

Inventory of the

Sterling Chamber of Commerce
Sterling, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 171

INTRODUCTION

The Sterling Chamber of Commerce donated its records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on April 10, 1984.

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Linear feet of shelf space: 7
Number of containers: 10 + 5 volumes
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 171

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Sterling Chamber of Commerce records, dating 1910-1982, are arranged into two series: Administrative Files and Subject Files. The Administrative Files include by-laws, membership information, financial records and a set of minutes from the Chamber's predecessor (1910) to the present organization (1978). Also included in this series are files on certain programs, committees, and events, such as the annual All-levels Management Dinner and the Consumer Affairs Committee, which handled consumer complaints. The Subject Files, which detail the work of Chamber committees and programs, are organized into the following subseries: Community Development, Downtown Merchants, Economic Development, General Information, Public Affairs, and Scrapbooks and Newsletters. These files include records from the Respect for Law & Order Committee (1967-1973), The Sterling Merchants Association (1942-1964), and the Industrial Council (1948-1978). Researchers should refer to the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce Records (RC 172) and the Regional History Center's Guide for additional collections of Chambers of Commerce records.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

In 1910 a group of Sterling businessmen organized the Merchant's Association. Three years later, in 1913, the Sterling and Rock Falls Commercial Club was formed to support the free enterprise system, meet the political, social and economic needs of the community, and to provide for the community's growth. The Merchant's Association continued to function as a subordinate group within the Commercial Club. In 1916 the Commercial Club became the Association of Commerce which, by 1931, was the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber served both Sterling and Rock Falls until 1956, when a separate Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce was organized (researchers should consult RC 172 - Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce Records for more information). During its years of service, the Chamber has accomplished many goals, including: reorganizing the Fire Department, establishing the Blackhawk Fire Training Center, building the Safety Park, forming the Unit School District, and

advocating the Alderman-City Manager form of government. Today, through its programs and committees, the Chamber continues to pursue its original purposes for the development of Sterling.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Chamber of Commerce
Economic Development
Retail Trade
Rock Falls
Sterling
Sterling Chamber of Commerce

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
Series I. Administrative Files			
Subseries A. Organization and Membership			
1	1	By-laws and History, 1976	
	2	Merger - Sterling and Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce, 1976-1977	
	3	Board of Directors and Executive Committee Minutes, 1977-1978	
	4	Board of Directors - Elections, 1940-1958, 1977-1978	
	5	Executive Correspondence, 1941, 1942, 1977, 1979	
	6	Certificate of Change of Registered Agent and Office, 1975, 1977	
	7	Chamber Quarters - New, 1977-1978	
	8	Evaluation Reports, 1971, 1976	
	9	Program of Work, 1974-1979	
	10	All-levels Management Dinner, 1972-1978	
	11	Ambassadors Club, 1966-1979	
2	1	Consumer Affairs Committee, 1977-1978	
	2	Consumer Complaints, 1975-1978	
	3	Consumer Complaints - American Buyers Club, 1978	
	4	Freddy Fender Concert, 1978	
			Membership:
	5-8	Account, 1929-1944	
	9	Cancellations, 1970-1976	
	10	Coffee Sessions, 1978-1979	
	11	Correspondence, 1969-1974, 1977-1978	
	12	Drive, 1966, 1970-1978	
	Subseries B. Minutes		
	3	1	Sterling Merchants Association - Ledger and Minute Book, 1910-1921
2-4		Chamber of Commerce Minutes, 1913-1925	
4	1-15	Chamber of Commerce Minutes, 1926-1978	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Subseries C. Finances		
4	16	Audit, 1973-1974
	17	Balance Sheets, 1971-1978
	18	Budget, 1972-1978
	19	Financial Statements, 1942-1943, 1961-1962, 1972
	20-22	Sales Journal A-W, 1934-1944
	23	Ledger, 1966-1967
	24	Cash Journal, 1966-1967
	25	Cash Receipts, July-December 1967
5	3 volumes	Ledger, 1916-1928
	4 volumes	Cash Book, 1916-1928
6	22 envelopes	Daily Record Sheets, May 1934-January 1961

