

Inventory of the

Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce
Rockford, Illinois

Records

In the
Regional History Center

RC 180

INTRODUCTION

The Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce donated its inactive records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center in January 1986. Addenda were added at later dates. Records continue to be added.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records in this collection document the activities of the Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce from 1910 to the present. The original collection is arranged in seven series. The addendum donated in April 2006 adds an eighth series, Council of 100 Records.

Series I and its five subseries contains many of the core organizational records of the Rockford Chamber including Board of Directors' records, Executive Committee records, Financial Statements, Annual Meeting Records and Annual Reports, and Credit Bureau records. A later addendum adds Awards to the Annual Meeting Records and Annual Reports subseries.

The second series is comprised of Correspondence. It should be noted that a considerable amount of committee information is contained in this series.

Newsletters contained in Series III are especially valuable since they often provide documentation of Chamber activities for years not covered by Board records. A later addendum adds Membership/Development to this series.

Series IV, Subject Files, is arranged alphabetically and provide information on most of the major issues that confronted the Rockford community during the first three-quarters of the twentieth century.

The fifth series is the Industry File. These files span the years 1940-1975 and are arranged alphabetically by company name. An index for the series is contained in Box 15, Folder 27. The amount of information for each company varies widely. Also included in this series is general information on Rockford industry including statistics, strike information, and some correspondence.

More than 400 photographs make up Series VI. Photographs are arranged alphabetically by subject with the number of prints and negatives listed for each folder.

Series VII, Oversize, includes newsclippings, one photograph, an 1889 issue of Frank Leslie's Illustrated containing an article on Rockford, and a 1921 membership roster (photocopy in Box 1, Folder 1). The addendum includes award certificates, publications, 16mm films, an album, and several artifacts.

The Council of 100 records comprise series VIII. These files contain information on the activities of the Council. Of special interest are the VHS Tapes that consist of business properties that the Council was promoting for future use, local business highlights, and several tapes promoting development in Rockford.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

In June 1910 the Board of Directors of the Rockford Club authorized the club's President to appoint a committee to organize a Chamber of Commerce for the City of Rockford. A month later, on July 13, 1910 a group of approximately 1,000 businessmen and manufacturers met on the river steamer "Illinois" to organize a chamber. Chairman of the organizing committee was E.H. Keeler. This meeting was followed a month later by a Chamber "Round-up" day to solicit members for the new Chamber. In the months following these initial efforts the group elected a Board of Directors, officers, and created a committee structure. The first officers were President R.K. Welsh, Vice President F.S. Datin, Treasurer August Floberg, and Secretary Art. G. Brown. Committees created were: Finance, Conventions, Traveling Men, Civic Improvement, Membership, Manufacturers, *Colleseum*, and Municipal. In 1921 the Chamber conducted a re-organization and recruitment campaign that succeeded in signing up over 1,400 members. In April of the same year the Chamber incorporated. Early in its history the Chamber became involved with the local credit bureau which had been established in 1900 as the Rockford Business and Professional Men's Association. The organization became a department of the Chamber in 1923 and was known as the Credit Rating Bureau. In 1944 the Credit Bureau of Rockford was incorporated as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce.

During most of its first fifty years the Chamber focused much of its energies on problems and issues relating to private business and economic development. As the local economy changed and problems common to mature urban-industrial centers emerged, the Chamber expanded its activities. Through its annual program of work, standing committees and project committees the Chamber broadened its areas of community involvement. The Chamber continues to function in many traditional roles but now sees itself as a community-centered problem solving organization that emphasizes cooperation among the business, government, and education communities in Rockford.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Chamber of Commerce
 Chamber of Commerce of Rockford Area
 Discrimination
 Economic Development
 Photographs
 Retail Trade
 Rockford (Ill.)
 School District of Rockford (Ill.)
 Segregation in education

COLLECTION INVENTORY

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> |
|---|---------------|---|
| Series I. Historical Information; Board of Directors' Records, Executive Committee, Financial, Annual Meetings, Credit Bureau | | |
| Subseries A. Historical Information, Board of Directors' Records | | |
| 1 | 1 2-26 | Chamber Historical Information, 1910-1971, 1992 Board of Directors' Records, 1929, 1936-1962 |
| 2 | 1-23 | Board of Directors' Records, 1963-1978 |
| 3 | 1-6 | Board of Directors' Records, 1978-1981 |
| Subseries B. Executive Committee | | |
| | 7-12 | Executive Committee Records, 1966-1980 |
| Subseries C. Financial Records | | |
| | 13-14 | Financial Statements, 1946-1962 |
| Subseries D. Annual Meetings, Reports | | |
| | 15-22 23 | Annual Meetings, 1957-1975 Annual Reports, (1923-1985) |
| Subseries E. Credit Bureau | | |
| | 24-27 | Credit Bureau, 1944-1964 |
| Series II. Correspondence | | |
| 4 | 1-19 | Correspondence, A-H, (1949-1975) |
| 5 | 1-17 | Correspondence, I-P, (1951-1975) |
| 6 | 1-6 | Correspondence, R-T, (1950-1975) |
| 7 | 1-5 | Correspondence, T-Z, (1956-1975) |
| Series III. Newsletters | | |
| | 6 | Confidential Information Sheet, 1919 |
| 8 | 1-2 3 | Confidential Information Sheet, 1920-1921 Members Information Sheet, 1922 |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | 4 |
|------------|---------------|---|---|
| 8 | 4 | Members Bulletin (1923-1929); Greater Rockford, April-December, 1929 | |
| | 5-6 | Monthly News Bulletin, 1934-1942 | |
| | 7 | Newsletter, 1943-1945 | |
| 9 | 1-7 | Rockford Action Report, (January 1973-June 1974); (November 1980-July 1987); August 1990-September 1995 | |
| | 8-21 | Voice, October 1995-2008 | |
| 10 | 1-9 | Voice, 2009- January 2012 | |
| | 10 | <u>One</u> , November 2011, 2012 | |

