

Collection #  
P 0522

## INDIANAPOLIS RAILWAYS PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM CA. 1930S

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 album with 35 photographs

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1930s

PROVENANCE: Gift from Dr. Robert M. Taylor, Jr., Indianapolis, 1996

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1996.0201

NOTES: See also: *Report of the Indianapolis Railways* (annual reports), General Collection: [HE4491.I553 I6](#)

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Indianapolis Railways, Inc. began operation on 1 June 1932. Indianapolis Railways took ownership of all of the property and operations that had previously been held and operated by the Indianapolis Street Railway Company and the Broad Ripple Traction Company. This included approximately 181.31 miles of single-track rail line, 437 electric railway revenue cars, 92 motor coaches, substations, barns, shops, real estate, and the ten-story Traction Terminal Building and coach and interurban terminal. Indianapolis Railways also acquired the stock of the Peoples Motor Coach Company.

The first trackless trolley service in Indianapolis began on 4 December 1932 on the South Meridian line, replacing streetcar tracks that were worn out and would have been very expensive to replace. The new trolleys required rebuilding of eleven miles of overhead line and installation of more than 450 steel poles.

After 89 years of streetcar operation, the last full day of streetcar service in Indianapolis occurred on 9 January 1953. Because rail lines were no longer being used due to the operation of trackless trolleys and buses, Indianapolis Railways changed its name to Indianapolis Transit System on 22 April 1954. At this time the Traction Terminal Corporation was renamed Terminal Properties, Inc. Trackless trolley operation was discontinued on 9 March 1957, but bus service continued under the name of Indygo Public Transportation. The Traction Terminal shed was torn down in October 1968 after a new bus station was built nearby. The terminal building was razed in April 1972.

### Sources:

Marlette, Jerry. *Indianapolis Railways: A Complete History of the Company and its Predecessors from 1864 to 1957*. Terra Alta, WV: Pioneer Press of West Virginia, 2002. General Collection: HE4491 .I553 I63 2002

Marlette, Jerry. "Indianapolis Traction Terminal." In *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, edited by Bodenhamer, David J. and Robert G. Barrows. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994: 811–12. General Collection: F534 .I55 E4 1994

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of one album containing 35 black-and-white photographs pertaining to Indianapolis Railways. Included are photos of company buildings and work areas, unidentified workers, streetcars, buses, trackless trolleys, tracks on streets, and other street scenes. The photographs were taken by the W.H. Bass Photo Company and by Voorhis and Kirkpatrick's studios. One Bass photo was taken in 1938; the dates of the others are unknown. The front cover of the album is embossed with: Pierre F. Goodrich, Director / Indianapolis Railways.

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"Aerial view of the new Shops, Garage, Service and Transportation Buildings taken while the structures were under construction."

"Bus storage area in new Garage Building." (Bass Photo #240829, taken 17 June 1938)

Trolley in front of a building. "Indianapolis was a pioneer in the use of the trackless trolley. The Company operates 152 of these vehicles." (#244966)

"One of the ninety new street cars operated by Indianapolis Railways." (#244967)

"View in old McLean Place Station showing a repair pit." (#244968)

People getting onto a motor coach in a residential area. "Eighty-three modern motor coaches serve the citizens of Indianapolis." (#244969)

"The Illinois and Washington Street intersection before new pavement and track were laid." (#244970)

"Pits in old Shops Building on West Washington Street." (#244971)

"Paint Shop in old Shops Building on West Washington Street." (#244972)

"View of old Shops Building on West Washington Street." (#244973)

"Old bus storage area at 22nd and Yandes Streets." (#244974)

"View in old Bus Garage at 22nd and Yandes Streets." (#244975)

"An old and new type motor coach pictured together." (#244976)

### CONTAINER

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"View on College Avenue before track reconstruction work began." (#245009)	Album Storage, PAA
"View on College Avenue after track reconstruction work was completed." (#245010)	Album Storage, PAA
Men in "Transportation Office in the Transportation Building." (Voorhis photo #26903) [This image is identified in the 1938 annual <i>Report of the Indianapolis Railway</i> as "Operators turning in at receiver's cage in Transportation Building."	Album Storage, PAA
People working in "Shops Office located in the Transportation Building." (Voorhis photo #26904)	Album Storage, PAA
"Truck Shop in Shops Building." (Voorhis photo #26906)	Album Storage, PAA
"Locker Room in the Transportation Building." (Voorhis photo #26907)	Album Storage, PAA
Men working in "Paint Shop in Shops Building." (Voorhis photo #26908) [Shows paint spray canopy.]	Album Storage, PAA
Men working in "Bus repair pits in new Service Building." (Voorhis photo #26910)	Album Storage, PAA
Men working in "Upholstering Department in Shops Building." (Voorhis photo #26912)	Album Storage, PAA
"Main entrance to the Shops, Garage, Service and Transportation Buildings." (Voorhis photo #26915)	Album Storage, PAA
Men working in "Bus engine repair area in Shops Building." (Voorhis photo #26916)	Album Storage, PAA
"Car Body Shop in Shops Building." (Voorhis photo #26917)	Album Storage, PAA
Men working in "Armature Shop in Shops Building." (Voorhis photo #26918) [In the 1938 annual <i>Report of the Indianapolis Railways</i> , this image is identified as the electrical repair department.]	Album Storage, PAA
"Pit Area in Shops Building." (Voorhis photo #26921)	Album Storage, PAA

<p>"Transfer table area in Shops Building." (Voorhis photo #26922) [In the 1938 annual <i>Report of the Indianapolis Railways</i>, this image is identified as "Street cars and trackless trolleys on the repair pits in the Shops building."]</p>	<p>Album Storage, PAA</p>
<p>"Bus service area in new Service Building." (Voorhis photo #26923)</p>	<p>Album Storage, PAA</p>
<p>Men working in "Carpenter Shop in Shops Building." (Voorhis photo #26925)</p>	<p>Album Storage, PAA</p>
<p>Men working in "Blacksmith shop in Shops Building." (Voorhis photo #26927)</p>	<p>Album Storage, PAA</p>
<p>Men working on street with Indianapolis Railways electrical department truck. "3000 steel monotube poles have been installed by the Overhead Department." (#29667A)</p>	<p>Album Storage, PAA</p>
<p>"A new trackless trolley alongside an old street car which it replaced." (#30734A)</p>	<p>Album Storage, PAA</p>
<p>"A new street car alongside an old street car which it replaced." (#30127)</p>	<p>Album Storage, PAA</p>
<p>"The Illinois and Washington Street intersection before new track and pavement were laid." (Kirkpatrick's photo #47363)</p>	<p>Album Storage, PAA</p>

## 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 0522).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.