

Inventory of the

Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce
Rock Falls, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 172

INTRODUCTION

The Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce donated the its records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on May 3, 1984.

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: 2.25
Number of containers: 3
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 172

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce are arranged into two series that partially document the Chamber's activities from 1956 to the present. Series I, Administrative Records, contains historical pamphlets, annual meeting information, newsletters, and Board of Directors' records. The Director's material includes minutes, agendas, reports, financial records, correspondence, and membership information. The second series consists of newsclippings pertaining to Chamber activities and area events 1960-1974. Researchers should refer to RC 171, Sterling Chamber of Commerce, for additional information. Prior to 1956, one organization, The Sterling-Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce, served both communities.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Early in 1956, a small group of Rock Falls business people met to form a Chamber of Commerce separate from the Sterling-Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce. There was sufficient interest in creating a separate organization and the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce was incorporated by the State of Illinois on March 15, 1956, with Dwaine Tompkins serving as the first President. Later in 1956, the Rock Falls Chamber affiliated with state national Chamber organizations. By the end of 1956, membership in the Chamber had grown to 45 and a part-time secretary was employed. During the next ten years, the Rock Falls Chamber expanded its involvement in the community, hired a full-time manager, and saw its membership grow to a total of 225 in 1966.

The Chamber's involvement in a wide spectrum of community activities is reflected in its current organizational divisions: Agriculture Community Relations, Public Affairs, Organizational Affairs and Community Development. Specific activities include Rock Fall Days, political forums, and business seminars. Although Rock Falls separated from its twin city chamber in 1956, the two organizations frequently combine their resources. The Sterling-Rock Falls Joint Economic Development Council is but one example of this cooperation.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

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

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Administrative Records		
1	1	Rock Falls Chamber; history, constitution, membership activities, 1981-1982
	2	Annual meetings, 1983-1984
	3	Map, brochures
	4-10	Board of Directors'; minutes, reports, financial records, 1956-1964
	11	Consumer--Retailer Survey of Rock Falls, Illinois, 1960
	12	Newsletters, 1979-2002
3	1-	Newsletters, 2003+
Series II. Newsclippings		
1	13-15	Newsclippings, 1960-1966
2	1-16	Newsclippings, 1967-1974