Series IV. Subject Files

| | | | |
|----|-------|--|--|
| 11 | 1-7 | Accreditation, 1968-1977 | |
| | 8-9 | All American City, 1970, 1975 | |
| | 10 | Bankruptcy, 1968 | |
| | 11 | Bicentennial, 1974-1976 | |
| | 12 | Biographical, Rockford Citizens | |
| | 13 | Chamber Surveys, 1951, 1967 | |
| | 14-16 | City-County Planning Commission, 1971-1978 | |
| | 17 | City-Government Study, 1966-1967 | |
| | 18-19 | City Manager Form of Government, 1955-1956, 1966 | |
| | 20-21 | Civic Auditorium, 1944-1968 | |
| | 22-23 | Civic Beautification, 1966-1967 | |
| | 24 | C.O.P.E., 1968-1969 | |
| | 25-28 | Con-Con, 1970 | |
| | 29 | Employment Statistics, 1957-1973 | |
| | 30 | Employment Manpower Directory, Training 1969-1974 | |
| 12 | 1-3 | Flood Control, 1953-1973 | |
| | 4 | Focus on the City, 1967 | |
| | 5-6 | Forward Rockford Congress, 1969-1970 | |
| | 7 | Greater Rockford Airport, 1946-1971 | |
| | 8-9 | Hassell-Cramer Flight, 1928, Bert Hassell Day, 1969 | |
| | 10-11 | Human Resources, 1970-1973 | |
| | 12 | Industrial Affairs, 1968 | |
| | 13 | Junior League & Forward Rockford, 1969-1970, 1972-1973 | |
| | | Labor Relations: | |
| | 14 | Fair Employment Practices, 1955-1956 | |
| | 15 | GE Boycott and Strike, 1969-1970 | |
| | 16 | Guaranteed Wage, 1953-1956 | |
| | 17 | Organizing Manuals, 1958-1961 | |
| | 18 | Rockford CIO, 1945-1947, 1949 | |
| | 19 | Rockford Newspapers; Strikes, 1952-1970 | |
| | 20 | Strikes, 1953-1971 | |
| 13 | 1 | Strikes, 1950-1976 | |
| | 2 | Surveys, Strike Statistics, 1948-1956 | |
| | 3 | Taft-Hartley, 1953 | |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | 5 | |
|------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 13 | 4 | Unemployment, Workman's Compensation, 1950-1974 | | |
| | 5 | Unions, 1946-1974 | | |
| | 6 | Union Elections, 1950-1976 | | |
| | 7 | Wages, 1946-1974 | | |
| | 8 | Legislative Affairs, World Court, 1965-1966 | | |
| | 9 | Lists, Miscellaneous, 1953-1973 | | |
| | 10 | Lynn, Janet, Welcome 1972 | | |
| | 11-12 | Manufacturers Directories, Rockford, 1928-1970, 1987 | | |
| | 13 | Manufacturers Directories, Other Cities, 1950-1974 | | |
| | 14 | Maps; Rockford and Winnebago County, 1957-1970 | | |
| | 15 | Membership Directories, 1972-1974 | | |
| | 16 | Minorities Affairs Council, 1971-1973 | | |
| | 17 | Northern Illinois Foundation for Medical Care, 1973 | | |
| | 18-19 | Policy Statements, 1955-1972 | | |
| | 20 | Pollution Control, 1949-1971 | | |
| | 21 | Race Relations, 1963-1969 | | |
| | 22 | RAPS (Rockford Area Planning Service), 1971-1973 | | |
| | 23-24 | Reports, Rockford Companies and Organizations, 1967-1974 | | |
| | 25 | Resolutions, 1951-1968 | | |
| | 26 | Retail Data, Union Activities, 1956-1965 | | |
| | 27 | Retail Trade, 1947 | | |
| | | Rockford: | | |
| | 28 | Air Service Survey, 1969 | | |
| | 29 | Business Climate Appraisal, 1958 | | |
| | | <u>Business Review</u> , September-November 1969 | | |
| | 30 | City Government Survey, 1940, 1943-1944 | | |
| | 14 | 1 | College, 1955-1975 | |
| | | 2 | Consumer Survey, 1947 | |
| | | | Commission on Human Relations, 1959-1972 | |
| | | 3 | Fire Department, 1969 | |
| 4 | | Flag, 1957-1959 | | |
| 5-6 | | History | | |
| 7-8 | | Information, 1934-1975 | | |
| 9 | | Metro Theatre, 1968 | | |
| | | Museum Center, 1972 | | |
| | | Newspapers, Inc., 1971 | | |
| | | Ordinances: | | |
| 10 | | Electrical Code, 1952-1953 | | |
| 11 | | Employee Compensation, 1954 | | |
| 12 | | Handicap, Access, 1972 | | |
| 13 | | Housing, 1953-1955, 1968 | | |
| 14 | | Subdivision, 1959 | | |
| 15 | | Zoning, 1927, 1950, 1960-1961 | | |
| 16 | | Miscellaneous Ordinance | | |
| | | Information, 1934-1956 | | |
| 17 | | Park District, 1955-1973 | | |
| 18-19 | | Publicity, 1929-1974 | | |
| 20 | Sanitary District, 1946-1971 | | | |
| 21 | School of Medicine, 1970, 1975 | | | |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> |
|------------|--|--|
| 14 | 22 | Statistics, 1922-1974 |
| | 23 | United Fund, 1969, 1972 |
| | 24 | Water, 1946-1960 |
| | 25-26 | School Referendum, 1976-1977 |
| | 27 | Taggart, Barbara, Rockford Centennial Song, 1952 |
| | 28 | Television Programs, 1953-1966 |
| 15 | 1 | Traffic Control, 1942-1957 |
| | 2 | Trask Street Bridge Picnic, 1911-1953 |
| | 3 | Tree Preservation, 1955-1967 |
| | 4 | Urban Development and Renewal, 1964-1969 |
| | 5 | U.S. Area Redevelopment Administration, 1960-1964 |
| | 6 | West State Street Lighting Project, 1954 |
| | 7 | Whitman Street Bridge, 1955-1959 |
| | 8 | Winnebago County Facts and Figures, 1966-1971 |
| | 9 | Winnebago County History, 1877-1972 |
| | | Comprehensive Plans |
| | 10 | Cherry Valley, 1973 |
| | 11 | Rockford-Winnebago, 1967-1970 |
| | 12 | Rockton, 1971 |
| | | General Plan |
| | 13 | Rockford Central Area, 1963 |
| | 14 | City of Rockford and Winnebago County, 1957 |
| | 15 | Area Manpower Review, Rockford, 1972 |
| | 16 | Capital Improvement Plan, Rockford, 1971-1976 |
| | 17 | Community Facilities, Rockford and Winnebago, 1969-1970 |
| | 18 | Community Profile, Winnebago County, 1970-1971 |
| | 19 | Employment Study Instruction Manual, Rockford, 1969 |
| | 20-21 | Flood Hazards in Winnebago County, 1974 |
| | 22 | Land us for DuPage, 1970 |
| | 23 | Park and Open Space Policy Plan, Rockford and Winnebago County, 1973 |
| | 24 | Public Utilities in Winnebago County, 1970 |
| | 25 | Regional Development Guide, Rock Valley, 1972 |
| 26 | Rockford Area Transportation Study, 1970 | |

