

Finding aid for the Western Wheelman collection Collection 041

Finding aid prepared by William C. Black

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

November 08, 2013

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
1987
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503
616-988-5400
localhis@grpl.org

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	4
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	6

Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	The Whestern Wheelman collection
Date [inclusive]	1896-1897
Extent	1.0 Linear feet One box
Language	English
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 professional bicycle racing, especially the Michigan and Chicago circuits, and was a major proponent of national circuit racing.

Biographical/Historical note

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 Contents note

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.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department 1987

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Library purchase, 00.000

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- Cycling -- History

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Volume 1 No 1 December 1896	1	1
Volume 1 No 2-6 January 1897	1	2
Volume 1 No 7-10 February 1897	1	3
Volume 1 No 11-14 March 1897	1	4
Volume 1 No 15-18 April 1897	1	5
Volume 1 No 19-23 May 1897	1	6
Volume 1 No 24-26 June 1897	1	7
Volume 2 No 1 June 1897	1	8
Volume 2 No 2-6 July 1897	1	9
Volume 2 No 7-10 August 1897	1	10
Volume 2 No 11-14 September 1897	1	11
Volume 2 No 15-19 October 1897	1	12

Volume 2 No 20-23 November 1897	1	13
Volume 2 No 24-26 December 1897	1	14