

MONON RAILROAD COLLECTION, 1851-1971

Collection #s:
M 0376
OMB 0046
BV 1996-2001

Table of Contents

[Collection Information](#)
[Historical Sketch](#)
[Scope and Content Note](#)
[Box and Folder Listing](#)
[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by:
Ellen Swain and Paul Brockman
9 August 1991

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 6 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize box, 6 bound volumes

COLLECTION DATES: Inclusive, 1851-1971; Bulk, 1880s-1950s

PROVENANCE: Monon Railroad, June 1948; John C. Rugenstein, Indianapolis, IN, circa 1960's; Mrs. E.E. Kauffman, Lafayette, IN, 18 July 1984

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: Dolzall, Gary W. *Monon: The Hoosier Line* (TF 25 .M64 D65 1987); Artifacts: 1 deck Monon Railroad playing cards, 1 double deck Monon Railroad playing cards (Box 35, 205a); Visual Materials: Monon Collection, LP1

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 1948.0602, 1960.0004, 1984.0702

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The origin of Monon Railroad dates back to 1847 when James Brooks and six others organized the New Albany and Salem Railroad (N.A. & S.) in Providence, (now Borden) Indiana. By 1854, the track, stretching from the Ohio River to the Great Lakes, was opened for traffic. However, in 1858, financial difficulties resulting partially from the Panic of 1857 forced the railroad into receivership. By 1859, the N.A. & S. was renamed the Louisville, New Albany, and Chicago Railroad (L.N.A. & C.) under the trusteeship of D.D. Williamson.

The L.N.A. & C. prospered during the early 1860s by carrying Union supplies to the Mason Dixon Line. (As an interesting note, in 1865, Lincoln's funeral train rolled over the northern part of the L.N.A. & C. track on its way to Illinois). After the War, however, traffic plummeted and by 1869 the railroad was sold to a New York group headed by John J. Astor. During the 1880s, after ten years of stagnancy, the L.N.A. & C. rapidly expanded. It was renamed "Monon" after a creek near Bradford (Monon), Indiana, the site at which the L.N.A. & C. and its newly acquired Chicago Air Line crossed. The Panic of 1893, however, once again brought foreclosure and in 1897 the railroad was passed to the Chicago, Indianapolis, and Louisville Railway Company (C.I. & L.).

During WWI, under the control of the United States Railroad Administration, traffic on the Monon fluctuated. Continued decline in traffic through the 1920s caused the railroad to operate in a state of bankruptcy by 1933. Although WWII boosted the American economy, it did not affect Monon substantially. Most war movement was east - west and the C.I. & L. was a north-south railroad. It wasn't until 1946, after twelve years of bankruptcy that Monon reorganized and established independence from the C.I. & L. Under a new president, John W. Barriger, freight equipment was purchased, freight operations were improved, engines were dieselized, and passenger service revitalized. By the mid to late 1950s, however, a decline in freight traffic plagued the company. In 1960, an investment group headed by William C. Coleman took working control of the Monon. After several setbacks and frustrations, Coleman resigned in 1967. A four-year campaign ensued for merger with Louisville Nashville Railroad (L. & N.), and in 1971 the deal was finalized.

Ellis E. Kauffman, whose wife donated a portion of this collection, was a native of Orleans, Indiana who began working for Monon on May 7, 1917 as Station Helper and Assistant Agent. After serving in the United States Marine Corps in France during WW I, he returned to the Monon on February 16, 1920 as Express Clerk at Orleans. In 1922, Kauffman transferred to Belt Junction (Indianapolis) as a Machinist Helper where he later completed an apprenticeship on December 13, 1929. On December 30, 1929 he was transferred to Lafayette as a Mechanical Draftsman and served successively (except for the period from October 1, 1933 to February 16, 1935 when he was employed as Asst. AAR Clerk) as Assistant Freight Car Foreman, Air Brake Supervisor, Assistant Master Mechanic, General Supervisor of Rolling Stock Maintenance, and General Mechanical Assistant. Kauffman was appointed Superintendent of Motive Power and Equipment on May 1, 1961. He retired on January 8, 1962.

Sources: Material found in the collection.

Dolzall, Gary W. *Monon: The Hoosier Line*. Glendale, CA: Interurban Press, 1987.