Series V. Industry File, 1940-1975

| | | |
|----|-------|--|
| | 27 | Industry File Index |
| | 28-33 | A-B |
| 16 | 1-20 | B-N |
| 17 | 1-18 | N-W |
| | 19 | Industrial Expansion, Employment Statistics, (1950-1965) |
| | 20-22 | Industrial History, Correspondence, (1945-1975) |
| 18 | 1-4 | Newsclippings; Manufacturers Directory, Expansion, Labor Relations, Strikes, (1945-1965) |
| | 5 | Rockford Strike Record, 1945-1965 |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> |
|------------------------|---------------|---|
| Series VI. Photographs | | |
| 18 | 6 | Aerial Views of Rockford, (1936-1960's) (7) Airport, 1960-1961 (5) |
| | 7 | Bridges, n.d. (4) |
| | 8 | Buildings, 1936-1963 (25, 5 negs.) |
| | 8 | Business Districts, 1950's (3, 8 negs.) |
| | 9 | Country Clubs, 1963, n.d. (10) |
| | 9 | Chamber and Credit Bureau, 1950's (5, 5 negs.) |
| | 10-11 | Chamber Speakers, 1962, 1965 (4) |
| | 10-11 | Chamber Past Presidents, (1929-1966) (91) |
| | 12 | Churches, n.d., (7) |
| | 12 | Hospitals, 1966, n.d. (13) |
| | 12 | Hotels, Motels, 1975, n.d. (16) |
| | 13 | Industrial Development Committee, 1962-1965 (13) |
| | 13 | Parks, (1952-1959), (17, 5 negs.) |
| 19 | 1 | Politicians, 1960, 1962, n.d. (19) |
| | 1 | Residential Scenes, 1952, 1962, n.d. (10) |
| | 2 | Restaurants, n.d. (9) |
| | 2 | Rockford Civic Leaders, 1965-1967, n.d. (12) |
| | 2 | Rockford College, 1956, 1959, 1966, n.d. (9) |
| | 3 | Rockford Community, 1972, n.d. (29) |
| | 4 | Rockford, n.d. (31) |
| | 4 | Rockford Photo Album, 1899 |
| | 5 | Rockford, n.d. (23) |
| | 6 | Rockford, 1871, 1905, 1918, 1922, 1929, n.d. (19) |
| | 7 | Schools, 1961, 1966, 1971, n.d. (31) |
| Series VII. Oversize | | |
| 20 | 1-3 | Scrapbook Clippings, 1947-April 1950 |
| 21 | 1-4 | Scrapbook Clippings, July 1949-1951 |
| | 5 | <u>Frank Leslie's Illustrated</u> , December 28, 1889 |
| Oversize Drawer 23 | 4 | Membership Roster, Rockford Chamber, May 1921 Photograph of Pickets (Possibly at J.I. Case), October 8, 1946 Reproduction of Centennial Newspaper (2), n.d. |
| <u>ADDENDUM</u> | | |
| 22 | 1 | Action File, 1968-1978 |
| | 2-9 | Membership Directories [Business Directories], (1974-1991, 2000-2003, 2006-2007, 2011) |
| 23 | 1 | Objectives and Purpose, 1974-1976 |
| | 2 | Program of Action, 1968-1971, n.d. |
| | 3 | Program of Work, 1983-1992 |
| | 4 | Promotional Booklets for Rockford, n.d. |
| | 5 | Competitive Advantage, Action Plan, 1993-1995 |
| | 6 | A Community and Relocation Guide, Rockford, Illinois, n.d. |
| | 7 | Yearbook, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005 |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | 8 |
|------------|---------------|---|---|
| 24 | 1 | Yearbook and Annual Report, 2006-2011 | |
| | 2-3 | Manufacturers Directory, 2002-2006 | |
| | 4-5 | Business Community Directory & Relocation Guide, 2003-2006 | |
| | 6-8 | Chamber Membership Directory & Relocation Guide, 2007-2010, 2012-2013 | |
| | 9 | A Relocation Guide, 2006-2009 | |
| | 10 | Community Relocation Guide, 2010-2013 | |
| | 11 | The Rock River Valley Almanac, n.d., 2004 | |
| | 12 | Area Maps of Rockford & The Rock River Valley, 2005; Rockford City Street Map, n.d., 2012 | |
| | 13 | Winnebago County, Illinois Atlas, 2008 | |
| | 14 | Calendar of Events, 2007-2010, 2012 | |
| | 15 | Annual Dinner Program, 2008-2009 | |

ADDENDUM

| | |
|----|---|
| 16 | Secretaries of Rockford Chamber of Commerce, a list, 1912-2011 |
| 17 | 2011 One Hundredth Birthday Celebration and Calendar of Events, 2011. |

ADDENDUM

Series I. Historical Information; Board of Directors' Records, Executive Committee, Financial, Annual Meetings, Credit Bureau

Subseries A. Historical Information, Board of Directors' Records

| | |
|----|--|
| 18 | By-laws, 1968, n.d. |
| 19 | Historical Information, n.d.; Past Presidents, 1911-1990 |
| 20 | Chamber Reaccreditation, 1977 |
| 21 | News Releases, 1968-1969, 1991 |
| 22 | Chamber Historical Events Timeline, 1910-2012 |

Subseries B. Executive Committee

| | |
|----|---|
| 23 | Executive Committee Meeting, March 13, 1990 (By-laws Meeting) |
|----|---|

