

Grand Rapids History & Special Collections

Archives

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Finding Aid for the

The Western Wheelman. Collection

Collection # 41

October 2007 version

Abstract

The Western Wheelman, was published in Grand Rapids, Michigan and Chicago, Illinois by the Western Wheelman Company of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The magazine was devoted strictly to racing, especially the Michigan and Chicago circuits, and was a major proponent of national circuit racing.

Collection #: 041

Accession #: 00.000

Donor: Library purchase

Span dates: 1896-1897

Processor: William C. Black, April, 1897, finding aid modified by Richard H. Harms, November 1996. Box Summary, Marcella Beck, August 23,2000

Size: 0.5 cu.ft.

Box Summary

Box No.	Description of Contents	Box Description
1	1896-1897	Small print 3x12x15.5

History

The Western Wheelman was formed in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1896, with the first publication printed in December of that year. With a Chicago representative, the magazine attempted to serve the needs of bicyclists in Chicago, Grand Rapids and the Great Lakes area. The magazine was devoted exclusively to professional bicycle racing, and attempted to be a force in the creation of racing circuits in Michigan and the nation. The policy of The Western Wheelman was to create racing circuits modeled upon baseball leagues, with the more important circuits existing in the larger cities. Unfortunately, the popularity of racing, especially as an organized endeavor, lost its appeal to the populace in general, and The Western Wheelman along with its several competitors in the Great Lakes area, were forced out of business.

Scope and Content

The two volumes span a one year period, which is a most representative record of bicycle racing and interest in the Michigan and Chicago areas. The collection is a reflection of a sport that faded in the United States while maintaining popularity in other parts of the world, especially in Europe. Numerous advertisements document a short lived, but important, sport in the nation. The many portraits and photos are a valuable resource to the sport's principals.

Contents

Box    Folder    Description

1

<u>Vol.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>		
1	1	1	1	December, 1896.
	2		2-6	January, 1897.
	3		7-10	February, 1897.
	4		11-14	March, 1897.
	5		15-18	April, 1897.
	6		19-23	May, 1897.
	7		24-26	June, 1897.
	8	2	1	June, 1897.
	9		2-6	July, 1897.
	10		7-10	August, 1897.
	11		11-14	September, 1897.
	12		15-19	October, 1897.
	13		20-23	November, 1897.
	14		24-26	December, 1897.