

Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

Archives

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Finding Aid for the

Pere Marquette Railroad Co. Collection

Collection # 037

September 2009 Version

Abstract

This collection documents the operations and business affairs of the Pere Marquette Railroad from creation in 1899 through 1946. It contains various company publications including annual reports, advertising brochures, financial documents, and miscellaneous items. Also included are Pere Marquette Magazine and Pere Marquette Service, two of the company's publications used to improve ridership, usage, and promote the company's image. The Pere Marquette used the Union Station in Grand Rapids. In 1947, the Pere Marquette was merged into the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad.

Pere Marquette Historical Society
<http://www.pmhistsoc.org/>

Grand Rapids Model Railroad Historical Society
<http://www.grmrhs.org/>

Collection #: 037

Accession #: 00.000 ; 00.[591].1

Donor: Library purchase

Span dates: 1900-ca. 1940, 1946

Processors: Original processor, William C. Black, March, 1987.

Reprocessing by James B. Winslow, June 1996.

Inventory, Andrea Stadt, December 1999, with additions by R. Mayne, Apr. 2000.

Box Summary, Marcella Beck, August 23, 2000. 00.[591].1 added, R. Mayne, Dec. 20, 2000.

Size: 5.1 linear ft. (61.25 inches)

Related Collections

See also Coll. 54-4 Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad folder, for 2 photos of Pere Marquette railroads, source unknown. 1/30/2002.

Coll. 216 GRPL Ephemera Collection. P2004.027

Pere Marquette Railway Archives at the Joint Archives of Holland.

<http://www.hope.edu/jointarchives/collections/registers/hope/pmra.html>

Box Summary

Box No.	Description of Contents	Box Description
Box inventory 8/2009		
1	Annual Reports	Gray Full Lid 3x10x13
2	Annual Reports	same
3	Annual Reports	same
4	Annual Reports	same
[Note: Boxes 1-4 would be better in standard flip boxes, and should be changed when the old boxes are too worn. 12/20/2000]		
5	monthly magazine 1909-1911	Standard Legal
6	monthly magazine 1912-1914	Standard Legal
7	monthly magazine 1911-1916	Standard Legal
8	monthly magazine 1917-1919	Standard Legal
9	monthly magazine 1920-1922	Standard Legal
10	monthly magazine 1923-1927	Standard Legal
11	monthly magazine 1928-1930	Standard Legal
12	magazine/service	Standard

NOTE: Railroad map, formerly housed in FF.IX.D, now housed with Coll. 224, Box 31, 5/22/2002

Processing Needs

1. Inventory of Pere Marquette Magazine, adding the volume & issue numbers to the description.
2. Reboxing from small print to Standard, for those in regular acid free files, for better fit, and to prevent spillage.

History

The Pere Marquette Railroad Co. was created November 1, 1899 by combining the Flint & Pere Marquette Railroad Co., the Chicago & West Michigan Railway Company and the Detroit, Grand Rapids & Western Railroad Company. Each of these roads was itself a result of combining earlier lines. In 1900 the Muskegon Lake Railroad was added, and in 1903 eight more, smaller Michigan lines were purchased. The resulting line operated across much of Michigan's lower peninsula, also extending into Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and from Detroit through Ontario, Canada to Buffalo, New York where connection was made with many of the Eastern roads. The Pere Marquette's headquarters was at Detroit.

In 1912 the line went into receivership, was reorganized and renamed the Pere Marquette Railroad. This lasted until April 1917, when the railroad again went into receivership and following a second reorganization emerged as the Pere Marquette Railway Company. It was absorbed by the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad in 1947.

Scope and Content

The collection documents the operations and business affairs of the Pere Marquette from 1900-1946. Includes various company publications consisting primarily of annual reports from 1900-1929 and 1946, and tourist brochures for the online northern Michigan resorts, plus hunting and fishing grounds. The annual reports include information on equipment, motive power, and construction, as well as accounting and balance statements. Includes financial testimony and records from 1913, regarding the events surrounding the railroad's 1912 receivership. Also contains a 1916 menu highlighting Grand Rapids, in the miscellaneous section, as well as other items.

Pere Marquette Magazine and Pere Marquette Service were the publications of the Public Relations Department to promote railway policies and interest and reestablish credibility following the second financial reorganization. Service was an in-house publication, directed toward employees and related industries. Both journals reflect the railway in Michigan and the U.S.

Series Descriptions

Only select documents reflecting the history & operations of this company are included in this small collection. The bulk of the holdings are the Pere Marquette magazine from 1900 to 1931.