Subseries D. Annual Meetings, Reports, Awards

| | | |
|----|-----|--|
| 25 | 1 | All America City Award, 1977-1978 |
| | 2 | Annual Meetings, (1956-1965) |
| | 3 | Annual Meetings and Awards, 1966-1969 |
| | 4 | Annual Meeting Awards Checklist and Criteria, 1975, n.d. |
| | 5 | Annual Meetings and Awards, 1970-1979 |
| | 6 | Awards Committee, 1980 |
| | 7 | Annual Meetings and Awards, 1981 |
| | 8-9 | Annual Meeting, 1982-1987 |
| | 10 | Awards Committee, 1987 |
| | 11 | Annual Meeting, 1988 |
| | 12 | Awards Committee, 1988 |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> |
|--|---|---|
| 26 | 1 | Annual Meeting, 1989, 1991 |
| | 2 | Awards, 1991 |
| | 3 | Annual Meeting, 1992 |
| | 4 | Awards, 1992 |
| | 5 | Annual Meeting, 1993-1994 |
| | 6 | Awards, 1994 |
| | 7 | Athena Award, 1993-1994 |
| | 8 | Athena Award Information, Business Women's Council (BWC), (1985-1994) |
| | 9 | Athena Award Nominees, 1987 |
| | 10 | Central City Council Annual Meetings, 1969-1972 |
| | 11 | Chamber Awards, 1963-1966; Chamber Service Awards, (1971-1983) |
| | 12 | Community Awards, 1978 |
| | 13 | Downtown Business Association of Rockford, Annual Meetings, 1973-1975 |
| | 14 | Forward Rockford Award, (1969-1994) |
| | 15 | Krohnen Kratz Award, 1980-1982 |
| | 16 | Les H. Geddes Award, (1971-1984) |
| | 17 | Make It In Rockford, 1979-1982 |
| | 18 | Maltese Cross Award, 1975-1977 |
| | 19 | National Association for Membership Development Award, 1999 |
| | 20 | Red Carpet Award, (1967-1976) |
| | 21 | Top of Illinois Award, 1963-1994 |
| Series III. Newsletters and Membership/Development | | |
| 27 | 22 | Business Directory, 1982-1983 |
| | 23 | Mailing Lists, (1988-1994) |
| | 24 | Membership: |
| | | Classifications, 1982 |
| | 1 | Correspondence, 1980-1981 |
| | 2 | Decal, 1957 |
| | 3 | Development Committee, 1978 |
| | 4 | Development Correspondence, 1978-1981 |
| | 5 | Directory, Ideas, n.d. |
| | 6 | Drive Prizes, 1979, n.d. |
| | 7 | General, 1981-1984 |
| | 8 | Luncheon, Free Enterprise Day, Steve Ritchie, March 10, 1978 |
| | 9 | Mailings, Sample, 1974-1977 |
| | 10 | Plaques, 1977 |
| | 11 | Procedures, n.d. |
| 12 | Campaigns: | |
| | "Ideas," n.d. | |
| | "Make This Week Your Week to Join...," n.d. | |
| | Membership Campaign, Spring 1983 | |
| | Membership Drive/Chamber Week, 1977 | |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | 10 |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|----|
| 27 | 16 | Membership Drive, 1978-1979 | |
| | 17 | Pledges, 1979 | |
| | 18 | Prospects Used for Campaign, 1980 | |
| | 19 | "What's In It for...," n.d. | |
| | 20 | "Together We Can...," ca. 2012 | |
| Series IV. Subject Files | | | |
| 28 | 1 | Ad Hoc Hyphenation Utilization Task Force, 1978-1980 | |
| | 2 | Airport Day, October 13, 1979 | |
| | 3 | American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), 1981-1982 | |
| | 4 | An Investigation of Volatile Organic Chemical Contamination in Groundwater Near Rockton, Illinois by Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, March 1988 | |
| | 5 | "At the Top in Illinois Visit Rockford" Decals, n.d. | |
| | 6 | Attitudes Up, 1984-1985 | |
| | 7 | Barber-Colman Company, "Sources of Our Freedoms" Advertising Series, 1963 | |
| | 8 | Beattie Plaza Project, 1981 | |
| | 9 | Board of Counselors, October 1979-February 1980 | |
| | 10 | Business/Media Conference, Louisville, Kentucky, 1980 | |
| | 11 | Chamber Sponsored Special Events, 1976 | |
| | 12 | Charrette Steering Committee and Northern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, n.d. | |
| | | City Government Study Committee: | |
| | 13 | City Comptroller for Rockford, 1967-1968 | |
| | 14 | Sketch Plan Rockford and Winnebago County, Illinois, 1961 | |
| | 15 | Statements at Hearings for Strong Mayor Form of Government, 1966-1967 | |
| | 16 | Civil Auditorium Ad, Rockford Morning Star and Register-Republic, April 8/9, 1965 | |
| | 17 | Civic Auditorium Facilities Report, July 1, 1958 | |
| | 18 | Civic League, Inc., (1968, 1975-1979) | |
| | 19 | ComPERA, 1981 | |
| | 20 | Convention Brochure, n.d. | |
| | | Council of 100: | |
| | 21 | Major Activities of Executive Director, December 1980-July 1982 | |
| | 22 | Manufacturer Interviews, 1980-1981 | |
| 29 | 1 | Miscellaneous, October 1980-April 1982 | |
| | 2 | Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA) and Advisory Committee, 1979-1982 | |
| | 3 | Economic Expansion Task Force, Final Report, November 14, 1972 | |
| | 4 | Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), Fly-In, 1967-1970 | |
| | 5 | EXPO, 1985 | |
| | 6 | Finance Committee, 1981-1982 | |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | 11 | |
|------------|---------------|---|---|--|
| 29 | 7 | Flood and Stormwater Management Course, 1980 | | |
| | 8 | Forward Rockford Logo, n.d. | | |
| | 9 | Greater Rockford Banquet, September 17, 1978 | | |
| | 10 | Gun Control Legislation, 1968 | | |
| | 11 | Home Rule, 1983 | | |
| | | Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (IACCE): | | |
| | 12 | General, 1978-1982 | | |
| | 13 | Joint Chamber Executives Conference, May 11-13, 1982 | | |
| | 14 | Joint Conference, Post Conference material, May-June 1982 | | |
| | 30 | 1 | Spring Conference, Planning, March 1981-May 1982 | |
| | | 2 | Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Minutes and Meetings, 1980-1981; Quarterly Review, August 27, 1980 | |
| | | | Illinois Manufacturers Association (IMA): | |
| | | 3 | Industry Day, April 28, 1982 | |
| | | 4 | Meeting, September 19, 1980 | |
| 5 | | Illinois State Chamber of Commerce (ISCC) Conference, 1981 | | |
| 6 | | Inaugural Committee for January 1981, November-December 1980 | | |
| 7 | | INC. Magazine, 1984 | | |
| 8 | | Individual Marketing Plan, 1991-1994 | | |
| 9 | | Industry Expo '80 and '81, (July 1980-February 1981) | | |
| 10 | | Insurance Committee, 1981 | | |
| 11 | | International Festival Committee Notes, On the Waterfront, 1984 | | |
| 12-13 | | Inter-Regional Leadership Visit, Chattanooga, TN, October 23-26, 2002 | | |
| 14 | | Jaycees, (1970-1977) | | |
| 15 | | Joint Committee for Economic Stimulation, 1980 | | |
| 16 | | Junior Achievement Recognition Luncheon, (1969-1977) | | |
| 17 | | Junior Achievement Recognition Plaque, n.d. | | |
| 18 | | Junior Bowling Tournament, 1980-1982 | | |
| 31 | 1 | Library Study Committee, [Rockford Public Library], 1975-1979 | | |
| | 2 | Map, 1983 | | |
| | 3 | Maps, Rockford, Illinois, 1949, n.d. | | |
| | 4 | Management Planning Objectives, January-June 1979 | | |
