

Toledo Edison/Yaryan Heating System Collection Scope and Contents Notes

The collection, Toledo Edison/Yaryan Heating System Collection was donated to the Local History Department in January 2007 by the City of Toledo. Margaret Elliott of Gambrills, Maryland, mailed the six notebooks to the Engineering Services Division. Ms. Elliott provided the provenance of the collection in an email dated February 1, 2007.

The books were discovered in the attic of a building owned by Ethel Rider in Owings Mills, Maryland on property that Miss Rider donated to her church. Cover letters in three of the books were addressed to A. L. Rider, Superintendent Heating on Toledo Edison letterhead. The Toledo City Directory of 1924 listed Albert L. Rider as superintendent, Toledo Edison Company. His wife, Louise C., was also listed in the directory.

A search of census records shows Albert L. Rider living with his family in Baltimore, Maryland in 1900, 1910 and 1920. Interestingly, Albert, an engineer, and Louise were enumerated both in Baltimore, Maryland and Toledo, Ohio in 1920. Albert and Louise were living in Brookline, Massachusetts in 1930.

Albert, born June 15, 1891, was the son of William B. and Kate Rider. William was a physician and a member of a prominent family in Baltimore County. William and Kate had six children, one of whom died before 1910. Albert and Louise were married ca. 1917; his siblings remained unmarried, at least through the 1930 census. Albert's known siblings were Mary R. (born September 1885), Clinton N. (born May 1893), Mildred S. (born November 1894) and Ethel C. (born August 1896).

Albert L. Rider died in Beverly, Massachusetts on October 17, 1972. Ethel C. Rider died February 2, 1991.

Homer T. Yaryan (1842-1928) was a prolific inventor who is remembered in Toledo primarily for his system of heating buildings with steam. In 1894, he organized the Toledo Heating & Lighting Company to provide heat to the Toledo Museum of Art and many of the houses in the Old West End. The company merged with Toledo Gas, Electricity & Heating Company in 1905 and two years later was purchased by the Toledo Railway and Light Company, which became the Toledo Edison Company in 1921. Toledo Edison began phasing out the heating business in the 1930s and completed the process when construction of the interstate in 1965 forced the last three customers, including the Museum of Art, to change their heating system.

The six notebooks contain more than 200 photographs of Toledo Edison's steam plant on Water Street, places in the Old West End that were heated by the Yaryan system and replacement work done on the Yaryan system, 1921-1923. The photographs were photocopied and removed for the department's photograph collection. The photocopies were numbered and kept with the rest of the books so that a record of each book is maintained.

Toledo Edison/Yaryan Heating System Collection Inventory

Box 1

- Folder 1 Book 1, Distribution Survey, May 1, 1920, Yaryan Heating and Toledo Railway & Light Co.
- Folder 2 Book 2, Explosion, November 1921 (includes photographs of the flood of 1918 and other photographs as early as 1908)
- Folder 3 Book 3, Test Reports and Equipment, 1922-1923
- Folder 4 Book 4, Heating Costs, 1922-1923
- Folder 5 Book 5, "Yaryan" Distribution System Reconstruction, Season 1921-1922
- Folder 6 Book 6, "Yaryan" Distribution System Reconstruction, Season 1922-1923