

Collection #
M 1123

**J. D. ADAMS MANUFACTURING COMPANY
RECORDS, 1929–77, BULK 1929–58**

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 OVB graphics folder, 6 photograph folders

COLLECTION DATES: 1929–77, bulk 1929–58

PROVENANCE: Howard R. Meeker, Jr., Carmel, IN, October 2010

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2010.0286

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Located in Indianapolis, Indiana, J. D. Adams Manufacturing Company was incorporated in 1929 and acquired all of the assets and business of J. D. Adams & Company, a partnership, which was established in 1885. The company also had branch offices and warehouses maintained by J. D. Adams Company, a subsidiary, in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Kansas City, Kansas; Dallas, Texas; Memphis, Tennessee; Spokane, Washington; Atlanta, Georgia; Omaha, Nebraska; Toronto, Ontario, Canada; and Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

In 1929, the Manufacturing Company was the leading producer of road graders in the country. It was the originator and pioneer manufacturer of adjustable leaning wheel graders, as well as maker of other mechanical equipment. Their products were used in the construction and maintenance of un-surfaced roads and semi-permanent gravel and macadam roads and in the construction of hard surfaced permanent roads.

Howard R. Meeker was President of J. D. Adams Manufacturing Company and later became Chairman of the Board of LeTourneau-Westinghouse Company. The company merged with LeTourneau-Westinghouse Company in 1955-56.

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of various business records from the J. D. Adams Manufacturing Company. Most of the papers concern the various mergers of J. D. Adams Manufacturing Company, including mergers with LeTourneau-Westinghouse Company and State Street Investment Corporation. The collection also contains annual reports, financial records, correspondence, a copy of the 1945 *Adams Reporter* (a publication for Adams employees), and a transcript from a 1938 radio program in which Howard Meeker, Vice President, participated.

The photographs generally consist of employees of the company. Most of the photographs are groups at various events. A large number of the photographs are labeled with names, dates, and/or locations.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Annual Reports, 1929–57.

Financials, 1929–58.

Digital print of 1932 company photograph and financial pie charts, 1932–38.

Adams Factory Sales School, ca. 1936, 1955.

Transcript: National Youth Administration of Indiana, special broadcast with Howard Meeker, 1938.

The Adams Reporter, 1945.

Various group pictures, 1947–74.

Service Club, 1948–65.

Christmas, 1952, 1954.

Correspondence, 1954–89.

Merger with LeTourneau-Westinghouse Company: Stock, 1954–55.

Merger with LeTourneau-Westinghouse Company, Howard Meeker retirement, 1955–56.

Meetings, 1955.

Merger with State Street Investment Corp., 1958.

Reunions, 1962–73.

WABCO, 1968–73.

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

OVB Graphic:
Folder 1

Photographs:
Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Photographs:
Folder 2

Photographs:
Folder 3

Photographs:
Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Photographs:
Folder 5

Photographs:
Folder 6

Miscellaneous papers, 1975–77.

Box 1, Folder 10

Roy and William Adams death materials, n.d.

Box 1, Folder 11

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, M 1123).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.