| | 5 | Management Planning Objectives, January-June 1980 | | |
| | 6 | Men At Work, 1965, n.d. | | |
| | 7 | Metro Mass Transit Task Force, 1979 | | |
| | 8 | Midwest Industrial Management Association (MIMA), 1981: | | |
| | 9 | Contract, 1980-1983 | | |
| | 10-16 | Fall 1981-1988 | | |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | 12 |
|------------|--|---|----|
| 32 | 1 | Midwest Marketing Program, 1983 | |
| | 2 | National Association of Membership Directors (NAMMD), 1980 | |
| | 3 | National Industrial Council (NIC), (1966-1972) | |
| | 4 | Olympic Trials Slide Program Script, 1972 | |
| | 5 | Operation Appreciation Day, 1977: | |
| | 6 | Sample Membership Packet, 1977 | |
| | 7 | Luncheon, 1979 | |
| | 8 | Parade, July 4, 1984 | |
| | 9 | Parade Sub-committee, Rockford's 150 th Anniversary, 1984 | |
| | 10 | Percy (Charles H.) Meeting, 1980 | |
| | 11 | President's Private Initiative, "Quick Touch" System, 1982 | |
| | 12 | Procurement Conference, 1982 | |
| | 13 | Reaccreditation, 1981 | |
| | 14 | Regional Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT), Steering Committee, 1980-1981 | |
| | 15 | Rock River Music Fest, 1980 | |
| | 16 | Rock River Valley Regional Economic Summit: | |
| | 17 | Boone County, April 1-2, 2004 | |
| | | Ogle County, April 1-2, 2004 | |
| 33 | 1 | Stephenson County, April 1-2, 2004 | |
| | 2 | Winnebago County, April 1-2, 2004 | |
| | 3 | Rockford Pro-Am 4, 1980 | |
| | | Rockford Public Schools: | |
| | 4 | School Desegregation, 1969-1972 | |
| | 5 | School Desegregation Committee, 1969-1972 | |
| | 6 | Analysis of Within School Integration Plans of the Rockford Public School System, Eugene E. Eubanks and Sandra V. Walker, April 7, 1991 | |
| | 7 | Budget, 1992-1993 | |
| | 8 | Budget Plan for the Fiscal 1988-89 School Year at Level of Current Income for the 1987-88 School Year, 1987 | |
| | 9 | Budget Reductions FY94, January 1993 | |
| | 10 | Business Task Force for School District 205, Reports and Recommendations, 1984-1985 | |
| | 11 | Career Education, 1993 | |
| | 12 | Cincinnati Business Committee Task Force on Public Schools, Report and Recommendations, Clement L. Buenger, September 5, 1991 | |
| | 13 | Cincinnati Public Schools Mini District Design, February 10, 1992 | |
| | 14 | Cincinnati Public Schools Organization Charts, May 1992 | |
| 15 | Combined Financial Statements and Supplemental Data, June 30, 1992 | | |
| 34 | 1 | Community Education Task Force, 1992-1993: | |
| | 2 | Finance Committee, 1992-1993 | |
| | 3 | Finance Committee, Revenue Subcommittee, 1993 | |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | 13 | |
|------------|---------------|---|--|--|
| 34 | 4 | Organizational Structure Committee, 1992 | | |
| | 5 | Organizational Structure Committee, Infrastructure Subcommittee, Final Report, June 1993 | | |
| | 6 | Orientation and Information Outline, June 30, 1992 | | |
| | 7 | Comprehensive Financial Plan for Rockford School District 205, January 1992 | | |
| | 8 | Enrollment Projections, 1992-1998, November 1992 | | |
| | 9 | Expenditures and Revenue Reports, December 31, 1992 | | |
| | 10 | Fourth Quarterly Report in the Case of People Who Care vs. Rockford Board of Education, Eugene E. Eubanks, June 10, 1992 | | |
| | 11 | Proposed Budget, 1992-1993 | | |
| | 12 | Report of the 1988 Ad Hoc Committee Finance Subcommittee Board of Education, June 14, 1988 | | |
| | 13 | Report to Management, June 30, 1992 | | |
| | 14 | Rockford Board of Education, Report on Agreed-Upon Procedures, December 19, 1991 | | |
| | 15 | School/Business Partnership, 1992-1993 | | |
| | 16 | School Purchasing Procedures, 1992 | | |
| | 35 | 1 | <u>State, Local & Federal Financial for Illinois Public Schools, 1991-1992</u> | |
| | | 2 | Teacher Retirement System/5+5 Legislation, 1992-1993 | |
| | | 3 | Youth Apprenticeship Program Sponsorship for 1993-1999, 1993 | |
| 4 | | Rockford Regional Academic Center: "A Survey and Report of Interest in and Availability of Systems for the Delivery of Instruction by Remote Methods," July 1980 | | |
| 5 | | Annual Report 1977-1978; Informational Folder, 1981 | | |
| 6-7 | | Meeting Minutes, Agendas, and Correspondence, 1978-1981 | | |
| 8 | | Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois, Fact, Figures, Features, 1972-1973 | | |
| 9 | | Rotary Club, Richard Clark Correspondence, 1979-1981 | | |
| 10 | | Ryan, Representative George Meeting, September 10, 1980 | | |
| 11 | | Sandy Lenz, Champions on Ice, December 1979 | | |
| 12 | | Service Club Luncheon, January 22, 1981 | | |
| 36 | | 1 | Songs, 1951-1970 | |
| | 2 | Special Finance/Upgrade Committee, 1981-1982 | | |
| | 3 | Speech Published by the Rockford Chamber of Commerce, "Freedom and Responsibility" by Dr. Henry M. Wriston, 1956 | | |
| | 4 | Spring Legislative Conference, March 19-20, 1985 | | |
| | 5 | Tax Levy Ordinance, 1962-1963 | | |
| | 6 | Tax Review, City of Rockford and Winnebago County: Your Taxes and Where They Go by James A. Rourke, 1935 | | |
| | 7 | Trans World Airlines, TWA, 1978, 1980 | | |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | 14 |
|------------------------|---------------|---|----|
| | | Turning Point: | |
| 36 | 8 | Correspondence, 1980 | |
| | 9 | Programs, 1979-1980 | |
| | 10 | Registration, 1979 | |
| | 11 | Seminar, Jim Hooker, September 1977 | |
| | 12 | Seminars, 1979 | |
| | 13 | U.S. 20 Bypass Opening, October 10, 1964 | |
| | 14 | U.S. Department of Commerce, Associate Office, Rockford, 1978 | |
| | 15 | Vandalism Task Force, 1979 | |
| | 16 | World Affairs Conference Banquet, 1980 | |
| | | World Trade Club of Northern Illinois: | |
| | 17 | AIIESEC, NIU, 1977-1978 | |
| | 18 | AMCHAMS, 1977-1978 | |
| | 19 | Chambers of Commerce with Foreign Trade Services, 1978 | |
| | 20 | "Export Awareness: A Conference Aimed at Increasing Your Profits and Growth Through Exporting," June 25, 1975 | |
| | 21 | Export Awareness Questionnaire, 1975 | |
| | 22 | Fast-Match Form, n.d. | |
| | 23 | Firms Making Shipment to Orient, 1979 | |
| | 24 | Recommendations on Export Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Task Force, n.d. | |
| | 25 | News Releases, 1976-1978 | |
| | | World Trade Club of Northern Illinois, Specific Countries: | |
| | 26 | Australia, n.d. | |
| | 27 | Brazil, 1977 | |
| | 28 | Korea, 1977 | |
| | 29 | Philippine Consulate, Mr. Reyes (Hardware Industry), 1976 | |
| | | World Trade Club of Northern Illinois, Miscellaneous: | |
| | 30 | 1977-1980 | |
| | 31 | Export Seminar, March 15, 1978 | |