Series II. Subject Files

Subseries A. Community Development

7	1	AIDS Program, 1974, 1976-1978
	2	Amtrak, 1975, 1976, 1978
	3	Aviation Committee and Airport Dedication, 1968-1969, 1973
	4	Bridge Commission, 1953, 1956, 1958,
	5-6	Canal, (1938-1958), 1963
	7	Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, 1964-1967, 1971-1972
		Christmas:
	8	Decorations, 1966-1967, 1978-1979
	9	Santa's Helper, 1966-1973, 1978
	10	Santa's Sleigh, 1972-1973
	11	CPR Courses, 1976-1977
	12	Fantus Company, 1967, 1970
	13	Fire Protection Committee, 1968-1969
	14	Hospital Committee, 1976-1978
	15	Jail Proposal, 1975-1976
	16	Operation Identification, 1972
		Respect for Law & Order Committee:
	17	Minutes, Correspondence and Programs, 1967-1971
	18	Steering Committee, 1968-1970
	19	Committee on Juvenile Delinquency Rehabilitation & Probation, 1969-1972
20	Committee on Police and Sheriff's Department, 1969-1973	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
7	21	Streets, Highways and Bridges Committee, 1966-1974
	22-23	Toll Roads, 1954, 1956, 1962-1965, 1971
	24	Trauma Center, 1972-1973
Subseries B. Downtown Merchants		
	25-31	Sterling Merchants Association - Minutes, 1942-1964
	32	Downtown Council, 1974-1975
	33-35	Downtown Development, Inc., 1966-1977
	36-37	Retail Affairs Committee, 1968-1973
	38	Fun in the Sun, 1968-1972
	39	Turkey Days, 1956-1957
Subseries C. Economic Development		
		Industrial Council:
	40	Administration and Correspondence, 1966-1976
8	1-3	Minutes, 1948-1963
	4	Personnel Managers Committee, 1966-1971
	5	Charles H. Farnham Scholarship, 1970-1975
	6	Golf Outing, 1969-1978
	7	Economic Development Committee, 1977-1979
	8	Economic Education, 1978
	9	Economic Profiles, 1962-1968, 1979
	10	Forklift Truck Rally, 1977
	11	Free Enterprise System Opinion Survey, 1976
	12	Industrial Business Affairs Committee, 1966-1967
	13	Industrial Revenue Bonds, 1971, 1973
	14	Industry Prospects, 1968-1973, 1978
	15	Wage and Benefit Survey, 1966-1970, 1973
Subseries D. General Information		
	16	American Chamber of Commerce Executives, 1977-1979
9	1	Blackhawk Fire Training Center, 1974
	2	Building Code Revision, 1978
	3	City Planning and Reports, 1944, 1949, 1951, 1964, 1977
	4	County School Survey, 1947
	5	County Supervisors - Legality of Appointment, 1948, 1952
	6	County Tax Survey, 1947

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
9	7	Coupon Book, 1976
	8	Fiesta Days, 1977
	9	Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, 1966-1974
	10	Illinois Retail Merchants Association, 1980, 1982
	11	Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, 1966-1971
	12	Intergovernmental Council, 1976
	13	Job Service, 1977-1980
	14	Northern Illinois Building Contractors Association, 1972-1973
	15	Pollution, April-July 1971
	16	Population Projections, 1970
	17	Safety Path, 1980-1981
	18	Sewage Treatment, 1950, 1973
	19	U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1970-1975
	20	Zoning, 1931-1960

Subseries E. Public Affairs

21	Business, Education, Industry Committee, 1966-1968
22	Business Seminars, 1975-1979
23	Congressional Action Committee, 1966-1970
24	Legislative Committee, 1975, 1977-1979
25	Legislative Correspondence, 1967-1979
26	Legislative Dinner, 1967-1975
27	Sterling High School, 1969-1970

Subseries F. Scrapbooks and Newsletters

	28-36	Sterling Chamber of Commerce Newsletter, October 1925-March 1929, October 1943-1951, 1967-1982
	37	U.S. Chamber of Commerce Newsletter, 1946-1948
10	1	U.S. Chamber of Commerce Newsletter, 1949-1950
	2-4	<u>Business Meter</u> , 1945-1966
	5	Maps, n.d.
	6-8	Clippings, 1942-1944
Oversize	5 volumes	Scrapbooks, 1919-1931, 1942, 1973-1974