Series I. Annual Reports, 1900-1946.

Holdings are incomplete within this date range, with a fairly complete run from 1900 to 1929.

Series II. Miscellaneous Documents.

Two items, including a Book of Rules from 1936, and some correspondence.

Series III. Financial Documents.

A few selective documents are included in this series from 1911 and 1913.

Series IV. Publications.

This series forms the bulk of this collection, and in particular the periodical "Pere Marquette Magazine", 1909-1931. "Pere Marquette Service", 1915-1929 is another periodical title included here.

Series V. Brochures & Advertising

Includes items on the topics of dairying, fishing, hunting, and on Charlevoix.

Series VI. Ephemera

Includes a menu from 1916, a "watch loaner card", and an article on "Line Steamer"

Series VII. Maps.

The one map currently included here is a 1900 item from the Annual Report.

Contents

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
Series I. Annual Reports, 1900-1946.		
1	1-14	1870, 1900-1913.
2	1-9	1914-1921.
3	1-8	1922-1929.
3	9	1946.
Series II. Miscellaneous Documents.		
4	2	Book of Rules, 1936.
4	8	"Correspondence about possible B.& O. entry into Detroit, Michigan," 1923.
Series III. Financial documents.		
4	2.5	Financial Affairs, 1911 Collateral Indenture, Mar. 1, 1911, w. Guaranty Trust Co. of N.Y. [00.[591].1 added 12/20/2000]
4	3-4	Financial Affairs, 1913 "Michigan Legislature testimony by Frederick W. Steven," (Vol. I & II), 1913.
4	5	"Michigan Legislature testimony by Henry M. Campbell," 1913.
4	6	Holder of junior Securities present certain facts and considerations, c1913.
Series IV. Publications		
Pere Marquette Magazine, 1909-1931.		
5	1-26	Nov 1909 - Dec 1911.
6	1-30	Jan 1912 - Jun 1914.
7	1-30	Jul 1914 - Dec 1916.
8	1-11	Jan 1917 - Nov 1917.
	12-35	Jan 1918 - Dec 1919.
9	1-36	Jan 1920 - Dec 1922.
10	1-24	Jan 1923 - Dec 1924.
	25-39	Oct 1926 - Dec 1927.
11	1-36	Jan 1928 - Dec 1930.
12	1-12	Jan 1931 - Dec 1931. V. 22, nos. 1-12.
Series IV. Publications continues ...		
Pere Marquette Service, 1915-1929.		
12	13	Jun 1915 -- May 1916. v. 1, Nos. 1-12

14	Jun 1916 -- Jun 1917.	v. 2, Nos. 1-12
15	Jul 1917 -- Jun 1918.	v. 3, Nos. 1-12
16	Jul-Aug, Nov 1918 - Jun 1919.	V. 4, Nos. 1-2, 5-12
17	Jul 1919 -- Jun 1920.	v. 5, Nos. 1-12
18	Jul 1920 -- Jun 1921.	v. 6, Nos. 1-3, 6-12
19	Jul 1921 -- Jun 1922.	v. 7, Nos. 1-12
20	Jul 1922 -- Jun 1923.	v. 8, Nos. 1-12
21	Sep, Nov 1923 -- May 1924.	v. 9, nos. 3, 5, 11 only
22	Jul, Sep 1924 -- Jan-Feb, May 1925.	v. 10, Nos. 1-3, 7-8, 11
23	Aug-Sep, Nov 1925 -- May 1926.	v. 11, Nos. 2-3, 5-11
24	Jul 1926 -- Jan, Apr-Jun 1927.	v. 12, Nos. 1-7, 10-12
25	Jul-Oct 1927 -- Mar-Jun 1928.	v. 13, Nos. 1-4, 9-12
26	Jul 1928 -- May 1929.	v. 14, Nos. 1-11
27	Aug, Oct-Nov 1929.	v. 15, Nos. 2, 4-5

Series V. Brochures and Advertising, 1910-1921.

3	10	"Dairying in Michigan," c1910.
		"Fishing & Hunting in Michigan"
3	11	1910
3	12	1911
3	13	1912
3	14	1914
		"Charlevoix the Beautiful"
3	15	1916
3	16	1917
4	1	1921

Series VI. Ephemera, 1916-1940's.

4	7	Menu, 1916.
4	9	Watch loaner card, 1940s.
4	10	Article: Pere Marquette: Line Steamer

Series VII. Maps

FF.IX.D		Pere Marquette Railroad Map, 1900. Removed from an annual report. Added 4/6/2000.
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Pere Marquette Coll.
Coll. # 037