| | 32 | Export Seminar, "How to Sell Overseas," 1979 | |
| | 33 | General Information, 1976-1980 | |
| | 34 | International Marketing Operations Survey, 1977-1979 | |
| | 35 | News Clips, 1976-1981 | |
| | 36 | News Letters, 1976-1977 | |
| | 37 | Yellow Ribbon Day, January-February 1981 | |
| Series VI. Photographs | | | |
| 37 | 1 | Chamber Annual Meeting, June 3, 1986 (22, 5) | |
| | 2 | Annual Meeting, 1988 (4 proofsheets, 8 negative strips) | |
| | 3-4 | Annual Meeting, 1993 (17, 3 proofsheets, 12 negative strips) | |
| | 5 | Chamber and Credit Union Building, Exterior and Interior, 1972 (8); Room Layout of Building, February 2, 1977 (1) | |
| | 6 | Chamber Billboard and Building; "Spirit of Rockford" Bus; Rockford Views, n.d. (12, 4) | |
| | 7 | Chamber Staff and Credit Bureau, n.d. (12) | |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | 15 |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--|----|
| 37 | 8 | Past Chamber Presidents, (1915-1970, n.d.) (38) | |
| | 9-10 | Identified Events, 1968-1970, n.d. (78, 9) | |
| | 11-12 | Identified People and Events, 1967-1970, n.d. (40, 1) | |
| | 13 | Job Fair, April 1991 (41, 9) | |
| | 14-16 | Unidentified Events, n.d. (107, 13) | |
| | 17-18 | Unidentified People and Events, 1969, 1973, n.d. (31) | |
| | 19 | Leadership/ Community Awareness Program 2002-2009 | |
| Series VII. Oversize | | | |
| Oversize Drawer 23 | 4 | Architectural Sketch, Anderson Bros. Mfg. Company Building, Samuelson Road Award Certificates: American Chamber of Commerce Executives, Publication "Neighbors", 1952 State of Illinois Sesquicentennial Celebration Participation, December 2, 1968 Freedoms Foundation American Credo, n.d. Publications: Cherryvale Mall Booklet, 1972 Messages Vital to the People of Rockford, 1950 <u>The New York Times</u> , "Illinois Your Central Location to Serve <u>All</u> the Nation," November 9, 1958 <u>Furniture Age</u> , "The Forest City: How Rockford Won Fame," June 1952 Artifacts: Fan, All America City, Rockford Yesfest 93!, 1993 Decal, Welcome to Rockford the Convention City, n.d. | |
| 38 | | Films, 16mm: Olympic Trials, Flatwater Canoe and Kayak, color, silent, 1972; film transferred to DVD At the Top in Illinois, Rockford, n.d. Album: Kally-ope: Genuine Calliope Music, played on a 43 Whistle Tangley Air Collopie by Barbara Taggart, n.d. | |
| Series VIII. Council of 100 | | | |
| 39 | 1 | Articles, 1988 | |
| | 2 | BancServe Group, Inc., Annual Report, 1986 | |
| | 3 | Belvidere Area Maps, n.d. | |
| | 4 | Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, 1993-1994 | |
| | 5 | Board of Directors Retreat, March 17, 1987 | |
| | 6 | By-laws of the Council of 100, Inc., 1985-1993 | |
| | 7 | Census Data, 1990-1993 | |
| | 8 | Client Log, 1992-1994 | |
| | 9 | Client Services Reports, 1994 | |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | 16 | |
|------------|---------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 39 | 10 | Correspondence, 1991 | | |
| | 11 | Environmental Protection Agency, National Priorities List Sites: Illinois, 1990 | | |
| | 12 | Exporting Companies, 1991-1992 | | |
| | 13 | European Companies in Rockford, 1992 | | |
| | 14 | Financial Statements and Supplemental Material, 1989-1992 | | |
| | 15 | Fortune 500 Companies in the Rockford Area, 1990 | | |
| | 16 | Fundraising, 1993-1995 | | |
| | 17 | Illinois Employment Industry Summary, 1975-1993 | | |
| | 18 | Industrial Buildings, n.d. | | |
| | 19 | Industrial Parks, 1991-1992 | | |
| | 20 | J.L. Clark, Annual Report, 1986 | | |
| | 21 | Japanese Companies in Rockford, 1989-1990 | | |
| | 22 | Major Manufacturers in Rockford, 1991-1993 | | |
| | 23 | Marketing Mailings, Real Estate Professionals, 1994 | | |
| | 24 | Membership Christmas Card List, 1991, 1992 | | |
| | 25 | Membership Directory, 1991-1994 | | |
| | 40 | 1 | Membership Donors List, 1988-1993 | |
| | | 2 | Membership Lists, 1990-1993 | |
| 3 | | Membership Meeting, November 4, 1993 | | |
| 4 | | NAACP Reception, Clock Tower Resort, March 26, 1994 | | |
| 5 | | Nominating Committee for 1994 Directors, 1993-1994 | | |
| 6 | | Operation Retention: Rockford Area Business Retention Survey Conducted by Rockford Area Economic Development Service Providers Team, 1985 | | |
| 7 | | Photographs, Downtown Rockford, n.d. (4, 1) | | |
| 8 | | Photographs, Council of 100 Directors, n.d. | | |
| 9 | | Prospectus, "1993 Investment in Regional Prosperity," November 16, 1992 | | |
| 10 | | Rockford, Illinois, Heartland of the New Lutheran Church, 1986 | | |
| 11 | | Rockford Area Council of 100 Airport-United Parcel Service Marketing Program, 1994 | | |
| 12 | | Rockford Area Economic Development Commission, 1976-1982 | | |
| 13 | | Rockford Area Handbook and Guide, 1985 | | |
| 14 | | Rockford Area Map, 1992 | | |
| 15 | | Rockford Facts, 1992 | | |
| 16 | | <u>Rockford Magazine</u> Articles, 1989-1993 | | |
| 17 | | Rockford Organizations and Businesses, 1988-1993 | | |
| 18 | | <u>Site Selection</u> Articles, 1991, 1994 | | |
| 41 | 1 | Slide Shows, n.d. | | |
| | 2 | Strategic Long Range Plan, Original Pages, 1990-1992, n.d. | | |
| | 3 | Strategic Long Range Plan, Rockford Council of 100, March 1991 | | |
| | 4 | Wage Reports, Labor Information, 1990-1993 | | |
| | 5 | World Trade Club of Northern Illinois, 1974-1970 | | |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | 17 |
|------------|---------------|--|----|
| 42 | | VHS Tapes: | |
| | 1 | Electrol Specialities Company (ESC), n.d. | |
| | 2 | Northern Illinois Processors, Inc., 5701 Industrial Drive, Loves Park, IL, n.d. | |
| | 3 | Manufacturing Systems Division, n.d. | |
| | 4 | 5115 Forest Hills Ct., Loves Park, IL, July 1993 | |
| | 5 | "Come Home to the Real America, Rockford, Illinois," n.d. | |
| | 6 | 9926 N. Alpine Rd., Machesney Park, IL, n.d. | |
| | 7 | Martin Vanags, News Interviews, n.d. | |
| | 8 | Stewart Square Office Building, 308 W. State St., Rockford, IL, n.d. | |
| | 9 | Pierce Packaging, Partners in Packaging, n.d. | |
| | 10 | Cities in Schools with George Bush, n.d. | |
| | 11 | Rockford Council of 100, Annual Spring Meeting, 1991 | |
| | 12 | "No Small Change...A Decade of Difference," n.d. | |
| | 13 | American Spotlight presents: Reed Chatwood, n.d. | |
| Oversize | 1 volume | Rockford Morning Star, Centennial Edition, June 15, 1952 | |
| | 1 volume | Rockford Register-Republic, Heritage Edition, April 20-21, 1967 | |
| | 1 volume | Rockford Register-Republic, Sesquicentennial Edition, February 15-16, 1968 | |

