

Inventory of the

Kable Printing Company
Mt. Morris, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 20

INTRODUCTION

Mr. William E. Shaw of Mount Morris, Illinois, donated the records of the Kable Printing Company to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on February 16, 1979. Additional records were donated on November 3, 1997 by Howell Herman.

Property rights in the collection are held by 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: 13.75
Number of containers: 16 + 2 volumes
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 20

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Kable Printing Company records document the business operations of the Kable Brothers Company and its successor the Kable Printing Company of Mt. Morris, Illinois from 1903-1974. These records primarily consist of ledgers and account books. Six series can be defined: General Financial Data, Labor and Personnel Records, Inventories, Stock Certificates, Internal Publications, and Photographs.

Series one, General Financial Records, is made up of appraisals, capital equipment records, financial reports, loans, daily sales and cash flow books as well as profit/loss accounts. The volumes in this series cover the years from 1904-1966.

Series two consists of labor and personnel records. These volumes include performance of workers and numbers of hours per task both for men and machines (1933-1974). Another set of records pertaining to labor is employee and building loans (1923-1939).

Inventories form a third series of documents. These volumes record the value of all items owned by the company for the years 1903-1957. Property listings and capital equipment reports replace the inventories in 1957 and continue until 1969.

A fourth series is made up of stock certificates and debenture notes. Included are preferred, capital and common stock shares as well as debenture notes (1941-1945, 1952) and common stocks notes.

Internal publications, The Kablegram, (1929-1973) and the Hot Slug, (1960-1974) form the fifth series of material. These volumes are of three types. The Kablegram was a compendium of advice, humor, and self-help information. Over the years the Kablegram became

more technical in nature discussing printing methods, customers, and plant problems. The Hot Slug is more along the lines of a company organ-it tells of hirings, retirements, promotions, and visitors.

The last series is photographic material. These photographs (430) document the changes in machinery, personnel and plant over the more than seventy years of the Kable Printing Company's existence.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Founders of the Kable Printing Company, Harry G. (1880-1952) and Harvey J. (1880-1931) Kable were born in New Lanark, Illinois, the sons of John and Elizabeth (Speicher) Kable. At two they moved to Mt. Morris where they spent the rest of their lives. After a public school education Harvey went to Mount Morris College, graduating in 1898. Both men were active in their community with Harry being a member of the Masons, Moose, Kiwanis Club, and the Lutheran Church, as well as serving on the board of the Mount Morris Building and Loan Association.

In 1898 the brothers began their successful venture into the printing business. This firm, known as Kable Brothers Printings, began in an attic loft. By 1901 they were able to take on a partner, A.H. Rittenhouse; in 1904 these men incorporated the Kable Brothers and Rittenhouse Company with an initial capitalization of \$15,000. The partnership lasted only two years. During the years prior to the 1929 Depression the Kable Brothers Company specialized in printing fraternal society papers, developing techniques and services which made the company well-known in this field. While attempts were made to diversify by selling electrical current through the Mount Morris Electric Light Company from 1909-1912, and by printing waxed bread wrappers in 1913, the brothers found that the printing of magazines and journals was more profitable.

Following the Great Depression the Kable Brothers Company continued its expansion moving into rotogravure printing to meet growing demands. To facilitate distribution of its products, the company started the Kable Printing Company, expanding into new markets. In 1957 the Kable Printing Company became a wholly owned subsidiary of Western Publishing Company in Racine, Wisconsin. This gave Kable further exposure with offices in New York and Chicago.

The Kable Company is a large concern printing magazines such as Sports Afield, Women's Day, and Family Circle; journals including The Vinception, the Voice of St. Jude, The American Lutheran, and the War Cry; catalogs stamp collecting books and books and stamps as well as other publications.

