5 Acetate Negatives: [equipment on wheels] Box 4, [28A-C] Feeder Voltage Regulator Installations 4x5 Acetate Negatives: Box 4, [29A-G] 4x5 Acetate Negatives: RCA Sub S. W. gear-Fire Damage Box 4, [30A-D] [workmen repairing fire damaged equipment] Misc. Power Transformer Breaks [1941] 4x5 Acetate Negatives: Box 4, [31A-F] Kingan Steam Line Construction 4x5 Acetate Negatives: [workmen trenching street for steam installation] Box 4, [32A-E]

#### CATALOGING INFORMATION

Construction [sic] [March 1943]

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

4x5 Acetate Negatives:

Box 5, [33A-Z]

- 1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <a href="http://opac.indianahistory.org/">http://opac.indianahistory.org/</a>
- 2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

Harding St. River Levee-Flood Damage and Re-

- 3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
- 4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P0167).
- 5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.