

∞ The Ward M. Canaday Center ∞
for Special Collections
The University of Toledo

Finding Aid

➤ **Toledo Edison Collection** ◀

MSS-082

Size: Approximately 90 linear ft.

Provenance: Received from the Toledo Edison Company, 1992

Access: Open. Scrapbooks are restricted due to conservation concerns.

Collection Summary: Electric transportation and utility company (1853-Present)
Chronologically-arranged scrapbooks document company history through newspaper clippings and advertisements. Subjects include electric street railways, early electric utility services, recreation and entertainment, and hydroelectric power. A strike in 1916 highlights labor-related information.

Subjects: [Business and Commerce](#), [Labor](#)

Related Collections:

Processing Note:

Copyright: The literary rights to this collection are assumed to rest with the person(s) responsible for the production of the particular items within the collection, or with their heirs or assigns. Researchers bear full legal responsibility for the acquisition to publish from any part of said collection per *Title 17, United States Code*. The **Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections** may reserve the right to intervene as intermediary at its own discretion.

Completed by: April S. Dougal and Jamie L. Wraight; Revised by Tamara Jones, February 2007; last updated: June, 2014. Scrapbooks restricted, September 2018.

**Toledo Edison
Collection**

Brief Company History

1853	September 25. Toledo Gas Light & Coke Co., Toledo's first utility, incorporated.
1860	November 20. Toledo Street Railroad Co. formed the first horse-drawn street railway.
1862	May 27. First horse-car line begins operation on Summit Street.
1879	October 21. Thomas Edison perfects the first incandescent light.
1881	April 28. Toledo Brush Electric & Power Co. incorporated, Toledo's first electric utility.
1883	Electricity first used to produce light in Toledo, when C.C. Warren installs light plant in the Hannah Building at Erie and Monroe Streets. The first arc light was installed at the corner outside the plant.
1884	December. Toledo Consolidated Street Railway Co., "The Big Con," organized by Albion Lang. Four competing lines merged. Toledo Electric Co. established by predecessor of General Electric Co. bring first incandescent lights to Toledo plant at Locust and Water Streets (site of Locust substation.)
1889	April 10. Toledo Electric Street Railway Co., organized by predecessor of General Electric to demonstrate feasibility of electricity for street railway propulsion.
1892	April. Toledo Traction Co. formed by Albion Lang, succeeding "Big Con" and eventually bringing in all other concerns.
1898	Albion Lang elected president of American Street Railway Association. Water Street Station completed - four rope drive Wheelock engines - 4,000KW capacity - "sufficient to serve needs of Toledo for 25 years."
1901	June 1 - Toledo Railways & Light Co. organized bringing together all of street railway and most electric business - direct predecessor of Toledo Edison co. Albion Lang first president. Purpose: to develop inter-city electric railways, or "interurbans".
1903	Albion Lang retires.
1905	August 14 - three small gas companies merged to form Toledo Gas, Electric & Heating Co. to make an aggressive bid for electrical business in Toledo. Electric service cost : 12 cents per KWH - \$1.00 per month minimum charge

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	covering first 8 KWH
1906	First turbine unit a 2,000 KW vertical generator and four 650 horse power Sterling boilers, installed in Water Street to relieve acute capacity situation.
1907	Albion Lang called back from retirement.
1907	<p>June 1 - Rail Light bought Toledo Gas, Electric, & Heating Co. bringing together all street railway artificial gas and hot water heat and almost all electric facilities.</p> <p>Plants: Water Street - Electric Detroit Avenue - Heating and electric Floyd Street - Heating and electric Twenty-second Street - Heating and electric Erie Street - Gas plant</p> <p>Capacity: Less than 25,000 KW</p>
1910	Willys-Overland Motors becomes first major industrial electric customer. Service includes six 50 KW transformers for lighting and three 200 KW transformers for power.
1911	Albion Lang retires and is succeeded by Frank R. Coates.
	Auglaize Power Co. formed and work started on Defiance hydro-electric
1912	Defiance Hydro completed - 375 feet long, 22 feet high - five 1,000 KW generators. In 1953 this was still Ohio,s largest hydroelectric station.
1913	<p>February - H. L. Doherty interests (Cities Service Co.) purchase Rail Light.</p> <p>April - Doherty interests take charge.</p> <p>15,117 customers served.</p> <p>12,500 KW turbines installed at Water Street Station.</p> <p>Power supply short and industrial growth inhibited.</p> <p>March - high water broke Defiance dam.</p>
1914	One of world's longest high tension underground systems put into operation - Water Street to Willys-Overland. Composed of five 23,000 volt cables.