Over the years the Kable Company has renamed itself and is now referred to as Kable

Media Services, Inc. While Kable Media Services, Inc. are still a top distributor of magazines and periodicals, the company continues to grow and now have eleven services that comprise their marketing and circulation.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Agriculture
Kable Printing Company
Mount Morris (Ill.)
Printing Industry

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. General Financial Data		
1	1 vol.	<u>Kable Brothers Company</u> , 1898-1948 (history)
	1	Correspondence, Memos, 1940-1968
	4 vols.	Plant and Equipment Appraisals, 1912, 1923, 1949, 1960
	4 vols.	Aggregate Financial Reports, 1915-1927
	1 vol.	Loans and Bonds Payable/receivable, 1919-1929
	1 vol.	Stock Fund Account, 1904-1927
2	2 vols.	Values of Capital Equipment Aggregate, 1909-1966
3	4 vols.	Daily Sales Books, 1904-1912
4	2 vols.	Daily Cash Flow Books, 1910-1913
	4 vols.	Income, Profit-loss Accounts, 1915-1939
Series II. Labor and Personnel Records		
5	4 vols.	Labor Records, 1933-1966, 1959-1966, 1963-1967, 1967-1974
6	2 vols.	Employee and Building Loans, 1923-1933, 1933-1939, 1926- 1939

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series III. Inventories		
	10 vols.	Inventories, 1903-1912, 1927, 1933, 1935-1941
7	16 vols.	Inventories, 1942-1945, 1947-1957
8	6 vols.	Property Listing, 1957-1960, 1962-1963
	9 vols.	Capital Equipment, 1961-1969
Series IV. Stock Certificates		
	2 OVS vols.	Preferred Stock-shares 1-500 (housed next to Box 8)
9	1 vol.	Kable Brothers & Rittenhouse Company, Capital Stock Shares, 1-99
	8 vols.	Kable Brothers Company, Capital Stock Shares, 1-599, 800-1300
10	5 vols.	Capital Stock Shares, 1301-2558
11	10 vols.	Common Stock Shares, A201-A791, A800-A1150
	1 vol.	Common Stock Shares, 2559-2806
12	1	Debenture Notes, 1941-1945
	2	Debenture Notes, 1952, Common Stock, 1946
	1 box	Common and Preferred Stockholders
Series V. Publications		
13	12 vols.	<u>Kablegram</u> , 1929-1939, 1952-1954, bound volumes
	39 vols.	<u>Kablegram</u> , (1942-1954), single issues
14	43 vols.	<u>Kablegram</u> , (1952-1973\74) (4 negs)
	65 vols.	<u>Hot Slug</u> , (1960-1961, 1965-1974)
	1	Printed Materials
	2	Building Materials

<u>BOX</u>	<u>ENVELOPE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series VI. Photographs		
14	1	Kable Employee Family Photos (6)
	2	129th Infantry Band (3)
	3-6	Kable Personnel (39)
	7	Kable Inn (1)
	8	Kable Addition, 1954 (8)
	9	Kable Plant, (14, 4 negs)
	10	Original Press (1)
	11-18	Kable Machinery (154, 4 negs)
	19	Kable Photos (2)
	15	20
21		Composing Room (4)
22		Casting Room (2)
23		Linotype Department (7)
24		Foundry (14)
25		Offset Press (1)
26-28		Roto Presses Building 5, 6, and 7 (32)
29		Job Department (4)
30		Cylinder Press (23)
31		Boiler Room (10)
32		Flat Stock (8)
33		Maintenance (9)
34		Mailing Department (8)
35		Folders (4)
36		Building 12 (3)
37		Mailing List (6)
38		Warehouse (2)
39		Rolling Stock Room (6)
40		New Baler (6)
41		Bindery (21)
42		General Photos (3)
43		Outside Views (16)
44	Metal Printing Plate (1)	
Oversize		
Drawer 3, Folder 10		Blueprints for Plant Addition, 1923 (2)

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ADDENDUM

16	1	Director's Manual, 1973
	2	Justification Report for Family Circle Expansion Requirement, Rough Draft, 1965
	3	Management Plan Assignment, 1968-1969
	4-5	Objectives-Programs, 1967, 1969