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Indianapolis: The Bass Photo Company Collection



Synopsis

When the Bass Photo Company began its operation, Indiana had been a state for less than a hundred years, photography was less than seventy-five years old, and Indianapolis's centennial was more than a decade away. The capital city was growing rapidly, and new businesses and institutions were forming to meet the needs of the population as it moved into the twentieth century. The Bass Photo Company photographed the local automobile industry, the rise of new office buildings, and activity along the commercial hub of Washington, Illinois, Meridian, and Market streets. This book contains 183 photos selected from the vast Bass Photo Company Collection. The assorted images depict Indianapolis in good times and bad and provide a visual link to the city's past. Many of the images are so vivid that one can almost hear the clang of a trolley, the click of horse hooves, the roar of engines, and the din in the streets filled with bustling pedestrians. Included in the volume are nostalgic images of the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race, leisure activities, individual portraits, street scenes, Monument Circle, a parade of returning World War I soldiers, the Indianapolis Home Show, transportation, and architecture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Susan Sutton is coordinator, visual reference services, for the William Henry Smith Memorial Library, Indiana Historical Society.

I have always been a big fan of the Bass Photo Co. collection of historic photos of Indianapolis. Their photos bring to life the "turn of the 20th century Indianapolis of my father & grandfathers.

There are many pubs around town that display Bass photos from the 1920's and I just can't stop looking at them. Very vivid and detailed. An awesome collection in this book that I wish was bigger.

great photos of downtown Indianapolis. but remember, it is pretty much just downtown Indianapolis in the book --- it would be nice to have a collection of vintage photos of other areas of town.

Excellent book with many wonderful pictures all in and around Indianapolis. Everyone in Indianapolis should have this book in their library.

This is a wonderful book full of historic photos of Indianapolis. It begins by telling the history of the William H. Bass Photo Company and relates about how the photos are representative of the fabric and culture of Indianapolis. Photos of the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race are presented along with those related to other leisure activities enjoyed by residents in the early part of the 20th century. There are antique photos of Meridian, Market, and Washington Streets, Monument Circle, photos of people going about their everyday activities, transportation, and the architecture of the city. The book provides a window that looks out at the city through the eyes of the photographer and gives the reader a glimpse of what life was like in Indianapolis in a by-gone era. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the history of Indianapolis.

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