

WABASH VALLEY

P R O F I L E S

A series of tributes to hometown people and events that have shaped our history.

Edward Bindley

In 1864, 23-year-old Edward H. Bindley moved to Terre Haute from Cincinnati to co-found a downtown retail drug store with Charles Eberle. For 115 years thereafter, E.H. Bindley & Co. was a juggernaut on the local commercial horizon.

While Bindley was born in Pittsburgh, his parents were natives of England. After growing up in Kentucky, he got a job as a bookkeeper in a Cincinnati pharmaceutical firm and saved enough money to start his own retail shop.

Lured by the economic prospects in Terre Haute, Eberle and Bindley opened their first store on Wabash Ave.

between Third and Fourth streets. In the late 1870s, the firm became a wholesale drug business. When Eberle retired in 1888, Bindley acquired his interest and moved to 666 Wabash Ave. He also built Bindley Block on the south side of Wabash Ave. near Seventh St. in the 600 block. He married the former Aimee Mayronne, a native of Louisiana. The Bindleys had five children and resided at 618 S. Sixth Street.

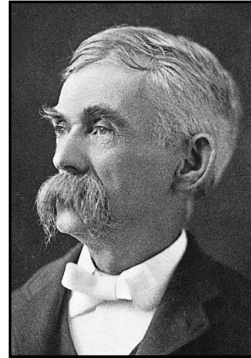
Active in promoting local business, Bindley was president of the Terre Haute Board of Trade for several years and an active member of the Terre Haute Commercial Club, predecessor of the Chamber of Commerce. Bindley died Nov. 14, 1918, at age 78. His widow survived until January 1932. After two of Bindley's three sons — Edward Jr. and J. Bruce — assumed management of the business, it relocated to 121 N. Fifth Street.

Bruce died June 10, 1946, leaving three sons: J. Bruce Jr. and William F. of Terre Haute and Edward H. III of Franklin, Ohio. Bruce Jr. and William were bequeathed Bruce's interest in the drug business while Edward received an interest in Bindley Block. Edward Jr. died childless Jan. 4, 1966, bequeathing his interest to nephew William. The widow and three children of Bruce Jr., who died in 1965, were not named beneficiaries of his interest in the pharmaceutical business.

On May 15, 1980, E.H. Bindley & Co. was sold, effective August 30, to Amfac Inc., a diversified New York Stock Exchange company. At the time, the company had 80 employees.

Virginia (Ryan) Bindley, second spouse and widow of William F. Bindley, is the only family member still residing in Vigo County. William E. Bindley, oldest son of William F., moved to Indianapolis in 1969 to found Bindley-Western Industries, a Fortune 500 wholesale drug firm *Fortune* magazine recently named one of the "most admired corporations in America." William F.'s three other children — Thomas, James and Ted — are not associated with Bindley-Western.

Artifacts from "the old Bindley drug store," originally given to Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, have been restored and are on display in a special room at the Vigo County Historical Society.



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