

J. D. Adams & Company

L390

1929-1977

3 mss boxes

Manuscripts & Rare Books Division
Indiana State Library

Processed by: Amy C. Belcher, 2003
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Organizational History:

The origins of J. D. Adams & Company are rooted in 1885 when Joseph D. Adams designed a road grader. Although he had no degree or training in engineering his machine was a useful invention in the process of road creation and maintenance. By the 1890s he established his own production company to make graders and steel highway bridges, as well as other items. Joseph Adams died in 1924, and in 1929 his sons, William Ray and Roy E Adams, took over the business and formed J. D. Adams & Co., a corporation. The brothers ran it together until 1940 when William Ray Adams died.

After 1940, Roy E. Adams continued to control the bulk of the business with the help of the board. On January 1, 1955, J. D. Adams & Company became a division of the LeTourneau-Westinghouse Company, at that time J. D. Adams & Company stopped producing products and turned into an investment firm. Roy E. Adams continued the company's leadership until his death in September of 1956, at which time family members of the original parent company ceased to be present in its management.

In 1958, the investment firm that J. D. Adams & Co. had become merged with State Street Investment Corporation. It became a division of that corporation. As for the manufacturing that J. D. Adams & Co. originally took part in, it became part of another roadway equipment company and the graders that Joseph D. Adams had originally designed and inspired were continued in production by WABCO.

Source:
Information Found within Collection.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists primarily of three parts. One part is annual, financial and various other business reports. This portion holds photocopies of annual reports from 1929 until 1957, as well as other photocopied business records. The second section contains photocopies of photographs and pictures illustrating the company, its employees and

machines from around 1932 until 1974. There are also two undated postcards showing an aerial view of the company. The last part of the collection consists of the catalogs, price lists, sales bulletins, and comparative bulletins that the company used to aid their salespeople and guide buyers to purchase what would work best for their needs. The catalogs cover many products from both J. D. Adams & Co. and WABCO, the company that continued the Adams machine production when it finished running its own production of graders.

Photocopy Policy:

Manuscript material **CANNOT** be photocopied or digitized in its entirety. Photocopies and/or digital reproductions (i.e. scans, digital photographs) cannot exceed **25%** of a **COLLECTION** or **FOLDER** within a collection. In some cases, photocopying may not be permitted due to the condition of the item. Please check with the Manuscript Librarian for possible alternatives.

Collection Inventory Box and Folder Listing:

Box 1.

Folder

1. Howard Meeker Retirement Information, Oct 1955-July 1956 and undated
2. Annual Reports, 1929-1936
3. Annual Reports, 1937-1944
4. Annual Reports, 1945-1951
5. Annual Reports, 1953-1957
6. Merger, J. D. Adams and Co. and State Street Investment Corp., 1957-1958
7. Tributes: William Ray Adams, 1940; Tributes and Obituaries: Ray E. Adams, 1956
8. Business Reports, 1945, 1947, 1954, 1955
9. Business Reports, 1955
10. Business Reports, 1956-1958 and undated
11. Photocopy of Scrapbook of Photographs, undated
12. Photocopies of Photographs, 1932-1954
13. Photocopies of Photographs, 1955-1974 and undated and Postcards, undated
14. Radio Broadcast Transcript, 1938; Awards, 1973-1977; Adams' First Motor Grader Information, n.d.
15. Catalogs: Supplemental Equipment
16. Catalogs: Leaning Wheel Graders, Motor Graders

Box 2.

Folder

1. Catalogs: Motor Graders
2. Catalogs: Supplemental Equipment
3. Catalogs: WABCO, Motor Graders, Supplemental Equipment
4. Catalogs: WABCO, Motor Graders
5. Catalogs: Motor Graders
6. Rivinco Manufacturing Catalogs, 1966
7. Part Catalogs: Elevating Grader, Grader Blades and Attachments, Leaning Wheel Graders
8. Part Catalogs: Leaning Wheel Graders, Scarifier Grader, Little Roadster Grader
9. Correspondence, Price Lists: Motor Graders, Leaning Wheel Graders, Supplemental Equipment

Box 3.

Folder

1. Price Bulletins, Comparative Bulletins, Catalogs: Motor Graders, LeTourneau Westinghouse Construction Equipment, Supplement Equipment
2. Catalogs & Price Lists: Model Graders, Leaning Wheel Graders
3. Sales Bulletins, Comparative Bulletins, Catalogs: Motor Graders and Supplemental Equipment
4. Sales Bulletins, Comparative Bulletins, Catalogs: Leaning Wheel Graders, Motor Graders, Terracer No. 1
5. Sales Bulletins, Comparative Bulletins, Catalogs: Supplemental Equipment
6. Comparative Bulletins & Catalogs: Motor Graders, Leaning Wheel Graders
7. Parts Catalog: Road Maintainers, Retread Paver, Road Patrols, Motor Graders

Collection Information:

Size of Collection: 3 mss. boxes, 32 folders
 Collection Dates: 1929-1977
 Provenance: Harold Meeker Jr., Oct 1989 (photocopied material) & unknown
 Access: The Collection is Open for Research Use
 Restrictions:
 Reproduction Rights: Permission to reproduce, exhibit, or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Manuscript and Rare Books Division, Indiana State Library.
 Language: Materials are entirely in: English
 Alternate Formats: None
 Related Holdings: More catalogs available in Indiana Collection
 Collection Notes: