

Collection #
P 0331

SHARP BROTHERS IMPLEMENT COMPANY COLLECTION, CA. 1949–1986

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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

PROVENANCE: Ned Sharp, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1987

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1987.0184

NOTES:

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:

Ameritech Yellow Pages, South Bend and Mishawaka. Indianapolis: Ameritech Publishing Inc., 1989.

Polk's Indianapolis Directory. Indianapolis: R. L. Polk and Co., 1949.

Polk's Indianapolis Directory. Indianapolis: R. L. Polk and Co., 1975.

Polk's South Bend and Mishawaka Directory. Indianapolis: R. L. Polk and Co., 1972.

Polk's South Bend and Mishawaka Suburban Directory. Indianapolis: R. L. Polk and Co., 1987.

Wendel, C. W. *The Encyclopedia of American Farm Tractors*. Sarasota, Florida: Crestline Publishing Company, 1979.

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

Indiana Association News, Vol. 21, No. 9, September 1963, notice of public auction for Sharp Brothers Implement, 1986

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:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>

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.