

**S0379 Hardy Salt Company
Records, 1914-1987
32 Folders, 156 Photographs, 1 Oral History**

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

Related collections:

S0380 Hardy Family Papers, 1911-1982

S0506 Hardy Salt Company 1914-1985, Addenda, 1961-1985

S0510 Hardy Family Papers, Addenda, 1849-1987

S0727 Hardy Salt Company, Addenda, 1920-1990

Thomas Walter Hardy Jr. donated the Hardy Salt Company records to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri-St. Louis on April 15, 1987.

Thomas Walter Hardy, a salesman for Morton Salt, began his own salt packing and distribution company in 1914. Hardy's business grew rapidly and incorporated as the Hardy Salt Company in 1916. The company was located at 22nd and Dock Street in St. Louis.

While vacationing near Lake Michigan in 1930, Hardy learned of the Robson Leather Company, an abandoned tannery with an adjoining salt well located in Manistee, Michigan. Hardy bought the tannery and built the Manistee Salt Works, a Hardy Salt Company subsidiary and manufacturer of all its salt. Hardy Salt also opened a branch office and warehouse in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. By the mid-1930s, its annual distribution of salt across Maine, the Dakotas and the Southeast reached 100,000 tons.

Hardy Salt became the sole manufacturer of brine during its first ten years of operation. It also developed into a major innovator in the salt industry. During the course of its operations, the company built the first set of quintuple-effect evaporators used in salt-production; introduced flaked salt to the food industry; and pioneered the packaging of table salt in paper bags instead of cotton packets, preventing the salt from hardening and getting dirty.

Thomas Walter Hardy Jr. joined his father's salt plant after graduating from the Harvard Business School in 1939. He became president of Hardy Salt after his father's retirement in 1955.

Thomas Walter Hardy Sr. remained active in the Hardy Salt Company until his death in 1960.

Concerned with political and social issues, Thomas Hardy Jr. began flying the American and United Nations flags at the Manistee plant to symbolize "that we are part of the whole world and not just a part of Manistee." In his efforts to promote peace, Hardy chaired the St. Louis Chapter of Business Executives Move For Vietnam Peace from 1968-1970 (see collection S0441.)

Hardy served as an executive board member of the Center for Defense Information and the Committee for the East-West Accord, both based in Washington, D.C.

Hardy sold the Hardy Salt Company to the Diamond Crystal Company of St. Clair, Michigan in April 1985.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Hardy Salt Company Records, 1914-1987, document the company's founding as a salt packing and distribution business, through its growth into a major salt manufacturer and distributor in the 1930s, to its sale in 1985 to the Diamond Crystal Company.

The collection primarily documents the Manistee Salt plant operations from 1931-1971. It includes Board of Directors' meeting minutes, Profit Sharing Trust meeting minutes, financial statements, articles about salt production, correspondence between Thomas Walter Hardy Jr. and his father, photographs of the Manistee Plant, and an oral history interview with Thomas Walter Hardy Jr (T-867). The records are divided into two series: 1) Business, 1920-1984 (folders 1 - 26); 2) Photographs, 1914-1960s (folders 27 - 30.)

SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES 1 - BUSINESS, 1920-1984, FOLDERS 1-26

Arranged alphabetically. Contains articles of incorporation, advertisements, bylaws, Board of Directors meeting minutes, correspondence, articles on salt production and the history of Hardy Salt Company, legal deeds, Manistee Salt Profit Sharing Trust meeting minutes, and newsclippings.

SERIES 2 - PHOTOGRAPHS 11197-111353, 1914-1960s, FOLDERS 27-30

Arranged chronologically. Contains photographs of the Manistee Salt Works Plant, the production of salt inside the plant, the loading of salt into ships, sales representatives and other employees of the company. Also contains photographs of the exterior of the Hardy Salt Company in St. Louis. A photograph of Hardy Salt's original sales representative team from 1914 appears at the end of the series.

FOLDER LIST

BOX 1, FOLDERS 1-13

SERIES I - BUSINESS, 1920-1984

1. Advertisements, 1940s-1980s
2. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, 1920
3. Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes, 1920-1926
4. Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes, 1927-1943
5. Correspondence on the Manistee Salt Plant photographs, 1958-1963
6. Correspondence between Thomas Walter Hardy Jr. and Thomas Walter Hardy Sr., 1955-1958

7. Correspondence between Thomas Walter Hardy Jr. and Thomas Walter Hardy Sr., 1959-1960

8. Financial Statements, 1922-1934
9. Financial Statements, 1935-1939
10. Financial Statements, 1940-1943
11. Financial Statements, 1944-1947

- 12. Financial Statements, 1948-1949
- 13. Financial Statements, 1950-1951

BOX 2, FOLDERS 14-20

- 14. Financial Statements, 1952-1956
- 15. Financial Statements, 1957-1960
- 16. Financial Statements, 1961-1966
- 17. Financial Statements, 1967-1973
- 18. History of Hardy Salt Company, Correspondence, Newsclippings and Articles about Salt, 1939-1984

- 19. Legal Papers, Deeds of Trust and Sale, 1935-1943
- 20. Manistee Salt Works, Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Board of Directors, Meeting Minutes, 1931-1956

BOX 3, FOLDERS 21-30

- 21. Manistee Salt Works, Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Board of Directors, Meeting Minutes, 1957-1966

