

Floyd L. Trombley Collection
Museum of Neon Art

Finding aid compiled by Dydia DeLyser, 2019

Scope and Content note:

Floyd L. Trombley (born 1895, died 1993) worked the Development Department of Electrical Products Company (EPCo, a prominent sign company and early franchisee for Claude Neon) in Los Angeles from the late 1920s through the 1930s and began a career with deep knowledge and expertise in the details and specifications of neon-sign component testing and development. He later served as a representative for component manufacturers/distributors including Montroy Supply and Voltarc, and continued involvement with EPCo through the 1950s and their introduction of “zeon” (chiefly coated neon tubing) and a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the use of their zeon product. By the post-WWII period his expertise and advocacy extended to the development and popularization of fluorescent lighting as well, as he continued at the forefront of the sign industry in southern California. Throughout the 1970s and into the 1980s he continued working as a technical consultant in the areas of neon-tube fabrication, processing, and production methods; bombarding procedures; and vacuum systems and techniques.

The collection as described here consists of notebooks, component catalogs, photographs, corporate documents, and other materials related to his career in the Los Angeles area neon and fluorescent lighting industries, ca. 1928-1988.

Other materials not included in this finding aid, but part of the collection, include neon fabrication equipment (manifolds, torches, burners, etc.).

Box 1. Small steel file drawer.

Business cards

 Trombley's

 Other industry professionals

 Other contacts of Trombley's

Negatives and proof prints (from Trombley's research testing components)

 [Nitrate negatives removed to cold storage in a non-public building]

Box 2. Research materials, component catalogs, corporate documents, photographs mainly in 3-ring binders as used by Trombley. With ongoing use, most binders include materials spanning a broad range of years, but are often focused on one shorter span. All dates are based on dated material in the folders but any folder may include materials from any other date, and all folders contain undated materials. Descriptions are based on a rapid survey, not a close assessment; all binders likely include other materials not described.

- Folder 1. 1926, 1946, 1950, 1980. Research materials, component catalogs, corporate documents, photographs.
- Folder 2. 1928, 1932, 1940-43, 1948, 1971, 1977. Research materials, component catalogs, corporate documents, photographs.
- Folder 3. 1929, 1932. "Lab records 1. 10-29-29 – 32.
- Folder 4. 1931 Electrical Products Co. Product development reports.
- Folder 5. 1931. "Engineering Instructions and Data on LOW VOLTRAGE TUBES. ... Issued by CLAUDE NEON NATIONAL LABORATORIES ... July 15, 1931"
- Folder 6. 1932. "Lab Records 2. -32 -33"
- Folder 7. 1935. "Floyd Trombley, Development Department Electrical Products Corp." Lab notebook.
- Folder 8. 1937-1938. "Floyd Trombley, Development Department Electrical Products Corp." Lab notebook.
- Folder 9. 1939-1940. "Floyd Trombley, Development Department Electrical Products Corp." Lab notebook.
- Folder 10. 1947-1950. Research materials, component catalogs, corporate documents.
- Folder 11. 1948-1954. Research materials, component catalogs, corporate documents.
- Folder 12. Advance Electric and Relay Company, Catalog A
- Folder 13. 1933, 1938, 1950-1952, 1957, 1987. Research materials, component catalogs, corporate documents.
- Folder 14. 1950, 1960, 1961. Research materials, component catalogs, corporate documents.
- Folder 15. 1958, 1987. Research materials, component catalogs, corporate documents, photographs.
- Folder 16. 1947, 1957, 1958, 1960. Research materials, component catalogs, corporate documents.
- Folder 17. 1959, 1969, 1966. Voltarc Cold Cathode Lamps.
- Folder 18. 1959, 1960, 1961. Research materials, component catalogs, corporate documents.
- Folder 19. Ca. 1960. "Advance Transformer Company."
- Folder 20. Ca. 1960. "Smith Decalomania Company."
- Folder 21. 1963, 1964. "Transformers, Ballasts."
- Folder 22. 1963, 1964. "France Former."
- Folder 23. 1961, 1969, 1979, 1980s. Research materials, component catalogs, corporate documents.
- Folder 24. 1970-1973. Research materials, component catalogs, corporate documents.
- Folder 25. 1979, 1982-1985. Research materials, component catalogs, corporate documents.
- Folder 26. 1986. Research materials, component catalogs, corporate documents.
- Folder 27. 1967, 1973, n.d. Miscellaneous materials (component catalogs, etc.) not donated in binders.