

Collection #  
P 0591

**REAL SILK CO.  
EMPLOYEE PICNIC PHOTOGRAPH, 1930**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 photograph folder

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1930

PROVENANCE: Martha Wilson, Avondale, 2016

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2016.0383

NOTES:

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

Real Silk Company was founded in 1922 by J.A. and L.L. Goodman. The company ran knitting mills which manufactured hosiery, lingerie, and underwear. At its peak, the company's sales volume averaged more than one million dozen pairs of women's hosiery a year. In addition, Real Silk owned plants in Linton, Indiana, Georgia, and Mississippi.

The company had financial difficulties in the early 1930s as a result of the Great Depression, and control was assumed by a bank committee. Real Silk's financial situation began to improve shortly thereafter and Gustav Efroymsen assumed control of the company in 1932. Difficulties soon occurred with labor over wage increases which resulted in a strike in April and May, 1934, that included the arrests of sixteen strikers in Indianapolis. Company profits declined in the early 1940s as a result of the need for silk during World War II, although the company was instrumental in the manufacturing of parachutes for bombs as well as hosiery for both male and female military personnel.

After a post-war profit increase, the financial situation again declined in the early 1950s. Gustav Efroymsen died in 1946, and control of the company passed to his son, Robert. Under Robert Efroymsen's control, the company first closed its manufacturing operations in Indianapolis and Dalton, Georgia, and a short time later closed all other manufacturing operations as well. All the machinery was sold except that which was related to direct-to-consumer selling, and the plant, which was located at 611 N. Park was leased to a printing company. Robert Efroymsen also directed the retiring of all preferred and some common stock and invested the surplus funds in securities. In 1957 Real Silk Inc. became registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an investment company, although they continued the door to door selling of hosiery, lingerie, and other clothing products on a national scale. The company continues to operate in Indianapolis at 445 N. Pennsylvania. The former plant was converted into apartments in the late 1980s.

Anna Myers worked at the Real Silk Hosiery Mill in Indianapolis, IN according to daughter Martha Wilson.

Sources:

Item in collection.

Brockman, Paul. Real Silk Company (Indianapolis, IN) Records. Indiana Historical Society. Archives.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains one (7" x 11") photograph of the 1930 employee picnic for the Real Silk Company. There are 99 employees in the photo including Anna Myers, a worker in the Hosiery Mill (2nd row from bottom, 10th person from left). The photo was taken by the McClain Studio.

## **CONTENTS**

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Real Silk Company employee picnic photo

### CONTAINER

Folder 1