

Grand Rapids History and Special Collection

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Finding Aid for

Curtis Riverboat Enterprises Records

Collection # 021

September 2009 version

Abstract

Curtis Riverboat Enterprises Records contain correspondence, newspaper clippings, surveys, calculations and legal documents from this Grand Rapids, Michigan business, which operated a 64 ft. paddlewheel riverboat, The City of Grand Rapids. The boat made charter and excursion runs along the Grand River, Holly's Landing (Ann Street, NW) and Ada, Michigan. The boat operated from a dock near the City's North Park Bridge from 1967 to about 1973. The papers and records portray the building and operation of the boat.

Collection #: 021

Accession #: 1986.206

Donor: unknown

Span dates: 1966-1972

Processor: Original processing Bruce L. Siebers, November 1986.

Inventory, Andrea Stadt, November 1999.

Box Summary, Marcella Beck, August 25, 2000.

Size: .21 linear ft. (2.5 inches)

Box Summary

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Description of Contents</u>	<u>Box Description</u>
Box inventory 8/2009		
1	Files	Slim

NOTE: These materials were formerly housed in a box that also included Collections # 022,023,024 and 025. Due to growth within this box, Coll. 021 has been moved to its own box. Aug. 20, 2002

History

The City of Grand Rapids, a 64 ft. long, 17 ft. wide, steel-hulled, stern wheeled, riverboat was built by L.D. Clyde Curtis in 1967. The boat had two decks and was powered by a 1938 John Deer diesel tractor motor. It plied the Grand River from Ann Street to Ada, a distance of about 11 miles, at a speed of 7 miles per hour.

Curtis, a native of Barryton, Michigan (near Big Rapids) operated the boat on a charter/tour basis during the summer months until 1973.

Scope and Content

Contains Curtis's specifications for building the boat, United States Coast Guard inspection reports of the boat, other inspection reports, licenses, and permits. Also included are newspaper clippings describing the boat and the Curtis operation, as well as survey descriptions of the boat and her contents.

Contents

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	Correspondence, 1966-1971.
1	2	Calculations, n.d.
1	3	Legal documents, 1967-1970.
1	4	Newspaper clippings, 1969, n.d.
1	5	Surveys, 1967.
1	6	Boat brochure and ticket stub, n.d.