



St. Louis National Stockyard Company Records

Collection Number: S0139

Collection Title: St. Louis National Stockyard Company Records

Dates: 1877-1979

Creator: St. Louis National Stockyards Company

Abstract: The collection contains annual reports, meeting minutes, correspondence, histories, and newspaper clippings chronicling the St. Louis National Stockyard Company's history as one of the major stockyards in the nation.

Collection Size: 0.15 cubic feet
(5 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *St. Louis National Stockyards Company Records* (S0139); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the University of Missouri by a representative from the St. Louis National Stockyards Company on November 16, 1981 (Accession No. SA2433).

Processed by: Processed by Pat Adams, November 1981; revised by AJ Medlock and Caroline Smith, March 2023.

Historical Note:

Livestock trading in the United States has its origins in railroad construction and business; this interlacing of fields would allow railroad shipping for livestock across the United States and facilitate trade for farmers. Before 1871, no railroad systems cut across the Mississippi River, leading Chicago financier Samuel M. Allerton to finance the creation of bridges and a stockyard that would furnish livestock trade in the Midwest. As a result, National City, Illinois, became the official site for what became known as the St. Louis National Stockyards Company, located across the Mississippi River from St. Louis City, Missouri. The stockyards officially opened for business on November 19, 1873, and consisted of 100 acres of land that housed 15,000 horses and mules, 3,000 cattle, 17,000 hogs, and 20,000 sheep.

After the stockyard was incorporated in 1907, National City became a self-operating company town; this included expansion in its business practices to include an exchange market but would also have its own fire department, policing, banking, post office, hotel, and newspaper publication. The St. Louis National Stockyards Company would see a rapid decline in business throughout the 1980s as cattle rearers began to work more directly with meat-packing companies and skipped over stockyards entirely. In 1996, the company sent out an order to all remaining residents of National City that they would have to vacate their homes. Illinois law stated that incorporated villages needed 50 or more residents to stay operational. When Illinois ordered a census evaluation in 1997, there were not enough residents to maintain the incorporation title.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains annual reports, annual stockholders meeting notices, articles, newspaper clippings, and legal documents pertaining to the St. Louis National Stockyards Company's history and functions. The documents provide a timeline of the company's existence and the importance that the company had on the expansion of the livestock trade and the meat packing industry not only in the region but on the national stage as well. The materials in this series examine periods from 1873 to 1979 and are arranged alphabetically.

Container List:

f. 1	Annual reports, 1945-1975
f. 2	Annual stockholders meeting, 1945-1965
f. 3	Histories, 1881-1938
f. 4	Proposed regulation No. 1, 1965
f. 5	Rates and charges investigation, 1944-1979

Index:

Index Terms	Folders
Business enterprises--Missouri	1-5
Cattle trade--Missouri	1-5
Meat industry and trade--Missouri	1-5

Index Terms	Folders
St. Louis National Stockyards Company	1-5
Stockyards--Missouri	1-5