Good, A.E. "History of the Monon", *Sheridan News* Dec. 30, 1975.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection, spanning a period of over one hundred years (1851-1971), consists of five and one-half manuscript boxes. Included are published materials such as magazines (1939-1975), and booklets and pamphlets (1916-1960) pertaining to the Monon Railroad and to railroads in general. Monon newsletters (1968-1971), Indianapolis street maps (1900-1971), advertisements (1915-1939), newspaper clippings (1925-1962) as well as annual reports for L.N.A. & C. (1887), C.I. & L. (1913-1966), and Monon (1970) are also included. Financial documents such as bonds, shares, promissory notes, receipts, way-bills, contracts, shipping statements, and bills of lading date primarily from the

nineteenth century although twentieth century bonds, expense book pages, finance docket, and schedules of wages are also included.

Other items include timetables (1856-1967), baggage service stamps, passes, information regarding train wrecks and flood damage, and a small number of letters (1910-1958). Material regarding Monon employees consists of engineer lists (1878-1923), pension lists (1930s-1970s), retirement dinner programs (1950-1963), fifty year pin lists (beginning 1943), and funeral bulletins (1960-1970s). A scrapbook contains newspaper articles (1947-1949). An oversized box contains three folders of timetables (1889-1920) and one folder of railroad stock certificates, register of trains, description of engine, map of Monon route, and land grants (1839-1901). Nine brass keys, most of which are etched with various railroad names, are stored in Artifacts (151a-i).

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

BOX 1: Monon Pamphlets and Booklets, 1933-1960; "Rail and Tie Magazine," 1947-1948; "Monon Outlook" Magazine, 1939-1942; Annual Reports, 1887-1970; Tickets, Passes, 1886-1967; Monon Shares 1853; Advertisements, 1915-1939

FOLDER CONTENTS

- 1 "A Hoosier Centenarian: "The Monon"" by John W. Barriger, 1947
- 2 Monon Centennial Booklets (New Albany), 1947; Monon Centennial Broadside (Lafayette), 1947
- 3 *Rail and Tie Magazine*, September-December 1947
- 4 *Rail and Tie Magazine*, January, March, May 1948
- 5 *Rail and Tie Magazine*, July, October, December, 1948
- 6 *Monon Outlook Magazine*, April, June, August 1939
- 7 *Monon Outlook Magazine*, October, December 1939
- 8 *Monon Outlook Magazine*, March, May, July 1940
- 9 *Monon Outlook Magazine*, October, December 1940
- 10 *Monon Outlook Magazine*, March, May, July, October, December 1941
- 11 *Monon Outlook Magazine*, March, June, December, 1942
- 12 "Locomotive Advertising in America 1850-1900," 1960
- 13 Order of Railroad Telegraphers, n.d.
- 14 "Century of Progress Exposition, Chicago, 1933"; "HoosierLine," 1948; "Miracle of Monon," n.d.
- 15 *Trains Magazine*, July 1947
- 16 National Safety Council Award Booklet, 1956
- 17 "Terrible Condition of America's Freight Railroads," December 1971
- 18 Monon Menu, n.d.; "On the Indiana Trail" Booklet, n.d.

- 19 Ticket Agent Appointment Certificate, 1916; "Chicago, Indianapolis, and Louisville Railway Co.: History of the Road, 1847-1899"; New Albany and Salem Railroad Bond (1885) and Share (1853)
- 20 Monon Advertisements, 1915-1939; Tickets, Passes, and Receipts, 1901-1967
- 21 Monon Booklet, Pamphlet, Tickets, and Passes, 1946-1957
- 22 Louisville, New Albany and Chicago Railway Co., Annual Report, 1887
- 23 Chicago, Indianapolis, Louisville Railway Co. Annual Reports, 1913-1916
- 24 Chicago, Indianapolis, Louisville Railway Co. Annual Reports, 1947, 1966
- 25 Monon Railroad Annual Report, 1970
- 26 Charter of the New Albany and Salem Railroad Co., 1851; Tickets, 1886-1890
- 27 Announcements of Name Change 1956, 1971; Instructions Governing Short-line Routing of Freight Traffic, 1918
- 28 New Albany and Salem Railroad Shares, 1853
- 29 (OMB 46) Railroad Stock Certificates, Register of Trains, Description of Engine, Map of Monon Route, Land Grant, 1839-1901
- 30 Share Title of Crawfordsville Wabash Railroad Co., 1851; Promissory Note, 1863; Share Titles, 1885
- 31 Monon Tickets, Cash Fare Receipts, Baggage Service Stamps, Passes, 1933-1967