- 22. Manistee Salt Works Profit Sharing Trust Meeting Minutes, 1957-1971
- 23. Promissory Notes, 1931-1935
- 24. St. Louis Independent Packing Company, Lease of Boiler Room from Hardy Salt Company, 1938-1941

- 25. Title Abstract of Lots 1-3, Block (6) of Maxwelltown, Manistee, Michigan, c. 1930s-1966

- 26. Title Abstract of Lots 52-65 Block (6) of Maxwelltown, Manistee, Michigan, c. 1870s-1930s

SERIES 2 - PHOTOGRAPHS 11197 - 11353, 1914-1960s

- 27. 11197 Carey Hardy, T. Walter Hardy Sr., Ewel Hardy, and Tillman Hardy, c. 1914
- 11198 Michigan Tanning and Extract Company, Manistee, Michigan, c. 1929
- 11199-11217 Erection of first set of vacuum pans built by Manistee Iron Works, c. 1931

- 28. 11218-11224 Coal Storage Piles, c. 1931
- 11225-11227 Steamer Sumatra Loading First Cargo, c. 1931

- 11228-11231 Window Display of Hardy's Michigan Salt at K&K of Mitchell, South Dakota, 1934

- 11232-11249 Manistee Salt Works Plant Operations, c. 1930s

- 29. 11250 Tillman Hardy next to milk truck in Manistee, 1936
- 11251-11253 Manistee Salt Works, International Chemical Workers Union Local 181 AFL parade float, c. 1940s

- 11254-11260 Installing Pipeline under Manistee Lake, c. 1950s
- 11261-11267 Manistee Salt Works: Truck Loading Dock; Swenson Top Feed Rotary;

Packaging Machines for Round Can Table Salt; Drilling Salt Well on Manistee lake shore; Salt Bagging Machine, Brine Settling Tank construction, 1959

11268-11270 Manistee Salt Works: Truck dumping salt into transfer bin dockside; salt clammed from truck to boat; salt being loaded into truck for hauling to Manistee Lake dock, 1950s

11271-11274 Hardy Salt Company, 800 South Vandeventer, exterior of building and salt truck, c. early 1960s

11275 Hardy Salt Company, 4040 Washington Avenue N., Lewis Hardy (?) shaking hands with unidentified man, c. early 1960s

11276-11278 Hardy Salt Company Employees at desks, c.early 1960s

30. 11279 Hardy Salt, Manistee, Michigan, exterior, c. early 1960s

11280 Hardy Salt Company Sales Conference, 1961

11281 Hardy Salt TV Raffle, c.early 1960s

11282 Manistee Salt Elevators, 1963

11283 Lewis and T. Walter Hardy Jr. (?), outside Manistee Plant, 1963

11284 Lewis Hardy, T. Walter Hardy Jr. and unidentified man outside Manistee Loading Dock, 1963

11285-11289 Hardy Salt Company, 4040 Washington Avenue N, exterior and salt loading dock, 1963

11290 Sales Conference at Manistee, 1963

11291 Salt Lake Plant, c. 1965

11292 Christmas Sales Representatives Dinner (?), c. mid-1960s

11293 Lewis Hardy and T. Walter Hardy Jr., at an outdoor gathering with employees (?), c. mid-1960s

11294 T. Walter Hardy Jr. talking with women at gathering, c. mid-1960s

11295-11297 Employees, c. late 1960s-early 1970s

11298 United Nations Day participants, 1970

11299 T. Walter Hardy Jr. and two unidentified men, 1973

11300 Region Three Sales Conference, Manistee, 1973

11301 Lewis Hardy with Joe Decker of Knappen Molasses, 1977

11302 Lewis Hardy with Chicago Feed Officers Chuck Nelson and John Dwyer, 1977

11303 Lewis Hardy, 1977

11304 #4 Quintuple Pan looking east at downwell and bottom cone, 1977

11305 Manistee Salt Works, 1977

11306-11310 Sales Meeting Banquet, T. Walter Hardy Jr. presenting unidentified man with silver platter, 1979

11311 Sales Meeting (?), 1983

11312 Hardy Salt Company building exterior, nd.
11313 Original Sales Representatives, 1914
NEGATIVES WITHOUT PRINTS (in negative file folder)
11314-11316 Hardy Salt Company, 4040 Washington Avenue North, and Manistee Plant sign
and loading dock, c. 1950s

11317 Bagging table salt at Manistee plant, c. 1959
11318 Manistee Salt Works, exterior overview, c. 1959
11319-11323 Manistee Plant interior, machines and gages, c. 1959
11324 Loading salt onto ship from Manistee plant, c. 1959
11325-11328 Loading bags of salt onto trucks, 1959
11329-11335 Bagging and conveying salt, 1959
11336-11350 Loading salt onto ship, 1959
11351 Overview of Manistee Salt Works, c. late 1950s
11352 Plot of Salt Lake City plant, n.d.
11353 Overview of Manistee Salt Works, n.d.

ORAL HISTORY

T-867 Thomas Walter Hardy, Jr., Interviewed by Patricia L. Adams, October 6, 1987

31. Financial statements, 1974-1978

32. Financial statements, 1979-1986

INDEX

Business, f. 1-30

Business Executives Move for Vietnam Peace, f. 18

Diamond Crystal Company, f. 18

Hardy, Lewis, f. 1-30

Hardy Salt Company, f. 1-30

Hardy, Thomas Walter Sr., f. 1-27

Hardy, Thomas Walter Jr., f. 1-26, 30

Manistee Salt Works, f. 1-30

Salt, f. 1-30