

ATKINS STAGE LINES LTD.

An inventory of its records  
held by the

CHILLIWACK MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Add.MSS. 514)

compiled by

JIM BOWMAN

June 1987

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## Introduction

Eric Stanley Atkins', entrepreneurial career began at an early age. Born in England on January 23, 1906, he operated a bicycle repair shop while still in his teens. After immigrating to Canada in 1924, he apprenticed as a mechanic with Johnson Motors (located at 7th & Main in Vancouver), then worked for B.C. Motor Transportation, a subsidiary of the B.C. Electric Railway. From 1928 to 1930 he worked for Harrison Lake Transportation Co., owned by Frank Barnes, which had a contract to carry passengers between the Harrison Hot Springs Hotel and the CPR Station at Agassiz.

Returning to Vancouver, he worked as a mechanic for Woodward's Department Store until 1934, when he opened his own service station at Granville & 64th.

In 1938, in lieu of payment of debts owed, Atkins acquired the assets of the Harrison Lake Transportation Co. The influx of military personnel to Camp Chilliwack in 1942 resulted in a territorial and economic expansion of the business, and Atkins Stage Lines Ltd. was incorporated in 1943. Atkins also operated a service station at Cultus Lake from 1942 to 1948.

At its peak, Atkins Stage Lines operated 20 vehicles, covering a territory from Harrison Hot Springs to Cultus Lake. However, the increasing affluence of the 1950's resulted in the replacement of bus transportation with the automobile, and the company's bus service ceased in 1963, although it continued to hold a contract for transportation of mail until 1968. *Eric Atkins died in 1990.*

Eric Atkins presented the Chilliwack Museum with an architectural drawing of a bus waiting station on November 5, 1979 (oversize folder no. 3 in oversize box no. 10); some clippings were presented in December 1983 (file 1). The bulk of Add.MSS. 514 was selected on April 3, 1987, from Mr. Atkins' records at his home at 45076 Vedder Mountain Road, R.R.3, Sardis, B.C. V0X 1Y0. Mr. Atkins retained possession of approximately one metre of ledger books and bus mileage records, which were considered to be of inconsequential historical value; it was his intention to dispose of them.

*Biographical information  
from telephone interview  
with Eric Atkins, June 1987  
J. Bouman*

Other items pertaining to Atkins Stage Lines held by the  
Chilliwack Museum & Historical Society

Maps

Map of Chilliwack city, 1945 - in map collection.

Artifacts:

Money changer - CM3511  
Ticket nippers - CM3512  
Marking stamps - C3513 to CM3517  
Ink bottles - CM3516, CM3517  
Bus transfer - CM3420  
*Bus ticket - Add. MSS. 564*

Photographs:

Photograph of Eric Atkins wearing Atkins Stage Lines uniform  
standing beside Cadillac Limousine in 1946 - P5275

Chilliwack Progress zinc printer's cut, portraying Eric  
Atkins in Atkins Stage Lines uniform - P2721  
*P. Coll. 14 (Eric Atkins collection): P463, P6527-P6528, P6798-P6816*

Oral History:

Add.MSS. 400:

Eric Atkins, interviewed by Neil Grainger, recounts the  
history of Atkins Stage Lines; some clippings are also  
included with the documentation.



Box 1

File

Description

1

Clippings

Clippings from Chilliwack and Agassiz - Harrison newspapers: timetables; articles on cutbacks in service; legal notices of cutbacks in service, ca. 1960 - 1963.

Financial Statements, Income Tax

2

Financial statements, 1945, 1947 - 1949.

3

Financial statements, 1950 - 1953.

4

Financial statements, 1954 - 1957.

5

Financial statements, 1958 - 1961.

6

Financial statements, 1962; index to financial statements, October 1962.

7

Closing entries, adjusting journal entries, 1969.

8

Closing entries, adjusting journal entries, 1969.

9

Income tax return, 1947.

10

Income tax return, 1948.

11

Income tax return, 1949.

12

Income tax return, 1950.

13

Income tax return, 1951.

14

Income tax return, 1952.

15

Income tax return, 1953.

16

Income tax return, 1954.

17

Income tax return, 1955.

18

Income tax return, 1962.

19

T5 forms (statement of dividends), 1955-1956.

20

T4 forms (statement of remuneration), 1947.

21

T4 forms, 1948.

| <u>File</u> | <u>Description</u>                   |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 22          | T4 forms, 1949.                      |
| 23          | T4 forms, 1950.                      |
| 24          | T4 forms, 1951.                      |
| 25          | T4 forms, 1952.                      |
| 26          | T4 forms, 1953.                      |
| 27          | T4 forms, 1954.                      |
| 28          | T4 forms, 1961.                      |
| 30          | T4 forms, 1962.                      |
| 31          | Eric Atkins income tax, 1944 - 1946. |
| 32          | Eric Atkins income tax, 1947.        |
| 33          | Eric Atkins income tax, 1948.        |
| 34          | Eric Atkins income tax, 1949.        |
| 35          | Eric Atkins income tax, 1950.        |
| 36          | Eric Atkins income tax, 1951.        |
| 37          | Eric Atkins income tax, 1952.        |
| 38          | Eric Atkins income tax, 1953.        |
| 39          | Eric Atkins income tax, 1954.        |
| 40          | Eric Atkins income tax, 1956.        |
| 41          | Eric Atkins income tax, 1958.        |
| 42          | Eric Atkins income tax, 1959.        |
| 43          | Eric Atkins income tax, 1960.        |
| 44          | Eric Atkins income tax, 1961.        |
| 45          | Eric Atkins income tax, 1962.        |
| 46          | Eric Atkins income tax, 1963.        |

File

Description

Motor Vehicle Licences

- 47                      Records of provincial and municipal motor vehicle licences purchased, 1955, 1957 - 1959, 1961 - 1962; receipt and notice of transfer of motor-vehicle, 1952; permit for operation of school bus, 1961; motor vehicle registration receipts, 1947, 1949, 1952, 1954, 1956, 1974.

