

J. Trockman & Sons

Founded: 1887

Location: 300 block of Lincoln Avenue, Evansville (1892–1959); U.S. 41 South and Bayse Street (1960–91); 1017 Bayse Street (1991–)

Julius Trockman, an immigrant from Russia, began a salvage and waste business in 1887. At first he went around town by wagon, picking up unwanted items and buying scrap metal. In 1934 his sons, Bernard and Ben, joined the operation. As Evansville expanded so too did the Trockman waste business. By 1941 the family had bought thirty acres on U.S. 41, had built a new building at the Lincoln Avenue site, and had erected a new facility at the railroad terminal for easier storage and transport of scrap metal. The old building became a warehouse. By 1937 wagons were replaced by the latest machinery, including trucks and magnetic cranes. Just prior to World War II, J. Trockman & Sons became large-scale shippers of metal to steel factories on the East Coast, Chicago, and St. Louis. The munitions race in the 1930s helped the company meet payroll and overhead demands during the Great Depression.

In 1926, 1937, and 1950 fires wiped out much of the company's product and several buildings. The property was not covered by insurance because it was deemed too expensive by the Trockman family. After the city rezoned Columbia Street for a redevelopment project in the early 1950s the company moved to its site on U.S. 41.

By 1976 Stanley Trockman became proprietor, later appointing his sons, David and Jeff, as owners, positions they continued to retain in the 1990s.