BOX 2: Booklets, 1921-1960; Newsletters, 1968-1971; Bonds, 1885; Maps, 1894-1931; Railway Passes, 1930s-1960s; Finance Docket, 1943

FOLDER CONTENTS

- 1 Miscellaneous Material, 1881-1972
- 2 Monon Newsletters, June 1968 - April 1971
- 3 "All About Lynn: The Story of a Railroad Car," 1954; United States Railroad Labor Board Addendum, 1921; "Lafayette-Tippecanoe County Centennial Celebration," 1925; Inspection Law Book, 1931; Investigation Procedure Booklet, 1960
- 4 New Albany and Salem Railroad Bonds, February 1885
- 5 Investigations, Seniority Rosters, File on New Storehouse (Lafayette), 1892-1954
- 6 "Memo from Warren Brown - A Monthly Note to the Monon Family," 1954-1957
- 7 Street Map of Indianapolis - George F. Cram, circa 1925; Street Map of

- Indianapolis-George F. Cram, 1930
- 8 Evansville Paducah Tennessee River Packet Co. Map, 1894
- 9 Street Railway Guide Driving and Bicycle Map of Indianapolis, 1900; Dreher's Simplex Guide-Map of Indianapolis, 1931
- 10 Funeral Bulletins, 1960s-1970s
- 11 Railway Passes, 1930s-1960s
- 12 Chicago, Indianapolis, and Louisville Railway Co. Reorganization Finance Docket, 1943

BOX 3: Magazines, 1953-1975; Booklets, 1916, 1954; Finance Docket, 1942; Railroad Employee Pension List, 1930s-1970s

FOLDER CONTENTS

- 1 *Family Lines Magazine*, July 1974-February 1975
- 2 *L & N Magazine*, October - December 1971
- 3 *Norfolk and Western Magazine*, 1968; "Inside Story," 1966-1967; *Abandoned Railroads of Bedford* by Elmer G. Sulzer, 1959
- 4 *Quiz on Railroads and Railroading Magazine*, 1953, 1956, 1958
- 5 "Rail Oddities" Booklet 1954; "Editorials from the Press of the United States," 1916; Pamphlet, Newspaper Clippings, Calendar, 1934-1964
- 6 Chicago and Wabash Valley Railway Co. Extension Mortgage to Bankers Trust Co., 1914
- 7 Interstate Commerce Commission Finance Docket (Chicago, Indianapolis, and Louisville Railway), 1942
- 8 Railroad Employee Pension List, A-E, 1930s-1970s
- 9 Railroad Employee Pension List, F-Mc 1930s-1970s
- 10 Railroad Employee Pension List, M-R, 1930s-1970s
- 11 Railroad Employee Pension List, S-Z, 1930s-1970s

BOX 4: Receipts, Bonds, Shares, Way-Bills, Checks, 1851-1951; Newspaper Clippings, 1925-1962; Retirement Dinners and Awards, 1950-1963; Engineer Lists and Contracts, 1878-1923; Miscellaneous Letters, 1910-1958

FOLDER CONTENTS

- 1 Receipts, Bonds, Shares, Conductor's Report, Stocks, Checks, 1851-1855
- 2 Investigation and Interstate Commerce Commission Report on Monon, Indiana Derailment, 1951