Interstate Commerce Commission

- 48                      Application to operate bus service in Washington State; related documents, 1947 - 1949.
- Oversize  
folder no.1  
(in over-  
size box  
no. 10)
- Certificate of authorization, 1947.

Correspondence with bus manufacturers

- 49                      Union Bus Sales Ltd., 1955 - 1957.
- 50                      Henney Motor Co. Inc., 1956.
- 51                      FitzJohn Coach Co., 1945 - 1946.
- 52                      FitzJohn Coach Co., 1947 - 1949.
- 53                      FitzJohn Coach of Canada Ltd., 1950 - 1953.
- 54                      FitzJohn Coach of Canada Ltd., 1954 - 1958.
- 55                      FitzJohn Coach of Canada Ltd., concerning the "Road Runner" bus, 1953 - 1954.

FileDescription

Oversize  
file 2  
(in map  
case)

Blueprints of buses:  
FitzJohn Coach Co.:  
    Model 510 Duraliner (1947)  
    Model 510 Duraliner (1949)  
Les Ateliers Prevost Inc.:  
    Interurban (1952)  
FitzJohn Coach Co.:  
    32 Passenger Duraliner (1946)  
    28 Passenger Duraliner (1946)  
    Model 310 CityLiner (1946)  
    37 Passenger Road Runner [1954]  
    33 Passenger Road Runner [1954]

Chilliwack Board of Trade

Box 2

- 56 Brief recommending construction of Agassiz -  
Rosedale Bridge, 1948.
- 57 Report of the Cherry Carnival Parade  
Committee, 1951.
- 58 District of Kent: issue of debentures, 1951.
- 59 Chilliwack Light Horse Breeders and Riding  
Club, Inc.: competition; constitutional  
amendments, 1952.
- 60 Minutes, ca. 1952.
- 61 List of members of Board of Trade committees,  
1951.
- 62 British Empire and Commonwealth Games, Vedder  
Canal, 1954.  
Notice of general meeting, November 18, 1954.
- 63 Annual Meeting reports, 1954.
- 64 Notice of election of officers, 1955.  
List of committees, 1955.  
Programme and instructions for parade (Cherry  
Carnival?) 1955.  
Notice of election of officers, 1956.  
British Columbia Borstal Association: list  
members, 1955.  
List of Executive members, (1955?).  
British Columbia Chamber of commerce:  
    quarterly meeting, July 1954.  
Minutes, Council meeting, April 1, 1954.  
Minutes, general meeting, March 18, 1954.



| <u>File</u> | <u>Description</u>  |
|-------------|---|
| 65          | Annual meeting reports, 1955.   |
|             | <u>Accounts receivable</u>  |
| 66          | Credit Protectors (collection agency):<br>circular The Herald (Vancouver):<br>statements of account, 1957.<br>Lincoln Equipment: statement of account,<br>waybill, 1958.<br>Key Oil and Gas (1955) Ltd.: prospectus,<br>clipping, waybill, statements, letter, 1957<br>- 1959.<br>J.B. Kinghorn: IOU, 1956. |
| 67          | Jack Mason: counter cheque, correspondence,<br>1957.<br>Ronald Eliason: statements, correspondence,<br>etc., 1956 - 1958.<br>International Hod Carriers, Buildings and<br>Common Laborers' Union of America:<br>clippings, statement, correspondence, 1956.   |
| 68          | Yarrow Central Agency: accident report,<br>correspondence, 1955 - 1956.<br><br>T. Jackson: statement of wages, 1957.<br>Post Office Department: T4 slips, 1953 -<br>1956.<br>Canadian Coachways Ltd.: statement, sales<br>tax return, 1955.<br>B.C. Directories Ltd.: circular, 1957.                       |
|             | <u>Miscellaneous</u>  |
| 69          | Receipt, Western Canadian Greyhound Lines<br>Ltd., 1950.<br>Payroll deduction records, hospital<br>insurance, 1953.<br>Blue leaflet of postal information.<br>Notes on budgeting.<br>List of employees, 1943 - 1954.<br>Descriptions of vehicles owned, 1947 - 1953.  |

| <u>File</u>  | <u>Description</u>  |
|--|---|
| 70   | <p>Timetables, 1956.</p> <p>Miscellaneous notes.</p> <p>Circular, Lenders Service Corp.</p> <p>Statement of account, McAllister Spring Co. Ltd., 1959.</p> <p>Chattel mortgage, Brentwood Dodge Ltd., 1961.</p> <p>Purchase order, Burroughs Adding Machine of Canada Ltd., 1955.</p> <p>Record of volume of business, 1942 - 1952.</p> |
| 71   | Blank cheque book.  |
| <p>Oversize<br/>folder<br/>no.3<br/>(in over-<br/>size box<br/>no. 10)</p> | <p>Timetable, 1943.</p> <p>Blueprint of bus waiting station, 1945.</p>  |

Addenda (987.85)

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 72                           | certificate of incorporation, 1944                                 |
| <p>73<br/>(oversize box)</p> | <p>Minute book, 1944-1968; [cancelled<br/>share certificates.]</p> |
| 74                           | Cancelled share certificates                                       |