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	Customers increased to 19,164
1915	Annual production passes 100 million KWH mark.
1916	Toledo Engineering Cadet School organized; 45 college engineer graduates begin training. Acme Power Co. formed by Henry L. Doherty and work begun on Acme Station.
1917	Engineering work started on high tension belt line.
1918	March 28 - No. 1 turbine at Acme put into operation - 25,000 KW. 25 cycle.
1919	572 interurban arrivals and departures every 24 hours. November 10 - After lengthy street car fare negotiation, city notified Rail Light it must cease to operate transit system. Under H. L. Doherty , supervisor, 350 street cars taken across the state line into Michigan. Remained there 27 days until controversy settled. November 12 - Rail Light offices moved from Smith & Baker buildings, Superior & Adams Streets, to former Lasalle & Koch Building. Peak - 48,220 KW. 41,500 customers
1920	Electric production - 226,295,000 KWH May 9 - No. 2 generator at Acme in operation - 20,000 KW. System defeated in special election.
1921	January 31 - Street railway property sold to Community Traction Co. October - Rail Light purchases acme Power co. November 1 - Name changed to Toledo Edison Co. First preferred stock dividend paid.
1922	October 1 - half of belt line complete - 12 miles. First common stock dividend paid.
1923	December 11 - #3 Westinghouse 30,000 KW turbine on line at Acme Station.

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1924	September 30 - Toledo Edison purchases Defiance Gas & Electric (including Defiance hydro plant), Swanton Light & Power, Holgate Light & Power.
1925	Peak - 78,900 KW.
1926	December 1 - Cities Service purchases Lake Shore Power Co. Toledo Edison buys six small rail and power companies in area.
1927	Five more small companies acquired.
1928	March 1 - All gas properties (except Defiance and Delta) sold to Ohio Fuel Gas Co.
1929	May 21 - #4 at Acme on line. 35,000 KW. May 31 - Nation's first night horse racing at Ft. Miami track as Toledo Edison installs 120 lights (1,500 watts each) on the mile-long track. September 15 - Downtown steam heating system completed.
1930	Electric production - 468,679,000 KWH.
1930	Garage completed and contract let for Service Building as development of west Delaware Avenue Service Center is begun.
1935	Offices moved to former Ohio bank Bldg., Madison Ave. & Superior St. Congress passes Public Utility Holding Company Act.
1936	February 1 - Lake Shore Power Co. purchased, including much of present Wauseon Division.
1937	Albion Lang dies.
1938	February 5 - Toledo Edison purchases Ohio Utilities Finance Co., holder of properties now in Fremont Division. April - C. L. Proctor succeeds Frank R. Coates as president. April 28 - Topper turbine installed at Acme - 5,000 KW 60 cycle.
1939	Last passenger interurban (Toledo & Indiana) retired.

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1940	Electric production - 642,425,000. Average cost to domestic customers - 3.84 cents per KWH.
1941	2-way FM radio dispatching system installed - one of first in Midwest. December - system peak - 50,000 KW.
1944	Output passed billion KWH mark - 1,083,324,577 KWH.
1946	Charles E Ide succeeds C. L. Proctor as president.
1949	No. 6 unit installed at Acme - 90,000 KW
1950	Electric production - 1,488,881,000 KWH Average cost to domestic consumer - 2.62 cents per KWH. May - Toledo Edison is separated from Cities Service Co. and stock sold to the public in accordance with provision of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935. December 31 - Last electric street car retired.
1951	Replacement for old No. 2 unit installed in Acme Station - 60,000 KW.
1953	June 18 - Ground broken for new plant on Maumee Bay near Harbor View. New station to be called Bay Shore Station.

Folder List

Box Folder

S1: COMPANY FILES

Toledo Edison

- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| 1 | 1 | Right of Way Contracts, 1911-1921 |
| 1 | 2 | Survey Report of Garage & Warehouse Centralization, May 1929 |
| 1 | 3 | Safety Performance Award, 1968 |
| 1 | 4 | Drawing and Photographs (1952, n.d.) |
| 1 | 8 | Comparative Statistics and Ratios of Electric Companies of the United States Year 1944 |
| 1 | 9 | Non-Residential Building Permits, 1950 |
| 1 | 10 | News clippings, 1938-1939 |
| 1 | 11 | News clippings, 1939-1940 |
| 1 | 12 | News clippings, 1940-1941 |
| ^ | | News clippings and Promotional Materials, 1933-1937? |

Toledo Edison Collection

- Lake Erie Power & Light Co.**
1 7 Copies of Contracts, Bills of Sale, and Deeds
- The Toledo Railways & Light Co.**
1 5 Certificates of Deposit, Mortgage Gold Bonds-Nov. 15, 1912-Feb. 13, 1913
1 6 Certificates of Deposit, Secured Promissory Notes-Nov. 21, 1912-Feb. 14, 1913
1 13 Ordinance Book, 1892-1896
2 1 Report on The Toledo Railways & Light Co., Sept. 30, 1910
2 2 The Toledo Railways & Light Co. Record Book, 1901
2 3 Surplus Account Records, July 1, 1901-Nov. 30, 1917
2 4 Underground & Line Dept. Repair Requests, 1912-1913
2 5 War Labor Board Hearing, May 12, 1919
- The Toledo Traction Co.**
2 6 Ledger, n.d.
^ Meeting Minutes, April 26, 1895
- Miscellaneous Files (other companies)**
2 7 Miscellaneous Contracts and Agreements
2 8 Ordinance Book, 1885-1895