- 3 Investigation of Engineer P.L. Hussey, 1952
- 4 Correspondence and Newspaper Articles regarding flood damage to C.I.& L. Railway, March 1913
- 5 Protest Letter Against New Name "Red Devil" for Train on the French Lick West Baden Springs Line, March 1912
- 6 "Evolution of the New Monon Emblem," 1947
- 7 "Monon Railroad Fifty Year Pins List, since 1943"; Fifty Years of Service Program, 1948
- 8 Telegraphic Train Order, 1890; Seniority Rosters, 1942, 1944, 1946; Salaries 1909; Schedule of Pay, 1907; Schedule of Wages and Regulations, 1911; Schedule for Boilermakers, Blacksmiths, and Machinists, 1911; Agreement Between Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville Railway Co. and American Railway Supervisors Assoc., 1940; Sing-A-Long sheet, n.d.
- 9 New Albany and Salem Railroad Co. Shares, 1851, 1852; Three Fractional Stock Scripts, 1857; Louisville, New Albany, and Chicago Way-Bill, 1887; Shipping Statement, 1884
- 10 Eight New Albany and Salem Railroad Co. Shares, 1853-1855
- 11 Twelve Checks from Various Railroad Companies, 1859-1863
- 12 Nine Checks from Various Railroad Companies, 1864-1867
- 13 Shipping Receipts, 1867-1890
- 14 Names of Engines, n.d.; Instructions for Reporting Engine Failures, 1918; Map of the Monon Route; C. I. & L. Railway Station Map 1920
- 15 Four Records of Baggage and Letters Forwarded by Train, 1882; Stockholders Report, 1856; Stockholders Letter, 1891; Letter Regarding Costs of New Albany and Salem Railroad in 1855, 1932; Receipt Form, 1880s
- 16 Newspaper Clippings, 1925-1962
- 17 Retirement Dinner Programs, 1950-1963
- 18 Miscellaneous Material, 1908-1953
- 19 E.E. Kauffman Retirement Dinner, 1962 (biographical sketch included)
- 20 Bills of Lading, 1890, 1894; Receipt, 1854
- 21 Monon Train Orders, 1887; Two Express Company Notices of Packages Received, 1895, 1898
- 22 "Railroad Remuneration - 1858"; "The Traffigram," September 1924; Appreciation Letter to Monon President Harry Kurrie for Twenty-Five Years of Service, 1927
- 23 Miscellaneous Letters, 1910, 1913, 1958
- 24 Naperville Railroad Wreck Newspaper Clippings, 1946; "Human Fallibility"

- Article, n.d.
- 25 Tickets, Baggage Service Stamps, Passes, Baggage Tags, 1874-1948
- 26 Monon Advertisements, 1930s; Dinner Menu, n.d.
- 27 Way-Bills, 1897
- 28 Railroad Letterheads, 1903-1912
- 29 New Albany and Salem Railroad Bonds, 1950- 1951
- 30 Engineer Lists, 1878-1923
- 31 Monon Stock Certificate, 1968
- 32 Contracts, 1894, 1899; Specification of a Locomotive Engine, 1896
- 33 Electro-Motive School Dinner, 1945
- 34 Article Regarding New Monon President, John W. Barriger III, 1946; "Steel Rails vs. Brown Water," 1949
- 35 Photocopy of Expense Book Pages, 1914-1938
- 36 Merger Notice (Monon Railroad and Louisville and Nashville Company), July 31, 1971
- 37 Car Department Officer's Association Proceedings, 1959
- 38 (BV 1996-2001) Engine Mileage, 1899-1910; Blue Print Record, 1929; Passenger Car Records, 1930-1943; Payroll, 1914

BOX 5: Timetables, 1856-1967

FOLDER CONTENTS

- 1 N.A.& S. Timetable, April 7, 1856; Photocopy of Instructions for Running Trains, April 7, 1856
- 2 Monon (L.N.A.& C.) Timetable, 1889
- 3 (OMB 0046) Monon (L.N.A.& C.) Timetables, 1889-1895
- 4 (OMB 0046) Monon (L.N.A.& C., C.I.& L.) Timetables, 1896-1909
- 5 (OMB 0046) Monon (C.I.& L.) Timetables, 1910-1920
- 6 Monon (C.I.& L.) Timetable, 1917
- 7 Monon (C.I.& L.) Timetables, 1921-1925
- 8 Monon (C.I.& L.) Timetables, 1927-1928
- 9 Monon (C.I.& L.) Timetables, 1929-1930
- 10 Monon (C.I.& L.) Timetables, 1931-1935

- 11 Monon (C.I.& L.) Timetables, 1936-1937
- 12 Monon (C.I.& L.) Timetables, 1939-1943
- 13 Monon (C.I.& L.) Timetables, 1945-1947
- 14 Monon (C.I.& L.) Timetables, 1948-1949
- 15 Monon (C.I.& L.) Timetables, 1950-1952
- 16 Monon (C.I.& L.) Timetables, 1953-1955
- 17 Monon Timetables, 1956-1960
- 18 Monon Timetables, 1961-1962
- 19 Monon Timetables, 1963-1967

BOX 6: Scrapbook, 1947-1949

FOLDER CONTENTS

- 1 Scrapbook, 1947-1949
- 2 (ART) Nine Brass Keys, n.d. (151a-i)

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](#)
2. Click on the "Local Catalog" icon.
3. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and **four** digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

END