

Finding Aid for the Grand Rapids Railway records of Ramona Park Collection 105

**Including Grand Rapids Railroad Co., Grand Rapids Motor Coach
Co.**

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on April 25, 2016.
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	5

Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator:	Grand Rapids Railway Co
Title:	Grand Rapids Railway records of Ramona Park
ID:	Collection 105
Date [inclusive]:	1908-1950
Physical Description:	0.42 Linear Feet One box
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Grand Rapids Railway records are primarily composed of contracts for various concessions at Ramona Park and/or Reeds Lake, at Grand Rapids and East Grand Rapids, Michigan, between 1932-1950. The Company began development of Ramona Park in 1904 under President Benjamin S. Hanchett, in an effort to get more people to ride the streetcar, especially on the weekends. It retained interest in the park until it closed in 1954. The contracts found here are made between various individuals or companies, and successive versions of the company name, including Grand Rapids Railway Corporation, Grand Rapids Railroad Corporation and Grand Rapids Motor Coach Company. Correspondence related to these concessions also exists. A property book of the Grand Rapids Railway Company, 1908, contains maps and blueprints. A Stock Trust Agreement for Grand Rapids Motor Coach Company, 1937, and the Grand Rapids Railroad Co. Stockholders report of 1928 also provide historical data related to this interurban railway.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The Grand Rapids Street Railway Company began service in April 1900. The company began development of Ramona Park in 1904 under President Benjamin S. Hanchett, in an effort to get more people to ride the streetcar, especially on the weekends. The company, under various corporate names, retained its interests in the park until its closing in 1954.

This is an incomplete list of some of the receivers/authors of the contracts and correspondence:

1) Louis J. Delamarter, Receiver of the Grand Rapids Railroad Co. with: George B. Zindel, Mystic Chures Co., Alex Demar

2) Grand Rapids Motor Coach Co., with: Alex Demar; Wilder & Minni Hilliard; Olive Williams; Andrew Beerhorst; Charles Poisson; George B. Zindel; Erwin A. Courtney; James Gross; G.H. Perkins; George S. Adams; Fred Hollingsworth, Jr.; H.D. Glidden of Glidden Railway Co.; A.B. Marcus, Ramona Derby Racer Co., Mystic Chutes Co.; John J. McElwee & James P. McElwee; Harry J. Brown; Glenn McIntosh; Thomas H. Yanda; Ernest L. Bates; Don Williams; Henry Nieboer

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

The bulk of the collection consists of contract agreements between Grand Rapids Railway Co. and various Ramona Park concession owners, 1932-1950. Also included in the collection is a property book of the Grand Rapids Railway Co., 1908 and a Stock Trust Agreement, Grand Rapids Motor Coach Co., 1937

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Includes accession numbers 00.[1287].1; 00.[5701].1-

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

Coll. 197, GRPL Railroads Collection

Coll. 216, GRPL Ephemera Collection

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Street-railroads -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Ramona Park (East Grand Rapids, Mich.)
- Amusement parks -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- East Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- business records
- Grand Rapids Railway Co

Collection Inventory

Property Book, 1908	Box 1
General	Folder 1
Includes maps, blueprint in small notebook format.	
Title/Description	Instances
Explanation. C1, C3, C50, C52 Court St. Car House Property	Box 1
	Folder 2
Map of Grand Rapids and environs, 1905.	Collection 240
General	Box 6.5
This item is still attached to the back board of the original property book, but is now housed flat, instead of folded, in an archival folder box in the Map collection. A reference	

photocopy of the map is included in the folder with the original priority book in Coll. 105.

This map includes graphic information on the railroads, street railways and city limits during the early 20th century in Grand Rapids, as well as showing differences in street names, such as "Fifth Ave.", which later became "Franklin St."

Ramona Park Contracts

Title/Description	Instances
1932	Box 1 Folder 2
1934	Box 1 Folder 3
1935	Box 1 Folder 4
1942	Box 1 Folder 5
1943	Box 1 Folder 6-7
1944	Box 1 Folder 8
1945	Box 1 Folder 9
1950	Box 1 Folder 10
Stock Trust Agreement Grand Rapids Motor Coach Co., 1937.	Box 1 Folder 11
Grand Rapids Railroad Co. : Report to the Stockholders : for the year ended, Dec. 31, 1928. Formerly MGK388G76n. 00.[1287].1	Box 1 Folder 12

Annual Report. 00.[3421].1-4

Title/Description	Instances
1925	Box 1 Folder 13
1929	Box 1

	Folder 13
1930	Box 1 Folder 13
1931	Box 1 Folder 13

Original materials formerly in the “Streetcars” Vertical File, moved to this collection 1/23/2009

Title/Description	Instances
Franchise Ordinance for Grand Rapids Railway Co. Passed by the City Commission of Grand Rapids, Mich., June 12, 1922 and Approved by the electors at a Special Election held Sept. 12, 1922.	Box 1 Folder 14
Proposed Franchise Ordinance for Grand rapids Railway Company. Passed ... subject to Approval by Electors at Special Election to be held Sept. 12, 1922.	Box 1 Folder 14
\$3,500,000 Grand Rapids Railway Company First Mortgage Three Year 5% Gold Bonds ... June 1, 1916 – June 1, 1919. Howe, Snow, Corrigan Bertles, Investment Securities. Flyer.	Box 1 Folder 14
Lines of Grand Rapids Railway Company, Grand Rapids, Mich. [map] Photocopy form 197-1-32.5	Box 1 Folder 14
The Street Railway System. From Dictionary of Grand Rapids, ca. 1911-1912, at 216-1-24. [map]	Box 1 Folder 14
Grand Rapids Railway, 1924. Page. IV-20 From an unidentified publication. Photocopy of a photocopy. [map]	Box 1 Folder 14
Names of cars on Grand Rapids Street Railway, April. 9?, 1927. Typed list. Source unknown. Oversized photocopy, folded.	Box 1 Folder 14

Photocopies of articles

Title/Description	Instances
New Barns Ready. Grand Rapids Press, July 27, 1907. Photocopy of a Photocopy.	Box 1 Folder 13
“You Can Sell Anything If You Make It Salable” : L. J. DeLamarter, Vice-president and General manager of Grand Rapids Railway Co. / Forrest Dunne. Forbes. Oct. 15, 1926. v. 18.	Box 1 Folder 13