

Inventory of

Green River Ordnance Plant
Amboy/Dixon, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 295

INTRODUCTION

Duane Paulsen, historian from Grand DeTour, Illinois donated the records for the Green River Ordnance Plant in Amboy/Dixon, Illinois to the Regional History Center on May 25, 2008. Additional items from the U.S. Army Materiel Command were added on June 28, 2017.

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: 1.75
Number of containers: 3
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 295

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records for the Green River Ordnance Plant (GROP) date from 1941 to 1946 and consist of the plant's administrative office documents, plant and employee photographs, government documents, brochures, grounds passes. Of special interest is a DVD with recent GROP photographs (2007), scans of GROP artifacts, and Power Point Presentations created by the donor. The folders are arranged alphabetically. The photographs are arranged alphabetically and chronologically within the folders.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Green River Ordnance Plant construction was completed on December 15, 1942, occupying approximately 8,000 acres in Amboy and Marion Townships in Lee County. Though the site was located only a mile or so outside of Amboy, the address for the GROP was Dixon, Illinois because it was thought that the Amboy Post Office could not handle the large amount of mail that was anticipated. The Plant was created by Federal Government War Department to serve as Illinois' largest industrial contribution to World War II and became the leader in munitions production for the nation. At one time the plant provided jobs for 4500 employees, both men and women. By July 1944, the number of women employees nearly double that of the men employees. Employees were active in creating baseball teams, a band, an orchestra, and various group events to create community at the plant. Friendships were forged and employees met and were married. It took only two months for the government to be prepared to begin construction on the plant. Production building were called "lines" that were used to produce various munitions. The Green River Ordnance Plant, like other surrounding Illinois ordnance plants, was constructed for a single purpose only and quickly shut down after V-J Day in August 1945.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Amboy (Ill.)
 Dixon (Ill.)
 Green River Ordnance Plant
 Photographs
 World War II
 World War II–War Work–United States
 World War II–Women–United States

COLLECTION INVENTORY

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> |
|------------|---------------|--|
| 1 | 1 | Acreage tracts, Amboy, 1935 |
| | 2 | Addressees and phone numbers, GROF personnel II, May 1995 |
| | 3 | Ammunition data card, 1943-1944 |
| | 4 | Announcements to all ordnance employees from chief clerk, October 18, 1944 |
| | 5 | Army-Navy Production Award Ceremonies program, July 10, 1944 |
| | 6 | Attendance record, April 6, 1942 |
| | 7 | Authorization of oath administration, November 3, 1943 |
| | 8 | Brochures, Green River Industrial Park Sales Brochures (post war), n.d. |
| | 9 | Civilian travel orders, October 30, 1944, February 22, 1945 |
| | 10 | Civilian travel order no. 29, March 27, 1945 |
| | 11 | Contribution to the war program papers, September 9, 1944 |
| | 12 | DVD, Green River Ordnance Plant 1942-1945, Lee County Historical Society, n.d. |
| | 13 | Event program, Employee Association Dinner-Dance, April 25, 1945 |
| | 14 | Event program, "Produce for Victory, Posters of the American Homefront, 1941-1945", May 14, 1995 |
| | 15 | Flyer from Dixon Public Library presenting World War II at the Green River Ordnance Plant schedule of events, May 16, 1995 |
| | 16 | Guidebook for employees, n.d. |
| | 17 | Interview questions, n.d. |
| | 18 | Invitation brochure, Open House and War Exhibition, October 24, [n.d.] |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|---|
| 1 | 19 | Mail envelope scan, interoffice, n.d. |
| | 20 | Memorandum, February 22, 1943 |
| | 21 | Newspaper clippings, June 13, 1945, n.d. |
| | 22 | Passes, visitor and employee, n.d. |
| | | Photographs: |
| | 23-28 | Contribution to the War Program, May 27, 1942- December 14, 1942 |
| | 29-32 | Employees and plant, May 27, 1942- December 14, 1942 |
| | 33 | Aerial Photographs of Plant, May 27, 1942- December 14, 1942 |
| | 34 | Employees working, May 27, 1942- December 14, 1942 |
| | 35 | Special order no. 20, March 31, 1944 |
| | 36 | Safety record card employee, February 2, 1945 |
| | 37 | Telegraph, flower to Vi Stroup, n.d. |
| | 38 | Terminations, July 1, 1942-July 1, 1943 |
| | 39 | Stationery sheet scan, Mechanical Department Employees Entertainment Committee, n.d. |
| | 40 | Telephone directory, homes (original and copy), n.d. |
| | 41 | Transfers from GROF to Joliet Arsenal, September 3, 1946, August 6, 1946 |
| | 42 | Carbon papers, unusual tour of duty, January 9, 1946 |
| | 43 | Binder cover, War Department Industrial Facilities of the Green River Ordnance Plant, October 7, 1954 |
| | 2 | 1 |
| 2 | | War Department Industrial Facilities of the Green River Ordnance Plant, Part II Sections 1-4, Part III Sections 1-5, May 15, 1944 |
| <u>ADDENDUM</u> | | |
| 3 | Vol. | Photographs, Plant Construction, May 28, 1943- July 22, 1943 |