

Archives and Special Collections

University Libraries



Drawings and Documents Archive
Ball State University
Architecture building, Room 120
Muncie, IN 47304

Phone: 765-285-8441
Fax: 765-285-8149
Email: ddarchive@bsu.edu

Alvin W. Holmes Collection on Covered Bridges 1931-1972 DADA 039

Title: Alvin W. Holmes Collection on Covered Bridges

Creator: Alvin W. Holmes

Inclusive Dates: 1931-1972

Extent: 1.2 cu .ft.

Containers: 3 manuscript boxes, 1 small box

Language of Materials: Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation:

Alvin W. Holmes Collection on Covered Bridges, Drawings and Documents Archive, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries

Biographical Note:

Alvin W. Holmes was born in Logansport, Indiana in 1901. He graduated from Logansport High School in 1919, and then attended Purdue University, where he obtained a B.S. degree in chemical engineering in 1923. He was a member of Tau Beta Pi and Phi Lambda Upsilon, national honorary organizations in engineering and chemistry. Upon graduation he married Mary Schaen, also of Logansport.

Mr. Holmes came to Muncie, Indiana, in 1924 to join Indiana Steel and Wire Company. He remained with that firm for 42 years until his retirement in 1966 as Director of Research and Engineering and Director of Patents. During his career, Mr. Holmes wrote several U.S. and British patents and was a member of the American Society for Metals, British Iron and Steel Institute, American Chemical Society, and the National Association of Corrosion Engineers. After retiring, he served as consultant to Indiana Steel and Wire Co. and to General Cable Corp. on uses of steel wire for electric power transmission and for the telephone industry.

Mr. Holmes actively pursued several hobbies, one of which was building his covered bridge collection. He gathered printed information and used his engineering background to measure, diagram, record and photograph structural details of dozens of covered bridges in Indiana and

other states. He combined his interest in travel and in photography to document as many bridges as possible before they disappeared. Mr. Holmes died in 1988.

Scope and Contents:

Documentation of covered bridges and other engineering structures in Indiana and other states created or collected by Alvin W. Holmes. The collection includes ca. 300 black & white photographs, 150 color slides, 12 color photographs, 145 postcards, 4 manuscripts and typescripts, 1 drawing, and 5 brochures about covered bridges.

Conditions Governing Access:

This collection is open for research.

Copyright Notice: Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Drawings and Documents Archive, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries, Muncie, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Drawings and Documents Archive.

Custodial History:

Alvin W. Holmes Collection on Covered Bridges was received by Drawings and Documents Archive as a donation from Jack Buckles and Betty J. Martin on 2002/4/11 and 2002/8/13.

Accruals: No additions are expected.

Processing Information:

Collection processing completed

Finding aid created 2005/4/28; revised 2011/11/1 by Julie Edwards; revised 2012/2/21 by Carol Street.

Arrangement:

Alvin W. Holmes Collection on Covered Bridges is arranged chronologically.

Controlled Access Headings:

Photographs

Printed ephemera

Covered bridges

Covered bridges—Indiana

Covered bridges--Indiana--Pictorial works

Holmes, Alvin W., 1902-1988

Classification--Slides (Photography)—Architecture

Color slides

Black-and-white photographs

Photographic postcards

Postcards

Color photographs