

Inventory of the

**Illinois Valley Area  
Chamber of Commerce  
LaSalle, Illinois**

Records

In the

Regional History Center

**RC 156**

## INTRODUCTION

Helen Brandt, President, donated the Illinois Valley Area Chamber of Commerce records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on September 1, 1982.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 2.75  
Number of containers: 4  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 156

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records in this collection document the history of the Illinois Valley Area Chamber of Commerce from 1946 to 1980. Presently, records dating 1912 to 1945 are missing. The materials are arranged into three main categories -- minutes and committee records, surveys and reports, and special program records (Example: Red Carpet Days). Only the general meeting minutes cover the entire time frame (1946-1980).

Information on the economy, industry, employment, and the population of the LaSalle, Peru, Oglesby, and Spring Valley areas can be found in the records. The minutes, in particular, document the Chamber's on-going attempt to bring more industry into the region. The Red Carpet Days program also emphasizes this concern. Other topics documented include community affairs, housing, building development, and fair employment practices. The collection provides an excellent opportunity for studying the growth of the region.

Researchers are urged to check the Center's Guide index and to consult with a staff member for collections containing complementary information.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Illinois Valley Area Chamber of Commerce organized in 1912 as the LaSalle-Peru Chamber of Commerce. After incorporating in 1924, the organization changed its name three times. In 1942 they became the Chamber of Commerce, LaSalle-Peru-Oglesby, in 1958 they became the Chamber of Commerce of LaSalle, Peru, Oglesby, Spring Valley, and in 1964 they took on their current name.

The purpose of the organization, as stated in the by-laws, was to advance the civic, commercial, industrial, labor, agricultural, professional, and general interests of the area. The members accomplished these tasks by urging industries to build in the area, funding special

development projects, and sponsoring entertainment programs for local citizens. Surveys and reports done by the Chamber on the retail market, the economy, health care, and employment educated the public on the area's growth and development.

Today, the Chamber continues to play an active role in community affairs.

### SUBJECT TRACINGS

Chamber of Commerce  
 Economic Development  
 Illinois Valley  
 Illinois Valley Area Chamber of Commerce  
 LaSalle  
 Peru  
 Oglesby  
 Population  
 Spring Valley

### COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Leases, Name Change Information, 1955-1956
	2	Board of Directors, Correspondence and Information, 1949-1959
	3-26	Meeting Minutes, 1946-1980 Jobs Committee:
	27	Meeting Minutes, 1972-1977
	28	Operating Statements, 1971-1977
	29	Pledges, 1972-1976
	30	Budgets, 1971-1977
	31	Public Events Task Force, 1971
	32	Membership Rosters, 1972-1973, 1977 Surveys and Reports:
	33	Anatomy of the Illinois Valley Area Retail Market, 1969, 1975-1977
	34	An Economic Projection Study for the Illinois Valley Area, 1967-1980
	35	Health Care Delivery, Pilot Survey, 1974
	36	Wage and Benefit Survey 1973

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	3
2	1-2	Wage and Benefit Survey for Hourly Employees, 1974-1975	
	3	Program Proposals and Plans, 1969, 1971- 1977	
	4	IVAC Newsletters, 1978-1979	
		Special Programs:	
	5-6	Business Education Day, 1972	
	7-8	Career Day, 1970, 1973	
	9-10	Elected Officials Day, 1974	
	11	Miss Heritage Days Pageant, 1971	
		Heritage Days, 1972:	
	12	Correspondence	
	13	Schedules and Flyers	
	14	Press Releases	
	15-16	Newspaper Clippings	
	17	Photo Contest	
		Heritage Days, 1973:	
	18	Correspondence	
	19	Schedules	
	20	Budgets	
	21	Press Releases	
	22	Pageant	
	23	Photographs (5)	
		Heritage Days, 1974:	
	24	Correspondence	
	25	Financial Reports	
	26-27	Newspaper Clippings	
	28	Pageant	
		Heritage Days, 1975:	
	29	Correspondence	
	30	Schedules	
	31	Financial Records	
	32	Newspaper Clippings	
		Miss Illinois Valley Pageant, 1975:	
	33	Board of Directors Minutes	
	34	Contestants and Program Schedules	
	35	Financial Information	
	36	Miss America Pageant Information	
	37	Rules and News Releases	
	38	Newspaper Clippings	
		Miss Illinois Valley Pageant, 1976:	
	39	Newspaper Clippings	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
2	40	Key Person Program, 1978: Correspondence
	41	Participant Lists
3	1	Advertising and Promotion
	2	Newspaper Clippings
		Red Carpet Days, 1971:
	3	Correspondence
	4	Schedules and Guest Lists
	5	Invitations
	6	Thank You Notes
	7	Financial Information
	8	Golf Outing
	9	Newsletters
	10	Photographs (16)
		Red Carpet Days, 1972:
	11	Correspondence
	12	Schedules and Mailing Lists
4	1	Responses from Invitees
	2	Finances and Golf Outing
	3	Newspaper Clippings
	4	Photographs (7)
	5	Red Carpet Days, 1975
	6	Red Carpet Days for Labor, 1977
	7-8	Photographs, n.d. (31)