ADDENDUM

| | | | |
|----|-----|---|--|
| 43 | | Rockford Chamber of Commerce Yearbook, 2013-2016 | |
| | 1 | Rockford Chamber of Commerce Yearbook, 2013-2016 | |
| | 2 | <u>One</u> , November 2013, 2014, 2015; December 2016 | |
| | 3 | Regional Business Expo Guide, 2013 | |
| | 4 | Annual Dinner Invitation, January 23, 2014 | |
| | 5 | Calendar of Events, 2014-2017 | |
| | 6 | Community Relocation Guide, 2014-2016 | |
| | 7-8 | Chamber Membership Directory and Relocation Guide, 2014- 2016 | |
| | 9 | Lead 360 Membership Directory, 2016 | |
| | 10 | Rockford City Street Map, ca. 2016 | |
| | | Photographs: | |
| | 11 | Leadership/Community Awareness Program (CAP), 1998/99-2003/04, 2012/13-2013/14 | |
| | 12 | CAP 2003/04 Springfield Trip, March 2003 | |
| | 13 | Events: Golf Outing, 2009; Founders Day, July 2010, 2012 | |
| | 14 | Voices of Business contact list, 2004 [3.5" floppy] | |

BOX

FOLDER

DESCRIPTION

18

RC 180, ROCKFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
INDUSTRY FILE INDEX FOR BOXES 15-18