S2: OVERSIZE MATERIALS

- Blueprints (Plaza Alterations, Headquarters Facilities) ***
- # 1 Plaza Arrangement Sketch
1 8th Floor Roof and Garden Plumbing (3 copies)
1 Toledo Edison Tenant Improvement-8th Floor First Aid Toilet Rm. and Cabinetry (3 copies)
1 Customer Service Plaza Level (5 copies)
1 Plaza Arrangement Sketches
1 Typical 3rd Fl.-7th Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Plan
1 Plaza Floor Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning Plan
1 Mechanical Equipment Schedules and Legend
1 7th Floor Electrical Plan
1 Plaza Level Electrical Plan
1 1st Floor Plan (4 copies)
1 Plaza Level Lighting Plan
- Drawings & Photographs**
- # Bay Shore Station, 1955 photo (unframed)
Bay Shore Station boiler (drawing, unframed)
Bay Shore Station-Unit No. 4 (drawing, unframed)
Sketch, unknown station (framed)

Toledo Edison Collection

- # John H. Barker (employee) portrait (framed)
- # Convention, Henry L. Doherty & Co., New York, NY (framed)
- # The Doherty Special-Bartlesville, OK, May 5, 1919 (framed)
- # Doherty Executives Conference-Kansas City, MO., Dec. 1-3, 1924 (framed)
- # Doherty Securities Tour-Bartlesville, OK, Sept. 24, 1929 (framed)
- # Library(?) (date and location unknown, unframed)
- # Unknown Power Station (unframed)

1 **Maps (Northwest Ohio & Lake Erie Islands) ***

Plat Maps (aerial photographs) *

- # 1 BVG-7T-198 (12-1-57)
- # 1 BVG-7T-183 (12-1-57)
- # 1 BVG-7T-177 (12-1-57)
- # 1 BVG-7T-175 (12-1-57)
- # 2 BVG-7T-178 (12-1-57)
- # 2 BVG-7T-179 (12-1-57)
- # 2 BVG-7T-180 (12-1-57)
- # 2 BVG-7T-176 (12-1-57)
- # 3 BVJ-1EE-78 (5-17-64) (5 copies; copy 5 in roll 7)
- # 3 BVJ-1EE-81 (5-17-64)
- # 4 BVJ-1EE-82 (5-17-64)
- # 4 BVJ-1EE-123 (5-17-64)
- # 4 BVJ-1EE-124 (5-17-64)
- # 4 BVJ-1EE-126 (5-17-64)
- # 4 BVJ-1EE-128 (5-17-64)
- # 4 BVJ-1EE-136 (5-17-64)
- # 5 BVJ-2EE-194 (5-18-64)
- # 5 BVJ-2EE-202 (5-18-64)
- # 5 BVJ-2EE-185 (5-18-64)
- # 5 BVJ-2EE-192 (5-18-64)
- # 6 BVJ-2EE-183 (5-18-64)
- # 6 BVJ-2EE-204 (5-18-64)
- # 6 BVJ-1EE-26 (5-17-64)
- # 6 BVJ-1EE-70 (5-17-64) (2 copies)
- # 6 BVJ-1EE-28 (5-17-64)
- # 7 BVJ-1EE-138 (5-17-64)
- # 7 BVJ-1EE-78 (5-17-64) (copy 5)
- # 7 BVJ-1EE-140 (5-17-64)
- # 7 BVJ-1EE-134 (5-17-64)
- # 7 BVJ-1EE-77 (5-17-64)
- # 7 BVJ-1EE-79 (5-17-64)

Plat Maps (unrolled)

- # 1 BVG-1T-97 (5-7-57)

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#	1	BVG-4T-180 (6-20-57)
#	1	BVG-4T-193 (6-20-57)
#	1	BVG-4T-178 (6-20-57)
#	2	BVG-7T-181 (12-1-57)
#	2	BVG-7T-182 (12-1-57)
#	2	BVJ-1EE-69 (5-17-64)
#	2	BVG-1T-93 (5-7-57)
#	2	BVG-1T-94 (5-7-57)
#	2	BVG-1T-95 (5-7-57)
#	2	BVG-4T-179 (6-20-57)
#	2	BVG-5T-36 (6-20-57)
#	2	BVG-1T-96 (5-7-57)

Scrapbooks: RESTRICTED Due to Conservation Concerns

^	1894-1896
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^ 1955-1963
^ 1957-1959
^ 1959-1960
^ 1960
^ 1960-1971
^ 1961-1963
^ 1962-1963
^ 1963
^ 1963-1969
^ 1965 Columbia Gas
^ 1965 Total Electric Award
^ 1967
^ 1967-1968
^ 1968-1970
^ 1969
^ 1969
^ 1969
^ 1970-1972
^ 1971
^ 1972
^ 1972
^ 1972

Other Oversize*

The Toledo Edison Co. Family Tree (diagram)

#=located on ranges 3 & 4

=located on top of ranges 65 & 66

*=tube

Additional note: drawings, photographs, and unrolled plat maps are folios