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> |
|------------|---------------|--|
| 15 | 27 | Industry File Index |
| | 28 | A & E Tool & Gage A & M Pattern Acme Pattern Works Active Tool & Mfg Aaero Mfg Airtrol Allied Die & Tool American Chicle American Wilbert Vault Amerock |
| | 29 | Anderson Bros. APSCO Products Aqua Matic Automatic Pump & Softener Architectural Iron Inc. AC Automatic Mfg Atwood Vacuum Machine |
| | 30 | BVR Inc. Babcock and Wilcox Bachrodt Chevrolet |
| | 31-32 | Barber-Colman |
| | 33 | John S. Barnes Barnes Drill |
| 16 | 1 | W. F. & John Barnes |
| | 2 | Bartelt Engineering Joseph Behr and Sons Bennett Products Benrol Corp Biltwell Brush Blackhawk Machine |
| | 3 | Blue Star Foods Bowman Products Brearly Co. Robert H. Brooks Building Systems Inc. Burson Knitting Cadillac Glass Caldwell Co. Camcar Screw & Mfg WM. G. Carlson & Sons |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | 20 |
|------------|---------------|--|----|
| 16 | 3 | Carter Tru-Scale | |
| | 4-5 | J. I. Case | |
| | 6 | A. M. Castle Central Illinois Electric & Gas | |
| | 7 | Centro-Machine Century Tool & Mfg J. L. Clark Clinton Electronics | |
| | 8-9 | Chrysler Corp. | |
| | 10 | Colonial Desk Colt Industries Crumb Colten Block Co. Commercial Wire Commonwealth Edison Continental of Rockford Continental Dynamo and Motor Contour Hosiery Mills Cotta Transmission Custom Car Co. Damascus Steel W. L. Davey Pump Dean Milk Davis Store Fixture Dixon Automatic Downing Box Dualoc Drive | |
| | 11 | Ebaloy Foundry Eclipse Eddy Paper Eklund Metal Treating Ekstom-Carlson Elco Industries | |
| | 12 | Essex Wire Estwing Excelsior Leather Washer Fahler Engineering Flexotile Floor Forest City Bit & Tool Forest City Forging Die & Tool Forest City Foundry Forest City Knitting Forgings and Stampings Free Sewing Machine | |
| | 13 | GC Electronics | |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | 21 |
|------------|---------------|---|----|
| 16 | 13 | Galger Engineering Gannon Mfg Gates Rubber Co. General Cement General Electric | |
| | 14 | Geraghty Industrial Equipment Globe Imperial Gloss Printing Press | |
| | 15 | Greenlee Bros. | |
| | 16 | Gunite Foundries Herscott Co. Hill Machine Hess and Hopkins Leather Holmberg Engineering Howard Engineering H. D. Hudson Hydro-Con Hydro-Line Mfg Illinois Automatic Awning Illinois Bell Telephone | |
| | 17 | Illinois Water Treatment Industrial Gages Ingersoll Milling Machine | |
| | 18 | Intercity Box and Paper Ipsen Industries Johnson K-Line H.C. Johnson Press K & K Machining Kent Feed Krop Steel Kysor of Byron | |
| | 19 | Landstrom Furniture Latham Tool Liebovich Bros. LTL Tool Luther Corp. Marion Health and Safety Mattison Machine Works | |
| | 20 | Mechanical Tool & Engineering Mechanics Universal Mid-States Industrial Metalines Mid-States Forging Die & Tool Mid-State Wood Products Miller-Patton Baking | |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | 22 |
|------------|---------------|---|----|
| 16 | 20 | Modern Caster Modern Plating Montgomery Ward Muehlemeyer Heat Treating Muller Union Dairy National Air Sander National Can | |
| 17 | 1 | National Lock | |
| | 2 | National Mirror Nelson Knitting Northern Illinois Gas Northern Mfg and Engineering Northern Star Plating and Finishing Nylint O & H Foundry Stephen Paoli Mfg Pressed Steel Car Co. Pepsi Cola Pierce Chemical Precision Die | |
| | 3 | Quaker Oats | |
| | 4 | Quality Metal Finishing Rehnberg-Jacobson Mfg Reliable Machine Rexham | |
| | 5 | Rock Mill Rockford Acromatic Rockford Bolt and Steel Rockford Burd Piston Ring Rockford Clutch | |
| | 6 | Rockford Colonial Baking “ Crescent Mfg “ Die & Tool “ Drop Forge “ Forging Tool & Die “ Illustrating “ Industries | |
| | 7 | Rockford Iron & Metal “ Machine Tool “ Medical Supply “ Metal Products “ Molded Products “ Ordnance Plant “ Brass Works “ Central Iron | |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> |
|------------|---------------|--|
| 17 | 7 | “ Peerless Furniture “ Products “ National Furniture “ Safety Equipment “ Republic Furniture “ Spring “ Standard Pattern Works “ Textile Mills (Mitten & Hosiery) “ Watch “ Varnish Rogers and Clark |
| | 8-9 | Roper Corp. |
| | 10 | Roper Whitney Rupp Pattern Sall Bros E. L. Schofield SC & L Machine Schmeling and Sons Seal Dri Sportswear Service Engineering Servisoft Setco Shirley Mfg Sjostrom & Sons Smith Oil Soft Water Supply Solem Machine Spengler-Loomis Star Bit and Tool Strachan Machine |
| | 11-13 | Sundstrand |
| | 14 | Sun Ray Fixture Tage Anderson Tagit Testor Chemical Third National Bank |
| | 15 | Time Screw & Mfg Twin Disc Clutch Unit Machinery Valspar |
| | 16 | Wales-Beech Warner-Lambert Washburn Weiman Furniture Weise Welliver Furniture |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> |
|------------|---------------|--|
| 17 | 16 | W. A. Whitney Winnebago Cabinet Winnebago Newspapers Wood and Brooks |
| | 17-18 | Woodward Governor |
| | 19 | Industrial Expansion , employment statistics, (1950-1965) |
| | 20-22 | Industrial History, Correspondence, (1945-1975) |
| 18 | 1-4 | Newsclippings; Manufacturers Directory, Expansion, Labor Relations, Strikes, (1945-1965) |
| | 5 | Rockford Strike Record |